

## COAT OF ARMS.

By June 1958 the Armidale City Council had two official city badges or crests. The older one stood above the mayor's honour roll and included 'Incorporated 1863' and 'Municipality' together with a waratah'. The newer one dated from 1885 and the word 'City' was substituted for 'Municipality' on notepaper and the official seal.<sup>1</sup>

Council took initial steps in November 1961 to place a sum in the next year's estimates for consideration of a coat of arms. The centenary committee discussed the proposal for a coat of arms in December 1962 based on a suggestion of council. In order that the design of the coat of arms would be appropriate to the scene, artists in the city were invited to submit suitable drafts early in July 1963. Entries closed on Wednesday 24 July and residents were also invited to contribute to a coat of arms fund.

Council applied to the College of Arms in England for a Grant of Arms in order to celebrate the centenary of continuous local government in the city. The selected designs by five Armidale Artists were forwarded to the College of Arms and finally incorporated in the Grant of Arms by the Lancaster Herald in London. The new coat of arms was displayed for two weeks in the War Memorial Library in February and March 1964. Once accepted by council, the coat of arms design was then reproduced on the common seal, roll of mayors, stationery and vehicles of council.

The different sections of the coat of arms was especially chosen: the waratah circlet was contained in the former crest of the city; the castle represented the Armidale castle in the Isle of Skye after which Armidale was named in 1839; the shield was the basic heraldic device; the head of the ram represented the wool industry of the district of which Armidale was the centre; the Bishop's mitres referred to the Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishoprics in Armidale; the book represented the educational institutions within the city and the English rose symbolised the central situation of Armidale in the Tablelands.

The motto 'The Fortunes of the House Stands Firm' was the translation of the Latin quotation attributed to the poet Virgil and refers to the unity in a beehive which results from complete mutual support and community spirit. Thus the motto was appropriate to the situation within the city which benefits singularly from the activities of many voluntary organisations.

The frame which now houses the Grant of Arms was made and presented to the city by Mr E.B. Langker, a carpenter teacher of the Armidale Technical College on Wednesday 1 June 1966. The city surveyor D.M. Crawford mounted the Letters Patent. The frame made of Queensland maple was divided into two sections, with cedar edges and corners. The three gold crowns beneath the

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<sup>1</sup> *Armidale Express*, 4 June 1958, p.8.

explanatory document are actually covers for the three seals hanging from the Letters Patent.

Council deferred a recommendation by the town clerk R.A. Browne to purchase a metal and porcelain copy of the coat of arms for the council chambers at a cost of \$308 in July 1966. Council decided to defer the purchase of the plaque until next year's estimates. Sir James Kirby, senior executive of Qantas presented to mayor Ald. Piddington a replica of the coats of arms attached to Qantas's newest Boeing 'City of Armidale' in October 1967.

In 1985 council held a competition to design a city flag to commemorate the Proclamation of the City of Armidale in 1885. Entries closed with council on 31 May.