

5 November 2011

Philip Bacon AM  
Trustee, The Margaret Olley Art Trust  
PO Box 2265  
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

Ms Susi Muddiman  
Director  
Tweed River Art Gallery  
2 Mistral Road  
Murwillumbah South NSW 2484

Dear Ms Muddiman,

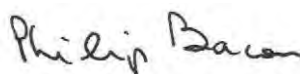
I am writing on behalf of the Margaret Olley Art Trust to advise that I and my fellow Trustees are prepared to contribute the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) towards the establishment of the Margaret Olley Centre, as a purpose-built extension of the Tweed River Art Gallery.

Working with you as Director, and your preferred architects, it is our desire to honour the express wish of the late Margaret Olley that her studio and elements of her home and collections be re-created in a suitable venue. Her interest in Regional Galleries in general, and the Tweed River Art Gallery in particular, makes this project especially attractive to the Trustees.

Please convey to the Shire Council that it is also our hope that the Margaret Olley Art Centre at the Tweed River Art Gallery would be the repository of a large number of her own works, including works in progress, ephemera, correspondence etc, which are currently in the possession of the Margaret Olley Estate.

I look forward to hearing from you as to when and where any official announcement may be made. The Trustees would want to be consulted on any media release, before it was issued.

Yours faithfully,



Philip Bacon



**THE HON SIMON CREAN MP**

**Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local  
Government**

**Minister for the Arts**

**THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT**

**Member for Richmond**

28 November, 2011

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR NEW MARGARET OLLEY CENTRE IN  
THE TWEED**

The legacy of one of Australia's best known still life artists, Margaret Olley AO, lives on with the announcement today of Federal Government funding of a million dollars towards the Margaret Olley Centre at the Tweed River Art Gallery, on the New South Wales north coast.

Local MP Justine Elliot said "In 2007 I secured \$1million Better Regions Funding for the Tweed Shire Council. The money was for the construction of a new Tweed Museum project. Recently I was advised that it had become evident to the Council that they could not fulfil the requirements to utilise the funding and that the money could be lost.

I am delighted to announce today that after putting up a strong case for the reallocation of these funds; it will take the form of a one off gift of \$1million for the Tweed River Gallery for the Margaret Olley Centre," said Justine

Federal Arts Minister Simon Crean said "The grant to the Margaret Hannah Olley Art Trust matches funding already offered by the Trust to the Tweed River Art Gallery to construct the purpose-built Margaret Olley Centre to recreate Margaret Olley's studio and elements of her home and collection,"

"This Australian Government grant for the Margaret Olley Centre is even more poignant given Ms Olley spent time in the Tweed as a child and opened a new wing of the Gallery in 2006.

"With the recreation of her studio, elements of her home in Paddington and part of her invaluable collection in a new wing in the Gallery, we get a precious insight into the life of one of this country's most acclaimed and beloved artists.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the Tweed region. The Margaret Olley Centre will hold works of significant national value and elevate the Tweed River Art Gallery from an already leading regional gallery to one of the most recognised regional art galleries in the nation,” Mr Crean said.

Justine Elliot MP described the establishment of the Margaret Olley Centre as a boost for the region.

“I’ve no doubt that with the splendor of Margaret Olley’s works on display the Tweed River Art Gallery will become a major tourist attraction for the community,” Ms Elliot said.

“This unique opportunity for the Tweed region is too good to miss and the Australian Government is pleased to play a part in fulfilling the wishes of the late Margaret Olley,” Mr Crean said.

**Media Contacts – Minister Crean**

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