



OBERON ARTS COUNCIL INC.

PO Box 326, Oberon NSW 2787

ABN 68 145 075 321

M/s Leanne Mash
The General Manager
Oberon Council
Oberon Street Oberon 2787

March 31st, 2011

For Attention of The Mayor Keith Sullivan & all Oberon Councillors

THE BICENTENNIAL TAPESTRIES - POSSIBLE RELOCATION

On behalf of the members of Oberon Arts Council, we respectfully suggest that community consultation take place before there is any consideration given to transporting and replacing the eight Bicentennial Tapestries in a location other than the Cobweb Craft Shop.

The Bicentenary in 1988 was defined in Oberon's history as an initiative of Oberon Arts Council in the form of these superbly crafted tapestries. They provide a visual record of essential activities and landmarks which have shaped the town and surrounding Oberon district. Worked by over 100 needle workers, many of whom still feel ownership of them, and considering their monetary as well as historic value, very careful consideration should be given to see that they are retained in a supervised, protected position but available for viewing.

- As an important focal tourist attraction they need to have accessibility to be viewed seven days a week.
- A reason Arts Council supported the reinterpretation of the tapestries as terrazzo panels, apart from the widespread community acceptance of the designs, was the fact that they were only available for viewing between 10am and 4pm, 7 days a week, and it was felt they also should be available to be seen 24/7 as a terrazzo interpretation.
- Arts Council has already prepared a leaflet promoting a 'Common Walk - Oberon's Story,' which will direct people from the Visitor Information Centre, to the Diprotodon Mosaic, then to the Common to view the Artworks and from then on to Cobweb to view the original tapestries and vice versa.
- One medium complements the other, and the skills recently used in working the terrazzo have renewed an appreciation and interest in the skills used on the original needle works.
- The removal of the Tapestries after 21 years from the Cobweb would impact on the tourists who visit Cobweb to view the Tapestries and also impact the Cobweb voluntary workers and as a consequence the sale of hand-crafts and gifts which are all locally produced.
- A removal to the Community Centre would limit the times available for viewing these magnificent Tapestries which belong to the community of Oberon. It would see them displayed without the protection from Cobweb members, who have carefully carried on the guardianship of these valuable tapestries for the past 23 years.

Yours sincerely

Fran Charge – President - For Oberon Arts Council Committee & Members