



NEW SOUTH WALES

2 November 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Minister for Science and Medical Research

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

HIGHER LEARNING ICONS WIN HERITAGE RECOGNITION

Two of Armidale's landmark buildings – the CB Newling Centre and *Boooloominbah* – will be given formal recognition on the State Heritage Register in a special ceremony tomorrow.

Planning Minister Frank Sartor today announced the listing, saying the buildings define Armidale as a major regional centre for higher education and culture.

The Chair of the Heritage Council, Michael Collins, and the University of New England will mark the listing at **10:30am on Friday 3 November at Boooloominbah**.

"These two buildings define Armidale as a major regional centre for higher education and culture," Mr Sartor said.

"They were both integral to the establishment of the New England University College, which was the first educational institution of its type outside of an Australian capital city.

"*Boooloominbah*, built in 1888 for the scion of the White family dynasty, was one of the largest private country houses in Australia during the 19th Century.

"It still ranks among the most avant-garde in the domestic 'arts and crafts' style architecture which was popular at the time.

"It is a fine example of the work of architect John Horbury Hunt. The house's extravagant stained glass work shows the wealth and influence of the pastoralists during this period.

"*Boooloominbah* was donated to the University of Sydney in 1937 on the condition that it was used to establish a university college. In 1954 the University of New England was established.

"The CB Newling Centre, or teachers college building, was completed in 1929 to help train rural teachers to work in rural areas. It features local Australian timbers and rare gardens from the early 1930s.

"It has a strong historical connection to the New State Movement, which argued that northern NSW should secede from the rest of the State.

"Today, the centre is fondly remembered by thousands of teaching, nursing and other graduates, as well as academic and administrative staff.

"The *CB Newling Centre*, known as the 'College on the Hill' is still an important part of the Armidale landscape."

Media contact: Ann-Marie Wilcock 9228 4700 / 0413 872 275

The New State Movement

- The establishment of the New England University College, boosted by the use of *Booloominbah* and the *CB Newling Centre*, was linked to the New State Movement.
- The New State Movement (NSM) heavily influenced State politics between the 1920s and the 1960s, using dissatisfaction with services in regional areas, to argue for secession from NSW.
- When local member David Henry Drummond, who sympathised with the NSM, became the Minister for Education in 1927 he quickly established a teachers' college in Armidale.
- The idea of a university in Armidale was first floated in 1922 as an extension of the schools already in existence. The donation of Booloominbah in 1936 was designed to force the Government to act.
- The University had a family atmosphere and for many years students ate together in the dining hall.
- In 1954 the University of New England – autonomous from the University of Sydney – was established.