



Friends of the

Old Teachers' College, Armidale Inc.

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FOTC President's Annual Report – December 2021

2021 has proved to be another remarkable year. I wish to thank all members of the FOTC Committee for coping with lockdowns and constant administrative changes throughout the year. The situation has meant cancelled meetings and closure of the college building to visitors. The history room and museum room have been closed throughout lockdowns and towards the end of the year; we had to close for a further period. In that time tradesmen came from Sydney, Newcastle and Tamworth to undertake renovations to the building. The work means that shortly the Department of Regional Development will be moving into rooms on the ground floor on the northern and eastern sides.

Our History Room and The Museum Room (Gwenda Shannon Room).

FOTC has been guaranteed our history room and museum by the Education Department but we are in further negotiations to determine the final allocation of the latter room. The FOTC History Room will re-open in the first week of February 2022 and will be open to the public Monday to Friday 2 pm to 4 pm.

The Lift

Meetings took place with the Education Department and relevant government departments to determine the location of a lift. It was agreed that the lift would be located outside the building in the south-west corner. Initial plans have been drawn up and costings have been completed but we are still awaiting a further determination for its installation.

New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) Project

FOTC provided a letter of support to NERAM to undertake conservation work on the Hinton Collection portraits which are held on site at the college building. These portraits are located above the terrazzo steps leading to the auditorium.

New England Conservatorium of Music

Letters of support have been provided to NECOM for renovation work to music and performance rooms through the Infrastructure and Stronger Communities Funds.

NERAM and FOTC Oral History Project

NERAM received a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society to develop an oral history project concerning the Hinton Collection. Once COVID restrictions were lifted the project was eventually completed. A series of questions and eight members of the Armidale community and FOTC were interviewed about their memories of the art collected in the Teachers College building. Once the final editing is completed, then details will be made available to you as members.

The Museum of Education

A tender for restoration work to the three Museum of Education timber rooms has been signed by the Trustees of the Museum. Some initial work has been commenced but delays have been caused not only by the COVID Lockdown but also by the recent severe Armidale tornado and now unbelievable wet weather. Don't forget that if you have early educational material, we will give it a good home in the Museum!

Graham Wilson
President - 6 December 2021

MEMBERSHIP

Membership and donations have allowed us to set up displays of memorabilia of past students and lecturers in our History Room and Gwenda Shannon room. Our visitors are able to go back in time when viewing these displays.

We also very much appreciate the many donations for our lift appeal. (Mentioned in the President's Report)

A huge thank you to our members for their ongoing support, some of whom have been by our side for many, many years.

Bev Korsch

VALE Bill Driscoll

With the passing late in May of Bill Driscoll we lost one of the College's best loved and most highly respected lecturers. His generosity in sharing his enviable knowledge and skills means that his passing has impacted not only on teacher education staff and students across the state, but also on the wider community of Armidale and beyond.

Bill will be remembered for the enthusiasm and wisdom he brought to the formidable range of his academic interests that included History, English, Politics and Religion, to which he added Classical and Jazz Music, and Cricket. We all felt that time spent in his company was always educational and enjoyable.

Always approachable, Bill's warmth and sense of humour, added to his obvious respect for the College's hard won rich traditions, made him an obvious leader of both academic and general staff, especially during the challenging period leading up to the amalgamation of the College with the University of New England.

The loss experienced by those who worked with, or were taught by Bill is also particularly felt by members of the Armidale community. The large crowd in attendance at Bill's brilliant family-focused funeral contained people from the many facets of Bill's community involvements; each deeply regretting Bill's passing, but openly grateful for the time spent around him.

John Harris

VALE George Keoghan: 5th February, 1934 - 15th June, 2021

George Keoghan will be remembered fondly by ex-students and staff of ATC and ACAE as a maths lecturer and admired colleague.

George was schooled at De La Salle, Ashfield he went to Sydney Teachers College after the Leaving Certificate, graduating in 1953.

He spent two years in National Service and after teaching in a number of schools he was eventually appointed as a Mathematics Master at Liverpool High.

While teaching maths at Campbeltown High he married in 1958 and began studies at UNE gaining Bachelor and Litt.B. degrees.

He joined the maths department at Armidale TC in 1968, moving to Armidale with loving wife Claire and their 7 children, Leonie, Kate, Maureen, Bernadette, Trish, Christine, and Michael. When he retired he had experienced Armidale TC becoming Armidale CAE, six Principals and many, many students.

Full of bonhomie with an infectious smile, people were drawn to him. In addition to mathematics his interests included cryptic crosswords, brewing, classic cars, fishing and boating, golf and antiques, especially clocks.

He will be greatly missed.

Christine Perrott

KAREN MARSHALL 1952 - 2021

To long-time members of FOTC, this name will sound very familiar to you. Karen was a much loved, dedicated and appreciated member of FOTC's Working Committee for many years. Karen played a huge roll in volunteering at the College, fund-raising, rostering volunteers on duty in our History Room, organizing College re-unions and also local weddings held in the college grounds.

Anyone who attended a re-union at the College will undoubtedly remember Karen's yummy scones, jam and cream, freshly baked by her the morning of an event. She was well-known for her Devonshire teas.

Karen's association with the College spanned many years, from the late sixties arriving from Sydney North Shore as a bright, young student to complete three years of Teacher Training to becoming an active FOTC Committee Member up to her sad passing in June this year after many years bravely fighting cancer.

As a College student, Karen became a member of the first cohort to train for three years. While at College, Karen met a local young man, John Marshall, whom she married. Armidale became her permanent home. While raising her family of five, Karen continued to teach mostly at Armidale City Public School, previously known as The Armidale Demonstration School. She continued her association with the College after her training, demonstrating lessons to students and engaging further with the College through hosting students for their Practice, displaying her caring nature, her love of little children and her excellent teaching ability.

In 1996, FOTC was formed in response to the UNE's decision to forgo their trusteeship of the College building. Karen's fond memories of her College days and her admiration for the newly formed group to save the building were sufficient incentives for her to join and become an active member of FOTC.

RIP Karen



Evelyn Jean Helyar 1910-1953 (from an article by her niece, Jennifer J. Helyar)

Jean started teaching without any formal training, but later attended the Teacher's Training College in Armidale. With some years of experience behind her, she graduated dux of her year, with the highest marks recorded thus far. In 1943, she is recorded on the electoral role in Armidale as a student living at "Smith House", but by 1945 was at Ariah Park, in the Riverina, where, in November, they had a newly installed wireless and the children were delighting in Kinder of the Air. In 1946 she transferred to Condobolin to be closer to her aging parents, where she spent the last six years of her teaching career. She had a passion for music and the Arts and regularly took part in the organising and presentation of concerts and other productions; she was planning to concentrate more on that side of her teaching in the coming years.

In a personal letter to Chris, in Sep 1951, she talked about her plans to go on teaching until she was 55. In 25th Sep 1952, she wrote of caring for their parents and the unlikely possibility of Ethel or herself becoming ill. However, just weeks later, in early November, 1952, she discovered a lump in her breast. Despite deep ray treatment, it proved fatal. She died on 28th March, 1953. She was 43.

The Methodist (Sydney) Sat 29 May 1954, p12 – Circuit News

Evelyn Jean Helyar Memorial Library — The Condobolin Sunday School decided to honour the memory of Miss Jean Helyar, superintendent of the school for six years, the memorial to take the form of a library.

Miss Helyar had planned to start a teachers' reference library. The library was dedicated on Saturday, April 3, 1954 by the President, Rev. A. G. Manfield. It is now being used by the teachers and scholars.

ROBIN RICHARD FAULKNER 1936 -2021

Ex-student of ATC, graduated in 1955. FOTC notified of his death in Kyogle in September by his daughter Kerrie Delaney who added he had very fond memories of his College days and valued the work of FOTC.

RIP Robin

ADELLE MAKEPEACE 1937- 2021

Long time member of FOTC. Sadly passed away in Armidale on 29 November 2021 after a long illness.

RIP Adelle