ALSO INSIDE:

SULMAN’S ‘BALLS’
Growing interest to restore our hallmark finials

EXCURSION WEEK
Exploring the wider world from inland lakes to the Nation’s Capital

NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS
Our Aboriginal students proudly share their culture
Reflections from the wider schooling world

Amongst the pace and expanse of activity in schools such as ours the opportunity to research and reflect on what is happening in the wider world is difficult to find time for, but that makes it no less valuable in the process of evaluating how we operate now and imagine the future. This term the School Board enabled me to visit a range of schools in the UK for that purpose and the experience has been enlightening, encouraging and challenging. Searching beyond the immediacy and direct relevance of the NSW and Australian setting may seem an indulgence, and it may well be, but it also seizes the notion that the world of education is much bigger than what we see out our windows and that envisaging the future is best served by capturing a much wider experience.

The schools visited were all boarding schools and mostly regional, providing some direct comparison to TAS, but they were deliberately different too and covered a range of experiences and conditions. They included the large and elite, the very old, including one that can trace its history to 604 AD, and some with history and experience closer to ours. Each of the schools had made major changes in their strategic directions over recent times and the experience of those changes, the motivation behind them, how they were handled and how they were reflected on was of great interest. Experience is a powerful educator and the experience of those schools in significant events such as changing enrolment structures, dealing with recession and creating new programs was very enlightening. Though the experiences were different, the common themes of locking in a clear vision, planning carefully and communicating thoroughly proved very enlightening. Though the experiences were different, the common themes of looking in a clear vision, planning carefully and communicating thoroughly shone through as lessons for any major change process.

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Putting back the ‘balls’

When a new day dawns, the sun almost ignites the terra cotta decorations that are an architectural hallmark of TAS. Now, in the school’s 120th year, there has been renewed interest in reinstating elements that have been missing, in some instances, for decades.

Of his unique design for the school, architect John (later Sir) John Sulman said: “I have chosen to build in dark brick, constructed with the terra cotta dressings, for warmth of appearance.”

Not everyone was a fan: the writer of this article in The Queenslander magazine of 9 February 1895 (sent to us by Old Boy David Fayle (64-69) thought there was “…a somewhat undue amount of terra cotta. Age however, may wither the rather too brilliant tone imparted by this latter material.”

Whether the brilliance of the material has withered or not, some of the decorative finials have – something another Old Boy, Richard Bird (52-60) has been thinking about for some time. Richard says the absence of the two balls on the top of the gable above the main entrance compromises Sulman’s design, and has offered to lead a project for them to be reinstated.

Photos suggest at least one of the balls was missing by the 1920s; the two at the southern end of the same gable have also disappeared in recent years, although those above the Headmaster’s Lodge have remained intact. (Dangar House is also missing a complete finial.)

Coincidentally, former TAS teacher Alan Wilkinson (Staff 1980-2000), below, has approached the Old Boys Union to say he had in his possession two finials – one complete, the other missing its ball – that he had purchased at a clearance sale in Uralla some years ago. Perhaps these are ones that were atop the southern gable of the Dining Hall, presumably removed when it was extended in the early 1900s?

So, an unofficial project has been launched to ‘put back the balls’ – six in total, three with plinths. Richard, and the school, is keen to hear from anyone interested in supporting him financially with the project, or who knows a potential supplier or maker of such building decoration (most recently created for the Cash Building in 1982). Any donations made via the TAS Building Trust are tax deductible.

Contact binghi@as.edu.au

Further finds from first photo

The publication in the last issue of Binghi of the first known photo of TAS staff and students – and a re-enactment with those known descendants currently at the school – attracted a lot of interest from readers. It also brought to light two more students currently enrolled at TAS whose ancestors feature in the picture, that, despite our best efforts at the time, we previously didn’t know about. Pictured are (below left) Josh Pongrass of Year 3, who is the great-great grandson of CM Wright, and Lachlan Cameron, Year 8, the great-great grandson of HH Gordon.
From the region’s inland lakes and a beachside science camp to the national and NSW capitals – TAS students from across eight year groups experienced physical, cultural and historic experiences during the annual Excursion Week.
Far and wide for Excursion Week

From the region’s inland lakes and a beachside science camp to the national and NSW capitals – TAS students from across eight year groups experienced physical, cultural and historic experiences during annual Excursion Week.

Years 3 and 4 took part in archery, canoeing, damper making and rope activities at Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre, where they also learnt personal and domestic skills from spending days living together.

Years 5 and 7 were also by the water – Year 5 at Myuna Bay, where similar activities were undertaken with bravery and gusto, and Year 7 at Pindari Dam, which included some adrenalin fun on go-carts.

Years 6 and 8 meanwhile were in Sydney. The younger boys were guests of Mosman Preparatory School, where they were billeted with families enabling them to experience city life first hand. A harbour cruise, trip to the zoo, surfing lessons on Manly beach and a visit to NSW Parliament hosted by Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall were among the highlights, as was a social with Mosman Prep and Queenwood Schools. Year 8 boys had a language day (French or Japanese activities, depending on their subject), visited the Art Gallery of NSW, and had visits both sombre and joyful – an insightful and moving visit to the Jewish Museum where they were addressed by a Holocaust survivor, and the theatrical wonder of the stage production of Disney’s The Lion King.

Yarrahappini Youth and Ecology Centre was the venue for a week of science activity for Year 9 students (pictured left), who learnt much in this extraordinarily diverse ecological system.

Highlights for Year 10 who visited Canberra, included visits to Old Parliament House, Questacon, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Australian Defence Force Academy and ice skating. At the Australian War Memorial, former staff member (and excursion bus driver) Grant Harris shared with the boys many of the exhibits that had links to TAS, including a new exhibition Afghanistan: the Australian Story, which features veteran journalist Chris Masters interviewing Old Boy Dan Fussell (98-02). Currently posted in Bungendore near Canberra, Captain Fussell, who served twice in Afghanistan where his brother Michael was killed in 2008, made a special trip to meet with the boys. (The Chris Masters interview can be found at http://goo.gl/ol8Atn). Special thanks to Mrs Rae Foot who again provided the boys with cakes for their lunches.

Student’s surprise find

A visit to the National Museum in Canberra was full of surprise for student Josh McCormick, who came across an exhibition all about his maternal grandfather, Aboriginal stone tool maker Roy Barker from Brewarrina.

“I didn’t know about the exhibition so I was very surprised but very proud,” said Josh, pictured above right with fellow Aboriginal students Dennis Pitt and Brett Kelly-Wirth.

“He passed away last year. He was well known for the stone axes, spears and coolamons (carry vessels) he had made and was very proud of his heritage.”
Brain Bee was a medical challenge

Jacob Hunt found himself immersed in the workings of the neurological world at the State finals of the Australian Brain Bee competition in early June. Held at the University of Western Sydney’s Medical Centre, the competition, for Year 10 students, is a world-wide neuroscience challenge encouraging students to learn about the brain, capture their imaginations and inspire them to pursue neuroscience careers in order to help treat and find cures for neurological and psychological disorders.

The event started with a quiz of 30 questions with many equivalent to first year university level, followed by keynote speakers presenting information of new discoveries and research into neuroscience. While he didn’t place in the top 10, Jacob said it was a terrific experience.

“Although I’m probably not going to go into medical science, it taught me some fascinating things about the brain and how it works that will be able to be applied in other areas,” he said.

Honours in da Vinci Decathlon

Bright young minds from TAS Junior School excelled at a prestigious academic inter-school gala day in Sydney in June.

The eight boys from Year 5 were beaten only by the academically selective Sydney Grammar School in the maths/chess section of the da Vinci Decathlon, held at Knox Grammar School, founders of the competition.

Attended by thousands of bright boys and girls from Years 5-11 from schools across NSW, the competition is run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon. Students working collaboratively in teams of eight are required to compete in tasks that encompass engineering, mathematics, code breaking, games of strategy, art and poetry, science, English and philosophy. The emphasis on the mathematics/chess division was on problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles.

The students are from the Extension and Enrichment class at TAS Junior School where they are withdrawn from their normal classroom to participate in activities to test creativity and ingenuity, dealing with logic, observations and evidence in both Literacy and Numeracy.

A team of Year 6 students also took part in the competition. Last year TAS hosted the inaugural Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon championships, under an agreement with Knox Grammar. This year the event will be held at TAS on 3-5 September.

Students are geographers of distinction

Geography students at TAS are celebrating their success in a recent national competition with 13 of them receiving a High Distinction.

Around 70,000 students nationally sat this year’s National Geographic Australian Geography Competition, which is an initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association.

It tests students’ geographical knowledge and skills, and aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence.

Eighteen percent of the TAS candidature were awarded High Distinctions, with three Year 9 boys – Tom Wright, Mitchell Cartwright and Lachlan Knowles (pictured below) achieving within the top 1.4 per cent of candidates.
Bilal Ahmadi - how TAS saved an Afghani boy at risk

Unable to return to his homeland, young Afghani man Bilal Ahmadi is making his future in regional Australia, thanks to support from staff at the school which sponsored him, a local accounting firm, and his discovery of rugby union.

In 2012 Bilal started boarding at TAS after being identified at risk in his home country by Mr Peter Daglish, a Canadian-born lawyer, UN worker and advocate for war-affected children. The son of Afghani nationals who had fled their homeland for Pakistan during the Afghani civil war in the 1990s, Bilal was isolated and ostracised when his family returned to Kabul after liberation by the American forces in 2002. Bullied because he had lost his ‘speaking’ Afghani, he started learning martial arts and was soon identified as having strong sporting potential.

Around this time his uncle was working for a UN agency with Mr Daglish, who had sent up a foundation for vulnerable but talented students affected by war. At a Round Square conference at Regents’ School, Pattaya, Thailand, Mr Daglish met TAS delegates Mr Grant Harris and Mrs Anna Barnier, and the trio discussed the possibility of TAS hosting a student.

Mr Daglish then invited Bilal to the Canadian Embassy to make the offer; the meeting was interrupted by a car bomb only a block or two away, forcing Embassy staff, Mr Dalglis and Bilal to don heavy armoured wear. Because visas to Australia can only be organised by the Australian High Commission in Pakistan, it meant a dangerous trip across the border.

“My Dad was driving. It was very dangerous with no security, and we came across a group of people standing around the decapitated body of a man. It was a warning from the Taliban and insurgents, that if you work with the Afghan government or NGOs, you are an infidel and a target. It was a horrible trip.”

After further bureaucratic delays, and at some personal risk, he secured the necessary paperwork and started his new life at TAS, where he was introduced to rugby. A few yellow cards and some important advice followed, but he found his focus and progressed to the school’s First XV. He was also a sergeant in the cadet unit, and a popular member of his boarding house.

While he returned to Afghanistan for one school holidays, attending a Christian school in Australia made it extremely dangerous for him to do so a second time. Keen to support his campaign to stay in Australia for post-school education and work, TAS staff, led by ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher Mr Ralph Hunt, formed Friends of Bilal, to help. Bilal applied for several business traineeships and this year he started work with the Armidale branch of accounting firm Crowe Horwarth. He is a residential duty master in Abbott House, has started a business studies course at TAFE, and is playing rugby for the Armidale Blues as well as assisting coach junior school teams.

Bilal says he is indebted to the school community for believing in him: “TAS continues to be my home for now.”

New Director of Music

Ms Leanne Roobol (right) has been appointed Director of Music, commencing in Term 2. Ms Roobol was previously Director of Music at NEGS for more than seven years.

Armidale raised, Ms Roobol began her Music education as a student at Presbyterian Ladies College, and has many fond memories of singing in TAS productions directed by Jim Graham and Tim Scott.

She later studied Opera at the Canberra School of Music and James Cook University, and sang with the Canberra Opera Company.

Coaches appointed to rep roles

(Left to right) David Drain, Alex Smith, Jim Pennington and Richard Newton.

Four staff have been appointed to representative management, coaching and selector positions.

Rev Richard Newton has been made manager of the Combined Independent Schools Opens football team, having coached the TAS First XI for several years and also the North Coast Independent Schools representative team in 2013.

Mr Jim Pennington will manage the NSW Schools under 16s rugby team that will compete at the Australian All Schools championships in Canberra later in the year.

Mr Alex Smith will coach the President’s Second XV, a team from NSW GPS schools, at the NSW Schools selection trials.

Adding to the rugby honours is Mr David Drain, who has again been appointed as a selector of the Combined GPS Firsts, Second and Thirds representative teams. Mr Drain was previously Chairman of Selectors, while working at St Joseph’s College Hunters Hill prior to relocating to TAS this year.
NAIDOC Week celebrated

The inaugural Aboriginal Students’ Dinner was one of two events held at the school to commemorate NAIDOC Week.

Held in the Dining Hall, our Aboriginal students, joined by a TAS friend, family members, other guests from the local Aboriginal community and TAS staff, enjoyed each other’s company and heard a talk by former National Rugby League professional Dean Widders (brother of Bailey, Year 9). Mr Widders urged the boys to think about how their choices impacted on others, “set goals and work to achieve them, be honest with yourself, and value education”.

“Think about boomerang action. What you throw out there, comes back to you – so throw out positive boomerangs because they will all come back,” he said.

The next day boys and girls from Minimbah Primary School (mainly attended by Aboriginal students) joined us for a special NAIDOC Week assembly on the last day of term (NAIDOC Week itself, 6-13 July, falling during the school holidays). In preparation, the boys worked with the Gomeroi Dancers to create four traditional and modern dances, including one based on this year’s NAIDOC theme - Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond, Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men and Women who have Fought in Defence of Country.

Sydney visit awakens opportunities

Thirteen Aboriginal students visited Sydney for what was a valuable and powerful excursion for all concerned, over two very special days.

The visit coincided with the annual launch of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, one of two foundations which are partnering TAS in offering educational opportunities for boys (the other being the Yalari Foundation).

During an action-packed two days, the boys were exposed to a range of significant cultural, academic, sporting and political experiences. They watched the Bangara Dance Company rehearse and attended a show by the Chooky Dancers, after each occasion meeting some of the dancers. A visit to ‘The Block’ in Redfern – site of political agitation for Aboriginal recognition – was followed by watching members of the South Sydney rugby league team train. Two boys (Josh McCormick from Lightning Ridge, and Richard Boney of Glen Innes) attended the AIEF launch, where they also met with Aboriginal students from schools as far away as Perth. The group was shown around the University of Sydney, including St Paul’s College; dropped in to the Tony Mundine Gym, had a speed boat ride on the harbour, and caught the Vivid light show at Circular Quay.

The Scots College kindly accommodated the boys and staff in its boathed. The school is very grateful to those generous Old Boys and friends of the school who have donated to the TAS Indigenous Student Scholarship Fund, which made the trip possible.

Jayden Ranby, Callum Morris, Samuel Jackson-Bolton, Blake Harradine, Percy Duncan, Brett Kelly-Wirth and (front) Edward Pitt were among the students who performed at the NAIDOC Assembly.
Unique challenge rings true for Nicholas

When the bells ring out at Armidale’s St Peter’s Cathedral, chances are that one of the ropes (or ‘sallies’ as they are known) is being pulled by Year 12 student Nicholas Hadfield. Nicholas – who is as young as the peal of bells at St Peter’s which was only installed in 1996 – was just 11 years old when he followed his bell-ringer father John up the tower and decided that he would like to learn also.

The official term is change ringing – the art of ringing a set of tuned bells (at St Peter’s, an octave of bells tuned to B Flat Maj) in a series of mathematical patterns called ‘changes’. These ‘changes’ are then organised into a sequence called a ‘method’ (some of which have been standardised and given names).

“It’s not so much music, but maths that sounds nice,” says Nicholas, who is one of the all too few teenage ringers in NSW. “You’re not reading music but memorising a sequence.”

Both physically and mentally challenging, it demands ringers to use their strength efficiently, while their brains are focused on the order the bells are to be rung in each ‘change’.

Nicholas, who is studying the French Horn for Music as part of his HSC, has undertaken bell-ringing as his school sport for some years, with hours of practice every Thursday, ringing every Sunday, and at other times as required. He believes the art of change ringing is not attracting enough young ringers, and encourages more young people to give it a go.

Eisteddfod results showcase talent

TAS musicians achieved outstanding results at this year’s Armidale Eisteddfod, held at Lazenby Hall at UNE and the Auditorium at the Old Teachers’ College. In the choral sections the Years 3-5 Choir were first in their division of the K-6 Choir Unison section; the TAS Singers were first and won the Paul Lamb Memorial Shield for Choir 19 years & under; the TAS Trebles were third in the Vocal Ensemble Years K-6 section and the TAS Singers were Highly Commended in the New England Choral Championship.

Both the TAS Chapel Choir and the K-2 Choir performed in non-competitive sections to high acclaim from the adjudicators.

In the ensemble sections: first places were taken out by the TAS Junior Guitar Ensemble; the TAS Senior Jazz Combo (in both the Jazz Ensemble and the Open Jazz Ensemble sections); the TAS Big Band (also awarded The Armidale Perpetual Shield); and the TAS Guitar Band.

The TAS Wind Ensemble and the Year 9/10 Class Ensembles both gained third placings in their sections.

The results were a tribute to the performers, the school’s new Director of Music Ms Leanne Roobol and our talented Music department staff Mr Alastair Finco and Mrs Rachel Butcher. Acknowledgement and thanks also to ensemble directors Mr Warwick Dunham, Mr Tim Scott, Mr Benn Tracy, Mr Matt Nolan, Miss Constance Rolfe, and accompanist Mrs Robyn Bradley.

Piano honours for Patrick

Hours of practice have paid off for talented Year 12 student Patrick Williamson, who has achieved his Associate Diploma in Music, Australia (AMusA) through the Australian Music Examinations Board.

For his exam Patrick played five prepared pieces, including Bach’s Prelude and Fugue in C# Major, Schubert’s Sonata in A Major, Intermezzo by Brahms, and Prelude in G# Minor by Rachmaninoff.

Patrick hopes to continue with his music studies and sit for his Licentiate (LMusA) sometime in the future.

His talents are not confined to the keyboard or the classroom; in March he represented the Dumaresq Lions Club of Armidale at the district finals of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest in Port Macquarie. Patrick touched on strong youth themes in his speech called The Importance of Young People doing things Without Being Asked.

“It’s important that young people from privileged backgrounds do things not for recognition, but for the very real sense of altruism, that helping others is in and of itself important and rewarding.”
2014 Coonabarabran Horse Expo

Ten TAS equestrians made the largest team for some years at the annual North West Equestrian Expo at Coonabarabran on 29 May – 2 June. Under the leadership of Mrs Belinda Murray (mother of rider Nicholas, Year 12) the group took part in a range of individual and team events at what is considered the premier school equestrian competition in regional NSW.

Result highlights included a first in the 16 years Warrumbungle Way, seventh in the Working Horse challenge and ninth in the Combined Training for George Rodgers; a third in the D grade Eventing and fourth in restricted height show jumping (60cm) for Ben McElroy; a fifth in the Keyhole for Pierce Hayden, and a sixth place in the C grade Evening for Nicholas Murray. Nicholas Murray, Lachlan Mack, Pierce Hayden, George Rodgers and William Archer were third overall in the Horseball. Michael Paul, Tom Deshon and Hamparsum rounded out the team.

Congratulations to the boys on their efforts and thanks to Mrs Belinda Murray for her team organisation and stewardship.

Photo by Belinda Murray

Footballers Victorian Tour

A pre-season tour which included games against three top Victorian schools and a training session with coaches from an A League club was a positive development for open football (soccer) at TAS.

The First XI squad went down to Geelong Grammar School 2-1 in a close and exciting game on 24 April, the following day played against Melbourne Grammar who defeated TAS 5-2 in a tough, physical and close encounter that belied the final score. “We could have played better against Geelong Grammar, but the intensity and quality of the game was a great experience and gave us plenty to work on for training,” coach Richard Newton said.

Wrapping up the tour was a match against St Kevin’s College, to whom TAS went down 4-0.

A highlight for the team was a training session with A-League outfit Melbourne Heart, a club co-owned by international soccer powerhouse Manchester City, and rugby league club, Melbourne Storm.

“The time with the representatives of Heart was fantastic. It gave the boys a great thrill to be part of something so big, giving them some exposure and understanding about potential opportunities but most importantly they were given insights into structures and play from an external, expert eye,” Mr Newton said.

Later in the term, TAS played in the CIS knockout competition, gaining a bye because of our result last year, then defeating Bishop Druitt College (4-2) before being beaten by Pacific Hills Christian School in the third round.

A number of boys also represented NCIS at the NSW CIS Football championships, the highlight being holding GPS 1 to a nil all draw.

Chess team in check

The senior TAS chess team will progress to the semi-finals of the Sydney Academy of Chess’ Interschool Chess Challenge in Newcastle next term, having won the regional heat in Tamworth on 17 June. One hundred and seventy six students from 10 senior schools played 88 boards, with TAS Year 11 student Ali Ahsan coming first overall. A team from Junior School also did well, coming fourth from nine schools.

The Chess VIII have notched up some solid wins since a rigorous selection process in Term 1. In the first round of the NSW Junior Chess League they were up against O’Connor Catholic College, who were State finalists last year. Enthusiasm was not enough to win the day, with O’Connor winning 5-3, including a nail-biting game that lasted for two hours.

In the second round, against Glen Innes High School, TAS was victorious in all games. The third game will be played against Tamworth’s McCarthy Catholic College on a date to be fixed.

Chess also featured as part of the annual sporting fixtures against Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, hosted by Farrer, with the result being 4-all.

The school team is looking forward to further competition, including against the Old Boys on Old Boys weekend in August, and Sydney Boys High a week later.
The breaking of a school athletics record set more than half a century ago and several athletes performing at their best, were amongst the highlights for TAS at the Athletic Association of Great Public Schools (GPS) athletics championships in Sydney on 9 May.

Joe Makeham came third in the 17 years 1500m in a personal best time of 4:11:21, nearly four seconds faster than last year, when he won the under 16s event. In doing so, he also set a new TAS record, easily beating the 4:24:07 run by RJ Fulloon back in 1958 – previously the equal oldest record on the school’s books.

Joe’s effort was just one of numerous personal best times recorded by the TAS team, which competes against considerably larger schools. Others included Luke O’Donoghue placing fourth in the Open 200m in 22.52, Lachlan Knowles also fourth in the 14 years, 400m in 56.91, and Max Qorovarua, fourth in the under 13 long jump leaping 4.62m.

At a school assembly, Joe was presented with a new trophy for best performance at the meet, while Captain of Athletics Ben Broster was awarded an inaugural cup for contribution to the sport.

Joe makes it four

An increase in distance to 5km only enhanced the enjoyment for Joe Makeham as he won his fourth consecutive Armidale Campus to City Canter in March.

With a field of over 540 runners, Joe took the lead early and with a strong surge at the 1km mark, won by more than a minute. He was closely followed home by Joshua Stevenson (4th), Stephen Mutagi (our Kenyan Gap student 6th), Sam Johnston (8th) and Nicholas Makeham in 10th place.

The TAS contingent which numbered more than 50 runners, included students from the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.

TASRC praised by ARU boss

Australian Rugby Union boss Mr Bill Pulver praised the TAS Rugby Carnival as an event “that showcases everything that is good about our game”.

Mr Pulver was special guest at the tenth carnival, held in glorious weather in April. Forty nine school and junior club teams competed this year, consolidating the event as the biggest rugby carnival for 13 year olds in Australia. It is also a significant event for the region, attracting an estimated 3000 visitors to Armidale.

At Saturday’s official opening, Mr Pulver held up a signed Wallabies jersey he presented to TAS and urged the 1000 young players to “dare to dream”.

“With players from such a wide area and from some great clubs and schools, I’m quite sure some of you here will one day play for Australia. Mr Pulver praised carnival organisers for the smooth running of the carnival and the “magnificent” state of the playing fields.

The carnival is a massive undertaking by the wider school community and is only possible thanks to the support of grounds, housekeeping and catering staff, the P&F, Old Boys Union and Rugby Supporters Group.
Leadership, Service, Adventure

Junior Round Square Conference opens eyes

Six Middle School boys contemplated how small contributions count, at the Junior Round Square Conference at King’s College, Auckland, in April.

Alistair Le Surf, Henry O’Neil, Jason O’Keefe, Jack Waters, Josh Danke, Thomas Deshon and staff members Mrs Anna Gayner and Mr Luke Polson took part in a number of different activities reflecting the ideals of Round Square that were in keeping with the conference theme, Our Planet, Our Future, Ours to Change.

The group helped restore a stream behind the college as part of the service component, took part in an adventure water challenge, learnt more about global issues and heard from dynamic speakers.

Prior to the conference they enjoyed a three-day tour of Rotorua which included the Waitomo Glow Worm Caves, a Maori cultural centre, a kiwi reserve, Polynesian spas and a visit to Hobbiton, where The Hobbit was filmed.

Nicholas gets Triple Crown

Nicholas Finney, Year 11, has become the fourth boy to be awarded the Triple Crown, for completing the 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim, 14km City to Surf, and 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic during his time at school. A leg injury prevented Nicholas from completing the swim last year, but he is set to do the other two legs a second time, this year – which would qualify him for the Gold Triple Crown.

Service in Sydney

Twenty five boys gained an insight into the struggles of homelessness in the Blue Mountains before attending one of the largest youth Christian conventions in the country in April.

Accompanied by the Chaplain Rev Richard Newton and Assistant Chaplain Mrs Jo Benham, the group helped volunteers from St Hilda’s Anglican Church, Katoomba, which is an ‘open house’ providing food, clothing and counselling for the area’s homeless, including hundreds who live in caves.

Service activities included helping clean and prepare a new homeless shelter.

The group then attended the Kyck Christian youth convention in Katoomba, in the company of 2000 other young people. The conference was alive with music and engaging speakers, and this year’s theme was that the Christian life can be a narrow road - which impacted on all who attended.
Anzac Day 2014

The lives of the 103 former students and staff who gave their lives in service to their country was commemorated as part of The Armidale School’s Anzac Day service held in early May, due to April 25 falling during the school holidays.

On Anzac Day itself, the TAS Cadet Unit Guard performed catafalque duties at Dangarsleigh Memorial and the main city service in Central Park.

In his address at the school service, Squadron Leader Scott Harris (above), an Old Boy of the school (90 - 97) who has served with the RAAF since 2000, said the Anzac spirit of courage, sacrifice, mateship, endurance, respect, professionalism and humour, was alive and well in the modern Australian Defence Force.

“On my last rotation to Afghanistan we transported a young soldier who had been quite badly injured by an explosion that killed the interpreter standing beside him. Uploading the young soldier at Kandahar airfield I made my way down the back of the aircraft to say hello. I approached and said ‘Gday mate, how’s things? Looks like you’ve been in a bit of mischief?’ to which he responded in his best Monty Python voice, with a big grin on his face ‘What this? Tis merely a flesh wound! Don’t worry about me though, you just concentrate on your landings. I didn’t come all this way to end up dying at the hands of a RAAFie’.”

Squadron Leader Harris said many qualities of the ANZAC are alive and well in the wider community, and evident in the way ordinary Australians rise to meet the challenges of cataclysmic events including natural disasters at home and abroad.

“TAS cadets, students, ladies and gentlemen, I implore you to personify the qualities of the ANZAC as we gather not to glorify war, but to remind ourselves that we value who we are, the freedoms we possess, and to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation,” he said.

Riding for a cure

In this year’s Tour de Rocks the TAS community was represented in several teams, including one from TAS made up of 15 students, three parents and three staff, some of the 429 who took part in the 240km cycle classic from Armidale to South West Rocks.

The first day took riders 97km to Georges Junction, where the next morning, six members of the TAS crew swapped their lycra for cammies and formed a guard at a dawn Anzac Day service, with rider Clarence Butcher bugling The Last Post.

Day two was a 67 kilometre ride to Willawarrin, with the final leg taking riders to South West Rocks.

The TAS contingent was given a national TV profile, being interviewed by Channel 7’s Sunrise weather presenter James Tobin just prior to their departure on 24 April and at the Anzac service the next day.

James Tobin from Channel 7’s Sunrise program interviews Clarence Butcher just before the TAS team sets off in this year’s Tour de Rocks.
FULL OF ACTIVITY
Junior School

Junior School out and about

The annual Excursion Week proved to be another opportunity for learning through action, adventure, teamwork and problem solving at school and at various Sport and Recreation camps. Myuna Bay (Year 5) and Lake Keepit (Years 3 and 4) provided the opportunity to be involved in activities such as archery, kayaking, initiative courses, rock climbing and bouldering, to serving in the dining rooms and the challenge of maintaining personal belonging away from home. Younger students faced many personal challenges and the experience for them was as exciting as it was beneficial. At school, junior classes engaged in activities both in and outside the classroom, following the same philosophy of teamwork, learning through activities and serving others. For them, hosting a wonderful Mother’s Day morning tea was also a huge success.

Chloe Moore (pictured left) enjoyed rock climbing at Lake Keepit.

Saumarez visit

Year 2 were bursting to discover some of the historical delights of local treasure, Saumarez Homestead, when they visited in June. To compliment their HSIE The Way We Were studies, students were anticipating discovering a glimpse of the people, products and places of yesteryear, but what they got was a magical journey back in time to discover first hand the way the White family lived and the many things that, back in the 1800s, made a civilised life possible. Alistair Newton is pictured below checking out the kitchen chimney.

Rich stories to be told

Conal Nisoll, Chloe Moore and Jack van Roy stayed behind to hear more from illustrator David Allan and author Sophie Masson about their new book, Two Trickster Tales from Russia.

Junior School students have been stretching their imagination this year and proving that books are far from dead in the digital age.

On 21 May boys and girls took part in this year’s National Simulatenous Storytime (NSS), reading “Too Many Elephants in This House” written by Ursula Dubosarsky and illustrated by Andrew Joyner. More than 430,000 children at over 2,500 locations took part in NSS, which fosters a love of books in primary-aged children.

The event follows the visit to the TAS library last term by prolific author Sophie Masson and illustrator David Allan.

The pair, who are both New England residents, spoke about their respective crafts and the story behind their first collaboration, “Two Trickster Tales from Russia,” the retelling of two Russian folktales – Mash and the Bear and The Rooster with the Golden Crest.

They spoke about the processes involved in creating and publishing a book and answered many questions from the students, telling them the best advice is to keep practicing and never, ever give up.

Healthy philosophy of sport

Junior School girls and boys have been taking to the sporting fields this term in friendly competition that is also about introducing them to new skills and sports.

The girls play for TAS Netta (mini-netball) and Netball teams in the Armidale District Netball Association competition, with girls from other schools joining in. Boys are playing football from Year 3 upwards, again in local competition. From Year 5, TAS boys have the opportunity to play rugby, making up most of an Armidale Junior Blues team that travels in the region to play in Central North carnivals.

The gala-day format of these carnivals, with up to four games a time, is an ideal way for the boys to learn about the game and different positions.

Similarly, netballers and footballers rotate positions and captaincy duties. Regular training sessions, held with their teachers who are also their coaches, aid with the familiarisation process.

Head of Junior School Mr Ian Lloyd said sport was a compulsory element of the curriculum from Year 3 upwards because of the belief that sport is not just a healthy past time, but provides so many life skills.

Cross Country

The boys and girls from Junior School rose to the challenge with great enthusiasm when they undertook their Cross Country event in early May. For some, it meant crossing the line first for their age, but to be admired just as much were the efforts of those for whom the long distance run was a massive challenge and yet, with a cheerful smile and for some, a helping hand on their friend’s shoulder they determinedly completed the course.

The first six in each age group then went on to run in the PSSA Cross Country later that month. Special mention must be made of Sam Meehan, Jonathan Harris, Daniel Morgan and Lennox Neilson who took out the trophy for the best team in B/9 years boys division, and Harry Ashton, Liam Matherson, Cotter Litchfield and Sam Behrend who won the 12 years boys division.

Zoe Streitzl and Grace Pennington (pictured left) help each other along in the Cross Country.
Community

TAS hosts NSW Country Schools titles
For the fourth year TAS hosted the NSW Country Schools rugby championships, this year held on the June long weekend.

More than 250 young rugby players from country zones across the state took part in the 37th championships, which are selection trials for Opens and Under 16s NSW Country Schoolboys sides, as well as a development squad to tour Singapore and Hong Kong next year.

In the Opens, New England Schools, Far North Coast Schools, Mid North Coast Schools and Central Schools vied for the Bernie McGrane Shield, while the above were joined by Central West Schools in the 16s, for the Don Wiburd Trophy. TAS boys made up the backbone of both the New England Lions teams, which won the Opens, and were runners up in the Under 16s.

The carnival convenor was TAS staff member Mr. Jim Pennington, who is also vice president of NSW Country Schools. Mr. Pennington was also appointed manager of the NSW Country Schools Opens team, which was coached by fellow staff members Mr Alan Jones and Jason Lincoln. The team, which will compete at the NSW Schools selection trials, includes four TAS boys. Six boys were named in the NSW Country Schools 16s team, while 11 are part of the Development team that will tour Singapore and Hong Kong in 2015.

Mr Pennington said the school would not have been able to host the titles without the support of the grounds and housekeeping staff and the P&F and Rugby Supporters Group.

Coona trip thanks to Rugby Supporters Group
The 2014 rugby season kicked off in May with our annual fixture against Kinross-Wolaroi at Coonabarabran - but before the first points were on the scoreboard our school community was already a winner thanks to the generosity of the Rugby Supporters Group.

In recognition of the efforts of our parents in baking, barbecuing and buying refreshments at fixtures last year, the RSG (a branch of the P&F) fully-funded the cost of this fixture to the tune of $8,056. This covered return bus travel to and from Coonabarabran, and lunch on the day for every player, across all age groups.

MIC Rugby Mr Will Caldwell said TAS is tremendously grateful to the RSG for this generosity. In a season when many of our families continue to struggle with drought and other seasonal factors, it is a way of giving something back in a practical way. It also recognises that without the whole TAS community and the wonderful contribution it makes by catering at home games, there simply would be no TAS rugby program. The gesture was a real show of goodwill and sets off the season with a tremendous sense of pride and school spirit.

P&F DISTRIBUTION
The Parents & Friends Association has made generous donations to the value of $27,000 to improve facilities and services for students and the school. Among the disbursements are funds to assist with creating changerooms and bathrooms under the Memorial Hall stage; outdoor timber seating near the library; co-contribution towards a new marquee to be jointly funded by several stakeholders; funding assistance to upgrade the barbecue at the War Memorial Cricket Oval, a radio for the Medical Centre waiting room, subsidising the cost of Year 8 and Year 10 excursions; subsidising the New Zealand opens rugby development tour; contributions towards Binghi and other small disbursements.

These funds are only generated due to the hard work and support of parents and friends of the school, who willingly bake or barbecue at sporting fixtures, run stalls at the school fete, help with The Art Show, and then open up their wallets at the same events!

Rugby Fixtures in Term 3
July 19 ............... TAS v St Joseph’s (Away)
July 26 .................... TAS v Shore (Home)
August 2 .............. TAS v Kings (Away)
August 9 ............... TAS v Scots (Home)
August 16 ........... TAS v Newington (Home)
Old Boys Weekend
August 23 .............. TAS v SHS (Home)
August 30 ............ TAS v Riverview (Away)

Pictured are MIC Rugby Will Caldwell, RSG president Greig Stier and vice president Graham MacDougall.

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Congratulations

After several global successes at Pfizer Australia, Edward Stening (91-98) was asked to join the Digital Innovation Center of Excellence based in New York for Pfizer. So two years ago he moved his wife of five years Camilla and daughter Matilda (then six months) to the US. The couple recently gave birth to their second child, Harrison, at Roosevelt Hospital Manhattan.

Due to winning a top industry award, Ed was offered the opportunity to meet former Secretary of State, and former First Lady, Hilary Clinton. “Hilary is an incredible leader, taking a positive step for women in industry and a strong representative for the unrepresented in the world,” Ed said. “And of course, as expected, she loves Australians!”

Congratulations to Sam Dutton (90-96) son of old boy Phillip (63-69) and Min Dutton on his engagement to Katie Mulligan (NEGS), the daughter of Fred (49-57) and Barbara Mulligan of Salway, Walcha. Katie’s brother Rob (91-97) can be spotted on the small screen in a McDonalds ad spruiking where the beef comes from! Sam and Katie are settled in Brisbane where Sam continues to work at the Brisbane Riverview Hotel and Katie is an engineering consultant. The couple plan to marry in April 2015.

We are delighted to share the news that Greg Dorrian (93-05) and his wife Jess are the proud parents of Oliver Patrick, born on 11 June. Oliver is a brother for Benjamin. Greg is the senior digital designer at Nucleo Studio.

In the last Binghi, Spencer (Mo) Witten (31-32) advised of his impending 99th birthday. His daughter-in-law Josephine Witten sent this happy snap saying he enjoyed his day very much in the company of his son David (54 - 58), his grand daughter, Alison Gadd (PLC 98 -03) and his great grandson, Thomas. We still haven’t had any one challenge Spencer’s suggestion he may now be our oldest Old Boy. If you know of someone who is more senior than Spencer, please email binghi@as.edu.au.

Eddy Bell (91-92, 98-00) won the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director at the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films (part of Sydney Film Festival) on June 15, for his short film Grey Bull. The film tells the story of a Dinka refugee who recognise his namesake bull in the Australian abattoir where he works. After bringing it home to his family and their new life, he soon discovers that you can’t have a bull in this country. The film explores identity in an unfamiliar culture, and what people are often asked to ‘leave at the door’ when they arrive at a new place. After eight years working in every area of production, both in front and behind the camera, Eddy went on to study a Bachelor of Film & TV at the Victorian College of the Arts. He is now back working in the commercial film industry. Proud uncle Peter Cousens (69-73) was among the first to congratulate Eddy on his award.

New Zealand gathering

A trip to New Zealand and contact with Brad Fenner, now Headmaster of King’s College, Otahuhu, provided Rob Busby (63-68) with an opportunity to gather together Old Boys and former staff resident in the Shaky Isles.

Brad, Deputy Head of TAS (97-98), kindly offered to host the occasion at his and Barbara’s home on the College’s campus in Otahuhu. Also present were Dr Richard Morbey (69-71, 73-75), who flew from Tauranga for the occasion, Fr Don Cowan (Dangar Housemaster 60-63, and Chaplain and then Tyrrell Housemaster 69-72), Rhys Gillet (97-98), Thomas Fenner and Rob Busby (63-68). Apologies were received from Adam McLaughlin (50-52) in Tauranga, Ben Blomfield (91-96) near Christchurch, Jim Tilbury (62-67) in Fiji and Doug Conley (68-69) in Tonga. Also discovered to be across the Tasman is Tony Zohrab (69-73) a vet whose career has been for many years with the NZ Food Safety Authority in Wellington.

Amongst the conversations about TAS, Thomas spoke of the two weeks he spent as an exchange student from King’s to TAS in third term last year. The evening reinforced a long-standing historical bond between the two schools: TAS Headmaster Canon Henry Archdall was appointed Headmaster of King’s in 1926, enrolling his three young sons there, two of whom had previously been at TAS.

The Fenners are once again on the move: they are to return to Adelaide where Brad will take over as Headmaster of Prince Alfred College in Term 3. Congratulations Brad and Barbara, and thanks for your continuing friendship to TAS.

At the New Zealand dinner were (l-r) Rhys Gillet, Brad Fenner, Fr Don Cowan, Thomas Fenner, Barbara Fenner, Rob Busby, Dr Richard Morbey. Photo by Cluny Fenner
GPS Gold Challenge

Planning is well underway for this year’s GPS Gold Challenge on 3-4 October (over the long weekend). Held every two years for Old Boys aged around 50, all nine GPS schools are represented making the GPS Gold Challenge the largest Old Boys’ event in Australia.

This year’s event, now in its sixteenth year, is for the GPS Old Boys who finished Year 12 in 1981 and 1982. Teams representing each school compete in 10 disciplines - golf, shooting, rowing, tennis, cricket, basketball, touch rugby, athletics, swimming and debating. The Challenge culminates with a dinner and debate. Over the weekend, funds are raised for Red Kite, which assists children and young people suffering from cancer. Keen to be involved? 1981 leavers should contact Nick Tuit (78-81) nick@cq.kwikcopy.com.au or David (DJ) Thompson (76-81) david@holla.com.au and those from 1982, Duncan McDonald (77-81) at texan678@gmail.com or Tim Hughes (78-82) at thughes@as.edu.au

Records past and present

Reg Hawksford (43-44) was most interested to read in the Armidale Independent that the 1500m time run at GPS Athletics this year by student Joe Makeham (son of Michael 78-80), broke the school record set in 1958 by RJ Fulloon (54-59) - which was, until this year, the equal-oldest athletics record on the TAS books. Reg was sure that the 1943 record for the 220 yards (23 9/10 sec) set by James (JC) Somerville (42-45) had never been bettered and was sure this record still stood. (That same year, Somerville won the open 100 yards at GPS in a time of 10.7 sec.) So we did a bit of research. Being an imperial distance, it was ‘retired’ with the introduction of metric distances across the board at GPS schools in 1967. The 1500m, however, has been run since 1948 (when it was known as the Metric Mile), and hence, is still a current event. Thanks to MIC Athletics Jim Pennington for this information.

Here and there

1940s

Alan Hall Smith (42-44) has recently had his fourth book published, Baltic Winners, about the contribution of the artillery arm to the victorious campaign in the Western Desert in World War II. According to his twin brother John (42-44) to whom we are grateful for providing this information, Alan’s English teacher Mrs Millington would be astounded at his scholarship if she was alive today!

1960s

Bill Busby (55-61) recently celebrated his 70th birthday in fine style with a lunch at the newly-refurbished Currabubula Hotel. Amongst those in attendance were OBs Antony White (51-57), Hugh Ranclaud (55-57), Bruce Lobban (57-60), Cam Heather (65-68), David White (63-69) as well as Bill’s son Damien (87-92) and brother Rob (63-68). Ted Croft (53-61) sent apologies from hospital; we wish Ted a swift return to good health.

1980s

Aaron Jackson (83-86) has been on the move. A pastor with the Australian Christian Church, Aaron, his wife Megan and children Charlotte, Riley, Houston, Finley and Annabelle have relocated from Wagga Wagga to Liverpool, Sydney, to accept a pastoral position at Inspire Church, Liverpool. Listeners of the ABC’s Country Hour would have been interested to hear an interview with Andrew Watson (83-88) who for some years has been conducting fertilizer trials on ‘Kilmarnock’, part of a family aggregation at Boggabri. In the most recent trials, undertaken on 4 hectare replicated plots which yield about 11 bales of cotton per hectare, chicken manure came up trumps, ahead of cattle manure and even sea-gull guano (which apparently comes from Indonesia). Andrew said he had undertaken ‘all sorts of trials’ in the pursuit of economically sustainable increased yields, including both chemical Nitrogen and organic forms of Nitrogen and other nutrients. The interview with ABC Rural Reporter can be heard at http://goo.gl/E36EBq

1990s

Marco Mazzanti (87-90) is certainly living the life, having spent the last 10 years as a chef on luxury super-yachts. After his formal training at the legendary Darcy’s Restaurant in Paddington, he worked in the corporate world and most recently has been contracted to set up and train the hospitality crew on a 180m yacht owned by members of an United Arab Emirates royal family. Prior to that, he worked in Moscow for cigarette baron, billionaire Igor Kasaeva and his arts patron wife Stella. ‘Home’ is an apartment in Monaco, but Marco and his fiancee Emmanuelle (below, whom he met while working on the French Riviera) are finalising the purchase of an olive farm near Imperia, Liguria, Italy, where they intend to build. “Though it is not the size of an Australian house paddock, it has over 100 trees all over 1000 years old that yield three tons per annum and will provide us with a humble yet rewarding retirement,” Marco writes.
2000s

Angus Roland (94-00) has been working as a producer at Sky Racing since 2005, and is currently supervising producer for the network. Home is Dulwich Hill, where he lives with his wife Francesca (Pottinger), whom he married in March last year.

News of the Bedford boys. Matthew (96-02) is a journalist at The Armidale Express; a busy job which he is really enjoying. Matt, who has a particular talent for photography, has written several articles pertaining to his old school, particularly the history of the Anzac Guard. Matt and his wife Corina (an HR consultant) are expecting their first child in October.

Tom (96-05) is married to Merel and both are studying post-grad degrees at the University of Tasmania. Tom is hoping to work in medical support services, (for example with the ambulance service, or in a First Responder type position in a hospital or school) and Merel is a Scientist studying penguin habitat on Heard Island.

Meanwhile Peter (96-06) has been living for some time now in Canberra, where he works for the Federal public service as a policy writer. For this information, we thank their mother Prue (Staff 95-00), who is working for the Western Australian government and enjoying a bit of travel, including to Vietnam later in the year.

Another Old Boy making a name for himself in the entertainment industry is Nich Richardson (96-04) Nich co-wrote and starred in SBS TV’s series - Mr Firth Goes to Washington, a comedy documentary about the 2008 US Presidential election, which was nominated for a Logie in the category of Most Outstanding Comedy. He created The Roast in 2011 as an online daily one-minute short and this has been expanded into a longer format for ABC2.

Brendan Sharpe (00-04) is working for Greencross Vet Clinic in Armidale, where he’d previously done a ‘prac’ when a vet student, and is also studying at UNE completing a Ph.D in Animal Science studying disease in broiler chickens. His brother, James (00-06), now has his own electrical business in Uralla and, with his wife Leah, is very much anticipating the birth of their first child.

Having first experienced the reward of international volunteer work in Peru as part of a TAS Round Square service project when he was in Year 11 and then going on to complete a Masters in International Development & Social Change, Jock Rutherford (00-05, above) has made it his career, most recently in the Philippines. Jock worked with the Australian Red Cross in Lyte and Samar islands as part of the Aus-AID funded Australian Volunteers for International Development program, to implement a community health and disaster resilience project. Not long after he returned to Australia, typhoon Haiyan struck, prompting him to return.

Being inspired by students from Colegio de Sta Lourdes, which uses its agricultural land to fund educational scholarships, he has started a campaign to raise funds to rebuild a wing of the college damaged by typhoon Haiyan. “Working alongside college students involved in the relief efforts was a very humbling experience, and it was during this time I learned of their own experiences and the importance the college makes to their lives,” he told the Walcha News newspaper. To help Jock, email him at jock.a.rutherford@gmail.com

Obituaries

The School extends its sympathies to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

TAS and the broader NSW rowing community was deeply saddened to learn earlier this year of the death in January of John Sypkens (TAS rowing coach 89-96). Under his coaching, TAS rowers achieved remarkable success not only in all regional regattas but also in State and National championships. These included winning the single sculls events at the NSW & ACT Independent Schools championships, double sculls at State and National championships, and quad and four events at many regattas. Two of his TAS rowers went on to row for Australia at World Championships. John himself was an international rower of renown, being world champion in five events. The school has expressed condolences to his wife Susan, and sons Peter (82-87) and Andrew (90-96).

John Christopher Fenwicke (39-41) passed away in Walcha on 4 April, after a long illness. Having passed his Intermediate Certificate at TAS, he enlisted in December 1943 with the 2/9 Infantry Battalion of the 7th Division, and served in Ballyfatten, Ireland and also with the Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. For many years in retirement after life on the land, he conducted a museum at Fenwicke House in Walcha. He is survived by three children and nine grandchildren, including William John Fenwicke (01-04).

We were most saddened to hear of the passing of father and son Old Boys David and Graeme Hynes, only days apart. Graeme (66-72) passed away on 26 April, followed by David (36-41) on 7 May. Our deepest sympathies to their families, particularly to David’s daughter and Graeme’s sister Jenny Ferris, who informed us of the news.

Edward (David) Wass (45-51) died on 6 May in Warren, NSW, where he was born in September 1933. During his time at TAS he was in the athletics team and a noted high jumper. He performed chapel service as an altar boy, and was a signaler in the cadets. After undertaking National Service in 1952, he returned to the family merino business as a woolclasser, jackerooing in the Riverina and later, leasing country with his older brother Andrew (44-49). For more than 40 years he managed large grazing properties in the central and north west of NSW, and 20 years ago, reunited with Andrew working together at ‘Womboin’ Warren. He was a great contributor to his community, being a councillor with the Warren Shire for more than 20 years, chair of the Castlereagh Macquarie Valley Weeds County Council, a member of Rotary and the local Men’s Shed. His wife of more than 50 years, Margaret, predeceased him in 2012. David is survived by his children John, Catherine and Christine and their children; and his siblings Andrew, Anne and Jane (another sister Mary predeceased him).
SPRING CLEAN FOR HISTORIC CHAPEL

Members of the TAS community picked up paint brushes, rakes and chainsaws for a working bee at the historic Perrott Chapel in April.

St John’s Anglican Church Kellys Plains which in 2008 was gifted to TAS by the Perrott family was for decades a spiritual and community hub of its locality. TAS revived community services there in 2012, and ahead of a concert for the New England Bach Festival and a community church service in May, a group of TAS Old Boys, current parents and past parents lopped dead branches from elm and pine trees, painted the graveyard fence and cleared debris from the gutters of the 1923-brick building. Future work will include selective removal of elm suckers and volunteer hawthorns and some dangerous and large dead trees.

With no power, water or toilet at the site, the church has a certain charm, but the school believes, in time, sensitive improvements will only enhance its amenity.

Look forward to seeing you at Old Boys Weekend!

Organisation is well underway for this year’s Old Boys Weekend, to be held on 15-17 August. This coincides with the home rugby fixtures against Newington College, who last year, hosted TAS on its Back to New Day.

Festivities tee off with the OBU Golf Day (special guests – Old Newingtonians and College parents) on the Friday, followed by the Jock Perkins Memorial Art Show (hosted by 5 year leavers) and the TAS v OBU debate (a team from the 20 year leavers), both held at the Hoskins Centre.

Saturday is filled with the usual sporting competitions, including this year, new additions Chess (9am) and Hockey (to be held at 9am on the Cricket Oval).

There have been some changes since the program was published on the back page of the last Binghi; for up to date details see the school website www.as.edu and click on ‘Special Events’.

For bookings for all events, including reunions and the main Union Dinner, please follow the links on the website.

Further inquiries please email Mrs Donna Jackson djackson@as.edu.au