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RICH PICKINGS
Unique plan multiplies academic offering

CO-ED UPDATE
White House extension underway

100 NOT OUT
Centenarian Old Boy still loves his cricket
Dynamic subject options to invigorate curriculum

Year 8 and 9 students will be choosing their elective subjects for 2016 in the near future and this year that prospect brings new excitement and vastly greater choice. The innovative thinking of our Director of Studies, Seonia Wark, has turned the traditional pattern of choosing from the four to six subjects offered in each of three timetable columns on its head and this is good news for students at TAS.

As detailed elsewhere in this edition of Binghi, the purpose behind offering elective subjects in Years 9 and 10 is to launch students onto the path of finding and following their academic passions. This decision making is often fraught for parents and students who see their choices as the beginnings of a defined academic future, sometimes with tertiary thoughts in mind. The reality though is that languages stand alone as defined continuers courses and most other electives at this stage have little bearing on HSC studies, let alone tertiary decisions. Developing academic passion and assisting in preparing for senior studies is important though and this is what our new structure targets.

Elective subjects in Years 9 and 10 stand separate to the mandatory core curriculum of English, Maths, Science and HSIE, giving schools great flexibility in determining their offerings and the Board of Studies has been very supportive of our plans that take advantage of that. In place of the usual pattern at TAS that has provided 12 to 14 subjects spread across three lines, Years 9 and 10 will be mixed together for their electives and presented with 96 choices across the lines, each of the 76 different courses standing alone for one semester and every one directly related to the HSC curriculum. Our aim is to drive academic interest and engagement by vastly increasing choice, enabling students to sample a wider curriculum experience and avoid the experience of finding themselves locked into subjects they do not find stimulating for two years. It will also enable students to make more informed HSC subjects choices because they have had the opportunity to discover the difference between Business Studies and Economics or Chemistry and Biology and what is involved in the design and assisting in preparing for senior studies is important though and this is what our new structure targets.

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Our co-ed future—full steam ahead

As TAS moves towards co-education, there is certainly plenty going on!

Building

Work has now started on spacious extensions to White House, with a new wing to be built to accommodate an extra 30 Middle School boys and provide new common room space. Currently, Middle School boys are boarded in White and Dangar Houses; the extension will enable all of them to be in the one location for the first time, expanding and improving facilities for the youngest boarders at TAS. The new wing has been designed by Michael McPhillips of Magoffin & Deakin, the firm which designed White House in 1962. The new configuration will mean a slight re-alignment of the road past White House to Abbott. Building work is expected to take 24 weeks, with completion set down before Christmas.

Dangar House will thus become available for girls’ boarding, and exciting renovations to are already in the planning stage. An interior designer has been appointed to work with the school to ensure these adjustments will make girl boarders feel as much at home as the boys have, in this historic house.

Plans are also underway for the conversion of the current Design & Technology building (the former gymnasium) into a contemporary recreational, social and quiet study space for Year 12 students. Ideas include the use of a mezzanine level for quiet areas and a sectioning of the main downstairs area into small group and larger group study or socialising areas. The creation of this space will be made possible by relocating D&T classes to the Trade Training Centre at Doody Park.

Staff Recruitment

Early in Term 3 the School will seek applications for the new position of Director of Girls’ Education. This executive position will span boarding, pastoral care and strategic planning functions and report directly to the Headmaster. This appointment is considered to be a key strategy within the co-education plan and the net will be cast wide to find the very best experience and ability available.

TAS Co-ed Expo

Families interested in a TAS education will be able to find out more about the school in a personal and relaxed atmosphere at the TAS Co-ed Expo on Thursday 13 August. At this expo, there will be a presentation on what co-education at TAS will ‘look like’, and booths will be staffed for discussions with families on our offering in areas such as pastoral care, the academic program including the new Year 9 and 10 electives structure, boarding, co-curricular activities including sports, the activities program, Round Square and facilities. As in past years, TAS will also be at Tamworth Boarding Schools’ Expo (24-25 July), Nyngan Show (1 August), Narrabri Cotton Trade Show (5-6 August) and Ag Quip (18-20 August).

Uniform

Significant progress is also underway in designing the new senior girls uniform.

While the Junior School girls uniform will remain unchanged, a committee comprising of parents and staff are already working on this important project.
Team wins creative contest at da Vinci Decathlon

They had just 10 minutes to create it, and only one minute to perform—but the kudos of an impromptu creative production will last a lot longer for Year 5 students who won a drama competition against 1000 others from 113 schools across the state.

The team took out the Creative Producers challenge, one of 10 that make up the da Vinci Decathlon, an academic competition for gifted and talented students hosted by Knox Grammar School.

“First we had to select which three of us from the team would do this challenge, then we were given a poem and had 10 minutes to organise it before performing it impromptu in front of the adjudicators, without a script,” said Hugo Catterall, who “tried to remember a few of the main lines from the poem to put into it.”

“The poem was about an Aboriginal man telling a young Aboriginal boy not to cross a creek because it was the bunyip’s place, and the remnants of his victims were everywhere,” added Ben Rowe.

“We acted it out with Hugo as the Aboriginal man, Frank Perrottet as the boy, and I was the bunyip.”

Sixteen boys from Years 5 and 6 represented TAS at the event, being split into teams for the different challenges. Later in the year, TAS will host for the third time, Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon championships, under an agreement with Knox Grammar.
Seven times the subject offering at TAS

From Astrophysics and Projectile Motion to Philosophy and the films of Tim Burton; making computer games to elite sports coaching; the difference between economics and commerce—and why invest in the stockmarket anyway?

A unique approach to finding the best outcome for students has effectively increased by more than sevenfold the subject choices for students in Years 9 and 10 at TAS.

Ms Seonia Wark, the school’s Director of Studies, has devised a plan whereby students will be able to select 12 semester courses over two years from 76 different options (offered a total of 96 times)—up from the current arrangement of selecting three electives over four semesters.

“The idea is to create opportunities for students to pursue passions they already have, explore new things before they are locked into their HSC courses, and allows them to make more informed choices for their final two years of study,” she said.

As an example, choices in the History offering will include The history and geography of conflict in the Middle East, Into Africa and Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, while those interested in economics and business streams can select from Running a Business and Marketing, Personal Finance and Investing, The Law and the Consumer, Introduction to the Economy, and Accounting.

“There is also a strong focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) to help address shortages in university graduates in these areas,” Mrs Wark said. The unique pathway will be introduced next year.

An example of what the offerings could look like is set out below.

### Massively expanded offering for Years 9 & 10

**Drama:**
- Acting & Stagecraft, Street and Event Theatre, History & Legacy of Theatre & Performance, Scriptwriting and Film

**Visual Arts:**
- Australian Art Perspectives, Public Art, Animating Human Forms, Architecture and Design, Graphic Design, Photography, Japanese Printmaking, Contemporary Ceramics, Experimental Art Practice

**Music:**
- Music in Entertainment, Ensembles and Bands, Music Styles and Production, Performance and Recording

**Human Society and its Environment (HSIE):**
- History I should know about, The history and geography of conflict in the Middle East, Into Africa, Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Sustainability, Running a Business and Marketing, Personal Finance and Investing, The Law and the Consumer, Introduction to the Economy, Accounting

**Science:**
- Electrons to Electrochemical Cells, From Cells to Ecosystems, Astrophysics and Projectile Motion, Working Scientifically

**Technological and Applied Studies:**

**PDHPE:**

**Languages:**
- Travelling in France, French Regional Festivals and Cuisine, Living in France, French Leisure and Entertainment, Travelling in Japan, Japanese Obento and Festivals, Living in Japan, Japanese Leisure and Entertainment

**Mathematics Extension:**
- Networks, Counting Techniques & Set Theory, Matrices, Vectors and Further Algebra

**English Extension:**
- Philosophy, Curriculum Support (Elective), Reinvent, Recycle, Replay—Working With The Seven Basic Plots, Fact v Fiction—Studying and Composing Historical Fiction, From Words to Images, Auteur Study—The Films of Tim Burton

**Agriculture:**
- Lamb & Potato, Poultry & Grain, Vegetable & Honey, Beef Production

"The idea is to create opportunities for students to pursue passions, explore, and make more informed choices..."
Debaters entertain in finals appearances

Armed with wit, bravado and the powers of persuasion, boys took to the stage to argue their case in the finals of the inter-house debating competition late in the term.

In the senior school debate, Croft House narrowly defeated Ross, successfully arguing That Knowledge is Corruption. While Croft took the line that knowledge is power and power is corruptible, the negative team used the tack that ‘absolute knowledge enlightens absolutely’.

Meanwhile in the final of the Middle School competition, Ross was victorious, negating against the case argued by Tyrrell, That Art is Better than Sport. With Tyrrell giving a narrow interpretation of art, the debate was open for Ross to compare professional incomes, sponsorship, and social outcomes of the two fields of endeavour, in a convincing way.

Both adjudicators, Mr Guest and Mr Harrison, commented on the speakers’ eye contact and engagement with the audience, confident deliveries, attempt at rebuttals and willingness to take part in something many people find daunting — speaking in public, and thinking on one’s feet at the same time.

The finals were the culmination of a round-robin competition held during lunchtimes last week.

Points will go towards the Clemson Cup for inter-house debating and public speaking.

The public speaking section will be conducted next term.

Guitar players pick up tips from masters

For Year 11 music student Angus Lloyd, it’s one thing to perform in front of your peers — but another thing entirely to play as you are watched by two of the most renowned guitar players in the world.

Angus said he was privileged to take part in a masterclass with Slava and Leonard Grigoryan, held prior to a concert at the TAS Hoskins Centre on 18 June.

"It was pretty daunting, just performing in front of others can be nerve-racking," he said.

"They mostly helped me with technique, particularly in how I held my wrists. I need more performance practice, but it was great to get the advise of such respected musicians as well."

Slava Grigoryan said the brothers usually try and hold a masterclass when on regional tours, with the focus on either musicianship or technique, depending on the student.

"We know from growing up that it is often difficult to get up and play in front of peers, and that in regional areas there is less access to professional musicians," he said.

"Hopefully though it is a good sort of pain — and from our perspective, it is all about connecting young players with music, building a rapport with them and seeing the progress students have made."

Since their first acclaimed Australian tour in 2002, the classical guitar duo have toured extensively in Australia and in Europe, the United States, Britain, Asia and the Middle East. When not on stage they are in the studio, having released five duo albums — the most recent ‘The Seasons’ in 2012 — all of which have been nominated for ARIA awards.

They last played in Armidale two years ago, but their concert on 18 June was the first in the TAS Hoskins Centre which they described as ‘a great venue’.

Watched by his brother Leonard, renown classical guitarist Slava Grigoryan gives some tips to Angus Lloyd at a masterclass at TAS, prior to the brothers’ concert in Armidale.
Pirates take to stage in world amateur premiere

It is a famous tale of mutiny, shipwreck and the high seas, but the cast and crew of Treasure Island: A new Musical successfully steered the ship to the world amateur premiere of the production, at the Hoskins Centre in June.

Students, staff, parents and Old Boys brought to life a new interpretation of one of literature’s great adventure stories, about a boy having to make choices whilst influenced by powerful adult males.

This particular version was conceived in 2006 and had only been produced once before, by the Arkansas Repertory Theatre Company. Believing its “darker, edgier” tone would resonate strongly with young adolescents, TAS Creative Arts co-ordinator Andrew O’Connell met the three creators Brett Smock and Carla Vitale (scriptwriters), and Corinne Aquilina (music and lyrics) in New York last September, and ‘sold’ them his vision for the production.

“It is very faithful to the Robert Louis Stevenson story and conveys through the boy hero Jim Hawkins, in a grittier way than in most other versions, the many powerful messages about moral dilemmas, choices and consequences that we seek to educate our students about here at TAS,” Mr O’Connell said.

“In the cast we had students from Year 6-12, staff members, parents and Old Boys, and a similar profile who have put together an incredible set in a very short period of time. To have such a well-known coming of age story being brought to life by such a cross-section of the school community was an incredibly rewarding experience for everyone.”

Left: The innovate, split level set; (below, left to right) Alexander Gibson played the hero, Jim; Duncan Carmichael (10-14) returned to TAS in an energetic performance as Ben Gunn; Students Dominic Pilon, Calliden Hunter and Ziggy Harris played pirates

Photos by Tim Scott
State selection for Will

Years of training paid off for Will Brissett who was selected as goal keeper in both the NSW under 18s and Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Opens hockey squads. Initially, Will was selected for NSW following the U18s State championships, where he helped Hockey New England to a fine tournament against many of the state’s best young players.

Along with TAS Firsts teammate Ben Moffatt, Will was then part of a Barbarians team comprising boys from GPS, Combined Associated Schools (CAS) and Association of Independent Co-educational Schools (AICES), which had an undefeated run during the CIS Hockey Trials at Moorebank in Sydney on 20 May. The games followed special keeper trials earlier in the morning, blocking shots from 20 players at the top of the circle and also one-to-one work where selectors looked at reflex and positioning. His efforts and skills were rewarded with selection, despite some fierce competition.

The All Schools championships were played at Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre on 15 June, with Will being named in the Merit team.

Spoils shared at TAS Rugby Carnival

Two Sydney teams battled it out in the final of the top division, but it was a Queensland school that took home the most coveted award at the TAS Rugby Carnival in April.

For the second time at a TAS Rugby Carnival, Matthew Flinders Anglican College of Buderim, Queensland, won the BLK Team of the Carnival that recognises good spirit and sportsmanship on and off the field. One hundred and five games of rugby were played over the weekend, with Sydney club team Gordon Highlanders defeating Scots College Prep 1 by 19-5 in the main division one final. Waverley College Blue won the second division while Cranbrook School took out third division, both determined by overall points.

After sunny and warm conditions on Saturday, light rain on Sunday did not dampen the spirits of the 850 boys and girls from 42 teams who had travelled from as far as the Sunshine Coast and the NSW Southern Highlands for the 11th annual fixture, which is the largest primary-aged rugby carnival in Australia.

General Manager Rugby Development at NSW Rugby Union Adam Crane and Australian Rugby Union General Manager Pathways & Performance Ben Whitaker attended the carnival and paid tribute to organisers and spoke with players and parents about pathway opportunities. At a ‘Q&A’ session after the official opening on Saturday afternoon former Brumbies and Wallabies player Rod Kafer, who had a son playing in the carnival, offered inspiring advice to participants.

Among others attending the carnival in private capacities were Australian Rugby Union President David Crombie and tennis great Tony Roche, both supporting grandsons from the sidelines.

A new initiative was the Spirit of Rugby Relay, a spectacle watched by 1000 supporters. The only time during the carnival when all teams are competing on the one field, the event comprised of four runners from each team, with Ambrose Treacey College Blue team (formerly Nudgee Junior College).

Kayakers take to water

There were some strong performers amongst our five TAS kayakers who competed in the NSW All Schools Championships held at Nymboida in early June. Paddlers competed in a white water slalom course over 200m, a sprint over the same course (without the slalom gates), a flatwater sprint over 500m, a 5km flatwater endurance, and a wildwater river run over 3.5km. TAS came third from nine schools, with all competitors gaining a place in at least one event.

Harry Graham in action at the kayaking championships
Horse sports success

A team of 10 keen horsemen engaged in competition at the North West Equestrian Expo in Coonabarabran, where muddy and challenging conditions did little to dampen the spirits of the boys nor the way they represented the school. This is the biggest event in the equestrian calendar, and the riders displayed both courage and finesse as they competed in a variety of disciplines including One Day Event, bending, team penning, Warrumbungle Way (a ‘stockman’s challenge’ type event), polocrosse, jumping and Horse Ball. Of special mention was Ben McElroy being reserve champion 13 year boy rider.

TAS trio play with GPS President’s XV squad

Year 10 student Edward Pitt played a pivotal role at the NSW Combined Schools rugby championships on 21 June, setting up a try that delivered the Presidents XV 16As team the premiers trophy. The President’s XV A & B sides, comprised boys from the nine NSW GPS schools, played in different pools at the championships against other schoolboy rep teams.

The President’s XV A team reached the final having defeated Combined High Schools B and A teams 41-5 and 34-0.

Two other TAS boys contributed to the President’s XV B side taking out the Bowl for the second division. Sam Thatcher ran on as prop in the Bs team, while Harrison Jackson played some time in prop from the bench. The B team lost their first game to Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) but redeemed their play to defeat Combined Associated Schools (CAS) 17-12. In the final the team met AICES (Association of Independent Coeducational Schools), coming out victors 17-12.

The championships, held at Knox Grammar School’s Curagal Oval in Turramurra, were also selection trials for the NSW Combined Schools team which will be announced in July. In the week leading up to the trials, the boys boarded and went to classes at The Scots College, to whom TAS is grateful.

Spoils shared for Farrer, Sydney High trophies

TAS regained the Dick Hodgson Shield from Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School but Sydney Boys’ High won for the first time the Hannon and Harris Cup, in two multi-event competitions in June. The annual fixtures against the two schools are a highlight of the co-curricular calendar, and are both growing in the breadth of sports that make up each challenge trophy.

Against Farrer, rain washed out the tennis, TAS won the chess and all three football matches (Opens, 15s and 13s) held at the school, while Farrer won both basketball games (at the Tamworth Sportsdome), and clay target shooting (Loomberah Clay Target Club).

The event culminated with the schools’ First XVs playing under lights for the Jim Levy Shield. After 5-5 at half time, TAS took out the match 26-15, with the tablelanders also winning the Seconds, 16A, 15A, 14A and 13A’s games, while Farrer taking the Third and Fourth XV games and beating the Armidalians in the 16Bs.

This year, TAS hosted Sydney Boys’ High for two nights, the visit also kicking off both schools’ GPS rugby campaigns. TAS managed a 47-10 victory in the First XV game, the TAS Seconds secured a 74-0 win, while the remaining eight rugby fixtures were four apiece.

In other sports, the one game of football was a draw, as was the senior tennis, while High took the junior tennis games. High won both games of basketball, a footrace relay of four players from each age group, and also retained the Tank Shield Trophy, a small-bore rifle shooting competition in deliberate and snap disciplines, held between TAS, High and New England Girls School.

The visitors won for the first time, the Hannon and Harris Cup, named after long serving Sydney High staff member Mr Tony Hannon and former TAS deputy headmaster Mr Grant Harris.
A passage to (and from) India

TAS is in the highest city in Australia; Woodstock School is in the foothills of the Himalayas—but mountains of difference was traversed by a boy from each of these Round Square schools whose six month exchange saw them experience each other’s culture—and an unlikely enduring legacy.

While Sebastian Scott (above) was getting used to each day climbing zig-zag paths rising 500m in altitude to get from his boarding house to the classroom by 8am each day, Jay Yunas was getting used to wearing a school uniform for the first time and not having any girls around.

At 2100m above sea level, Woodstock, near the town of Mussoorie, is an international school with 750 girls and boys from 28 countries, most of whom are boarders (boarding starts at Year 2).

“It’s very academic. With so many people in India, education is highly valued to get a good job so they take their studies very seriously,” said Sebastian, who chose Hindi above Spanish or French as his requisite other language (“I’m able to read it better than I can speak it”).

Out of the classroom, he played basketball and chose rock climbing as his ‘Passage’—the broad co-curricular offering undertaken twice a week, all the while his eyes opened to the gulf “between incredible wealth and the poorest of the poor, who lived in slums we had to walk past to get to the bazaar.”

For Jay, the upside of having to get used to wearing a proper uniform, was not having to make decisions about what to wear every day. In the classroom, he got used to a more regulated environment, though admitted that Year 10 Maths in Australia was ‘quite a bit easier’ than Year 9 Maths back home.

Highlights included representing TAS in basketball and football, his year group excursion to Canberra, and being part of cadets.

“For one of our bivouacs we were the first to make it to the first checkpoint but then got lost for hours—and then there was a night raid, which was a lot of fun,” he said.

More lasting, though, Jay was taught how to swim by TAS Old Boy James Harwood (77-88) who runs a swimming school at the TAS pool.

When Sebastian had a week with Jay’s family before returning to Australia, the two boys then taught Jay’s parents, this very Australian life skill.

While away, Sebastian was also delighted to have a week-long visit from his mother Berenice, who had herself boarded at Woodstock for two years when her father, a research scientist, was working on an aid project in Bangladesh.

Sebastian said of his Woodstock experience: “After a while you stop noticing all the differences between people and see the similarities. There’s a pool of faces from around the world, and you realise they are all potential friends.”

Juniors attend conference

In April students Henry Robertson, Jack Nivison, Alistair Le Surf and Riley Eichorn, accompanied by Mr Luke Polson attended the 2015 Young Round Square Conference hosted by The Westminster School in Adelaide. A pre-conference tour included a three-day stay on Kangaroo Island, followed by very full days of activities at Westminster School. The conference program focused on the telling and understanding of stories from delegates, including workshops on speaking and listening. Keynote speakers included Maurie Japarta Ryan, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia, Alice Fraser (musical director for Mumford and Sons) and Andrea Boyd, who is the only Australian on Earth working in the International Space Station Control Team and from a number of workers at the Westcare Homeless Centre who shared their personal stories as former clients of the centre.

In addition to exploring Adelaide, the group took part in a service project involving tree planting.
Students profess their faith at confirmation service

Eleven boys from The Armidale School and two girls from PLC Armidale were confirmed on the last day of term, by the Bishop of Armidale Rick Lewers.

At the service, held in the TAS chapel, Bishop Lewers told the confirmees that as they had pledged their allegiance to Christ, they could find strength from him and what he endured during the last 24 hours of his life.

Family and friends joined the confirmees at the service, at which the TAS Chapel Choir sang.

Confirmed by the Bishop in the TAS chapel in June were (back row, l-r), Anna Finney (PLC), Jock Campbell, Julian Vogt, Angus Cornall, Lewis Taylor, Sam Wright, Cooper Gerdes, Rev Richard Newton, Bishop Rick Lewers, (front row) Kate Biddle (PLC), Thomas Simmonds, Andrew Kirk, Nick Taylor, Will Benham and Thomas Price

Service trip offers insight into homeless plight

“An eye-opening experience being exposed to a large variety of people whose circumstances are so different to our own”—that is how Year 11 student Jarrod Bourke described the opportunity to spend part of his school holidays helping the Exodus Foundation in Sydney.

A group of 25 TAS students and three staff, prepared food, washed pans and befriended the homeless at the Loaves and Fishes restaurant in Ashfield, where every day hundreds of disadvantaged people are served some nutrition and some hope.

During the week-long trip, the students gain insight into the state of homelessness from the Wesley Mission in the centre of Sydney, and were set a challenge where they learnt just how little five dollars a day goes on food.

They then helped the Exodus Foundation before attending the Katoomba Youth Christian Convention.

Dane Townsend said it was about putting faith into action.

“While the service with Exodus presented the boys with a realistic view of what homelessness really involves and how it can be helped, the conference maintained a heavy focus on the acts of Jesus and it also gave an insight into what Christianity really is for those who had not experienced it before,” he said.

Accommodation for the TAS delegation was generously provided by Cranbrook School and Blue Mountains Grammar.

Bush boys get surf bronze

TAS may be 200km inland, but 20 Year 11 boys were presented with surf bronze medallions this term, recognising their completion of a year-long Activities program.

Surf life saving commenced at TAS in 1967, as the service component for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme introduced at the school earlier that year. For the past several years the program has been in partnership with the Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.

The boys learn rescue, resuscitation and defibrillation techniques, and gain an understanding of the ways of the ocean. They hit the beach on several days in Terms 1 and 3 each year and spend the winter months preparing for the theoretical component of the course and revising in the TAS indoor pool.

Surf Lifesaving coordinator Mr Jim Pennington said the course would not be possible without the great support of Sawtell SLSC, particularly club stalwart Dennis Meagher, who visited the school to present the boys with their surf bronze medallions at a school assembly.

As part of the association, the boys have helped with small maintenance projects to the clubhouse, and last year donated a new life members’ honour board.

Student voice in decision making

Students across Middle and Senior Schools have the means to express their views on a wide range of issues through the Students’ Representative Council.

The SRC is a conduit for canvassing younger students on opinions, as well as giving those in Years 8-11 a means to raise ideas and thoughts.

This year’s members are (left t- right) Nicholas Barnier (Year 8), Sam Marshall (9), Samuel Thatcher (10), Charlie Wyatt (11), Jarrod Bourke (11), Jim Orr (10), Nicholas Moar (9) and Henry O’Neill (8)

Nick Taylor and Clancy Roberts fill jars of peanut butter at the Loaves & Fishes restaurant for the homeless in Ashfield

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As part of the association, the boys have helped with small maintenance projects to the clubhouse, and last year donated a new life members’ honour board.

Student voice in decision making

Students across Middle and Senior Schools have the means to express their views on a wide range of issues through the Students’ Representative Council.

The SRC is a conduit for canvassing younger students on opinions, as well as giving those in Years 8-11 a means to raise ideas and thoughts.

This year’s members are (left t- right) Nicholas Barnier (Year 8), Sam Marshall (9), Samuel Thatcher (10), Charlie Wyatt (11), Jarrod Bourke (11), Jim Orr (10), Nicholas Moar (9) and Henry O’Neill (8)
TAS veterans remembered in University’s commemoration

The significant contribution of TAS Old Boys to Sydney University’s Great War ‘tally’ was evident at a special Anzac Day service at the university, recognising 100 years since the Gallipoli landing. Those attending the service, held in the main quadrangle, sang with the university’s Memorial Carillon—which includes a bell donated by the TAS Old Boys’ Union.

On the quad lawn, named crosses were planted for the 202 university alumni who never returned; poignantly, crosses for two TAS Old Boys and residents of St Paul’s College, AEH Cooper (TAS 1908-13, died Messines, France 1917) and HWH Rawson (TAS 1904-06, died Beaumont, France 1918) had been coincidentally placed next to each other.

More permanently, on the main war memorial under the clock tower entrance to the university’s main quadrangle, ‘The Armidale School Forty Six Old Boys’ is the lead inscription. As part of its’ commemorations of the First World War, the university’s Archives Centre also developed a sophisticated website Beyond 1914 which profiles the war service of all Sydney University students in the First World War. Click on ‘The Armidale School’ (http://beyond1914.sydney.edu.au/institution/4555/the-armidale-school) and up will come a directory of all TAS Old Boys who went on to Sydney University and served in WWI, with an interactive map showing where they served.

Hallmark qualities the legacy of Anzac

It may have been a failure, but the Gallipoli campaign left a legacy because of the incredible spirit and courage of soldiers from fledgling armies with limited training and naive expectations, the guest of honour at The Armidale School’s Anzac Day service believes. Major General Iain Spence CSC RFD said despite the failed attempts by both sides to break the stalemate, the baking summer, the freezing winter, the flies, the constant sickness, and a steady stream of casualties, the Anzacs held on until evacuating in December 1915, having performed at least as well as their British and French allies who had centuries of tradition and experience.

“How did they achieve this? I would suggest that is was basically because of the four qualities which the Australian Army today uses as its core qualities: courage, initiative, respect, and teamwork,” the Head of Cadets Reserves and Employer Support Division said.

The moral courage to question authority and say ‘no’ to something known to be wrong reflected a sense of fairness that made this characteristic more common among the Anzacs than others on the peninsula he said.

With Anzac Day falling in term time, the TAS community was able to commemorate on the day itself, at a school service at 7.00am and later, with the 260-strong TAS Cadet Unit participating in the Armidale Anzac service in Central Park. Continuing a decades long tradition, a 16-man TAS Ceremonial Guard provided the catafalque party for the services at TAS, Dangarsleigh and Armidale.

The TAS service included the reading of the names of 103 old boys and staff who have given their lives in service of the nation from the Boer War to the present, including the three Sandilands brothers who all lost their lives in World War II and, most recently, Lt Michael Fussell who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008.

Pictured left is Ethan Monk performed Guard duties at Dangarsleigh
Excursion Week

Across eight year groups, students were far and wide engaging in physical, cultural and historic experiences as part of annual Excursion Week in the second week of term. Year 10 went to Canberra, which included visits to Old Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sport, and Australian Defence Force Academy.

For Year 9, the focus was on marine eco-systems, with time at the Yarrahappini Ecology Centre and at Coffs Harbour. Sydney was the destination for Years 6 and 8. The Year 8 program included a language day (French or Japanese activities, depending on their subject), exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW, going behind the scenes at the ABC studios, and a moving visit to the Jewish Museum.

An addition this year was a trip to the Sydney Trapeze Centre, where students swung from a high wire. They also cheered on the gymnastic prowess and fearlessness of Visual Arts teacher Mr McPherson, who proved he really was a daring young man on the flying trapeze, confidently launching himself from one trapeze through the air into the hands of a trapezier on another.

Meanwhile the Year 6 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.

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 the Exodus Outdoor Adventure Centre at Buccarumbi, on the Nymboida River.

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.
French in Transition

Since January, young Frenchwoman Audrey Panon has been living and working at TAS where she assists students from Transition to Year 12 with language and cultural studies. In Transition, she reads French stories and sings ‘des comptines’, which are songs for little children. The four year old girls and boys have been very curious about France and Mlle Audrey. They have learnt about another culture as well as hearing another language spoken regularly.

“So far, the kids have sung a French song at their Assembly twice and I was really proud of them. I help the kids to pronounce and memorize French words by writing, singing, speaking and drawing,” she said.

Fitting in neatly into the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program theme ‘How we Express Ourselves’, other learning activities have included ‘La Boîte Mysterieuse’ (The Mysterious Box) and a unit on interpreting our environment through ‘Les 5 Sens (the five senses). Not only are the children learning language, Mlle Audrey helping them understand, through sight and sound, how those of another culture also use language to decode their environment. And all this to children who have yet to start their formal schooling!

Leaders learn more

Junior School Year 5 House leaders took a new step during the term, attending a leadership conference attended by students from schools across the region. The conference focussed on some of the elements of good leadership, with topics including: Making the most of Leadership Opportunities, Being Generous with Leadership, Looking for Opportunities to Lead, and Developing your Leadership Plan.

Head of Junior School Ian Lloyd said he was looking forward to implementing some of the ideas that came out of the conference, as Junior School continues to focus on this important part of student life.

Excursion Week far and wide

The importance of not confining learning experiences to an indoor classroom environment was plainly evident during Excursion Week. There was so much to be learnt and as students and staff rubbed shoulders with each other (and sometimes students from other schools) in a wide range of activities, they learnt much about themselves and each other.

Year 5 went to Myuna Bay, Years 4 and 3 were at Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre where they took part in archery, canoeing, damper making and rope activities, and Year 2 visited Saumarez Homestead. Years 1, Kindergarten and Transition also had outings during the week, in many cases overcoming challenges and achieving personal goals in the process.
Jonathan selected for state titles

Talented young distance runner Jonathan Harris will compete against the best cross country runners in the state at the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) All Schools titles in July, having finished third at the Combined Independent Schools championships at Eastern Creek, Sydney in June.

The Year 4 student ran 7.36 minutes over the 2000m, working his way from the very back of the 91 started to be fifth place at the 300m mark. Around a kilometre into the race he hit the front and remained in the lead until being passed on the final 100m stretch by the eventual first and second place-getters.

“I tried to find any tiny gap and work my way forwards and made my way to fourth when we came to a big hill. I do a lot of hill training with my coach, so I got into first position running up it, but once I was on the flat track got overtaken by the other boys, who just went flat out,” he said.

Jonathan and fellow Junior School student Jasper Russ were two of eight TAS students who were part of the 65-strong North Coast Independent Schools primary and secondary team at the championship, with Jonathan the only medallist from the group on the day.

Athletics is not his only talent or passion; at this year’s Armidale Eisteddfod, for instance, Jonathan gained four first places for performances on the cello and two in piano!

Fun at science circus bubbles over!

Learning by doing is engaging, relevant, challenging and significant. In June TAS Junior School hosted a visit from the Shell Questacon Science Circus, which certainly reflected this! Students learnt all about liquids, gasses and solids in highly interactive and engaging activities and demonstrations.

In it’s 30th year, the Circus continues to drive to inspire young people, primarily in regional areas of Australia, to value and engage in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), and the possibilities and varied career options these fields present. The show is presented by science graduates as part of a program partnered by the Australian National University.

It was clear our students got a lot out of it—and for Lance Latham, got a lot into it, pictured here inside a very large bubble!!

Reading in synch

Many of our Junior School children took to the library during Recess on 26 May to be part of this year’s National Simultaneous Storytime. They joined thousands of children across Australia at 11.20pm to read Aaron Blabey’s ‘The Brothers Quibble’—a book they found highly entertaining.

Now in its 15th year, National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books.

Special treats for Transition Mums

Students from Transition got a head start on Mother’s Day this year, spoiling their mothers with a special celebration.

They treated their special parents with a morning tea, a manicure and a nail polish. The children—including Oliver Robb pictured here with his mother Fiona—took great care to make sure their Mums were pampered in the way they deserved!
Respect and celebration the message from NAIDOC

Learning, respecting and celebrating are themes of NAIDOC Week that were vividly reflected in a number of special activities on the last day of Term 2.

At the annual Aboriginal Students Dinner in the school’s dining hall on 18 June, Aboriginal students hosted a non-Aboriginal friend and family members and were joined by Mr Steve Widders, Anaiwan elder and National NAIDOC Week Committee students’ member.

Mr Widders used State of Origin night as a metaphor for the importance of country, language and community in forging identity whilst at the same time, bringing together people of different cultural groups.

“The theme is We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate. We can’t change the past, but we can look to the future—and you boys, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, are the future,” he said.

Mr Widders also encouraged students to look beyond disadvantage and challenges to make their place in the world. In doing so, he cited the achievements Sir Douglas Nicholls, who was born on Cumeragunja mission on the Murray River, became an AFL player for Fitzroy and a Baptist minister, and was the first Aboriginal person to be both knighted and serve in a vice-regal office, as a Governor of South Australia. It was he who first proposed an annual day of recognition for Aboriginal Australians, that grew into NAIDOC Week.

“Great progress has been made, and there are now many Aboriginal lawyers, more than 300 Aboriginal doctors and others who succeeded because they had the opportunities. TAS is a school giving you boys great opportunities—and the fact that the Aboriginal flag flies on a daily basis in front of this school, says a lot about the heart and spirit of the school,” he said.

The TAS Aboriginal Students’ coordinator Barney Buntine outlined a program that included one on one homework assistance, Aboriginal language workshops, and recent cultural excursions to Sydney.

The next day, the whole school attended a special NAIDOC Assembly, led by the school’s 16 Aboriginal students who also performed two dances. Inverell-based Aboriginal artist Dennis Pitt and his son Dennis Jnr (Year 11) also presented to the school a large mural they painted together earlier this month.

The TAS students had also performed the previous day at a Junior School assembly, where they were joined by boys and girls from Minimbah School who led everyone in a fun rendition of the Wombat Wiggle.

Aboriginal boys take in Sydney

The studios of Koori Radio and National Indigenous Television (NITV), the Aboriginal Students’ Centre at the University of Technology Sydney and The Block in Redfern, were all part of a cultural visit to Sydney by the school’s Aboriginal students in June.

The visit engaged the boys with worthwhile cultural, academic, and life experiences that also sought to help support them for future careers.

The school is very grateful to those generous Old Boys and friends of the school who have given financial support to the Indigenous Student Support Fund, which made the Sydney excursion trip possible.

Earlier in the term, the boys supported by the Yalari Foundation attended the launch of the 2015 Yalari campaign in Sydney, where they were inspired by AFL players Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin. On a separate occasion at the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation’s launch, two students met with high profile individuals including the Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Pictured left: TAS students (back) Toby Markerink, Will Koraba, Blake Harradine, Bailey Widders, Maxie Qorovarua (middle) Kobi Hall, Josh McCormick, Samuel Jackson-Bolton, Leon Kelly (front) Richard Boney and Ben Smith, celebrated their Aboriginal culture in dance at the TAS NAIDOC Assembly on the last day of term
Board Director thanked

Relocation to Sydney for work has prompted retirement from the Board of Rob Tumeth (67-72).

Previously a solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Service, Rob is now working as a lawyer with the NSW Police Integrity Commission.

Rob commenced his time on the former School Council in 2002. At the time of his departure, he was one of five Board Directors elected by the Members of the TAS Company.

At his last meeting, Board chairman Sebastian Hempel presented Rob with a gift to thank him for his valuable service to the school.

Grant helps upgrade shooting program

The school’s rifle shooting program will be enhanced with a $10,500 grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation, which will go toward upgrading facilities at the school’s small-bore range at Meadowfield.

As part of the funding under the government’s Safe Shooting Program, the base of the target gallery will be concreted and lit, a security system installed, and a shipping container purchased for the storage of shooting equipment (but not firearms or ammunition).

The funding is part of an almost $40,000 project that is also being funded by the TAS Old Boys’ Union (through an ongoing appeal), Parents and Friends Association, TAS Rugby Supporters Group and TAS Foundation.

Preparations are going well for the All Schools and GPS competitions, with success for many shooters at the Southern Downs Prize Shoot at Warwick, Queensland, on 23-24 May.

The NSW All Schools and GPS competitions will be held in Sydney, in mid-July.

TAS a partner in new community garden

A new community garden supported by TAS will have a special focus on indigenous food, science and culture.

The East Armidale Community Garden, located on land on the edge of Doody Park oval, was officially opened on 23 May by celebrity gardener Costa Georgiadis, host of ABCTV’s Gardening Australia.

Among the featured artists at the opening was Year 11 TAS student Josh McCormick from Lightning Ridge, a talented didgeridoo player.

The project is the brainchild of a group of residents with a hope that the garden develops into a place where people come together to grow and harvest fresh fruit, vegetables, herbs, flowers, bush foods and native plants; connect with culture and community; share stories; celebrate Aboriginal science, knowledge and culture; and promote health and wellbeing.

Ground work on the project started on the site in March, and is part of re-generation work TAS has undertaken on the eastern side of the oval. In addition to the community garden being constructed on land owned by the school, TAS staff removed rubbish, cleared and rehabilitated the site, and provided clean fill for the garden’s planter boxes.

Headmaster Murray Guest said TAS is proud of its relationship with the east Armidale community and was delighted to be able to assist with offering land for the use of a community garden with a strong focus on sustainability.

Other partners are the Oorala Centre (UNE), TAFE New England, Jobs Australia, Best Employment, the Clontarf Academy (Armidale High School) and Minimbah School.

TAS students Josh McCormick and Jonathon Chamberlain with TV gardener Costa Georgiadis at the opening of the East Armidale community garden, located on the eastern side of Doody Park oval in Mossman Street
Lone Pine tree dedicated at Braund reunion

The dedication of a ‘Lone Pine’ tree at TAS on 4 May was a powerful highlight of a four day reunion for members of the Braund family, whose kinsman George Frederick Braund was killed at Gallipoli exactly one hundred years before.

Braund, who was the Liberal Member for the seat of Armidale, had been appointed to raise and train the 2nd Battalion, ultimately becoming one of two NSW parliamentarians to be killed in action at Gallipoli.

The dedication of the tree, a descendant of the Lone Pine tree at Gallipoli, was one of several activities held at TAS on the final day of a four-day reunion, which brought together 40 family members from as far as Western Australia and New Zealand. There was also a family chapel service, inspection of the TAS Honour Boards which include the names of family members and a talk about the TAS war memorial museum the Sandilands Studio by former deputy headmaster Grant Harris.

George Braund’s two sons were amongst more than a dozen other family members to have attended the school, including current students Lachlan Cameron and Alexander Fulloon.

Great to hear from Andrew Sypkens (90-96), who earlier this year married Gillian Rose Denison from Perth, a commerce/law graduate from the University of Western Australia. They both work in Melbourne, with Andrew’s architectural/project management jobs at present mainly involving building schools!

Also married this year (on 7 March) was Andrew John Cull (93-98), who tied the knot with Rochelle Bock, from Fullerton, California.

Edward Roberts (93-98) was a groomsmen and Anthony White (93-98) was MC. Andrew and Rochelle reside in Sydney where Andrew operates his property investment company Sound Property Group. Thanks to his mother Susan for passing this on.

Here and There

After making their ways in the world, four old schoolmates are now regularly catching up with each other, most recently at lunch at Mooney Mooney on the Central Coast, in March.

Clockwise from left: John Short (44-50), Jan Anthony, Haille Smith (48-50), Liz Short, Warwick Lewarne (45-49), Robin Lewarne, Quentin Anthony (44-50)

The wedding of Sam Dutton (90-96) and Kate Mulligan (NEGS) in the school chapel on Anzac Day 2015 was certainly very much a TAS affair! Sam is the son of Phillip Dutton (63-69) whilst Kate the daughter of Barbara and Fred Mulligan (49-57) and brother of Rob (91-97), who was MC at the reception at Petersons Winery and Guesthouse (Palmerston). Rev Bill Howarth (Chaplain and Staff 75-95) conducted the wedding service. The many Old Boys in attendance included Bill Skipper (51-55) and son Tom (86-91), Tim Carson (98), David Green (54-57), Pat Coupland (50-52), Sidney Williams (49-59), Michael Barnes (63-65), Andrew Moore (96-01), Randal Thomas (90-95), Cameron Little (84-90), and Loch Rogers (89, 93-94). Matt Miegel (90-97) was the photographer as well as Sam’s sister Olivia. People travelled from far and wide to help the couple celebrate their great day.

Congratulations

Hearty congratulations to Pat Bradley (70-73), TAS Business Manager and Rural Fire Service Group Captain (New England), who was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list. The award recognises Pat’s huge congratulations as a firefighter, training scenario manager and instructor both in Australia and in Botswana (as outlined in Binghi 164). Pat (below) is also heavily involved in the Rural Fire Service program at TAS, which dates from the late 1960s and continues to provide boys with the entry-level RFS qualification of Bush Firefighter (BF). The program would not be possible without the assistance of NSW RFS New England Zone, and also the Dumaresq RFS brigade.

Well done Pat on this highly deserved achievement.

Wrote Quentin: “The four of us were good mates right through our school days before making our separate ways in the world. I went to Papua New Guinea for many years and met Haille again when I invited him to be a groomsmen at our wedding in 1959. We did not meet again until August last year when the Bell Tower Society luncheon at the Australian Club brought us together. When by chance I recently discovered that John and I live quite close to each other on the Central Coast, that was enough to start the ball rolling,” he writes. “We are all in our 80s now and the clock is ticking, so we have promised to get together, with our wives, three or four times a year at different locations.”

John Short wrote separately, spurred by the news in Binghi 168 of the death of Tom Leckie (43-48), and the passing last year of Theo Hill (43-50): “I was also born in Ingham, north Qld in 1934; my father was...”

Current and former TAS students Alexander Fulloon, Ian Braund (43-48), Andrew Cameron (85-90), Lachlan Cameron, Hugh Cameron (52-59) and Tony Braund (48-53) were amongst those attending the Braund Family reunion.
the accountant at the CSR Sugar Mill Victoria Estate just outside Ingham. We were good friends with the Leckie family and Tom’s father Dr J Leckie delivered me at birth at the Ingham general hospital. As with Tom and his sisters, myself and my sister who went to NEGS travelled by train to Armidale by ourselves aged 10 and 12. In those days due to the different rail gauges one had to change trains at Wallangarra. We could only go home at Christmas due to war travel restrictions. I became very good friends with Theo Hill and used to go to his family’s property at Colly Plains Quirindi for school holidays. I am most indebted to the Hill family who made me feel so welcome as being thousands of miles from home it was nice to feel part of a family.” Now living in a retirement village at Gosford, John and Liz have travelled extensively; “retirement has not been dull”.

A parliamentary farewell
For some years George Souris (61-67) MP has hosted a lunch at NSW Parliament House for members of the Class of 1967—and with his imminent retirement from parliament, a large group marked the final lunch in the Speaker’s Dining Room on 20 February.

Left to right: Peter Williams (62-67), Richard Chaffey (62-65), Ian Moffatt (61-67), Rod Nicholls (64-67), John McIntyre (62-67), Rodger Martel (63-67), Bruce Jacob (65-67), Bill Thomson (60-67), Peter Johnstone (62-67), Rob Busby (63-68), George Souris (holding the fine decanter he was presented to mark the occasion), Duncan Stuart (64-66), Lindsay Collison (63-65), Don McRae (63-64), Jon Taylor (62-67), Col Noon (62-67), Fr Don Cowan (Staff 60-63, 69-72), James Croft (59-67)

Speeches were made by Fr Don, who also offered Grace, and by George. He reflected, among other things, on the start that his involvement in the many extracurricular pursuits at TAS gave him, in particular for his ministerial career which at various times included The Arts, Leisure and Tourism, and most recently, Gaming & Racing. Don Cowan, housemaster of Dangar House (Junior School) during George’s time there (1961-62), made the trip from Auckland for the occasion, and later travelled to Armidale to revisit the school.

While in Tasmania, Rob Busby (63-68) managed to gather up five other Old Boys from across three decades for a casual lunch. Below: Matt Skalicky (78-79), Rob Busby, Peter Vyner (50-56), Campbell Heather (65-68) (visiting from Bowral) and Tim Davis (58-64). Apologies were received also, from the following Tasmanian Old Boys: Tim Schmidt (75-89), James Connah (82-87) and John Perrott (80-83).

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

John James Tuit (51-52) passed away peacefully on 4 January 2015 in Mudgee after suffering Motor Neurone Disease for three years. Much loved by his wife Marguerite, his children Antony (76-79), Nicholas (78-81), Sophie and Anna and their wives and husbands, Christina, Diana, Dan and Gareth. John was a proud grandfather of 10. John always considered himself a TAS boy after spending only his last two years in Armidale. He had fond memories of TAS and maintained lifelong friendships with many of this TAS school mates including Will Penfold (50-53) and Jim Alker (46-53). John spent much of his life in Merriwa and Mudgee. Thanks to his son Nick for this contribution.

On another somber note: we’ve been made aware of the peaceful passing on 13 April of Richard Vernon Way (33-35), formerly of Moorooka and Yeerongpilly. Aged 96, he was one of our most senior Old Boys. Richard was an RAAF pilot with 38 Squadron in World War II and some of his subsequent career was spent with P&O.

Dr Reginald William ‘Silky’ Hudson (39-46), passed away on 6 May at Broadbeach, Qld. Born in 1929 at Punchbowl, Sydney, he moved with his parents to Guyra, where his father set up a dental practice. On leaving TAS he followed his father’s career completing his Dentistry degree at the University of Sydney and then marrying and settling in Armidale. He was in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and posted to Manus Island Papua New Guinea from about 1955 to 1960. Following his divorce in 1975, Reg (below) moved to Surfers Paradise to join a dental practice and remained until he retired around 1992. During this period he gained his private pilot’s licence, which gave him much pleasure. Our sympathies to his family; his daughter Vicki Hudson (hudell@xtra.co.nz) has advised she would be grateful to hear from any of his contemporaries who may have a story to share.
Mo’s milestone

Our oldest old boy makes his ‘ton’

Cricket lover Spencer ‘Mo’ Witten OAM (31-32) reached the score of a century on 7 May, and TAS was delighted to be represented at his 100th birthday celebration at Richardson House, in Barraba. Mo is believed to be our oldest Old Boy. After TAS he returned to Barraba, “where I’ve stayed ever since”—contributing richly to his community through Rotary, the Red Cross, the Masonic Lodge, as chairman of the Barraba Hospital Board for 30 years and also for a period, as vice president of Barraba Shire Council.

Mo’s four sons David (54-58), Robert (TAS 57-61), Geoffrey (60-64) and Ian (68-73) all attended TAS, as well as grandsons Daniel (88-93) and Timothy (90-95) and various other family members. Fittingly, he boasts two cricket teams of descendants—11 children and 11 grandchildren.

At his special celebration he shared with the Headmaster and Binghi some recollections of his time at TAS, and cricket.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my two years at TAS. My brother, who suffered from asthma, only lasted two days because of the cold; and Armidale can get cold. I remember one year on the 14th of December, we had a frost, and that is pretty chilly. We had cold showers when I first went, but they have hot showers now.

“I am still interested in cricket. I played in the Seconds, I wasn’t much good, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. We played several Sydney schools: Shore came up every year, Sydney Grammar, St Joseph’s College, and then the Armidale (TAS) team also travelled. We also played local teams, and De La Salle College (now O’Connor Catholic College). De La Salle and TAS didn’t get along—it was always very serious business when it was against De La Salle!

“I can’t remember who we were playing, but I remember I took a good catch fielding down at fine leg, running around the boundary and took the catch left handed, high up in the air, and the umpire gave him not out because he said I had one foot outside the boundary! I was a bit hostile, I was very proud of that catch,” he chuckled.

In later years, Mo had the honour of watching Bradman make a good score, and was not disappointed.

“A fellow from Queensland, I think his name was Morris, had the same score and when he came to 254 he just tossed the ball up to a fieldsman and walked off. He wasn’t going to make more runs than Bradman!”

Mo, who was in Abbott House, also clearly remembered another sporting event.

“One of my friends was a fellow named Johnston. We got into trouble—we ran in the 880 yards race, and neither of us could run an 880, so we finished a dead heat for last. We got sent to the Headmaster who gave us a lecture and said, ‘you must always try!’ Otherwise I was fairly well behaved; TAS was a good school as far as discipline was concerned.”

Mo Witten shares some TAS memories with Headmaster Murray Guest, at his 100th birthday celebration

UN Ambassador will be OBU dinner guest

Dinner guest: The OBU is delighted that Robert Aisi (70-75) has accepted the invitation to be guest speaker at the OBU Dinner during Old Boys Weekend (14-16 August). For the past 13 years, Robert has been based in New York, as the Papua New Guinean Ambassador to the United Nations. Robert, who was one of a number of Papua New Guineans to attend TAS funded by a scholarship from Shell, is a lawyer who has worked in various capacities in his home country, as well as for UNESCO in France. (Please note the time of the dinner is now 7pm, not 7.30 as previously stated).

Organ concert: A further addition to the weekend’s program has been announced: master organist Warwick Dunham has agreed to showcase the brilliance of the new organ in Memorial Hall (gifted by an anonymous Old Boy and his wife last year) at a special concert at 1.00pm. All are welcome; free admission.

OBW details: For all information on Old Boys Weekend, including booking to events, please go to www.tasobu.com.au

Sydney Long Lunch

The Menzies Hotel in Sydney has been confirmed as the venue for the Sydney Branch’s second Long Lunch event, to be held on Friday 21 August. Special guest will be rising star of stage and screen Ben Mingay (92-95) who will be introduced by a master of the craft, Peter Cousins (69-73). Details: Paddy Flower pflower@bigpond.net.au or to book, go to www.trybooking.com/144741

We always enjoy hearing what Old Boys are up to. Email any news snippets to binghi@as.edu.au or to Binghi, c/ The Armidale School, Locked Bag 3003 Armidale 2350.