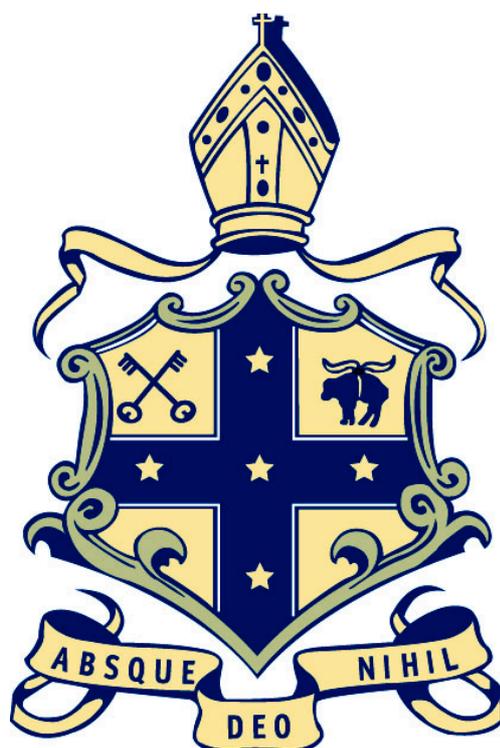


**A SHORT HISTORY  
of  
THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL**

D L (Jim) Graham



January, 2008

## **FOREWORD**

The genesis of this book was a chance remark by the Headmaster, Murray Guest, about the need for a simple and concise history of the School for new boys and other interested people.

When I approached Jim Graham, the author of *A School of Their Own* (the first and only comprehensive history of TAS), he enthusiastically agreed with the idea. This book is the result; I was privileged to assist Jim with the text and editing.

Acknowledgement is given to Andrew Constable, a duty master at TAS in the 1980s, and the members of the then History Committee who produced *The Armidale School - An Introduction* in 1987. Some material from that publication has been used in the preparation of this book. We also thank Ian Johnstone for his valuable assistance.

This is a pilot edition and any suggestions or corrections would be welcome. It is hoped to add illustrations at a later date.

David Connah  
January, 2008

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the history of the School, the following sources are invaluable: *A School of their Own: The History of The Armidale School*, by Jim Graham, published in 1994 and *The Armidale School Register 1894-1993*, compiled by Belinda Anstock, also published in 1994.

Past copies of *The Armidalian* and *Binghi* are very useful. Many editions of *The Armidalian* are reproduced on the School's comprehensive website ([www.as.edu.au](http://www.as.edu.au)) which is also well worth searching for other information about TAS.

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

I wish to express my thanks to David Connah and his wife Barbie for their invaluable contribution in the preparation of this Short History. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

D L (Jim) Graham

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# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

## PART I: BACKGROUND

The Armidale School traces its history back to 1840 when, at a meeting in Sydney, '47 ladies and gentlemen met to discuss the prospect of establishing a Proprietary School'. They subscribed £650 in the form of shares to which Bishop Broughton, Bishop of Australia, added £500 secured by him as a grant from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, a church organization based in London. Land on which to build the School was purchased at Newcastle, but the depression of the 1840s brought the scheme to a standstill.

The idea lay dormant for 30 years until it was revived in 1874 by William Tyrrell, recently appointed Bishop of Newcastle. The original land had been resumed for the Hunter River Railway but this had the effect of increasing to £9,000 the value of the capital, which was held in trust. Dispute arose as to a site for the School and whether, indeed, the project should be proceeded with at all - many of the existing shareholders arguing that the need for the proposed School no longer existed. In 1874 Tyrrell brought a suit in the Supreme Court to force the trustees to establish the School as originally planned. The matter was referred to the Master in Equity who, in 1879, ruled that the scheme should go ahead. A sum of £14,000 was now held in trust and land was purchased at Blandford, near Murrurundi. There was little public support for the project however, and the trustees failed to raise the extra capital deemed necessary to proceed with building. With the death of Bishop Tyrrell, the cause to establish the School was led by Archdeacon Coles Child, a trustee of the fund and Administrator of the Diocese of Newcastle. Pressure to wind the scheme up intensified but Child argued that the reason for lack of public support was the choice of Blandford as the site. Child, who now recommended Morpeth as an alternative location, petitioned the Supreme Court for advice. When the matter came before him in October 1886, H F Barton, the Master in Equity, was also asked to consider Armidale as a further alternative. Chief amongst those who argued for Armidale were R P Abbott, a substantial landowner in the Upper Hunter and New England regions, F R White who had large pastoral holdings in the Hunter, New England and Northern Districts, and Archdeacon James Ross.

Finally, in 1888, and on the grounds of that city's healthy climate, the Master in Equity decided in favour of Armidale. The promoters of the Armidale location were required to raise a further £6,000 in the form of shares to add to the existing £14,000 already held in trust. Archdeacon Ross, assisted by F R White of 'Booloominbah', Armidale, quickly raised the required amount.

The New England Proprietary School Limited, as it was then known, was incorporated on 5 June, 1891. The £100 shares, offered at £50 each, allowed each shareholder to nominate one pupil for each share held. There were 65 original shareholders and the Bishop of Grafton and Armidale was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors. In September, 1891 the directors bought 20 acres in Armidale for £1370, supplementing 10 acres which F R White had purchased for the School in 1889. The highly regarded colonial architect, John Sulman, was instructed to 'prepare plans for school buildings to accommodate 70 boarders with provision to double that

number'. Lord Jersey, Governor of the Colony, laid the foundation stone of the main building on 22 February, 1893. It was expected that the School would reflect the philosophy and style of the English public schools of the time and an Englishman, Rev William Fisher, was appointed headmaster.

Classes commenced for the first pupils in February, 1894 and the formal opening ceremony was performed by the Rt Rev A V Green, Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, on 15 May that year. In 1896 the name of the company, and of the School, was changed from the New England Proprietary School to The Armidale School (TAS). The initials 'NEPS' can still to be seen in red terracotta high on the western end of the facade of the main building. By the end of 1894, 55 boys were enrolled.

The School made good progress under its headmaster, Rev William Fisher, who was well guided and advised by Archdeacon Ross. A prefectorial system was introduced - the first senior prefect being A L Blomfield - dramatic and musical entertainments were presented and, in September, 1898, a cadet corps established. Sports were played against local teams and Sydney schools; in 1897 TAS joined the Athletic Association of the Great Public Schools of NSW (GPS). It has remained a member of this body ever since. An Old Boys' Union was established in 1899.

In spite of some set-backs, the School's enrolment increased steadily up to the outbreak of World War I. A significant number of Old Boys served in the various armed services in the War - notable amongst whom were Lt Col H F White DSO, C de G, CMG, pioneer aviator Capt Sir Gordon Taylor GC, MC and former member of staff, Lt Gen Sir Leslie Morshead KC, KBE, CMG, CBE, DSO, L d' H.

As enrolments increased after the war, new buildings were erected to accommodate the growing numbers. The first significant addition to the School was the Chapel in 1902 followed by the Maxwell Library (1923) and Dangar House (1924) for boys in the recently established Junior School. These last two were erected as memorials to two Old Boys, C F Maxwell and C C Dangar, who had given their lives in World War I. In 1925-26 a new wing, consisting of class-rooms on the ground floor with dormitory accommodation above, was added to the original Sulman building. The Dining Hall was extended to its present size, a new kitchen and servery was built and maids' quarters were added on the floor above.

Changes in the governance and management of the School were made in 1923. The Board of Directors was of the opinion that, as a proprietary company, the School had not qualified for significant bequests which other 'church' schools had received at about that time. Indeed, it was held that the company's present status could work against the possible acquisition of major donations such as the one promised by Mrs Nora Dangar to fund the construction of the Junior House. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company were consequently changed, making it clear that the company could not declare a dividend to shareholders and any profits must be invested wholly in the School. The Bishop of Armidale, hitherto elected by the members of the Board, was appointed, ex-officio, president of the School Board and the Armidale Diocesan Council was given the right to nominate one additional clerical member to it.

An achievement of note in 1925 was the presentation by the School of Euripides' *Medea*. The play, with W C Wentworth leading a cast of about 40, was performed in the original Greek and, after presentation in Armidale, was taken to Sydney to be staged at the Conservatorium of Music. A capacity audience there included both the

Governor General and the Governor of NSW. Rugby, in 1929, was particularly successful with the School's 1<sup>st</sup> XV, coached by science master G A Fisher, having wins in matches against Sydney High School, Shore, The Scots' College and St. Joseph's College. Enrolments stood at 140 in 1926.

A significant development came in 1937 with the establishment of the Parents and Friends' Association, a body which has since gone on to provide many items for the School and has been a major fund-raiser for many projects.

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in a serious decline in numbers to a low of 110. The School, burdened as it was with the bank loans it had secured to fund the building expansion in 1925-26, experienced financial difficulty. The Headmaster, Rev Hubert Sanger, together with the Board, instituted drastic measures to ensure the School survived. Salaries, including that of the headmaster, were substantially reduced. Dangar House was closed for a period and only the most necessary maintenance carried out; building activity virtually ceased. At the same time there was a concerted effort to encourage new enrolments. Despite these measures, by the end of the 1930s the School was in a perilous financial position. However, the arrival of a new headmaster and the outbreak of the Second World War combined to ease the situation. In 1940 Gordon A Fisher was appointed headmaster - the first layman to occupy this position. The energy of the new headmaster and the danger perceived by Sydney parents of a Japanese invasion in the 1940s saw enrolments increase from 113 in 1940 to 250 in 1942. With the end of the war and with the increased numbers, it was obvious that the time had come to embark on a more ambitious building programme.

In 1950, in order to facilitate business affairs and to take advantage of local council rate exemptions on church property, the Board of Directors decided to transfer ownership of the School to the Anglican Diocese of Armidale. By agreement with existing shareholders, governance of the School was transferred to a Council made up of the Bishop (who would be chairman), five members chosen by the Diocese and five chosen by members of the Old Boys' Union. A new science building was completed in 1952; in 1956 work commenced on an assembly hall, to be built as a memorial to Old Boys and staff who had served in both World Wars. 'Meadowfield', a 24 acre estate close to TAS, was purchased in 1954.

On the retirement of Gordon Fisher in 1961, Alan H Cash was appointed headmaster and in 1963 work commenced on the building of White House. Cash took the opportunity this provided to restructure the boarding arrangement of the School. Henceforth boys in Years 8 -12 would be organised on a 'vertical' house system rather than on the existing 'horizontal' structure of Junior School (Primary and Year 7), Middle (Years 8- 9) and Senior (Year 10 and above). The existing division of day-boys and boarders into sporting houses formed the basis for allocation of boys into the new house system (see Part IV for more detailed information about Houses). Further significant developments, which took place in the 1960s, were the building of additional dormitory accommodation for the Junior School (the Moyes Wing) and class-rooms for the Senior School (Fisher Wing, Stage I) in 1966.

Distance from Sydney makes it impossible for TAS to compete fully in all GPS sporting competitions but the School has, nevertheless, maintained a strong presence in athletics and shooting. A notable achievement was that of the 1959 Shooting Team which, by winning the Rawson Cup, the NRA Shield and the Buchanan Shield, made a clean sweep at the GPS Shoot. The GPS premiership was again won in 1993,1995

and 1996. In 1997 the TAS Shooting Team won both the Firsts and Seconds' premierships. In 1964 TAS sought entry for the First and Second Rugby teams to the GPS Rugby Competition. The TAS teams, however, were no match for the larger GPS schools and this, combined with the problems associated with constant travelling to Sydney for matches, led, in 1967, to a decision to withdraw.

In the late 1960s TAS began to embrace some of the educational ideas of Dr Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun School in Scotland. Jim Graham, a housemaster at TAS, had spent 1966 teaching at Gordonstoun and the Headmaster, Alan Cash, visited there. A student exchange programme was set up in 1968 and many of the Gordonstoun ideas, such as educational development through adventure, expeditions and service to the community, were introduced to TAS. Student exchanges were also organised with Salem (founded by Hahn) in Germany and Aiglon in Switzerland.

Development in the 1970s was marked by a large increase in the number of day students in both junior and secondary departments. Grants from the Schools' Commission, supplemented by funds raised from within the School community, made possible the construction of Abbott House, the Johnstone Library, science laboratories, Junior School class-rooms and the Mattingley Gymnasium.

An approach was made in 1970 to the New England Girls' School to investigate the possibility of the schools combining to offer co-education. It was finally recommended that, at the commencement of 1973, the fifth and sixth forms from both schools be combined and taught at TAS with the headmaster of TAS to take charge of the experiment. In many ways the scheme was successful, but there were also difficulties and, at the request of NEGS, it was abandoned at the end of 1973. In that year there were 402 boys at TAS.

The extra-curricular and sporting activities of the School expanded during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1983 the 1st Soccer XI was entered in the Armidale first division competition and, with the completion of the Mattingley Gymnasium, basketball also flourished. With a cutback in government funding and a change in federal government policy, the cadet corps was restructured to incorporate activities associated with personal development through adventure and outdoor experiences. Gilbert and Sullivan operas, which had been presented annually since 1954, achieved a high standard of performance and regularly toured to regional centres. They also achieved commendation and awards in state-wide drama competitions organised by the NSW Arts Council. After 1975, as well as the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas, outdoor productions of plays, (mostly musicals) were staged annually in the Lawrance Quadrangle. Other musicals, written and performed at TAS, were also presented in Sydney. In 1984 a TAS rugby team, led by Ken McConville, toured the United Kingdom for the first time and met with great success. The following year, in a season of 13 matches, which included games against all other GPS sides, the TAS 1st XV was undefeated.

By the time Alan Cash retired as headmaster in 1982, the number of day students had increased considerably and his successor, Geoffrey Andrews, made the decision to establish two separate Houses to cater for them. The two Houses, Ross and Green, were inaugurated by His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward who, in 1983, made a four day private visit to TAS. As teaching and boarding facilities were being stretched to the limit by increased enrolments, a new class-room block, the A H Cash Building, was completed. In 1986 Croft House, a new house for boarders, was officially opened by Sir Owen Croft.

The School Council in 1989 agreed to the recommendation of the Headmaster, Ken Langford-Smith, that girls be accepted as day students into the primary classes. Growth in numbers in the Junior School necessitated the building of a new class-room block - the Magoffin Building - in 1992. Other building projects completed at about this time were the Music Centre, substantial additions to the Fisher Wing and an extensive remodelling of the science laboratories. All were completed by the beginning of 1990. The heated indoor swimming pool was opened in April 1993. A new library, funded by a Centenary Appeal and with money provided by the TAS Foundation, was completed in 1999.

It is worthwhile to note that, since the building of Memorial Hall in 1956, the majority of funds necessary for the construction of new teaching, boarding and sporting facilities has been raised from donations by parents, old boys, staff and friends of the School. The strength of this School community has always been a feature of TAS.

Soon after taking up his appointment as headmaster in 1998, Murray Guest moved to establish a separate Middle School, comprising Years 6,7 and 8, within the existing academic and boarding structure. The D L Graham Building was built to provide class-rooms for the Middle School with boarders housed in White House.

Although the School's association with Gordonstoun dated from 1966, it was not until 1997 that TAS sought membership of the Round Square Conference, an international association of schools which embrace the Hahn principles. This was achieved in 1998 and, as a full participating member, TAS extended further its commitment to full development of the individual through participation in outdoor and service activities.

A good example of outdoor activities is the School's participation in the annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic - a 111 km marathon for kayaks and canoes. As early as 1981 staff members Kel Hardingham and Grant Harris recognised the Classic's potential to challenge the psychological and physical fitness of students. This extreme event, which can take participants from less than 14 to over 26 hours to complete, is a test of mental, as well as physical, toughness. Staff and parents frequently join students in this marathon which raises funds for research into leukaemia and bone marrow transplants. In 2006, 69 students from TAS, NEGS and PLC, with the support of 90 land crew, entered the marathon – the TAS contingent raised over \$40,000.

In the area of service activities, TAS students, as well as participating in local events such as providing a cadet unit guard for Anzac Day ceremonies, have travelled overseas to disadvantaged areas. Groups have helped in the construction of housing and school facilities as far afield as Thailand, Fiji and Peru. In 2005 School Counsellor Brother James and Headmaster Murray Guest established the 'Pilgrimage of Hope' programme. In that year, boys from TAS, together with students from other schools and some staff, travelled to India to work with Mother Teresa's 'Missionaries of Charity' in an orphanage, on the streets of Calcutta and in her 'Home for the Dying'.

Work has commenced on the new Hoskins Creative Arts Centre, a resource which will underscore the School's commitment to innovation and creativity in learning. The emphasis on learning for life will continue through the class-room and through the many extra-curricular activities. With enrolments of well over 600 and secure in the ongoing support of the School family, TAS will continue to grow.

## **PART II: FROM COATS OF ARMS TO WAR CRIES**

### **THE TAS CREST, SHIELD AND MOTTO**

Together, a crest, shield of arms and motto are known as an 'achievement' or coat of arms. The oldest surviving depiction of the TAS Coat of Arms was carved from a solid block of wood and was originally located above the portico entrance to the main School building - though there are some minor differences between this achievement and early printed depictions of it. The keys and mitre are ecclesiastical; the mitre represents the School's association with the Church of England and the keys signify its location in the Cathedral Parish of St. Peter. The stars represent the Southern Cross whilst the slung lamb, or fleece, was added to signify association with the chief industry of the area. The first major change to the original - the addition of the slung lamb to the top right hand quarter of the shield - was made by resolution of the School Board in 1896. In 1993 the original achievement was taken down from the portico for repairs and, after replicas were made, was relocated to Big School.

Variations of the original design have been made from time to time. One such variation is the stained glass window designed by Norman St Clair Carter for the Dining Hall, another is in the Memorial Windows designed for the Assembly Hall by Napier Waller in 1957. This professional reconstruction seems to have drawn heavily on the versions in the Dining Hall and above the World War I Honour Roll in the main entrance lobby.

The motto is *Absque Deo Nihil* - 'Without God there is Nothing'. The probable origin is in the New Testament: St John, chapter 1, verse 3, 'All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made'. The second part of that verse in Latin is *absque deo nihil factum est*, an abbreviation of which is the School motto. Therefore another possible interpretation is 'Without God nothing is made'.

### **THE SCHOOL LESSON**

The School Lesson is 1 Corinthians, chapter 13: 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal ... And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.'

### **THE SCHOOL HYMN**

'Sing out in exaltation...!' Words for the hymn were written in 1992 by Ken Langford-Smith and Jim Graham whose idea it was to set them to the stirring tune, *The Dambusters' March* by Eric Coates. The words echo the ideals of faith, hope and charity expressed in the School Lesson and, in the final verse, refer to the School's motto 'Without God there is Nothing'.

### **THE SCHOOL COLOURS**

The School colours are navy blue and straw. When the Governor of New South Wales, the Earl of Jersey, laid the foundation stone of the School on 22 February, 1893, he gave permission for his livery colours to be adopted by the School. He also gave a prize for history.

## **THE SCHOOL FLAG**

The School Flag was first suggested by a boy in 1902 and, following various fund-raising activities (which included an auction of confiscated property), an amount of just over £11 was raised. After sending to England for designs, the flag was made in Sydney at a cost of £5.17s.9d. The remainder of the money went towards paying for the flagstaff on which the flag was first hoisted on 16 June, 1903.

## **THE SCHOOL WAR CRY**

The School war cry is:

'KUMATA KUMATA KARA KARA  
TINKITA TONKETA HU-RA ROU  
MAHARA MAHITI TA FOKETA FITI TA-RA  
HOO-MATI KUMATI TEFITI TA-RA.'

The precise origin of the war cry is not clear but it seems to be a corruption of a well-known Maori haka composed by the famous Maori Chief Te Rauparaha of Ngaati Toa (1768-1849). The haka is translated as follows:

LEADER     It is death, death!

CHORUS     It is life, life!

LEADER     It is death, death!

CHORUS     It is life, life! Here is the hairy man whose deed it is to make the sun  
shine! Together, all together! Together, all together! The sun shines!

The war cry, being part of the School's oral tradition, has changed over the years and there are variations in the words and their pronunciation, eg 'Koomarti' in the first line and 'Hooparti' in the last line.

## **PART III: BUILDINGS AND MEMORIALS**

### **THE MAIN BUILDING**

In 1891 the directors of the New England Proprietary School Ltd, having purchased Section 155 in the City of Armidale, Parish of Armidale, County of Sandon on lithograph plan No. 88/32, commissioned John Sulman, a Sydney architect, 'of undoubted and outstanding ability' to draw up plans for buildings to accommodate 70 boarders, with provision to extend to double that number.

Sir John Sulman was born in England in 1849, arrived in Australia in 1885, was knighted in 1924 and died in 1934. An architect and town planner, he lectured in architecture at the University of Sydney for many years. A trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales for over 30 years, he instituted the Sulman Medal and Diploma for Architecture, awarded annually since 1932 by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for work of outstanding merit in New South Wales. The Sulman Art Prize, awarded annually by the Art Gallery of NSW, was given by his family in his memory.

Sulman wrote of the main building of TAS:

I have tried to create in this School Building the sort of artistic design I have discussed with my friend William Morris and other artists. The front of the building stretches 250 feet, facing north, and includes all the necessary facilities and rooms for a Boarding School. My emphasis is on space for the boys to move around in, but also on large windows and high ceilings to ensure plenty of light and fresh air. I have chosen to build in dark brick, contrasted with the terracotta dressings, for warmth of appearance. I hope this building will be useful and comfortable for those who will inhabit it.

The facade of the main building is not symmetrical. This is a feature of the 'Queen Anne' movement, which influenced much English building from the 1860s to the 1880s, and came to Australia with the work of John Horbury Hunt, an American trained architect who designed St Peter's Cathedral and 'Boooloominbah'.

The building, generally of two storeys, has a three-storey section at the western end (the Headmaster's Lodge) and a three-storey section above the portico on the eastern end. Sulman considered that the blue bricks produced at Armidale would give too cold an appearance and therefore chose to outline doorways, windows and detailing with red bricks. He also used terracotta for window sills and decorative features. This had the effect of 'warming up' the general appearance. The internal walls are stucco with timber boarded ceilings, and the bricks are laid in Flemish bond. The roof of the main building is slate. There is a fine cedar staircase in the front lobby of the main building and another in the Headmaster's Lodge, which also contains some wall-moulded plaster archways and keystones. Above the entrance to The Lodge the date 1892 can be seen - indicating that work on the building commenced in that year.

#### **The Dining Hall**

The Dining Hall has a massive open-pitched roof structure stayed by decorative cast-iron tie rods. Lighting was provided by highly decorative cast iron gas chandeliers which were removed when electric lighting was connected in the 1920s. Originally the Dining Hall was built to about half its present length but in 1926 was extended to its present and intended size. Of interest in the Dining Hall are the windows in the

southern end, with the School's Coat of Arms in stained glass in the middle. Norman St Clair Carter, a very distinguished portrait painter and stained glass artist, designed these windows.

### **Big School**

'Big School' is a term derived from English public schools - the 'big' schoolroom. It was a multi-purpose room used as a class-room, for assemblies, as a 'prep' room and a general-purpose meeting place. Big School houses honour boards bearing the names of the Senior Prefects and Captains (Dux) of the School, and Presidents of the Old Boys' Union and the Parents and Friends' Association.

### **The Clyde Fairbanks Maxwell Memorial Library**

Bishop Wentworth Shields officially opened the Maxwell Memorial Library on 27 May 1923. Lady McMillan and Lt Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell gave it in memory of their brother, Lieutenant Clyde Fairbanks Maxwell, who died fighting in France in 1916. Clyde Maxwell, a citizen of the USA, had been in the first group of students enrolled at TAS in 1894.

The Library was designed by R N Hickson to adjoin the east end of the main School building. The Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, laid the foundation stone on 22 October 1922 and the building was completed by May the following year. The lending library was housed on the ground floor and the reference section on the floor above. A brass plaque above the fireplace in the lower room reads:

*To the Glory of God  
and  
In Lasting Memory of  
2nd Lieut Clyde Fairbanks Maxwell  
9th Battn Essex Regt  
an Old Boy of this School who was killed at La Boisselle  
in France on the 1st July 1916 during a voluntary attempt  
to take ammunition to an isolated detachment of his  
Battalion although previously twice wounded  
this Library was erected.  
"They carry back bright to the Coiner the mintage of man,  
The lads that will die in their glory and never be old".*

The last two lines are by A E Housman and were suggested by Colonel Maxwell. The opening of the library prompted Arthur Burgess, an original student in 1894, friend of Maxwell and by then a famous war artist and an Associate of the Royal Academy, to present to TAS one of his large canvasses *Sentinels of the Deep*. He had the painting shipped from England. Another of his paintings hangs in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

By 1973 the rooms proved inadequate for their original purpose and, after the erection of the Johnstone Library, they were made available for boys' common rooms and later for special functions and meetings.

### **The Sandilands Studio**

This room, on the eastern end of the original Sulman building, served originally as a library and common room. In 2006 it was officially designated as a memorial to three brothers, Geoffrey B Sandilands (at TAS 1937-40), John D Sandilands (1926-30) and James W Sandilands (1924-30), all of whom lost their lives in the service of their country in World War II - Geoffrey in England, John in Africa and James in India. The Sandilands came from Uralla, where their father James Bruce Sandilands, also an Old Boy, was a grazier. James jnr was senior prefect in 1930.

The room now has on display various items of interest which relate to the life and history of the TAS Cadet Corps, along with other archival items and wartime memorabilia associated with wars in which TAS Old Boys have served.

### **The Archdall Room**

The Archdall Room, opposite the main entrance to the Dining Hall, is used today as a meeting and waiting room. It was originally designed as a Masters' Common Room, and it was used for that purpose until 1967. In that year it was named to recognise the services to the School of the sixth Headmaster, the Rev Canon Henry Kingsley Archdall, MA,ThSoc. Archdall, who was Dean of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle when appointed, is remembered for his scholarship and energy. The School expanded its enrolment during his headmastership and important building additions were made. The most significant of these were the additions to the Sulman Building (Dining Hall, class-room and dormitory wing), Dangar House and the Maxwell Library

## **THE CHAPEL**

The Chapel was designed by Cyril Blacket, a son of Edmund Thomas Blacket, who designed the main building of the University of Sydney and St Paul's College at the same University. The Rt Rev Henry Edward Cooper, Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, laid the foundation stone of the Chapel on 5 September, 1902. Behind the stone is a bottle containing a document which described the history of the Chapel up to that time, a list of directors, the names of the headmaster and assistant masters, subscribers to the Chapel fund, the number of boys at the School, a copy of *The Armidalian* and a local newspaper of 5 September, 1902.

The architectural style is Gothic Revival. Points of interest to note are:

- the exposed roof frame and trusses;
- a five-pointed brick arch over the altar;
- the cedar-lined domed roof, or apse, spanning the sanctuary, painted blue with white stars;
- the stained glass windows - seven in the sanctuary, five pairs on the southern side, four pairs on the northern side, two in the western wall with a circular rose window divided into five parts;
- the roof shingles made from forest oak;
- the Armidale 'blue' bricks laid in Flemish bond.

The Chapel organ was built and installed in 1965 by H W Jarrott & Co of Brisbane, at a cost of £2,500. The metal pipes were imported from Holland, the wooden pipes were made in Brisbane. The action is electro-pneumatic, controlled by a multiple cable from the console. The plaque on the console records that Bishop R C Kerle dedicated the organ on 26 September, 1965.

## MEMORIALS IN THE CHAPEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

### EXTERIOR

#### Garden Gate and Wall

A brass plaque on the right pillar of the Chapel gate records that the gate and wall were given by Mrs M M Mackenzie in memory of her late husband, **Hubert Swinton Mackenzie**, the first boy to be enrolled at TAS. A brass plaque on the left pillar records that the lights on the Chapel and Douglas Street Memorial Gates are in memory of **Kenneth John Caldwell**, a boy at the School from 1941 to 1943.

#### The Lych Gate

A gift from the Old Boys' Union to mark the centenary of the School, the Lych Gate was designed by Old Boy architect, Ross Farrell. It was dedicated in 1994.

#### The Ruth Langford-Smith Fountain

Located in the north-western corner of the Chapel garden, the fountain is a memorial to **Ruth Langford-Smith** who died on 15 February, 1995. She was the wife of the then Headmaster, Ken Langford-Smith. The central feature of the memorial is a fish - symbol of the early Christian Church and a reminder of Ruth Langford-Smith's favourite music, Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet.

#### Chapel Light

The light above the Chapel door is in memory of **John Ross Montgomery** who was at the School from 1933 to 1937. There is also a brass plaque inside the Chapel in his memory. J R Montgomery died at the School on 19 November, 1937, aged 16, of pneumonia and influenza.

### INTERIOR

#### North Wall

##### Memorial Plaques

**Neville Maxwell Lochhead**. He was Captain of the School (Dux) in 1938 - at age 16 he collapsed and died in the surf at Terrigal on 6 January, 1939. There is also a light on the ground floor of Dangar House in his memory. **Thomas Kingsmill Abbott**, the third headmaster, died suddenly on the tennis court at TAS on 8 December, 1912. The second and sixth stained glass windows in the sanctuary as well as the carved wooden plaque are also dedicated to his memory. **James Henry Kenneth McConville**, a master at TAS from 1971 to 1985, died in an abseiling accident on 16 March, 1985, aged 45. The McConville Building was also named in his memory. **Patrick Sinclair Anderson** enrolled at TAS when it opened on 1 February, 1894 and was the first Old Boy to be killed in World War I. Aged 32, he died from wounds received at the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915. A memorial window is also dedicated to his memory.

##### The Centenary Windows

This pair of windows, based on the School Lesson, 1 Corinthians 13, was the gift of friends of the School and installed to commemorate its centenary in 1994. The Anderson Window is referred to above.

## **The Pulpit**

This was the gift of **Francis James White** of 'Saumarez', a substantial landowner in the Armidale district and a generous benefactor of TAS. He was chairman of the Armidale and New England Hospital from 1907 to 1931 and died on 27 August, 1934, aged 80. His son, **Harold Fletcher White**, was one of the first boys enrolled at TAS.

## **The Sanctuary**

The Altar Rail is in memory of **John Herbert Moses** who died on 23 February, 1916, from laryngeal oedema, aged 11. The Altar Frontals are in memory of **Archer John Croft**. They were made by Mrs Helen Magoffin, wife of R J Magoffin. Archer Croft was an Old Boy and the youngest son of Sir Hugh and Lady Croft of 'Salisbury Court', Uralla. He was an outstanding sportsman and represented New England in cricket for 29 years. He died in 1971. The Prayer Desk was the gift of **Charles Frederick Tindal** of 'Ramornie' near Grafton. The turned mahogany Planter Stand is in memory of **Graham Arthur Edwin Coupland**. He was a gastric and paediatric surgeon and distinguished Old Boy who died suddenly from a heart attack on 2 June, 1982, aged 47. A second stand is in memory of his father **Alfred Edwin Coupland** who died on 15 June, 1982, aged 77, 13 days later. There is a plaque in memory of **Darren John Hartwig**, a boy at the School who died accidentally in Papua-New Guinea on 17 April, 1993.

## **Windows**

The first of the seven windows in the sanctuary was dedicated to the memory of **Frederick Robert White** who, with Archdeacon Ross, played a key role in securing Armidale as the site for the School. He served as a member of the original Board of Directors and was a significant and generous benefactor. He built 'Booloominbah' which later became the centre of the University of New England. He died on 6 September, 1903, aged 68. White House is named after the White family. The second and sixth windows are in memory of **Rev T K Abbott**, the third headmaster.

The three central stained glass window and the high-backed Bishop's chair are dedicated to the memory of **Archdeacon James Ross**. Ross was Archdeacon of Armidale and worked tirelessly to secure Armidale as the location for the School. The last public occasion in which he took part was the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Chapel - he died 11 days later on 16 September, 1902.

The seventh stained glass window is in memory of **Sydney Cox**, a student at the School, who died on 17 August, 1905, aged 17. The Cox Cup for the Champion Rifle Shot in the School is in his memory and was first awarded in 1906.

## **The South Wall**

### **Windows**

The first pair of stained glass windows on the southern wall is in memory of **Ronald Andrew Hamilton**. He was senior prefect in 1953 and died on 13 June 1960, aged 25. The next set of windows is in memory of **P M (Mac) Abbott**, a 'rat of Tobruk', Old Boy and long-time supporter of the School, who died on 6 June, 1995.

## Plaques

**Geoffrey Wellesley Hyman** - the brass plaque records that he 'gave his life in trying to save from drowning, a girl unknown to him at Tamarama Bay, Bondi' on 29 January, 1930, aged 23. He was the first son of an Old Boy to attend the School. His father, Arthur Wellesley Hyman, was a prominent Old Boy in Sydney. **Montagu Consett-Stephen**, was an Old Boy who died on 18 May, 1920, aged 32, after a short illness. The Montagu Consett-Stephen Cricket Cup for the best batting average is in his memory. **Henry Douglas Eyre Ralfe** was an Old Boy and Flight Commander in World War I. He was killed in an air battle on 6 May, 1918, aged 27.

## The West Wall

### Windows

The stained glass window on the left in the western wall is in memory of **Robert Rhodes-White**. An Old Boy, he died in Thailand on 14 February, 1944, a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese. The right hand window is in memory of **Archie Robert Baker** who died from meningitis, aged 16, on 3 July, 1944. The Robert Baker Memorial Prize for History is awarded to a boy in Year 10.

### The Great War Memorial Honour Roll

This roll of those who died in World War 1 lists 46 names and was unveiled on 27 September, 1921. The Latin inscription below the names can be translated:

*They that did love and were loved and here in this School were reared, in the mighty conflict of the age, for us, for their country, for the world, with the highest courage and by glorious death, entering upon life everlasting.*

(These words were taken from an inscription at Stone School, Boston USA)

## Plaques

**John William Law** was a boy at the School who died as a result of an accident on 4 August, 1927, aged 16. **Alexander Irvine Doyle** died soon after on 29 August, 1927, aged 16, from septic pneumonia while at the School.

## THE WAR MEMORIAL ASSEMBLY HALL

The Rt Rev J S Moyes, Bishop of Armidale, in the presence of the Governor, Sir John Northcott, dedicated the War Memorial Assembly Hall on 1 May, 1957. The Hall was funded by Old Boys and friends and designed by a distinguished Old Boy, R J Magoffin. The Hall is 84 feet long and 44 feet wide with a seating capacity of approximately 300.

In the eastern wall of the Hall, at the back of the stage, are three stained glass windows designed by M Napier Waller and donated in 1961 by members of the Old Boys' Union. There are four coats of arms that form the main subjects of the windows: those of the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the School. The Honour Rolls around the gallery bearing the names of Old Boys and staff who died in the two World Wars were unveiled by Sir Leslie Morshead on 17 August, 1957. Morshead, one of Australia's most distinguished soldiers, had served on the TAS staff as a geography and music teacher from 1911 to 1913. Names of those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and in Malaya, were subsequently added.

The chairs for the stage were donated by G E Forster, of 'Abington' and the table and lectern were donated by the Moffatt family of 'Yarrowyck Station' in memory of **Malcolm Douglas Moffatt**, a flight sergeant in the RAAF, who was killed while on operations over Germany on 13 August, 1944, aged 23.

### THE G A FISHER WING

The G A Fisher Wing was named after the School's ninth Headmaster, Gordon Arthur Fisher, BA, BSc (Qld), MACE, headmaster from 1940 to 1961. The first headmaster who was not an ordained priest, G A Fisher was born on 15 August, 1900 and died on 2 July, 1973. He attended Ipswich Grammar School where, in 1918, he was senior prefect and captain of the 1st Rugby XV which won the Queensland GPS Premiership that year. He went to St John's College, at the University of Queensland, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in science. He later completed an arts degree. He was captain of the University's 1st XV in 1921, and won football blues in four consecutive years.

From 1923 to 1927 he was the senior science and mathematics master at Warwick High School. Coming to TAS as senior chemistry master in 1927, he soon established himself as an innovative teacher and an outstanding rugby coach. In 1929 he left to take up the position of Head of the Junior School at Shore. On leave from Shore, he spent 1935 teaching at Shrewsbury (England) and returned to TAS in 1940.

When Fisher became headmaster, TAS had not really recovered from the depression, but with a positive philosophy and a determined effort to publicise the School, he built up its reputation and enrolment. Numbers also increased as a result of the scare of a Japanese invasion following the midget submarine raid on Sydney in May, 1942.

He introduced a Merit Award, presented each year to for all-round performance and service, and, on his retirement, donated the Prefect's Prize which bears his name. The Fisher Wing was designed by R J Magoffin and built in 1966. Originally a two-storey structure, a top floor was added and the building completed in 1989. The balustrade, clock and bell on the Fisher Wing were a gift from Stephen Payne's family, of 'Waverley', Scone, as a memorial to **Stephen Payne** and his son, **Stephen James Payne**. The clock is now on the old Maxwell Library. The Cloisters, a gift from an anonymous donor, were added in 1997.

### THE A H CASH BUILDING

Alan Henry Cash, born in Victoria on 21 February, 1922, was a pupil at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, where he had a distinguished scholastic and sporting record. After a year in Trinity College at the University of Melbourne, a year marked by fine academic results, he joined the AIF. Commissioned as an intelligence officer and posted to HQ, 2nd Australian Corps in 1943, Alan Cash served for two years in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It was during the latter part of his army service that he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for Victoria. On the completion of his military service, he went to the University of Oxford where he was a member of New College, graduating Master of Arts in 1949. Whilst there, he took a full part in sporting activities, playing in the New College 1st XI.

After leaving Oxford Cash taught for one year at Lower Canada College, Montreal and then joined the staff of Geelong Grammar School where, in 1956, he became senior classics master and assistant to the headmaster. He was also involved in a wide

variety of sporting and other activities, including cadets. It was with this breadth of experience that he came to TAS at the beginning of 1962 as its tenth headmaster.

Shortly after his arrival at the School, Cash reorganised the upper part of the boarding establishment, changing the houses from mere units of sports administration into residential and pastoral entities as well. He encouraged staff wives - especially housemasters' wives - to be more involved in school life and sought to increase the number of day-boys. During the twenty years he was headmaster there was a significant expansion of the School's building programme and the new and upgraded facilities helped provide for a greatly increased enrolment.

Alan Cash retired in May, 1982 and was awarded an AM in 1983 for his services to education. The A H Cash Building, designed by R J Magoffin, was named in recognition of his services to the School and was opened by him on Speech Day that year. He died in Armidale on 25 November, 1998.

### **THE JOHNSTONE BUILDING**

This building, originally the Johnstone Library, was opened on 11 August, 1973 and named in recognition of the service to TAS by the late Brigadier J L G Johnstone and his son, Paul Lorimer Johnstone.

John Lorimer Gibson Johnstone, commonly known as 'JLG', was born in Armidale on 6 March, 1881, the seventh child of Rev Dr Thomas Johnstone, the Presbyterian minister in Armidale from 1857 to 1903. Educated at TAS, JLG was, with his brother Frank Glass Johnstone, enrolled with the first group of boys on the first day of school in 1894. Brigadier Johnstone commenced his army training as a cadet at TAS and, on leaving, joined the NSW Lancers as a bugler. At the outbreak of World War I, he had risen to the rank of Captain.

He served in the Gallipoli campaign, and was mentioned in dispatches. He also served in France on all major fronts continuously until he returned to Australia in 1919. Brigadier Johnstone continued his army service with the 12th Light Horse Regiment, was promoted to Colonel, and became Commanding Officer of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. His promotion to Brigadier occurred on 1 May, 1938. Serving in Australia during World War II, he retired on 1 June, 1942.

In addition to his military service, J L G Johnstone was treasurer of the TAS Old Boys' Union from 1902 to 1909 and secretary from 1909-1943. He was president from 1943-1946 and in 1957 was elected as an honorary life vice-president. A solicitor in Armidale, he served on the School Council from 1947-1956.

Paul Lorimer Johnstone, also an Armidale solicitor, served on the School Council from 1958 to 1983 and for much of that time was honorary secretary and deputy chairman. He played a leading role in fund raising appeals during that time and was instrumental in establishing the TAS Foundation. He served as secretary and president of the Old Boys' Union and was awarded an MBE for his services to education.

The building which bears the Johnstone name was converted to a Technology Centre when the Centenary Library was opened in 1999.

## **THE R J MAGOFFIN BUILDING**

The R J Magoffin Building, which houses the Junior School, is named after Old Boy and School architect for many years, Reg Magoffin. It was opened on 14 August, 1976.

Reginald John Magoffin attended TAS from 1917 to 1924. He was captain of Abbott House in 1923 and 1924, and senior prefect in 1924. A good scholar and an outstanding sportsman, he was a member of the 1st Rugby XV for three years (1922-24), captaining the 1924 team, and was awarded full colours in rugby, boxing, shooting and athletics, and half colours in cricket.

He was an established architect in Sydney when he submitted plans for the Memorial Assembly Hall at TAS in 1956. Sensitive to the existing architectural style at the School and especially the impact of the Sulman Building, Magoffin was careful to design in a sympathetic style. Other buildings designed by him are the Science Block, White House, Fisher Wing, Moyes Annex, Johnstone Library, Abbott House, and the A H Cash, B J Mattingley and McConville Buildings.

## **THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

The Physical Education Centre consists of the B J Mattingley Gymnasium, built in 1978, the indoor swimming-pool built in 1993, and a class-room and indoor cricket practice area which link the gymnasium and swimming pool.

### **The B J Mattingley Gymnasium**

The B J Mattingley Gymnasium, was opened on 6 February, 1979 and is named to honour a former senior master, Brian Mattingley.

Brian James Mattingley was born in Launceston, Tasmania in 1914 and attended Launceston Grammar School. He studied at the University of Tasmania and graduated a Bachelor of Arts in 1935. In that year he joined the staff of Scotch College, Adelaide, where for three years he taught Latin, English and music. Brian Mattingley came to TAS in 1939 to teach Latin and English. In 1942 he joined the RAAF and was soon posted to England where he served as a navigator on Lancaster bombers. Distinguishing himself as an airman, he was awarded the DFC for his service in Bomber Command over Europe. He returned to TAS as a full-time teacher in 1946.

During his time at TAS he held various positions; for many years he was housemaster of the Senior School and, after the reorganization of boarding in 1964, was housemaster of Tyrrell House. He was senior master and, on three occasions, acting headmaster. Mattingley was also, at various times, choirmaster, organist, bush fire brigade chief, producer of *The Armidalian* and honorary secretary of the Old Boys' Union. He was in charge of swimming at the School and coached the swimming team between 1948 and 1979 when TAS won the Monckton Shield (for competition between Armidale secondary schools) 15 times.

B J Mattingley retired at the end of 1979, after 41 years service to the School, and was subsequently ordained a priest in the Anglican Church. He died in Tasmania in 2004, aged 89.

### **Indoor Swimming Pool and Class-rooms**

Although Rev William Fisher, the School's first headmaster, expressed the need for a swimming pool, it was not until 1993 that this dream was realised. The project was

funded by an appeal which was generously supported by the Parents and Friends' Association and the Old Boys' Union. The building and pool complex was designed by Old Boy architect Ross Farrell with Tony Deakin of Magoffin and Deakin as the supervising project architect. The design embraced the concept that the gymnasium could at some future date be joined to the indoor swimming pool. Shortly before the completion of the indoor pool, the School received news of a generous bequest from Douglas G Park, an Old Boy who had attended TAS in 1924-26. He had expressed the wish that the benefaction be used to further the interests of sport and thus the section designed to link the gymnasium with the swimming pool was able to be built. Funds from this bequest were also used to build new tennis courts adjacent to the Physical Education Centre.

### **THE McCONVILLE CENTRE**

James Henry Kenneth McConville was born in Orange, NSW in June, 1939. He attended primary school in Orange and spent the last two years of secondary schooling at St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill where he distinguished himself as a scholar and sportsman. After graduating from Bathurst Teachers' College, he taught in primary schools in the Hunter district. Coming to TAS as a teacher of English in 1971, Ken McConville also coached athletics, cricket and rugby, becoming master-in-charge of rugby and coach of the 1st XV. In 1974 he was appointed housemaster of White House.

Major McConville took over as commanding officer of the School Cadet Corps in 1979; it was during a cadet exercise in March, 1985 that he was tragically killed in an abseiling accident.

The McConville Centre was built in his memory. The centre-piece of the building is 'The Ken McConville Rugby Memorial', an octagonal table made entirely from Australian timbers by Jack Evans, a local craftsman. The table design features the TAS Open Rugby Tour of the United Kingdom in November-December, 1984, which Ken McConville organised and led.

### **THE CRICKET OVAL AND OLD BOYS' BARBECUE**

The Cricket Oval was constructed in 1926 on what had been the School's vegetable garden. It was dedicated as a memorial to Old Boys who had served in the 1st World War. Old Boys added the adjacent barbeque and landscaped area in 1980 as an extension to the existing memorial.

### **THE NINA MACDONALD MEMORIAL**

Nina Mary Macdonald taught history and English at TAS from 1973 to July 1991. She was a graduate in Arts from the University of Sydney and had an MLitt and Dip Ed from the University of New England. Nina Macdonald identified with all aspects of school life and had a particular interest in trees and the environment. She died suddenly in her office at TAS in July, 1991. A landscaped picnic area on the School creekland, was dedicated to her memory. Along with her husband, the late Graham Macdonald, who taught at TAS from 1972 to 1989, she was a significant benefactor of the School.

## **THE C C DANGAR MEMORIAL HOUSE**

At the end of 1919 the then Headmaster, Rev H K Archdall, persuaded the Board to establish a Junior School and plans were made to absorb the students from an existing preparatory school in Armidale owned by Miss Spasshatt. Although Archdall hoped that the Old Boys would fund a Junior House as a war memorial, this proved to be beyond their resources. In May, 1920 Archdall informed the Board that Mrs Nora Dangar, widow of C C Dangar, had offered to pay for the building and equipping of a Junior House to be named in honour of her late husband.

Clive Collingwood Dangar was a son of A A Dangar of 'Baroona', Singleton and was the first Old Boy to become a member of the School Board. He was a student at TAS from August, 1894 to December, 1899. After holding a commission with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment (with which he served in Africa during the Boer War, being mentioned in dispatches), he obtained a commission in the 13th Hussars, and was for some years stationed in India with that regiment. Resigning his commission before the outbreak of World War I, he took over the property 'Gostwyck', near Uralla., following the death of his father.

When war broke out in 1914, Major Dangar left for England, where he offered his services to his old regiment, the 13th Hussars. He carried out training work until he was transferred to Egypt and attached to the Australian Forces. Awarded the Military Cross, he was later wounded during the advance into Palestine. After being hospitalized for some weeks, he was granted leave to recuperate in Australia, but died soon after his ship reached Melbourne.

In 1920 the Board of Directors accepted the plans for Dangar House, drafted by Sydney architects, Power and Adams. On 9 February, 1924, Mrs Dangar laid the foundation stone of the new building, which was officially opened later that year by the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair.

## **THE MOYES BUILDINGS**

These buildings are situated immediately east of Dangar House. They commemorate the work of the Rt Rev J S Moyes, CMG, MA, DD, ThD, DLitt, Bishop of Armidale and Chairman of the School Council from 1929 to 1964. He played a significant role in guiding the School's fortunes particularly in the difficult years of the Great Depression in the 1930s. The original Moyes building was opened on 8 December, 1965. The extension ("Moyes Annex") was completed in early 1985.

## **THE T R FORSTER BLOCK**

This two-storeyed brick building at the southern end of the Cloisters, now used as class-rooms, was opened on 6 August, 1952. Its original function was as a recreation block for Middle School boys and was given by Geoffrey Forster in memory of his father, Thomas Richmond Forster. Thomas Forster served on the School Board for nearly thirty years from 1904. An Old Boy of The King's School, he was a very generous benefactor to TAS and one of the founders of the University of New England. His wife was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F R White of 'Booloominbah', and his two sons, Frederick and Geoffrey, both attended TAS. The G E Forster Memorial Prize for Agriculture is awarded annually to a boy in Year 11.

## **THE TECHNICS BUILDING**

What is now the Technics Building was designed as a gymnasium by R N Hickson, a local architect, and was constructed during 1938. It replaced the original gym which is now the timber art room at the southern end of the Cloisters. The major donation for its construction was given by Miss S E K Hudson whose brother, John Macansh Hudson, had served on the School Board and was president of the Old Boys' Union from 1938 to 1940.

## **THE D L GRAHAM BUILDING**

This building, designed by Tony Deakin of the architectural firm of Magoffin and Deakin, cleverly uses two older wooden buildings - the former Junior School common-room and class-room block. These were moved to the new site and incorporated into the structure. The building, which houses the Middle School, recognizes the service to TAS of D L (Jim) Graham and was officially opened by him in 2000.

In 1954, whilst a student at the University of New England, Graham took a part-time teaching position at TAS and, after graduating in history and philosophy in 1956, he joined the teaching staff on a full-time basis. He involved himself in all aspects of school life - teacher of ancient and modern history, sports coach, expeditions, surf life-saving and play productions. At various times he was Housemaster of the Middle School, Broughton, White and Tyrrell Houses and was Director of Studies and Activities, later Senior Housemaster, Development Officer and Senior Master.

On leave from TAS in 1966, he taught at King's School, Worcester, and at Gordonstoun in Scotland. On his return to TAS he was encouraged to introduce many of the ideas he had absorbed there, especially those in outdoor education and activities. A student exchange programme was established with Gordonstoun and Graham, who taught there on three subsequent occasions, strongly advocated that TAS should seek membership of the Round Square Conference of Schools.

His name was synonymous with the theatrical and musical life of TAS. Gilbert and Sullivan operas won great acclaim, and for over 25 years the annual Queen Victoria Music Hall productions, written and directed by him, became one of the most popular theatrical events in the New England area. Jim Graham wrote many other plays for presentation at TAS. Two of these, *Seven Little Australians* and *Ginger Meggs*, went on to professional production. In 1990 the New England Chapter of the Australian College of Education awarded him the prestigious Alan Sutherland Award for his contribution to education, and in 1995 he was awarded an OAM for his services to education and to the arts, especially at The Armidale School.

He retired from TAS in June, 1999 after 43 years service to the School.

## **THE DOUGLAS STREET MEMORIAL GATES**

These gates were presented to the School by T R Forster. On the southern pillar is a plaque inscribed with the 45 names of those Old Boys and Masters killed in World War I. The gates were dedicated at the same time as the Chapel gate.

### **THE C R RICHARDSON MEMORIAL GATES**

These gates, on Barney Street, were opened and blessed by Bishop Moyes on 18 August, 1957. A gift from J Richardson & Co Limited, they were erected in memory of Major C R Richardson MC, an Old Boy of the School.

Clifford Russell Richardson attended TAS from February 1901 to Easter 1907. He was a prefect, vice-captain of the 1st XI, a member of the 1st XV and a sergeant in the cadets. He enlisted soon after war was declared in 1914 and sailed to Egypt later that year. Landing in Gallipoli, he was severely wounded in his right arm. The first Australian officer to be awarded the Military Cross, he died in 1946, aged 56.

### **THE K S LAWRANCE MEMORIAL**

Keith Sinclair Lawrance attended TAS from 1950 to 1956 and was senior prefect in 1956. An outstanding sportsman, he played in the 1st XV in 1954 and 1955 and captained the team in 1956. He was selected to play in the combined GPS 3rd XV in 1955 and the combined 1st XV the following year. He was captain of the 1st XI in 1955 and 1956 and captain of the Tennis Team in 1955 and 1956. He died from a brain tumor in December 1957 just one year after he left the School. The memorial consists of lawns and gardens, which surround a drinking fountain surmounted by a statue of Mercury. In Roman mythology Mercury was the messenger of Heaven (his Greek name was Hermes). The memorial was the gift of Keith's parents, Dr and Mrs Ken Lawrance, and his older brother, John. The Keith Lawrance Memorial Prize is awarded annually to a Year 12 boy who has given leadership and service in many fields.

### **WAR SERVICE MEMORIALS**

The School has a proud record of war service. Every year at the ANZAC Day dawn service the names of those Old Boys and Staff who died serving their country are read out. Some war memorials have been mentioned - the Honour Rolls in the Assembly Hall, on the western wall of the Chapel and on the Douglas Street gates. There are also the Boer War and World War 1 Honour Rolls in the main foyer and, in the Chapel, two Books of Memory with photographs of those who fell in both World Wars. Details of the lives of those in the Books are in four papers by Ian Johnstone which are currently kept in the Sandilands Studio.

There were 273 Old Boys and Staff who served in World War 1; of these forty four were killed and an estimated 25 percent were decorated or 'mentioned in despatches'. In World War 2, 457 served and 51 fell. One Old Boy was killed in the Korean War. Old Boys have also served, and are currently serving, in peace-keeping and other operations in many areas of the world.

## **PART IV: SCHOOL HOUSES**

'Houses' were introduced to TAS in 1923 by the then Headmaster, Rev John Forster, 'to create a better basis for competitive sports'. Each House was to bear a 'name of honour' associated with the foundation of the School. The names chosen were Abbott, Dangar and White. The following year, however, Mrs C C Dangar, donated the funds to build 'Dangar' House for junior boys, as a memorial to her late husband. As a consequence of this, the senior House of the same name was changed to 'Tyrrell'. Junior boys were accommodated in Dangar House and senior boys, for the most part, in the original Sulman Building.

Due to an increase in School numbers, a fourth house, Broughton, was established in 1957 and, in 1958, the secondary boarding school was divided into a Middle and Senior School arrangement. In 1964 the boarding system in the Senior School was reorganised and this time divided into 'vertical' Houses based on the existing sporting houses.

### **ABBOTT HOUSE**

The name Abbott became associated with the early attempts to establish what was to become TAS. In 1879 Joseph Palmer Abbott, a substantial landowner in the Hunter and New England areas, bought two shares in the company which at that stage planned to establish a proprietary school at Blandford in the upper Hunter region. The son of a local squatter, Abbott was born at Muswellbrook in 1842 and achieved distinction as a lawyer and parliamentarian.

When Blandford failed to attract much support as a location, Abbott, together with his uncle, Robert Palmer Abbott, also a distinguished lawyer and politician, proposed that Armidale, on the New England Tablelands, would be a better site. After Armidale was chosen as the site, further shares in the company were issued and, at the annual general meeting of shareholders in January, 1892, J P Abbott was elected president of the Board of Directors, a position he held until pressure of work in Sydney forced him to resign in 1895.

As well as honouring the pioneering work of J P and R P Abbott, it is possible that, when 'Abbott' was chosen as a House name in 1923, respect was also being paid to another member of the family, Thomas Kingsmill Abbott. The Rev T K Abbott at age 44 was appointed headmaster in 1910 - a time when the School was in severe financial straits and enrolments were down. He managed to correct this situation and was very highly regarded by boys, parents and staff. There was great shock and sadness therefore when, in a staff v boys tennis match, he suffered a heart attack on the court and died instantly.

When Abbott House became a boarding establishment in 1964, boys were housed in 'Meadowfield' and in the 'Cottage' (the original part of the present Sick Bay). A new purpose-built boarding house for Abbott, designed by Old Boy, Reg Magoffin, was built in 1971 and opened in 1972.

## **BROUGHTON HOUSE**

Broughton House is named to honour the memory of Bishop Broughton, the pioneer bishop of the Anglican Church in Australia. William Grant Broughton arrived in Sydney in 1829 as Archdeacon of New South Wales and in 1836 became Bishop of Australia. He had been educated in England at The King's School, Canterbury and had a great interest in education. He was keen to see the establishment of schools for the young men who would become leaders of the colony. To this end Broughton was instrumental in establishing The King's School, Sydney (which closed a few years after it was opened) and The King's School, Parramatta.

In 1840 a group of people desirous of establishing a proprietary school somewhere in the Hunter region approached Broughton for support. In response to their request, he secured a grant of £500 from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK), a charity based in London. Delays, brought about by changing economic and social conditions in the colony, meant that Broughton never lived to see the plans to establish the School come to fruition.

Broughton's only visit to Armidale was made in 1845 when it was little more than a small village. A large granite cross near the Court House records that he held the first Anglican Church service in Armidale on 12 October that year. Bishop Broughton died on 20 February, 1853 and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral.

Broughton House was established as a sporting house in 1958 but became a boarding house in 1964. It occupied the western end of the Sulman building. In 1998, with the decline in boarders and an increase in the number of day-boys, it was decided that Broughton would cease to be a boarding house and become a house for day-boys.

## **CROFT HOUSE**

The Croft name has been associated with TAS since the very early days of the School's history. Many members of the family attended TAS as pupils and several have served on the School Council and in executive positions on the Old Boys' Union. The Croft family was well known in the pastoral industry in the New England district; the original family property 'Salisbury Court' is only a short distance east of Uralla.

Sir Hugh Croft was a member of the Board of Directors (later the School Council) from 1914 to 1922 and his son, Sir Bernard, from 1950 to 1959. Another son, Herbert, served from 1951 to 1980. Sir Bernard Croft's son, Sir Owen, was a member of the School Council from 1977 to 1983. Herbert Croft was president of the Old Boys' Union in 1955 and 1956 and Peter Croft has served as treasurer since 1981. Dick Croft, a well-known rugby enthusiast, gave great assistance to TAS in that sport over many years.

It was to cope with growing numbers that Croft House was established in 1986. Tony Deakin of the architectural firm Magoffin and Deakin designed the boarding house. Herbert Croft laid the foundation stone in October 1985 and the building was opened by Sir Owen Croft in October, 1986.

## **GREEN HOUSE**

Green and Ross Houses were established as day-boy houses and inaugurated by His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward at a special assembly in April 1983. Until this time day-boys had been attached to the existing boarding houses.

Green House is named after Bishop A V Green. He had studied at the University of Melbourne and, after entering the priesthood, rose to the position of Archdeacon of Ballarat. He became Bishop of Armidale in 1894 - the first Australian theological student raised to the episcopate. In the morning of 15 May that year he was enthroned in St Peter's Cathedral. Following the service, many of those present, along with others, went on to attend the celebrations to mark the opening of the New England Proprietary School (later TAS). Declaring the School open was the new bishop's first official task and one, he said, which 'gave him the greatest possible pleasure'.

He gave sound leadership to the School in its early years and played an active part in its development. In 1901 Green left Armidale to return to Ballarat as bishop of that diocese. His sister, Miss Florence Green, established the New England Girls' School (NEGS) in 1895.

### **ROSS HOUSE**

Ross House is named after Archdeacon James Ross, DD. Like Green House, Ross House was inaugurated by HRH, The Prince Edward in April, 1983. James Ross was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, graduated with a masters degree from King's College at the University of Aberdeen and, before coming to Australia in 1861, taught at Grosvenor College, Bath. Ross, who had a passionate interest in education, was appointed the vicar of Armidale in 1878. With some local businessmen he took a leading role in the establishment of a 'first class' girls' school, The New England Ladies' School, for which, in 1888, they had premises built in Barney Street - now known as Smith House.

Ross, who had been the vicar of Murrurundi, was aware of the attempts to establish a school in the Hunter region with money originally subscribed in 1840. When the matter concerning the location of the School went to the Equity Court for judgment in 1886, Ross passionately and convincingly advanced the case for Armidale. The resolution of the Master in Equity in October, 1890 was that Armidale was the preferred site but on condition that supporters of the idea raise an additional £6,000 to add to the £14,000 held in trust. It was largely through the efforts of James Ross that the money was raised and plans to build a school could proceed.

Ross was instrumental in securing John Sulman as architect and also in managing the affairs of the company through various problems and setbacks during the building stage. He returned to the United Kingdom in 1892 to have conferred on him an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy by his old university and whilst there approved the selection of Rev William Fisher as founding headmaster.

Ross worked tirelessly on the Board of Directors and was a constant visitor to the School. He presided at the short formal gathering on the day the School opened, and was confidante and counsellor to the young headmaster. He died suddenly on 16 September, 1902 and the recently formed TAS Cadet Corps and 'their band with muffled drum' led the funeral cortege from St. Peter's Cathedral to the Armidale Cemetery. His last public appearance had been at the laying of the foundation stone of the TAS Chapel a little over a week before. Ross was greatly loved by all who met him and it was considered that he well deserved the epithet 'Father of The Armidale School'.

## **TYRRELL HOUSE**

Tyrrell House is named after William Tyrrell, first Bishop of Newcastle. Tyrrell was born in January, 1807, attended St John's College, Cambridge and graduated with an MA in 1834 and a DD in 1847. Consecrated as a bishop in Westminster Abbey, he was installed as Bishop of Newcastle in January 1848. Tyrrell proved to be a dynamic bishop and held strong views about education, maintaining publicly that education without religion was anathema to him. He entered the controversy of the day surrounding the establishment of a university whose 'evil purpose' he said, 'is that its course of instruction is totally devoid of religious instruction'.

He revived the plan to build a proprietary school in the Hunter region and sought to use the funds originally subscribed for this purpose in 1840. He was opposed in this, however, by some of the remaining shareholders, who wanted the accumulated funds returned to the original subscribers. In 1874, to advance his plan to found the School, Tyrrell brought a suit in the Supreme Court aimed at forcing the trustees of the fund to proceed with the plan to build a school. In 1879 the Master in Equity ruled that plans for the School should proceed.

Although there were further obstacles to overcome before the plan went ahead - not least of these a proposed Act of the NSW Parliament to wind it up and another appeal to the Supreme Court - the School was eventually built, but in Armidale, not Newcastle as originally planned. Had it not been for Tyrrell, however, the accumulated funds would have been dispersed and the plan to found the School would have been abandoned in 1874. Bishop Tyrrell died on 24 March 1879 at his home in Morpeth, whilst being operated on, without anaesthetic, for a strangulated hernia.

He was much loved and admired and is regarded as one of the great pioneers of Anglicanism in Australia. Although at first reluctant to come to Australia, Tyrrell never once returned to England. He did not marry and is buried in Morpeth

## **WHITE HOUSE**

White House is named to honour the memory of the White family, and especially the work of Frederick Robert White, in the establishment of The Armidale School. F R White was born in 1835 at Muswellbrook, the fifth of nine children born to James and Sarah White. Whilst still in his twenties he took over the management of the family properties and also assumed a leading role in public and church affairs in the Murrurundi district.

In 1879 White purchased two shares in the company that proposed to build a proprietary school at Blandford and in 1880 became a trustee of that company. When the Blandford scheme fell through, however, White strongly advocated Armidale as a site and spoke vigorously in its favour when the matter was heard in the Equity Court.

He had purchased 'Mihi Creek', east of Uralla, in 1879 and his elder brother Francis acquired 'Saumarez' the same year. By the 1880s, with properties which now extended into Queensland, he decided to make Armidale his home. In 1888 he bought 22 blocks on the north-western outskirts of Armidale where he built 'Booloominbah' for his family. When the Master in Equity made the decision that Armidale was the preferred location, White energetically supported Archdeacon Ross in his efforts to raise the £6,000 required to enable the scheme to go ahead. He was instrumental in selecting the land on which to build the School, but was somewhat disappointed that

his preferred architect, Horbury Hunt, was passed over by the Board in favour of John Sulman.

As a vice-president of the Board of Directors, White maintained an active interest in the development of the School. He was a generous benefactor and amongst other things was instrumental in securing the acquisition of 'Wakefield' and the 10 acres of land which surrounded it. He died on 6 September, 1903.

There seems little doubt that those who chose the name 'White' for one of the original School Houses also had in mind Francis James White, another generous benefactor and member of the School Board from 1907 to 1926. Along with other properties, F J White owned 'Saumarez' and 'Bald Blair'. His son, Harold Fletcher White, one of the first boys enrolled at TAS in 1894, was senior prefect and captain of the School in 1902 and 1903. He went on to have a most distinguished career in the AIF in World War 1 and served on the School Board and Council from 1920 to 1957.

White House, designed by Old Boy architect Reg Magoffin, was built in 1963 and opened by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon R G Menzies, in December that year. It was planned to provide accommodation for 60 boys from Years 8 to 12. In 2001 White House ceased to be a house for senior boys and became, instead, home for boarders enrolled in the newly created Middle School.

## **PART V: SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS**

### **THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The Armidale School Council is a Body Corporate under the *Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938* and also under a NSW Order *Anglican Church of Australia (The Armidale School Council) Order 2004*. The workplace therefore operates under Federal legislation.

Under the School's Ordinance (1978-2000), the principal powers and duties of the School Council are:

- to promote, develop and encourage the highest possible standards of Christian education within the School, conduct the School within the principles of the Anglican Church of Australia and wherever possible to co-operate with other Diocesan Schools;
- to provide for the control and management of the property used in connection with the School and to provide for the maintenance, protection, repair and insurance thereof;
- to appoint and dismiss the Headmaster;
- to consider and approve from time to time the plan of education proposed by the Headmaster and any of the policies being pursued by him in the conduct of the School;
- to fix the fees with respect of tuition, board and other services.

It is important to note from the above that responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the School resides with the Headmaster, and Council members refer any direct approaches from staff, parents or students to him. Membership of the Council is made up of the following:

- The Bishop or his nominee. The Bishop of Armidale is the Chairman of Council should he decide to take up personal membership, otherwise he is the Visitor to the School, whose obligations and responsibilities shall be determined by the Council in consultation and with the approval of the Bishop,
- Five members elected by the Armidale Diocesan Council, whose nominations were called for at the first session of each Synod,
- Four members who are Old Boys or Old Girls of the School. Two members are elected by the Committee of the Old Boys' Union and two are elected by the Union membership as a whole,
- One member who is a parent of a student at the School at the time of their election by the membership of the Parents and Friends' Association,
- Two members who are elected by the other members of Council.

The Council of 13 members is elected for a period of three years (a triennium). Should a casual vacancy arise within this term then the vacancy is filled by the body which elected the person in the first instance.

Should the Bishop appoint a nominee rather than sit as Chairman, the Council elects a Chairman at the first meeting of the triennium. The Chairman has a casting vote at meetings as well as a normal deliberative vote.

As the Deputy Headmaster assumes all of the powers and duties of the Headmaster in his absence, this particular appointment or dismissal by the Headmaster is subject to the approval of Council. Similarly, the Business Manager (Bursar) is usually deemed to be the Clerk of Council and he or she is appointed or dismissed by the Council in consultation with the Headmaster.

The engagement or dismissal of all other members of staff rests with the Headmaster, provided that the terms conform with the School Ordinance and any specific directions of Council.

The Headmaster regularly reports to Council upon the progress of the School. He also reports on any suspension or expulsion of students for ratification by Council and presents, at least annually, a plan for approval concerning the education to be followed by the School.

### **THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION**

The Parents and Friends' Association was established in 1938, a time when enrolments were down and the School faced financial difficulties. The stated aim of the Association was to assist the School 'in a material, practical and financial manner'. Mrs H K Gordon was elected president, Mrs H K Randall secretary and Major C R Richardson treasurer.

Bridge parties were the most common means of raising money in the early days of the P&F, though fetes were organised from time to time. During the war years fund raising activities were somewhat curtailed and, in true patriotic style, functions were organised to raise money for the 'war effort' and for the Red Cross. When Gordon Fisher became Headmaster in 1940, he sought the Association's help in publicising the School and in developing a sense of a 'school community'. In keeping with this, the P&F assisted the Old Boys in organising a dance held in the new gymnasium (now the technics room) to follow a dinner in the School Dining Hall.

After the war the P&F Association met at regular intervals at the School and organised fetes, garden parties - sometimes held at nearby station properties - and other events to raise money. The growth in numbers and especially the increase in day-boys in the late 1960s and '70s was reflected in an expansion of the activities of the P&F. Traditional means of fundraising such as luncheons, card parties, fetes and fashion parades were exploited and, from 1969 to 1996, the Queen Victoria Music Hall became the major source of revenue. The management and catering for these annual productions fell on the shoulders of the P&F. It was at this time too that the P&F started a clothing pool - little more than a uniform exchange - in a small pantry room at the rear of the main building. From this small beginning the TAS Clothing Pool was to grow and in the process develop into both a highly successful source of funds for the Association and a substantial help for parents.

From time to time groups of parents in Sydney and regional areas have formed support groups and organised local functions. In recent years the annual fetes organised by the P&F have been highly successful and continue to generate substantial funds for the School.

Recognition of the importance to the School of the parent body is seen in the allocation to them the right to elect a member of the School Council.

## THE OLD BOYS' UNION

A meeting to establish an Old Boys' Union was held in the School Library on 18 December, 1899 and the Headmaster, Rev William Fisher, accepted the invitation to become president. The OBU was well supported and in 1904, by vote of all members, it was decided to transfer the headquarters to Sydney. The reason advanced for this was that since a greater number of former students were resident in Sydney, the move would attract an even larger membership. In 1921, however, Arthur W Hyman, a great stalwart of the OBU in Sydney, led a move to relocate the headquarters back to Armidale where he considered the interests of the School would be better served. The Sydney group remained very active and regularly organised dinners and outings when teams from the School visited Sydney.

For the first 20 years the Headmaster had acted, ex-officio, as president of the Union, but in 1920, at the suggestion of the then Headmaster, Rev H K Archdall, the president was elected from the membership. The first Old Boy thus elected was Colonel H F White, and it was at this time, too, that J L G Johnstone commenced a long and devoted involvement as secretary.

Annual re-unions were held in Armidale with programmes that included a ball, formal dinner and sporting matches (chiefly rugby, tennis and shooting) against the boys. Although these weekend get-togethers were interrupted by the war, they were resumed soon after and the OBU played a leading role in raising funds for the War Memorial Assembly Hall. The OBU also undertook to provide money to fund scholarships for boys to attend the school.

When the School Board decided to transfer ownership of the School to the Diocese of Armidale in 1950, the Old Boys' Union became more directly involved in its management. In ceding their ownership to the Diocese, the shareholders made provision for the School to be administered by a Council chaired by the Bishop of Armidale and made up of five members from the Diocese and five from the Old Boys' Union.

In 1954 the Sydney Branch of the OBU produced a news-sheet for their members which they called *Binghi*, an aboriginal name meaning brother. For many years this word had been used by TAS boys to refer to their brothers whilst at school. Responsibility for publication and distribution of the news-sheet was later taken over by the School and extended to the wider school community of parents, friends and Old Boys.

The Old Boys' Union has been a major supporter of all fund-raising appeals and, as well as sponsoring scholarships, has given practical assistance to the School through working-bees. Dinners and functions are held at regular intervals in Armidale and Sydney and, often in collaboration with the P&F, in regional centres. One of the Union's most important functions is to encourage and maintain the interest and support of past students in the School.

Since 1950 the OBU has been actively involved in the management of the School through its appointment of Old Boys (currently four) to the School Council.

## **THE TAS FOUNDATION**

The Foundation was established in 1983 with the aim of accumulating and managing funds that would be used to provide for scholarships and capital works. It sought to safeguard the long-term needs of the School especially since, at the time, a reduction in the amount of government aid the School received was imminent.

The School family was canvassed for donations and supporters were invited to join at the level of Trustee, Fellow, Member or Associate Member. Funds have subsequently been raised by direct appeal for capital projects, by bequests, and by various fund raising activities organised by the Foundation. After its establishment the Foundation accepted responsibility for scholarship funds already held by the School Council and, by careful investment management, has been able to add substantially to them.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors elected annually from amongst the members and has an executive officer and a secretariat. Since its establishment the Foundation has made significant donations to building projects such as the Swimming Pool, the Centenary Library, the Middle School and the Hoskins Creative Arts Centre. It has also greatly increased the number of bursaries and scholarships provided by the School.

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