



*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 - November 2019**

It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Annual Report for 2019. I would like to sincerely thank members of the FOTC. Committee for their ongoing work during the year and huge thanks to those members and friends who have opened the museum on a weekly basis and assisted in organising various College reunions and weddings. The year has been one of achievements but also one of sadness with the recent loss of three long serving members of the committee; Lorraine McNamara, Ros Townsend and Helen Ogden. I would like to express my deepest sympathy to their respective families. They will be deeply missed.

2019 was the 90<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Armidale Teachers' College. A number of functions took place organised by the Armidale Regional Art Museum, the UNE Alumni and the Friends of the Old Teachers' College. A major exhibition was held at NERAM entitled 'College on the Hill' from 21 June to 18 August 2019. The exhibition was compiled by the University of New England Archivist Bill Oates and myself and included college photographs from the archives and items from the FOTC Museum. In opening the exhibition, Professor Michael Wilmore from UNE spoke of the value of 'Education and Teacher Training'. All of those who attended the exhibition expressed great fondness for the College building and for their time spent as students or lectures.

The audio-visual presentation from the exhibition of many college photographs is now located in the FOTC room located at the front of the College building.

A wonderful panel discussion entitled 'Memories of Old Teachers' College' was held on 27 June 2019 at NERAM. There was a great deal of humour and warmth expressed by former lecturers and students as they recalled days at the College.

On 12 July 2019, Max Schroder spoke at a further function held at NERAM. Max was a student at ATC from 1959-60, a lecturer at the ACAE from 1967-1974 and the College Secretary from 1974 to 1979. Apart from his fond memories of the College, he spoke in detail about the development of the Museum of Education complex and offered his support for future plans for the museum.

As you would know, the ownership of the College building is now in the hands of the Department of Education. An initial meeting took place with the Department earlier this year and the Director of the Conservatorium of Music, Suzanne James and myself wrote to the Department in August seeking details about the future of the College. We will keep you informed of developments.

A number of former College Year photographs have been located with new additions to the displays gracing the College corridors.

An extensive number of College photographs and records are held in the University of New England Archives and Heritage Centre. The Archives can be found in the former ACAE library building which is located at the rear of the College building. The archives is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and all visitors are welcome.

The Museum of Education is now controlled by the Department of Lands and the Department has advertised for a Trustee Board to be formed. Along with other historical organisations, FOTC has applied for a trusteeship.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that 2020 will see the Teachers' College building and the Museum of Education go from strength to strength.

*Merry Christmas*

**Graham Wilson, OAM President.**

## **HISTORY ROOM REPORT**

Since our last Newsletter, there have been no reunions at the College. We've had a wedding in August and another just recently in November. Obviously the drought has had a huge effect on the College grounds. Despite this, the roses are putting on a good show.

The History room has been strongly supported by the Volunteers. We sincerely thank them for their commitment and wish them well for the holiday season.

An interesting addition to the History Room is a photo presentation, which was prepared by Bill Oates, the University Archivist, for the New England Regional Art Museum Display to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of ATC Foundation Day. Bill has kindly transferred his presentation to a USB, which can be used on our new television. It features the laying of the Foundation Stone, the building in progress, the Pioneer Session and many other session and group photos. Many sporting photos are depicted, hockey, cricket, basketball and many more. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to see it sometime in the future.

Another change has been the replacement of the UNE mats at the College entrance to new mats clearly marked ATC with one of the College colours, maroon. They look good.

**Karen Marshall and Sue Melville**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Sadly we no longer have Lorraine to encourage new members to our FOTC family. We welcome your contribution, not just as a member but also as a visitor or volunteer at the College. Please spread the word for FOTC.

Our committee continues to enjoy and remain diligent in preserving the history of the college.

Membership to date: 101

**Bev Korsch**

## Vale Lorraine McNamara (nee Corey) 1939-2019

Lorraine died suddenly from a suspected heart attack while in the ICU of Armidale's Public Hospital on Saturday November 9, 2019.

Her road to Armidale began in 1957... having completed her Leaving Certificate she discovered that to gain a place in her preferred Sydney TC course, Physical Education, she had to undertake a competitive selection process. She was one of the successful applicants ... 20 males and 20 females who were chosen for the PE course. They became Section 115 and to this day hold regular reunions.

After completing her studies Lorraine taught at Beverly Hills and Port Kembla High Schools and before accepting an appointment to Wagga Wagga TC she gained a degree at Oregon in British Columbia, to advance her Sydney TC qualification.

In 1971, following her time at Wagga Wagga TC Lorraine began her teaching years at Armidale TC and CAE. Her students knew her as the energetic, amusing, no-nonsense PE Method teacher. Once in Armidale she settled well into the city and Armidale TC life where her students loved and admired her, turning to her for counseling advice. Kind-heartedness towards all was a hallmark of her character.



She decided to buy a house and for the necessary legal assistance she approached a local firm and was pleased to be helped by a delightful, friendly solicitor, Joe McNamara. Once Lorraine was the owner of her new abode Joe approached her on an entirely different matter. The happy outcome was that Lorraine became Mrs McNamara on 7/7/77. For one who was not a natural cook, had no children of her own and had lived in small residences this was very brave. However, family stories like one about the practice of bedtime smarties under the pillow (bribery?) and continued contact right down to step-grandchildren indicate the success of the union.

Lorraine was involved in *Friends of the Old Teachers' College* and was the Membership Officer for many years. She wrote personally to thank members and knew details of their links with the College. FOTC meetings won't be the same without her. She shunned modern technology eschewing ownership of a mobile phone, internet connection and email correspondence.

A huge gap remains now that Lorraine has left us.

## Vale Roslyn (Ros) Townsend OAM 1941-2019

Ros was born in Narrabri and lived in Turrawong where she attended a one-teacher school. When the family moved outside Tamworth she was enrolled in correspondence school. She then went onto Tamworth High where she completed her schooling. When Ros was working at Hillvue Primary, where she was as a teacher's aide, she decided she would like to enrol in teacher training at Armidale Teachers' College. She brought her two sons Armidale in the mid 70's, enrolled at ATC and her connection with the college began. Upon completion of her teacher training she taught at NEGS and 3 years later went to Ben Venue Primary as teacher/librarian where she remained until retiring.



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Ros was a dedicated member of the Committee of *Friends of the Old Teachers' College, Armidale (FOTC)* for many years, contributing in those areas in which she was skilled and passionate— historic records/memorabilia and their collection, displays, cataloguing, organising, editing and presentation of photos, written memoirs, and reports of events. In her quiet, unassuming way she played a part in the organisation of the two FOTC memorabilia rooms in the College building, The History Room and The Gwenda Shannon Room. She helped with the collection and editing of material for our 75th anniversary publication *Armidale's College on the Hill* and later played a major role compiling its Index, a job requiring meticulous and tiresome work. The near completion of a full set of framed and named Session photos was largely her work.

Ros was a volunteer for many other groups such as The Family History Group, The Historical Society, St Peters Anglican Cathedral, Meals on Wheels and The Hospital Canteen.

In 2018 she was awarded a well-deserved OAM.

We will all miss our warm, loving, meticulous, patient, quiet, efficient, caring and organized Ros.

## Vale Helen Ogden 1932- 2019

Helen spent her early years in Sydney and moved to Armidale to take up an administrative position at ATC.

Many readers might not know Helen whose contribution to the Teachers' College and in more recent years to *Friends of the Old Teachers' College* was in an administrative capacity. When volunteering for the Committee for *Friends* in her retirement she played a major part in the office, taking room bookings and doing jobs like dealing with mail and helping in the preparation of funding applications.

After retirement she kept busy as a volunteer with *Friends*, NERAM and playing the organ at St Mary's Anglican Church. Her retirement was cruelly curtailed soon after she turned 80 with the onset of a debilitating motor illness.

Elegant, graceful and supportive, Helen will be greatly missed.

## Vale Ruth Sainsbury, 1936-2019

Ruth's early years were spent in Sydney. Her interest and talent in music developed at SCEGGS Darlinghurst where singing in the choir nurtured emergence of a beautiful soprano voice. She went on to study at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she gained a diploma.

Ruth's connection with Armidale Teachers' College began in the early 1970's. She went on to become a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Arts Education Department.

Whilst in Armidale Ruth joined The Music Therapy Association, Zonta and the Anglican Church, in particular St. Nicholas Church at Saumarez Ponds, where she played a part in reviving its regular services and was the organist. As part of Zonta she played a major role in the establishment of the Armidale Women's Shelter in 1978, the second such facility in NSW.

Ruth's bright yet gentle personality will be missed by family and friends.

### **REUNION LUNCHEON AT BALLINA RSL ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2019.**

The numbers this year were up on 2018 with 16 apologies. The change of venue from the RSL Bowling Club did not affect the attendance but a change is planned for 2020...yes, there will be another on the second Tuesday in September! We are hoping for a 'sing song' from the famed College Song Book with more time given to personal anecdotes from teaching days.

The group is primarily from the 50's and 560's but ex's from all sessions are always welcome. For more information Marcia Kelly (Poynting) can be contacted on 0431 250 288 or [marciajunekelly@gmail.com](mailto:marciajunekelly@gmail.com)



**Back:** Max Bigg, Ron McLennan, Howard Brockington, Dennis O'Neill, Brian Moore, Dorothy Goddard(Hall), Ian Lockton, John Knapman, John Fraser, Ted Williams, Bill Kniepp, Des Burke, Don Nealon.

**Middle:** Helen Lockton(Larrescy), Olga Baglin(McDonald), Gay Gilmour(McCarthy), Nea Knapman(Pestell)

**Front:** Patricia Wilson, Anne Bigg(Clark), Dora Brockington(Cigana), Yvonne Schuhmacher(Blackman), Majorie Stubbs(Sullivan), Barry Saxby, Marcia Kelly(Poynting), Isabel Williams(Smith), Lynne Dixon(Rendall), Joan Fraser(non-student), Mary Burke(Walsh).

**Absent:** Margaret Playford, Yvonne Moulds (Stibbard).

Two Reunions for 2020 (as published in Daily Telegraph and with Contacts' permission.)

### **ATC 1968/69 reunion.**

A 50-year reunion for ex-students of the 1968 and 1969 session of the Armidale Teachers College is being planned to be held in Sydney over October 23-26 in 2020. For details, please contact Penny Moore on [pennymoore@bigpond.com](mailto:pennymoore@bigpond.com)

### **ATC SESSIONS OF THE SIXTIES reunion.**

A "Sessions of the Sixties" reunion is planned for the week beginning Monday, October 19, 2020 in Tweed Heads. The Committee is still looking to contact as many graduates from ATC 1960's era. Please send details and an indication as to your interest in attending to [cas46so@gmail.com](mailto:cas46so@gmail.com) or phone Tom Cassin on 0407 457 661.

### **RSVP – SMH 6 -7th April, 2019 - WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE CURTAIN FELL?**

The response to the photo of the cast of "The Lady's Not for Burning" in the Armidale Teachers' College production of it in 1953 has been quite amazing and I have had some wonderful conversations with people to whom I haven't spoken to in sixty six years and many others who've also found it of interest.



From left: ?, David Marrinon, Brian Millett, Leo Lisle, Beth McLachlan, Stan Smith, Paul Lamb, Olwyn Thomas, Bernie Moroney, ?, Jean Herd, Greg Tome, ?, Kevin Robotham, Bill Crispin, Fred Roberts.

Information that I've had has identified two of the three question marks from a friend of Bernie Moroney, who sang at her wedding, Alice Brown nee Bond. The one on the extreme left might be Marjorie Thayer and the one next to Kevin Robotham might be Maida Mackinnon and I've not had any ideas of the woman between Bernie Moroney and Jean Herd. One other person involved, but not in the photo, was Barbara Williamson, who provided offstage, from her deliberately out of tune violin, the "gay modulated anguish rather like music".

As to the cast and I've heard that Dave Marrinon died eight years ago and was an Agriculture and Science teacher at Mullumbimby High School in the 1960s and 1970s.

The next member of the cast is me, Brian Millett, and I think I played Richard, an orphaned clerk, and I now live in Yass and turned 86 a couple of weeks ago. My first appointment in 1954 was to Palestine via Eden, a small school for which I'd had no training but I 'learnt on the job', as many others did. My career in drama after College was limited to some amateur theatre in Bega, some Gilbert and Sullivan, a custard pie in the face as a clown in Nauru and my final role was as the back end of a camel in a Penang presentation of 'Ali Barber and the Forty Thieves'.

Next to me is Leo Lisle who played Nicholas, Humphrey's brother and with whom I share a Walcha connection and with whom I was at St John's Hostel and Armidale High School!

I've heard from Beth Barons nee McLaughlin and had a delightful conversation with her and sadly learnt she was widowed some years ago. Beth and Stan Smith were special friends and she had very fond memories of him and they shared numerous outings together on his motor bike. Their romance was broken by the perversity of the appointments from the DoE and he went to the Riverina and she went to the north coast and so they drifted apart. "the course of true love"?

Stan Smith, Beth's good College friend, is one of the two cast members of whom I've not heard. A pity because Stan played the leading male role of Thomas Mendip, a discharged soldier, and did it with some considerable aplomb. I wonder where he is and whether we'll find him?

In the centre, next to Stan Smith, is the inimitable Paul Lamb who had been such an inspiration to us all and I've already written about him with great affection.

On Paul's immediate left is Olwyn Thomas, another of whom I've heard nothing. She was a fine actress and played the leading female role of Jennet Joudemayne, an alleged witch and did it with fire and passion. I wonder where she is now?

Next to her is Bernie Moroney with whom I've had quite regular contact over the years regarding our mutual friend Barbara Wallace nee Williamson and he played The Chaplain with the appropriate Godly authority. I had a message from Alice Brown, Bond back then, that Bernie sang at her wedding in 1956.

And next to the unknown is the lovely Jean Herd, who Paul Lamb maintained was a great dramatic talent with a real future in theatre. Sadly we hear that Jean died some time ago.

Then there's Greg Tome with whom I've had some long conversations about College and life since and Greg told me that he has been retired for nearly twenty years and has been very fortunate in having an enjoyable retirement in the Southern Highlands. In that time he has gained a Master of Arts degree in Egyptology, which led him to write a novel set in Ancient Egypt.

Next is Kevin Robotham who was for a time Principal of Rutherford High School in the 1980s and 1990s. My informant here says that he believes Kevin that has died but that Kevin's son, Michael, is a prolific and very successful writer of crime fiction.

One of the great characters among us in those days, and of whom I have very fond memories, is Bill Crispin (William Barrie George Crispin) who had been at Yanco High and who was the possessor of a superb tenor voice and a scintillating personality. His final teaching post was at All Saints College, Bathurst where he was affectionately known as 'the Doc'. I learnt that he died, in August, 1998.

Next to Bill is Freddy Roberts, of whom I've had several accolades from members of his family and who is remembered by all of us as a loving and gentle soul - and a passionate gardener - and he skilfully painted our stage sets, as well as teaching us Art.

It was a real privilege for all concerned, however, to have shared the experience of Christopher Fry's perceptive writing with such wit and grace.

The memories of our experience of it are still remarkably fresh and, even though this is an incomplete report of 'What Happened After the Curtain Fell', after 66 years I am amazed that there was so much that has been found.

I ponder over what happened to our two leading characters Stan Smith, aka Thomas Mendip, a discharged and suicidal soldier and Olwyn Thomas, aka Jennet Jourdemayne, an alleged witch.

I hope so but it's been great fun to lift the curtain on as much as we have!!!

**Brian Millett.**

**18/11/19.**

### **Do you have one of these hiding away in a cupboard?**

New England Girls' School, Armidale has an active collection of archival artefacts in dedicated premises on the school Campus. One of the most popular exhibition rooms is the Uniform Collection, with the oldest item, a blazer, from 1911. The uniform collection, spanning the life of the school, will be on show with an 'historical fashion parade' during the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 2020, but there is a significant gap that I am hoping a generous person can fill.

In the period 1920 or maybe a little earlier until 1940, the uniform, all year round was a navy serge tunic, white blouse with a school tie, beige stockings or long socks and brown shoes (which changed to black shoes in that period). It was commonly the uniform in many public and private schools until the 1960s and 1970s. However, the NEGS Archives does not have an example of the tunic. I am very grateful that I have been given permission to appeal to the TC newsletter recipients.

I am hopeful that I can find three tunics for the parade. The needed design is: Navy blue serge (or similar), square necked yoke front and back, three box pleats front and back. I do not need a belt. The tunic will be paraded by Year 9 girls and so they need to be teenage sizes. I would hope to keep them in the Archive Collection and I am happy to pay postage costs.

Does anyone have one of these they could offer?

Please contact:

*Dr Heather Fisher*

Jean Newall Archive Centre, NEGS

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