



"BINGHI"

A News-sheet issued by The Armidale School

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SUCCESSFUL DINNERS HELD Hundreds Toast the School

In a series of six dinners, held in recent weeks, Old Boys, Parents of present boys, and Friends of the School have gathered to hear again the resplendent story of T.A.S., to toast its achievements, and to hear of plans for the future.

Dinners have been held in Armidale, Newcastle, Sydney, Moree, and Brisbane. At each centre, except Armidale itself, Old Boys and Parents and Friends of the School met together, dined together, and listened to the story of the school with equal interest.

At Armidale, in order to accommodate the numbers desirous of attending, two separate functions were held, one for Old Boys, and one for Parents and Friends.

At each of the dinners, however, there was a common factor: the deep and abiding love that the supporters of T.A.S. have for the school. This deeply-ingrained affection for this great school is something more than an emotional feeling; that was positively proved over and over again as Old Boys, Parents and Friends of T.A.S. responded to the invitation to take a practical interest in the future of the school.

OLD BOYS BACK "HOME"

Commencing with the Old Boys' Dinner, in the School Dining Room, the pattern of these dinners was set, and the same enthusiasm for the school evident—as might be expected at an Old Boys' Re-union—at the outset, was consistently manifest throughout the series.

Nearly 250 Old Boys sat down to Dinner in the Dining Hall on the evening of 15th August, 1959. This large Hall, so dear to the heart of every Old Boy, was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the dais, especially, was resplendent with blossom.

Thunderous applause greeted Peter Taylor when, on behalf of the Old Boys, he accepted the cup from the Old Boys' President, Mr. R. G. Vyner, as a tangible indication of the victory of the Old Boys' football team over the School Fifteen.

Following this, the Dean, the Very Rev. M. K. Jones, who acted as Chairman of the Dinner, apologised for the absence of the Chairman of the School Council, Bishop J. Moyes.

The Dean then intro-

duced Mr. R. G. Vyner, the President of the Old Boys' Union.

Proposing the Toast to the School, Mr. Vyner outlined the role T.A.S. has played and is playing in the providing of leaders in every field of Australian life, as well as turning out a host of sterling citizens every decade. With modest pride, he mentioned the academic successes, the sporting prowess and some of the men of public life who declared their indebtedness to T.A.S. for the start they received at their old school.

TOAST TO THE SCHOOL

The Old Boys' President then invited all Old Boys present to charge their glasses, and to be upstanding to answer the toast to "THE SCHOOL".

At the Dinner attended by the Parents and Friends of the school, the Dean called upon Mr. P. A. Wright, Vice-Chairman of the School Council, to propose the toast.

Mr. Wright, in outlining the history of the school, recalled that it was founded in 1894 by men of vision, men of

much faith. He pointed out that that faith had been more than justified, for The Armidale School was now one of the Great Public Schools of N.S.W., of which there were but nine, T.A.S. being the only one outside the metropolitan area.

"From its initial enrolment of between twenty and thirty, it has grown", Mr. Wright went on to say, "until to-day, it is bursting at the seams with 280 boarders, and between 30 and 40 day boys. Armidale is a great educational centre, with a University, a Teachers' College, and seven secondary schools", concluded the speaker, "and we must keep abreast with the progress of others. T.A.S. is a great school; it must keep its end up; it has a fine tradition, a Christian background, and a brilliant future. We must see to it that these standards are maintained".

On this note, Mr. Wright proposed the toast to the school, which was responded to by all present.

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Headmaster Responds

School moves into fourth phase

Responding to the toast to the School the Headmaster, Mr. G. A. Fisher, told Old Boys and Parents and Friends that the School was facing "the most momentous time in its history."

"In my 33 years' association with the school", Mr. Fisher said, "I cannot think of a more important time than that which lies ahead of us".

He then paid tribute to the "fine, founding fathers who were men of vision", to the loyalty of the staff, and to the active Old Boys' Union and to the Council for its vigorous and forward policy.

Mr. Fisher said that while the founding fathers had established the school on a sound basis, those following had not stood idly by. They had built on the foundations laid over sixty years ago. The Assembly Hall

was an example of the results of team-work between Old Boys, Parents and Friends.

"COMPETITION IS STRONG"

"Competition," continued the Headmaster, "is strong. We cannot afford to ignore it. If this school is to maintain its place it must go from strength to strength; there must be self-help, and more help. All that is good in the world has been done by men acting under the spirit of unselfishness".

Mr. Fisher went on to explain the Stages of development that the School has passed through since its foundation.

"FOURTH PHASE"

"If you will permit me a few minutes to indicate the phase we have reached", he continued, "I might explain it this way. The first phase was to reach an enrolment of 100 boys.

Then, in 1940, we moved into the second phase, when we reached the 200 mark. About five years ago we reached the third phase, when 300 names were on our rolls, and it is now that we are about to enter the fourth phase, when we are approaching 400 names on our school roll. There is an urgency and a challenge here.

"We must expand", Mr. Fisher concluded, "to keep pace with the demands of the present and immediate future. And so, in replying to the toast to the school, I ask you to stand behind the Council in its endeavours to satisfy these needs. We can do it if we pull together".



COLONEL M. F. BRUXNER, a past Senior Prefect, and Appeal Key Gifts Chairman, addresses Old Boys, Parents and Friends at the recent Dinner held in Sydney.

APPEAL LAUNCHED

Immediate Plans for Expansion

In a speech to Old Boys and Parents and Friends recently, Mr. P. L. Johnstone, a member of the School Council, and deputising for the Lord Bishop of Armidale, Bishop J. Moyes, outlined the school's plans for expansion and development.

Mr. Johnstone referred to the "Fourth Phase" mentioned by the Headmaster. He reminded his audience that The Armidale School had now between 300 and 400 boys enrolled. This, he said, indicated to the School Council that the School was approaching a critical stage. While this was a heavy responsibility, the Council had decided to meet the challenge.

AVENUES EXPLORED

"The School", continued Mr. Johnstone, "is unique in the Church of England community. A survey showed about two years ago that this school had the heaviest proportion of boarders in the secondary stage in a Church of England school in Australia".

Mr. Johnstone went on to explain how the Council, faced with problems of expansion had explored every conventional avenue of raising funds. It had already a substantial overdraft, and it had discussed the position with friends of the school, and had conferred with insurance companies. The Council, continued Mr. Johnstone, felt that some new approach must be found. The Council felt that people who were solid supporters of the school would be willing to help.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

"The top priority jobs have been assessed by the Council", Mr. Johnstone went on to say,

"and it is felt that these are the first essentials:

1. The Science Building must be completed by adding an Agriculture Science Lab. and more class-room space.
2. A new Dormitory of 30 beds at Meadowfield.
3. Remodel the kitchen to accommodate increased numbers.
4. The re-modelling of the covered ways.

"These", said Mr. Johnstone, "represent the immediate objectives. We are in a position to call tenders for the top to the new Laboratory within a few days. It is a matter of great encouragement to know that the Old Boys are right behind us".

"BURSTING AT THE SEAMS"

Commenting on the urgency of some of these objectives, Mr. Johnstone went on to say that the description, by the Headmaster, of the school as "bursting at the seams" was most apt. Boys were being crowded in to use every available inch of space. We must use those 26 acres at Meadowfield, where we intend to build dormitories and then our boys will have proper housing.

"The kitchens", continued Mr. Johnstone, "are most inadequate. They were designed to cater for 120 boys. But now three hundred boys, three times a day, are fed. But for the magnificent work of the kitchen staff, crises have been avoided, but something must be done quickly.

"It was felt, too", he said, "that the covered ways must receive immediate attention if they were to serve the purpose as efficiently as it was hoped. It is believed that, if these are re-modelled, many administrative problems will be solved".

"£45,000 GOAL"

Mr. Johnstone concluded his remarks by

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Memorial



Mr. H. E. BELFIELD with several T.A.S. boys examine the Lawrance Memorial Foundation recently dedicated to the Memory of Keith Lawrance, who died shortly after leaving School.

ENTHUSIASM FOR APPEAL PLAN

OLD BOYS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OFFER SUPPORT

A wave of enthusiasm and optimism for the future has been the immediate reaction of T.A.S. supporters for the newly-announced £45,000 Appeal.

Typical of the many favourable comments was that of Mr. D. A. F. Shaw, the Sydney Regional Chairman. "Let us support this appeal", he said at the Sydney dinner, "for it will allow us to demonstrate our pride in our school. I absolutely support all that Mr. Johnstone has said, and I believe every Old Boy of the school will feel as I do".

THREE SONS AT SCHOOL

Speaking on the same occasion, Bishop J. S. Moyes said that he had had three sons at the School, and was thrilled to know that they had been to T.A.S.

Colonel M. F. Bruxner,

the "father" of the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly was quick to pay tribute to T.A.S. Col. Bruxner had to delve into his memory's archives for 62 years to remember his introduction to the school. He recalled that he went there "puny and delicate". He still remembers the first time he turned on the shower at T.A.S. "I thought it was the end", he said, "but it was only the beginning".

"MY WONDERFUL HEALTH"

"I owe my wonderful health to the climate of Armidale", said Col. Bruxner. "Yes, it is a wonderful climate, if you recover from the first shock".

"I want to tell you what T.A.S. has done for me", he continued. The Colonel then enumerated such things as the fact that it gave him health—he played football—the valuable asset of learning how to shoulder responsibility—he was Captain of the School—a whole host of the very best friends in the world.

"People should remember this school", Col. Bruxner said. "Even people who are not connected with it should support it".

"A GREAT SCHOOL"

"We are second to none. We should go out to everyone saying, 'Here is a great school!'"

"If we are to hold this country, we must bring fellows up with a regard for the hinterland, a regard not obtained in this country's commercial centres.

"T.A.S. has given something to Australia. It was a lucky day for the School when Gordon Fisher took over." Col.

Bruxner concluded. "Now let us give him the tools to get on with the job. I give this Appeal my heartiest support."

"WHAT KIND OF BOYS"

Proposing the toast to the Parents and Friends, Mr. A. V. Cane, at the Dinner posed this question: "What kind of boys do you want?" Answering his own question, Mr. Cane suggested that some may want the school to produce leaders, others may look for men of brilliant careers to be produced, while still others may look for a place in society.

"What we are aiming for," said Mr. Cane, "are the characteristics of strong physical development, a spirit of independence and self-help, uprightness, moral courage, and loyalty to their school, a love for God and for their fellow men.

"SALT OF EARTH"

"T.A.S. can produce these men," said Mr. Cane. "The march to Grafton a few days ago proved that. Then there was that example of the 40 little boys who produced £244 for the Australian Board of Missions. They are good boys, the salt of the earth."

Mr. Cane reminded his hearers of what the school had produced—leaders in almost every field—agriculture, grazing, industry, politics, literature and medicine.

"But all these past achievements mean nothing if we do not have the necessary equipment that only money can buy," he concluded. "Give us the tools, and we will do the job! I believe in T.A.S. and therefore pledge my support for this Appeal."



CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN, Mr. PAUL JOHNSTONE outlines Appeal Plan to Old Boys at the Reunion Dinner held at the School on August 15.

Adelaide.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS

by the Oldest Old Boy

Early in February, 1894, around thirty not very impressive boys gathered in the big School Hall to answer the first roll call of the Armidale School, with a staff of three Masters, a Sergeant, and Matron. The Matron was Mrs. Buchanan. The Masters were the Rev. W. Fisher (M.A., Oxford), H. Wing (ex-Harrow College) and E. Marrayatt (Adelaide University)—and what a great trio they were too; and then there was Sergeant Cansdell.

The boarders answering Roll Call were H. McKenzie, P. Anderson, A. Wiseman, A. and O. Hyman, A. and R. Blomfield, O. Porter, Harold White (Rusty), A. and D. Bennett, A. Burgess. That night A. and C. Cadell arrived, and at the Easter recess H. F. White (Billy).

The day boys were J. Blythe, Bob Munro, F. and J. Johnstone, R. Makin, J. Blaxland, W. Simpson, P. Wright, N. Doyle, R. Vyner, A. and H. MacLean, E. McDonald, V. Harris that cross my mind, followed by the three Belfield boys, either first or second quarter.

UNIFORM

Our uniform was supposed to be a white shirt, stiff front and cuffs, with an Eton collar and Eton suit, which few of us had and, to top all, a black bowler hard hitter hat, which was very soon discarded.

Our only distinguishing mark as to dress was a navy blue cap with the School arms on it and a straw boater hat with a navy blue band with a straw coloured band running through the centre.

Actually the first boy at the School was H. MacKenzie, whose Aunt was Matron and he was in residence with her prior to the School opening for a day. Pat Anderson followed, as, on my father and my calling on the Head the day prior to the School opening, we met Mr. Jno Anderson and Pat at the front gate returning from a similar visit.

FAMED OLD BOYS

Pat died within five minutes after landing at Gallipoli, and Herbert has also crossed the divide, leaving me the oldest living old boy and sole survivor of those twelve who answered the first roll call. Strange to say, out of those twelve our two most noted old boys came: Alf Blomfield, cosmopolitan mining engineer, and Arthur Burgess the marine painter. Of our three Brigadiers two came out of those day boys—Athol Martyn and Jack Johnstone, the third being Owen Phillips (Gin) who joined the School very much later and followed the profession of a soldier.

FIRST SPORTS

At our first sports which were marred by rain, H. MacKenzie jumped over his own height. The mile and sundry other events were

postponed to the following Saturday. From a start of 175 yards I won the mile.

Our boarder numbers remained 15 till the June recess when we had quite an influx of new boys.

STRIKES

Strikes were even the fashion those days; all the boarders, with the exception of Alf Blomfield, who tried to dissuade us, signed a round-robin to the Head requesting better food, at the instigation of the Sergeant who got the sack, and we paid dearly for it.

—A. S. WISEMAN.

Appeal Launched

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telling his audience that the school was aiming to raise a minimum of £45,000 in five years. He especially asked the men to give of their time to help in this important project. He emphasised that donations were not being sought there and then, but that the Council was asking for the assistance of as many men as possible. Old Boys were already getting behind the scheme, and many parents and friends had expressed a willingness to help.

"We must attack the essentials first", Mr. Johnstone said, "and the Council is anxious to get off to an early start. We want busy men to give us some of their time, for the busy man is the best man".

Successful Dinners Held

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OTHER CENTRES

The same refreshing response was found in all centres where the Dinners were held. Everywhere, there is an upsurge of enthusiasm for the school; the Spirit of T.A.S. is militant; its sons and supporters are very much immersed in its tradition and culture that distance and time do not tend to erase the memory of happy, formative days. Indeed, as Old Boys grow older, there is an increasing awareness of the vital part T.A.S. has played in their lives, and they are grateful accordingly.

In Brisbane there was ample evidence of heart-warming loyalty to the old school. In Newcastle, Old Boys, joining with Parents of present pupils of the school, toasted the school with all the vigour and fervour of enthusiastic supporters. In Moree, the flame of affection for the school was obviously burning as brightly as ever in the hearts of those who are proud to be called her sons.

In every centre, Old Boys and Friends of the School came together from all walks of life to enjoy the fellowship of those who share a similar pride in being members of a fine school.

Old Boys' War Service

The Honour Rolls of the School show that in the Boer War, 1899-1902, 10 Old Boys served; in the Great War, 1914-1918, 273; in the Second World War, 1939-1945, 468.

In the Great War 45 paid the supreme sacrifice; in the Second World War, 46; in the Korean War, 1.

Among the decorations awarded to Old Boys are the following:

1914 - 1918

24 M.C.'s; 11 D.S.O.'s; 5 M.M.'s, 3 C.M.G.'s, 3 C. de G.'s; 2 L. de H.'s; 1 O.B.E.

1939 - 1945

11 D.F.C.'s—2 with Bar; 7 M.C.'s; 4 D.S.O.'s; 3 O.B.E.'s; 1 M.B.E.; 1 M.M.; 1 C.M.G.

EXTENSIVE COUNTRY PLANNING FOR APPEAL

It is expected that the outcome of the country dinners will be the enlistment of a large band of committeemen for the conduct of the appeal in the Central West and Central Northern Districts. Already these Districts have leaders in the persons of Mr. R. S. St. Clair and Mr. H. R. Carter respectively.

At Newcastle and in the Central Northern region preliminary steps will be taken to form a branch of T.A.S.O.B.U. The Union is already one of the strongest and certainly none could be more virile, or of such high purpose.

Mr. E. Stanley Hancock speaking at the Brisbane Dinner for Old Boys, Parents and Friends said, "There would not be any other school where you would see 13 tractors owned and driven by Old Boys en-

thusiastically working on a playing field! The work done by Armidaliens at the School has been tremendous."

LOCAL LEADERS

Mr. R. G. Vyner, Rural Chairman of the Appeal Organization advises that the leaders of the organizing committees outside Armidale are—

SYDNEY: Mr. D. A. F. Shaw, Col. M. F. Brunner, Messrs. A. L. Bain, R. L. Taylor (Parent), J. C. Somerville.

NEWCASTLE: Messrs. W. G. Cannington, P. Hewson, P. Taylor, Dr. G. R. Sippe (Parent).

CENTRAL NORTH: Messrs. H. R. Carter and B. S. Hyman.

CENTRAL WEST: Messrs. R. S. St. Clair, B. Patch and R. Goddard.

BRISBANE: Messrs. E. S. Hancock, Max Harrold, K. C. Richardson, J. C. Moore.

Mr. John Bell-Allen will be travelling throughout Queensland in the course of his profession as Field Engineer and also proposes to do a public relations job for the campaign.

Others who will be making "sorties" on behalf of the appeal organization are Mr. J. Vasey who is off to Tasmania shortly and Mr. W. L. G. Field who will be visiting Adelaide.



Mr. D. A. F. SHAW, Sydney Regional Chairman and immediate past President of the Old Boys' Union, supports the £45,000 Appeal at Sydney Dinner.

T.A.S. Cricket Since 1890

By Mr. C. W. L. Taylor, an Old Boy

In my "write-up" on cricket at T.A.S. I have refrained from quoting names, not from any fear of criticism, but because I was out of touch with T.A.S. during war years and absent from the district for some years and must have missed many players in those periods.

My memory goes back clearly to the late 1890's, when, before going to T.A.S. I saw the School play a match at Salisbury Court. At this time the School had some good cricketers, but they did not fare very successfully against some good "under-arm" bowling which was sometimes encountered even at that period.

I saw the School play several matches from then until I went to T.A.S. in July, 1902.

On arriving at T.A.S. as a boy of nearly 12, full of cricket keenness, and finding a very nice and very capable "coach" (the late Mr. I. E. Skuse), I thought (after playing at home with 3 or 4 boys on un-graded roads, etc.) "what an opportunity" and just revelled in the chance.

Because of the small number of boys at T.A.S. at that time, we got more individual attention and boys with some natural ability were able to make plenty of progress.

FORM RIVALRY

At that period there was no outside competition arranged, but considerable rivalry was engendered by playing "Form" matches (between all forms, or classes) on a handicap basis, even youngest boys playing against boys of all ages and ability. This was quite a help in starting lots of boys on their way to top teams.

Also, the incentive to get to the top was encouraged by the prospects of coach trips (coach and four horses, there were no cars for transport at that time) to Guyra, Hilgrove, Uralla, Walcha, Boorolong, Salisbury Court, Rockwood, Gostwyck, etc., for an all-day match where we were always treated right-royally.

About this period, 1903-05, over-keenness rather led to some cricket deterioration, as lots of boys developed "cricket fever", and at any opportunity grabbed a bat and ball and in small groups began to play against any tree or post, on the rough ground, with the result that their prowess just "fopped", and some lost their places in teams.

Then this "scabby" cricket, as we called it, was prohibited. From then on ability improved.

Naturally, in the earliest days of T.A.S. when there were very few boys there, there were fewer with natural ability and fewer chances to improve one's game. As numbers increased so did ability and success, up to a point; for instance, to about the end of the 1890's we find boys heading the batting average with figures of about 13 to lower 20's, with, of course, some good bowling averages; within the next 10-12 years, batting aggregates and averages increased to (1904) 1120 runs, average 53; and

(1911) 979 runs, average 54.

From then onwards there was a falling off and prowess fluctuated. This seems to be not a seasonal but a periodic phase through which cricket (and other sport) passes, as it has been noted from junior boys to Test cricket standard. T.A.S. has gone through these phases but did very well to win the local competition in at least one season.

A CRITICAL LOOK

Speaking generally, cricket at T.A.S. has not progressed nearly as well as it should have, con-

sidering the large increase in numbers. For some considerable time there have been many good individual performances, but the team has not been really strong, though they have produced some first class fielding sides, notably 1953-55.

The team's "friendly" spirit has been there, but not whole individual keenness, and this has not helped the good individual to sustained success. The lessening of keenness and slackening of patience and concentration (all most important) has been quite noticeable, and this applies not only to T.A.S.

NEXT EDITION OF "BINGHI"

is expected to appear next January and will include:

- Reports of Appeal results;
- Sidelights on the campaign;
- News of building plans;
- T.A.S. Calendar for 1960;
- Other items of vital interest to all T.A.S. supporters.

Be sure your name is on the mailing list. Please notify Mr. H. E. Belfield at the School if you feel it has been inadvertently omitted.

T.A.S. TOPS G.P.S. SHOOT

On Wednesday, 16th September, 1959, T.A.S. First Rifle Team became G.P.S. Champions by winning all three matches shot that day and the previous day at Long Bay Rifle Range.

It is only the third time in thirty-five years that a G.P.S. team has accomplished this feat, and the T.A.S. boys thoroughly deserved their victories. Twice they were lagging at the half-way mark but on each occasion shot so well in the second stage that they won comfortably. Their winning score in the N.R.A. Shield may be recognised as a record.

G. D. Cutler, team coach during the shoots, shared the title of G.P.S.

marksman with A. Dalziel of King's, with 165 points, whilst R. J. Downey, with 164 points, was third.

T.A.S. Second Team was placed fourth in its competition.

SCORES

Rawson Cup: T.A.S., 510 pts., 1; King's, 495, 2; Grammar, 485, 3; Shore, 475, 4; Newington, 465, 5; Scots, 439, 6; Sydney High, 416, 7.

N.R.A. Shield: T.A.S., 365 pts., 1; King's, 339, 2; Scots, 336, 3; Grammar,

332, 4; Newington, 321, 5; Shore, 321, 5; Sydney High, 319, 7.

Buchanan Shield: T.A.S., 365, 1; King's, 344, 2; Grammar, 336, 3; Shore, 309, 4; Newington, 274, 5; Sydney High, 268, 6; Scots, 230, 7.

Seconds' Match: King's, 517, 1; Grammar, 506, 2; Shore, 499, 3; T.A.S., 491, 4; Newington, 474, 5; Scots, 469, 6; Sydney High, 438, 7.

G.P.S. Premiership Points: T.A.S., 1; King's, 2; Grammar, 3; Shore, 4; Scots College, 5; Newington, 6; Sydney High, 7.

PREMIER SHOOTING TEAM



ANNUAL CRICKET MATCHES

Dear Old Boys,

The matches against the School Elevens will be played on Tuesday, December 8th, commencing at 10 a.m. Old Boys wishing to play should advise the undersigned no later than Thursday, 3rd December.

Lunch will be provided for players by the School.

AN INFORMAL DANCE —

will be held at the Armidale Lawn Tennis Club after the Cricket. Old Boys' Wives, Parents and Friends are invited.

P. L. JOHNSTONE,
Hon. Secretary, T.A.S. O.B.U.,
c/o Box 182,
ARMIDALE.