INSIDE:

IT'S ACADEMIC
TAS hosts hallmark regional events

PASSING OUT PARADE
Departing cadets thanked for their service

OLD BOYS' WEEKEND
Hundreds return to TAS for reunions
IN THIS ISSUE

From the Headmaster 2
Valedictory Day 3
Co-ed update 4

Academic Focus
- da Vinci an academic hallmark event 4
- Student success in Humanities competitions 4
- Brain Bee Challenge 4
- Let’s Hang It 5
- Satellite technology installed 5
- Forensic Science Camp 6
- Student work nominated for OnStage 6

Co-curricular life
- Twilight a musical showcase 8
- Honours awardees 8
- Chess team to State finals 9
- Public speakers take to podium 9
- GPS Shooting 10
- Rugby season wraps up 10
- Hockey gains momentum 10
- Footballers the local premiers 11
- An NCIS Tennis champion 11
- Athletes make the dais 11

Wellbeing
- Batyr group inspires students 12

Leadership, Service & Adventure
- Record team to City to Surf 12
- Passing Out Parade 12

Junior School News
- TEZ to TAS 14
- Netball success 14
- Staff visit IB school 14
- ICAS success 14
- Storyteller captivates Year 1 14
- Computational Thinking workshop 15
- Students initiate fundraising 15

TAS Foundation 16

Old Boys’ News 17-20

Engagement develops good habits and purpose in life

It has long been the understanding at TAS that the earliest Oxford Dictionary definition of education remains the most relevant today; that education is training for life. This belief drives our commitment to presenting experiences that might assist our students as they tackle all that the future will throw at them. At its essence is the understanding that education has the potential to help instil habits that define good character; the choices that will define the adults our students are to become.

This is evident every term, but it is particularly apt to refer to it now. Over the past term TAS students have managed academic commitments, including exams and assessments for our seniors, alongside the considerable demands that our winter sporting season presents, cadet passing out parade, Creative Arts gala evenings, Old Boys’ Weekend, public speaking and debating competitions and the da Vinci Decathlon, and all without any visible sentiment that this might be too much for teenage boys. That so many have followed on to join holiday opportunities overseas working in service in Fiji or Thailand, trekking the Kokoda Track, representing the School at the Round Square International Conference or extending their Visual Arts and French language capacities gives good reason to believe that resilience and capacity for challenge continue to carry weight at our school.

Inherent in the work of TAS staff who provide these opportunities is that healthy, positive and demanding experiences like these develop habits that will feature in adult life and that is our purpose. This is why sport is compulsory at TAS and so much is on offer. It is also why so much attention is given to activities in music and the Hoskins Centre and adventurous outdoor challenges are pursued with such determination. It is also why service to others, both at home and further afield, is so much a part of our school life.

While the integrity of the habit of service to community without expectation of reward cannot be challenged, the means by which schools pursue it often is. Supporting indigenous schools or communities can be labelled as patronistic, working with charities that support the homeless as tokenistic and, most recently, there has been public argument that school visits to orphanages overseas are damaging rather than helpful. The pessimistic mindset inherent in these positions does little to advance the cause of either those being supported or the lifetime habits they can embed in those supporting. Beyond the myriad examples of good being done, that there is a need for assistance and a natural willingness from the next generation of stewards of our world to help, should be enough.

Kurt Hahn, whose inspiration was behind the formation of the Round Square movement, spoke of the importance of young people being compelled into experience. The experience seen at TAS would suggest a more optimistic view is in order. The appetite to take on challenge and to serve others has never been greater at TAS and the positive impact this has on the education and future lives of our students is palpable.
Find freedom amidst focus, Oxford-bound Old Boy says

An Oxford university-bound young research scientist who grew up on a sheep farm at Walcha believes if he had set that as a goal at his own school graduation, it may never have happened.

Telling Year 12 students and their families at Valedictory Day, former TAS senior prefect Robbie Oppenheimer (03-08) said it was wagging university lectures to go on a field trip to Central Australia that gave him freedom to find his true passions.

“Volunteering to go on that expedition, sitting around the campfire chatting about the complexity of one of the most volatile eco-systems in the world, helped me rediscover my love of learning about nature and science – and suddenly it felt OK to approach professors and to start my own research projects when I returned.”

This included putting together a team of students which funded a project to genetically engineer microbes that would degrade a groundwater pollutant – a project they presented at Massachusetts IT, in Boston, USA. Armed with confidence, Robbie then met with the NSW Chief Scientist and successfully lobbied the State government to create an annual $100,000 grant to fund student-driven research.

Later, he co-captained Team Echidna, a research team from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute which programmed DNA to detect disease by lighting it up, which won the grand prize at a competition at Harvard University.

His next challenge is a PhD in Synthetic Biology at Oxford University.

“If I had aimed towards where I am now when I was sitting where you are, it would have changed everything. I wouldn’t have travelled on a gap year; I would have gone straight to uni, picked different subjects, worked my butt off, narrowed my focus, never skipped class or taken a risk,” he said.

“There are surprises and accidents and discoveries and opportunities that you will miss if you’re blinded by a vision of what you’re meant to become. If you can be free of your preconceptions about the world and about who you are, then you will see opportunities every day to question, to explore, discover, and innovate. There are so many rich experiences waiting for you and I hope that they’re full of surprises.”

In toasting the School, Deputy Senior Prefect Nick Finney said that the diversity of the year group was one of its’ greatest strengths.

“As they teach us in Geography, the greater the diversity of species within an ecosystem the greater the level of resilience. Our year group performed strongly across the board throughout our schooling career, with a wide range of achievements in co-curricular activities, academia and leadership only as a result of the broad range of interests and activities that each of us uniquely held,” he said.

“However it is through the staff at TAS that our experiences, both academic and in co-curricular activities could have been achieved. Their willingness to offer advice, help, and encouragement are things that have been appreciated by all.”

The luncheon was the culmination of several farewells including a trip to the coast, House dinners, and the traditional valedictory walk along the drive lined by students to their final assembly.

Robbie’s address will be published in full in the 2015 The Armidalian.

There are so many rich experiences waiting for you...
Co-ed news – developments continue apace

The school’s move towards full co-education is continuing to gain momentum, with several key milestones occurring during Term 3, including the enrolment of four day girls who will commence Year 12 studies at the beginning of Term 4.

A Melbourne-based advertising agency with a client list including blue-ribbon schools, was engaged to devise a marketing campaign that was rolled out across television, print and other platforms, visualising the future of TAS. The result was encapsulated in the slogan ‘TAS – The one for all’. Alongside the formal advertising campaign has been extensive media interest, including an article in the Sydney Morning Herald about TAS being the first GPS school to become co-educational, that was read by an estimated 64,000 people (according to the Herald’s own figures) and prompted national discussion on the issue of co-education.

The message that TAS is open for business for secondary girls was taken to the various education expos, trade shows and information sessions in centres large and small that TAS has attended for many years, including Boarding Schools Expos in Dubbo, Tamworth and Goondiwindi; the Australian Trade Cotton Show in Narrabri; Nyngan Ag Expo, Ag Quip at Gunnedah, and in Sydney at the Country and Regional Living Expo at Homebush and the North Shore Independent Schools Expo in Chatswood.

On 13 August TAS held a successful Co-education Expo in the Hoskins Centre, at which prospective families of both girls and boys had the opportunity to ask key staff from across the school about their areas of responsibility. Attendees heard about the School’s implementation plans and toured the school. They also witnessed the unveiling of the new girls’ uniform which was designed with the school’s personality in mind – a place that respects its heritage and traditions but is active, independent, contemporary and practical.

Depicted in the photo above, the senior secondary girls uniform features the striped blazer, blue skirt and white blouse (formal and winter), a striped dress that is the summer uniform for all girls Years 6-12, and a straw hat. The winter and formal uniform for girls in Years 6-10 has been designed to complement the boys’ uniform, and features a grey skirt and navy blazer with straw-coloured piping.

Following the Expo, TAS hosted Girls’ Day In, an informal lunch for girls and their families to come together in a relaxed setting to learn more about each other. Then at a Girls’ Experience Day in September, around 24 girls from as far as Sydney had an immersive look at TAS life, in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. The day was a great success and a second will be held on Friday 22 October for those who couldn’t make the first, and others who have more recently expressed an interest in enrolling at TAS.

At the same time, the School has been recruiting a Girls’ Education Director, an executive position responsible for the academic, pastoral and boarding care of girls, who will report directly to the Headmaster.

Meanwhile building work continues as White House is extended to cater for all our Middle School boy boarders; renovations can then begin to convert Dangar House for girls’ boarding, while the current woodwork room (the former gymnasium) will become a senior common room for social and study purposes.

The School has been heartened by the strong interest from families wishing to give their girls the opportunities of a TAS education; any prospective parents should contact the Enrolments Office.
da Vinci Decathlon now a flagship academic event

A team of Year 5 students followed up their success at the da Vinci Decathlon academic challenge at Knox Grammar earlier this year by winning their section at the Northern NSW satellite event hosted by TAS this term.

More than 600 students in 75 teams from primary and secondary schools from as far as Moree, Dubbo and Coffs Harbour attended the third Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon, held from 26-28 August. The titles were shared around the regions schools.

Devised by Knox Grammar School in Sydney, 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.

Organiser Ms Catherine Boydell said it was fantastic success and already there were plans for a bigger event next year.

“We’re really hoping to be able to have some combined teams next year so clever students from the very small schools can join together, to ensure that any children with ability, no matter what school they attend, can take part,” she said.

We are indebted to Knox Grammar for allowing us to deliver the competition in regional NSW, which is a fantastic academic outreach opportunity particularly to the primary school participants.”

Student success in academic competitions

Students have chalked up some solid success in national competitions. Of the 93 students who sat this year’s National Geographic Australian Geography Competition, 28 achieved a High Distinction – the best result for the School for some years and one that speaks very positively about the strength of the School’s Geography program.

Meanwhile 50 boys from Years 8 and 10 sat this year’s Australian History Competition with seven being awarded a High Distinction – another pleasing result.

Congratulations are also in order to two boys for gaining Distinctions in the ICAS Spelling competition, which was undertaken by Middle School students.


Far left – History: Harry Mason, Thomas Price, Flynn Charley-Briggs, Mitchell Cartwright, Caton Lupica, David Wu, Sam Kealey were awarded High Distinctions in the Australian History Competition.

Left – ICAS Spelling: Jack Nivison, Matthew Wark
New base station a boost for school

The installation of a new Global Navigational Satellite System (GNSS) base station at TAS will not only improve the accuracy of satellite-based mapping, but provide an invaluable educational resource for students.

Installed by NSW Public Works, the antenna and receiver are one of five to be installed in NSW schools that form part of CORSnet-NSW, a network of GNSS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) located around the state with data links to NSW Land & Property Information. Currently the network has 157 stations spread across the State with around 200 planned over the coming years.

As part of the rollout, a GNSS in Schools project has been funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Geoscience Australia with the aim of promoting student engagement in geoscience through the integration of research and education and encouraging students to consider surveying and related geospatial sciences as a potential career.

In addition to the infrastructure, the school received an education package including access to GNSS signals from the entire CORSnet-NSW network and a number of hand-held Garmin GPS receivers for use in the school’s academic and co-curricular programs.

Students take Brain Bee Challenge

Hugh Worsley and Mitch Cartwright (Year 10) were successful in getting to the regional finals of the Australian Brain Bee competition at the University of Western Sydney Campus in Campbelltown on 16 July, alongside around 100 other bright students from across the state.

To get this far the boys competed a multiple choice quiz online, and had to be in the top 11 per cent of the 1276 participants that took part.

At the Challenge they were then tested on content from a 100 page booklet all state finalists had been given, about the brain and its function. The students could be tested on anything from the booklet, but nothing that wasn’t included. The best nine competitors went through to the final round where the top three were then identified.

Whilst our boys did not make it through, the boys also enjoyed practical activities during the morning before they watched the final round of the competition unfold.

Artworks selected for schools’ exhibition

Very different works by two TAS students were among 60 selected for hanging from more than 700 submitted for this year’s Let’s Hang It, the UNE Schools Acquisitive Art Prize exhibition at the New England Regional Art Museum.

Year 11 student Dennis Pitt (below) was awarded a Highly Commended in the senior secondary school section for a self portrait, the first time Dennis had used the charcoal medium.

“I thought I’d try something new; I had never done a self portrait and didn’t want to do too much detail. First we were photographed wrapping ourselves up a sheet to make for an interesting composition, and drew from that – I found the charcoal easy to work with and it brought out the acrylic paints well.”

Will Forsyth was a finalist in the junior secondary school section with a photograph called Finally, of a drought-breaking storm on his family’s property at Croppa Creek in north-west NSW.
Bright young minds spent holiday solving crime

For Kieran Dennis and Liam Smith, the winter school holidays were far from boring as they worked hard to solve a crime. The two Year 8 TAS students were joined by 70 other boys and girls from 24 different department and independent schools in cities and country towns in four states and territories at the 19th TAS Forensic Science Camp.

At the camp, participants were divided into groups and then solved fictitious felonies using a range of forensic techniques, including microscopy, chromatography, fingerprint analysis, cryptography and general science. They analysed the evidence, identified and interviewed the suspects, ordered medical and scientific tests and searched criminal databases. On the final day, the teams presented their committal cases to a legal professional who determined if they were strong enough to go before a court.

The camp is run by older students (including six from TAS) who have previously taken part – some developing the crime scenarios (the ‘controllers’), some managing the event itself. Two staff attended, but only in a supervisory role.

“Our scenario involved a break-in and a murder. We had to test hair samples, blood from a knife, and fingerprints – all tested in the science labs using a variety of methods that helped us send our suspect to gaol!,” Kieran said.

“I really enjoyed the camp. I made some great friends who I am now keeping in touch with, and the crime solving was very exciting especially getting new evidence every day. I would recommend it to anyone who likes science or even if they don’t.”

This year’s camp made the Sydney Morning Herald, thanks to a visit from one of the newspaper’s journalists.

Student Drama work nominated for OnStage

For some people the fear of buying dark chocolate may be about the effect on one’s waistline. However for someone with severe social anxiety and agoraphobia, venturing outside at the request of your psychologist becomes about a whole bunch of other things as well.

Having acted out the challenges for his HSC Drama assessors, Year 12 student Calliden Hunter was thrilled to learn that his individual performance of Pete Malicki’s monologue *Shallow, Quick* has been nominated for OnStage, which showcases the best HSC major works in Drama.

“When I stumbled across this piece online I knew immediately that it was something I could play to my strengths,” Calliden said.

“As I’ve had my own struggles with social anxiety I thought it would be funny to ramp this up for my performance. It’s a very fast and comedic script, so one of the biggest challenges in learning it was being able to speak very rapidly without getting completely tongue-tied.”

Around 60 works from students from across NSW have been nominated for OnStage, with the finalists announced later in the year.

Calliden Hunter’s portrayal of an agoraphobic who braves the outside world in pursuit of chocolate has been nominated for the HSC Drama showcase OnStage.
Twilight showcase of musical breadth and depth

Bagpipes to strings, drums to anthems of praise – the breadth and depth of musical talent at TAS featured in a special showcase at the Hoskins Centre this term. From the opening numbers by the new TAS Pipes and Drums ensemble to the TAS Huge Band made up of young instrumentalists from Years 2-5 performing alongside senior students in the Big Band and Senior Jazz Combo, the TAS@Twilight concert did not disappoint. Other groups to take to the state were the TAS Singers, Junior Vocal Ensemble, Chapel Choir, TAS Camerata, The FanTAStics, and the school’s Big Band, Senior Jazz Combo and Guitar Band, who thrashed out some electric hits from decades past.

The grand finale was a mass combined vocal rendition of Paul Jarman’s The Long White Sails which included the audience.

Of particular mention were the performances by Year 12 HSXC Music students Robert Butcher, Calliden Hunter, Harry Williams and Harry Wright, who performed their pieces ahead of their practical examinations.
Chess players off to State titles

The school’s undefeated First IV Chess team has made the State finals of the NSW Junior Chess League after winning their final round of the New England North West regional competition at TAS on 24 August.

The final result of three boards to one did not reflect how tight the competition was against opponents St Mary’s of Gunnedah who notched up the first win of the day. While TAS students Harry Pollard and Joshua Stevenson won the next two boards, the rankings meant the ultimate result hung in the balance and it was all up to TAS chess captain Ali Ahsan - who after a nerve wracking game lasting 90 minutes, won the top board, and the day for the hosts.

“Losing that first board in a quick game put a lot of pressure on us and it was a close call. Last year we lost our first round so went into the second tier pool, but the games this year have been really challenging, which has been great,” said Ali, who plays chess everyday including lunchtime games against teammates.

It was the sixth consecutive league win for the team, following fixtures against O’Connor Catholic College, Oxley High School (Tamworth), Farrer MAHS, Holy Trinity School Inverell and Inverell High School.

The State finals will be in Sydney sometime in November.

“Hopefully it will be after the HSC exams have finished, so Joshua and I can represent the school one last time,” Ali said.

Ali Ahsan, Joshua Stevenson, Harry Pollard and Charlie Wyatt get in some more practice ahead of the State titles of the NSW Junior Chess League having been undefeated in the New England North West regional competition this year.

Procrastination oration delivers Will speaking honours

After a week of putting off starting his entry in the senior school public speaking competition, Will Davis looked to his resignation for inspiration – and only hours later delivered an amusing reflection on procrastination that won him the title.

At a whole school assembly on 25 August, Will put fear into the hearts of the staff and reassurance into the minds of students, as he championed delay tactics and professed the power of prolonging.

“Procrastination is just another form of prioritisation. Without ‘the last minute’, we procrastinators would never get anything done,” he said. “To quote Oscar Wilde – never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.”

Will’s win for Croft House was not the only thing with a hint of irony; the power of the underdog was the subject of a strong speech by the only Year 11 speaker, Ben Moffatt of Abbott; meanwhile the senior student cadet Nicholas Finney, drew on the Tao philosophy of profound peace in his dissertation on Conflict and Violence, for Tyrrell.

The international language of music, values and mateship and the journey of purpose rounded out the themes explored.

Headmaster Murray Guest adjudicated and only three marks separated first from sixth.

Croft House also won the Middle School public speaking competition, with Tim Cimino speaking about the dichotomy of fire as both a life giver and destroyer. The Middle School students were given a visual source which they could interpret however they liked; the references included the rock band Kiss, a pile of books, and an animated Minion character.

Will and Tim’s win helped propel Croft House to win the Clemson Cup for inter-house competition in public speaking and debating.

Towards the end of term, TAS hosted, for the first time since 2009, NEGS & PLC for debates in Years 9-11. Success was shared between the schools, with some very solid individual performances. The final debating fixtures for the year will be when NEGS hosts the third round of Middle School Tri-Schools Shield in Term 4.
Strong defence in GPS rugby

Term 3 provided some wonderful exhibitions of schoolboy rugby, with teams from Opens to 13 years playing a range of fixtures against local and Sydney schools.

For the third year, the TAS First XV competed in the GPS Thirds competition, comprising the number one teams from TAS, Sydney Grammar and Sydney Boys’ High, and the Thirds from the remaining six GPS schools.

In addition to the annual visit from Sydney Boys’ High (which includes a range of sports), TAS this year hosted St Ignatius College Riverview, The King’s School and St Joseph’s College for the last home game of the season which was also Old Boys’ Weekend.

TAS notched up wins against High, Riverview, Newington College and King’s, losses to Shore, St Joseph’s and Grammar and a draw in their final outing against The Scots College, 12-12.

TAS ended fourth on the table behind St Joseph’s, Grammar and Scots with 150 points ‘for’ and 94 ‘against’, but conceded fewer points than every team except St Joseph’s – reflecting the consistently good defence of the TAS outfit.

The draw for the GPS Thirds competition for 2016 has been finalised, with an earlier season to include games at TAS against High on 7 May (pre-season match), Grammar (14 May), Newington (18 June) and Shore (23 July).

Hockey builds momentum

This year has been one of the strongest seasons for TAS hockey in terms of participation, with six Junior teams and two Senior Men’s sides hitting the turfs throughout 2015.

Amongst the highlights were Will Brissett’s selection in the CIS NSW U18s Squad, five talented Year 7 boys assisting in taking the U13s NSW B Division State title, and a host of representative selections in both indoor and outdoor hockey. Two of our junior teams (U13s White and U16s) and our TAS Firsts B Grade sides made the 2015 semi-finals but were all unable to make it through despite some close contests.

At the TAS Hockey Club’s end of season presentation, players and families were inspired by the words of Hockey New South Wales Regional Coaching Coordinator and Selector Blair Chalmers.

The next day three boys played in the A Grade Mens grand final for Guyra and four TAS players were awarded Hockey New England Association awards.

The growth of the sport under MIC Mr Alex Portell has been substantial in the past two seasons, willingly supported by families and coaches and it is anticipated that the sport will only get bigger and better in coming years.

Ben Moffatt ready to launch a shot against Servies. Photo: Darrel Whan/Armidale Express

At the annual championships held at Hornsby Rifle Range, the team improved its ranking across competitions and disciplines, and while not coming home with a trophy, showed a strong development in skill and technique.

On the first day of competition the First VIII struggled with the Rawson Cup competition, shot at a 500m and 600m stage, and placed last. Later that day in the NRA Shield over 600m, a significant improvement resulted in a lift to fifth place, with only seven points separating them from the third place getters, and Burren Junction’s Cameron Holcombe only dropping seven points.

The second day of competition commenced with the Second VIII shooting a seven shot stage at 500m followed by seven shots at 300m for the GPS Seconds Premiership Shield. The team ranked fifth, only four points behind the second-place getter. Best of the TAS shooters was Henry Smith of Duri, who dropped only one point for the match with a score of 69-7 (possible 70). Smith was rewarded with elevation to the Firsts for that afternoon’s final match of the premiership, the Buchanan Shield, which involved a 300m eight-shot deliberate stage followed by a snap application. TAS ranked third in this match, narrowly beaten into second place by two points from The Scots College. Further ahead in first place was The King’s School, who ultimately won the overall premiership, with TAS placing fifth. “With many of the boys only in Year 9, TAS had the youngest team in the competition and their experience will augur well for the future,” MIC Shooting Mr Trevor Thatcher said.

Young shooting team grew through GPS championships

The performance of TAS shooters improved dramatically over the three days of this year’s GPS competition in July, benefitting from advice of some of the best in the business.

At a pre-competition camp, former Olympian David Hollister, current Australian coach Rick Ashton and veteran competitor Rob Bondfield assisted with coaching.

Young shooting team grew through GPS championships

The performance of TAS shooters improved dramatically over the three days of this year’s GPS competition in July, benefitting from advice of some of the best in the business.

At a pre-competition camp, former Olympian David Hollister, current Australian coach Rick Ashton and veteran competitor Rob Bondfield assisted with coaching.

Young shooting team grew through GPS championships

The performance of TAS shooters improved dramatically over the three days of this year’s GPS competition in July, benefitting from advice of some of the best in the business.

At a pre-competition camp, former Olympian David Hollister, current Australian coach Rick Ashton and veteran competitor Rob Bondfield assisted with coaching.

Young shooting team grew through GPS championships

The performance of TAS shooters improved dramatically over the three days of this year’s GPS competition in July, benefitting from advice of some of the best in the business.

At a pre-competition camp, former Olympian David Hollister, current Australian coach Rick Ashton and veteran competitor Rob Bondfield assisted with coaching.

Young shooting team grew through GPS championships

The performance of TAS shooters improved dramatically over the three days of this year’s GPS competition in July, benefitting from advice of some of the best in the business.

At a pre-competition camp, former Olympian David Hollister, current Australian coach Rick Ashton and veteran competitor Rob Bondfield assisted with coaching.
Footballers the competition premiers

The TAS First XI backed up its first ever Armidale District Football Association first grade premiership last year with a 3-0 victory over Guyra, at Doody Park on 12 September. Having had one draw and two losses against Guyra during the season, the schoolboys went into the grand final as underdogs but with plenty of spirit, buoyed by an early goal from Euan Spiers in the first five minutes and then a second from captain Hadrian Wright, taking the score to 2-0 within the first 10 minutes. A third goal from Angus Webber in the second half consolidated the victory for TAS. The result topped off a great season for football at TAS, with three of four opens teams making the semi finals two of which scored grand final berths (the TAS Dads going down 3-1 to Guyrα in the Fourth grade competition).

Meanwhile the 16As were both minor and major premiers in the 16s Division 1 competition.

This year TAS increased the depth of pre-season fixtures and entered 17 teams into the local ADFA competition, with seven making semi-finals or better.

Football MIC Mr Luke Polson paid tribute to TAS grounds manager Chet Davies and staff for curating the Doody Park fields where the grand finals were held and which are gaining a reputation as the best football fields in Armidale.

Nick takes out NCIS tennis age championship

Year 8 student Nicholas Barnier only dropped two games all day to take out the North Coast Independent Schools' tennis championship at Grafton on 2 September. Nicholas, from Gunnedah, won the junior (under 14s) age category, took on 23 other players and won seven pool matches, five of those 4-0 and the 3-1 in the other two. He then swept the court clean in the semis and the final, having a 4-0 victory in both.

The championships were held days after Nicholas was placed sixth in Tennis Australia's Junior Development Series Champion of Champions tournament at Inverell on 29-30 August, qualifying him for the NSW JDC titles in late October.

Other achievements for the TAS team included Will Waterson making the semi finals for the Opens, and three boys making quarter finals for their divisions – Joshua Miron (primary), Hunter Hine and Sam Wright (senior).

Athletes on the dais

Two athletes recorded strong performances at junior and senior Combined Independent Schools championships in Sydney in September.

Jonathan Harris (at left) is off to the NSW PSSA athletics titles having breezed home for a gold medal in the 10 years 800m in a personal best time of 2.30.43. This was almost three seconds faster than the next runner home and 12 seconds faster than his record breaking 2.42 run at the NCIS championships.

The gold follows his bronze at CIS cross country over 2km in June, and 12th placing in NSW All Schools in July.

At the secondary competition, Nic Ward threw 35.16m to take silver in the 14 years javelin. Nic's efforts secured him a spot in the (non-competitive) CIS Merit team.
Former student returns with mental health toolbox

Look out, get talking, listen up, reach out, take charge – these were the key messages for good mental health given to senior school students at TAS by a group of presenters committed to improving the wellbeing of young people.

The sessions, presented by the social enterprise Batyr, enabled students to hear stories from young people who have experienced mental ill health, and included tips and advice to empower them to make a difference in their own lives and others.

Amongst the group were former TAS senior prefect Jonathon Peatfield who facilitated the sessions, and Wallaby Paddy Ryan, one of the presenters. Named for an elephant claimed to be able to use a large amount of human speech, the group aims to “give a voice to the elephant in the room” and de-stigmatise mental health.

“I’ve sat where you boys are now, and as much as this is a pretty awesome school there are times when school is crap,” Jonathon said.

“What’s important is that you take what friendship means, here and beyond – be mindful of who you are, identify things that help you when you’re down, look after each other, and take charge of how you deal with it.”

TAS team of 83 set the pace in City to Surf

A boy from the Northern Territory and another from Scotland crossed the line at the same time to be the first of 83 runners from TAS home in this year’s 14km City to Surf footrace.

Jack Boydell, a Year 11 student from Darwin and classmate Sam Tullie from Berwickshire set off together in the ‘blue’ category which was the largest group of runners in the iconic footrace, but did not realise they were also together at the finish, making their way through different laneways.

“Three of us got to our starting line early so we could get a clear path, and this made a big difference as we didn’t have to run around everybody until we had caught up with the group in front,” said Sam, who took seven minutes off his time from last year.

“Jack got away from me through the first tunnel but I caught up with him on Heartbreak Hill. With all the different laneways at the finish, I actually didn’t know we crossed the line with the same time until we got the results.”

The TAS contingent of 83 included 74 boys, two staff, two fathers and a former student and friend, and was believed to be one of the largest school groups in the event. Almost 80,000 people entered this year’s race, which goes from Hyde Park to Bondi.

Another highlight of the trip was watching the Wallabies defeat New Zealand 27-19 at Sydney Olympic Stadium the evening before the race.

The event is part of the Triple Crown, a TAS award for those students who complete it, the 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim and the 111km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic during their time at the school.
Retiring cadets honoured at Passing Out Parade

Success starts with getting out of bed in the morning and having the discipline to get on with your tasks, the reviewing officer of The Armidale School Cadet Unit’s Passing Out Parade said.

Held on 11 September, the annual event, a spectacle marked by precision and ceremony, served to farewell the departing Year 12 cadets and acknowledge their service to the second oldest cadet unit in Australia.

Colonel Jeffery Squire, Director of Information Activities, Military Strategic Commitments Division, told the 200-strong parade that courage, initiative and teamwork were inter-connected Army values that would stand cadets well in later life.

“Throughout your life you will be confronted with situations where you are challenged to do what is right. This will require courage, and courage takes initiative. I put it to you that teamwork is the reason that you show courage and initiative, to make a contribution to others, for a cause bigger than yourselves,” he said.

Col Squire said one of the hardest things in life is having the discipline to get started particularly when there are no longer parents or teachers to help – which requires overcoming doubts and removing distractions.

“You are all very lucky to be students and cadets here. With this privilege also comes a responsibility to help others that are less fortunate than you and to never take what you have for granted. Your experiences through leadership courses, bivouacs, camps and ceremonial activities have prepared you to serve others – good luck on your journey.”

As part of the ceremony, Colonel Squire presented the Sword of Honour for the unit’s senior cadet to CUO Nicholas Finney, and the McConville Sword for the unit’s second in command presented to CUO Samuel Redhead.

Amongst those officially ‘passing out’ were 12 cadets in Year 12 who were acknowledged for their service to the unit. With the band playing Auld Lang Syne, they departed the parade ground in a ‘slow march’ as cadets stood to attention to pay their respects.

The annual parade was the final formal cadet parade for the year and was followed by a formal senior cadet and guard dinner attended by cadets and their parents.
**Staff hit the road to learn more about IB**

Junior School teachers spent the last day of term learning more about the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program at Hunter Valley Grammar School at Maitland. HVGS has just completed its own authorisation evaluation to become an IBPYP school, and the TAS Junior School staff immersed themselves in classes as TAS moves along the same path.

“Hunter Valley Grammar is 12 months ahead of us in their journey to become a PYP school and their invitation for us to observe what they are doing there is a great indication of the collegiality that exists between IB schools which are committed to offering the most innovative learning to students,” Head of TAS Junior School Ian Lloyd said.

“Utilising a golden opportunity says a lot about staff commitment and enthusiasm as we move to becoming a fully-fledged Primary Years Programme school.”

TAS staff observed classroom teaching, joined stage level meetings and spoke with the school’s PYP coordinator who facilitated a question and answer session.

---

**Japanese exchange reunites friends**

Feeding poddy kangaroos, handling slithery snakes, sharing learning experiences in the classroom: it may have been 18 years ago when primary students from Japan first visited TAS, but by the look of the joy on the faces of this year’s visitors, the attraction of some things doesn’t change.

Forty six students from Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School in Osaka got a taste of life at a school very different to their own this term, as part of an annual exchange between the two schools that is now heading into its third decade. Among the highlights were milking cows and feeding orphaned kangaroos at Harlow Park and Wayward Jersey, Uralla, a disco with TAS students, a visit to Armidale’s Aboriginal Cultural Centre and interaction with their host families.

“The exchange is reciprocated every year, and it is wonderful to see long lasting relationships form as children stay with each other’s families and indeed, even as TEZ teachers return to TAS 15 years later, having visited as a student on exchange themselves, many years ago,” Head of TAS Junior School Ian Lloyd said.

Tezukayama’s Principal Mr Arimura, who last visited TAS as a teacher 17 years ago, agrees.

“Osaka is a big city of 6 million people, so our children love the space and peace and natural beauty of Australia. The children have also experienced a very different school with lots of playing grounds and a small student to teacher ratio. Everyone has been very friendly and they will all remember their visit.”

---

**Good results in English competition**

There were pleasing results from Junior School students in this year’s ICAS English results, particularly a number of students who achieved Merit, Credit, Distinction or High Distinction certificates.

They include (clockwise from front): William Gilpin (C), Harry Pennington (D), Henry Kirton (C), Frank Perrottet (M), Harrison Price (C), Lachlan Costello, Marcus Hermpel (C), Jonathan Harris (C), Ruby Straker (C), Cameron Le Surf (M), Casey Smith (C), Will Jubb (HD) and Emily Buntine (C). Absent: Hugo Catterall and Conal Nicholl.
Student shares love of storytelling

According to a Dreamtime story of the Yularoi people, the Narran Lakes in north-west NSW were formed from hollows made by the writhing movements of a crocodile after it was speared for swallowing the two wives of an Aboriginal man named Byamee.

Year 11 student Sam Jackson-Bolton, an Aboriginal boarder from Lightning Ridge, had Year 1 students transfixed when he shared the story with them in their classroom.

As part of an International Baccalaureate Unit of Inquiry about Storytelling, the younger girls and boys were not just enthralled by the story, they were also learning about narrative and gaining an appreciation for the significance of storytelling in different cultures.

“Story telling is a core component in Aboriginal culture, tradition and society. It passes down ancient knowledge and law, and provides an opportunity for young Aboriginal people like myself to play my part in cultural customary obligations,” Sam said.

“Sharing some of these stories with the year one students hopefully gave them an insight into the world view of Aboriginal people – they were really good listeners and seemed to really enjoy it.”

Also visiting the classroom was retired teacher and librarian Mrs Annie Young, who entertained children with two stories for half an hour, using only her animated voice and face.

“It was really wonderful for the children to see the power of storytelling from two such different people, neither of them using a book. It showed the children the power of storytelling, of memory and communicating face to face,” Year 1 teacher Mrs Anne Trenerry said.

Raising funds for others

Junior School students raised $3582.90 this term for two very important causes.

An annual event of the Heart Foundation which Junior School has supported for many years, Jump Rope for Heart engaged all students who gained sponsorship for skipping rope. In total, $3,238.35 was raised. Later in the term boys and girls focussed on Daffodil Day for the NSW Cancer Council, proudly displaying $344.55 in a coin line that wound its way through the playground. It was a commendable effort, and also by Year 5 students Will Jobb, Hugo Catterall and Frank Perrottet who initiated and organised the Daffodil Day fundraiser.

Junior School students and teachers work together to build new knowledge

Anticipating the ratification of the Digital Technologies component of the Australian Curriculum announced on September 20, TAS Junior School has begun preparations in earnest.

Using funding provided by Google, TAS hosted a regional workshop on technology in Years 4 and 5, inviting interested teachers from Sydney, the north west and north coast of NSW and the University of New England. The two day workshop was organised by ICT educators NSW (ICTENSW), the peak body in NSW for educators using technology in their teaching.

The students led the Friday program, working in teams with the teachers and showing how they approached problem solving using computer programming for three open ended challenges.

Challenge one was to animate one or more on-screen characters to dance to the beat of an imported piece of music. For this they used a software program called Scratch, developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston USA.

The second challenge required moving a spanner to four separate locations on-screen to tighten four bolts in a specific sequence, while the third challenge introduced an electronic device called Makey Makey (another MIT invention) that plugged into the computer and took over the operations of a keyboard, so that touching a wire (or one connected to a banana!) would activate a response.

In the process, the students covered animation techniques, coordinate geometry, procedural and abstract thinking and electric circuits.

The teachers then worked the following day to devise units of work within the framework of the new curriculum, based on what they had seen. These units will be made available to teachers throughout the country for testing in classrooms, with evaluations shared at various education conferences in 2016.
**Another organ concert!**

After thrilling audiences at both a gala launch last year and at Old Boys Weekend, the magnificent new organ in the Memorial Hall will be showcased at another concert on 20 November.

The generosity of the donor – an Old Boy and his wife who share a love of music and its ability to uplift and transform – has been a tremendous legacy that has richly improved the musical tradition at the school, including at assembly each week. Further, the school’s organist Mr Warwick Dunham, now has his first organ scholar, Sam Thatcher in Year 10, who played at the Old Boys Weekend concert and has been called on for other playing duties from time to time.

So due to popular demand, the TAS Foundation is proud to announce a Summer Organ Recital to be held on Friday 20 November. Further details are yet to be announced, but all proceeds will go towards further refurbishment work of Memorial Hall.

**Thanks to our donors**

Given the flat economic conditions and rural areas still affected by, or in the early stages of recovering from drought, the response to this year’s Annual Giving appeal was most gratifying.

The Scholarships and Bursaries Fund received a considerable boost, there were additional donations to the Jim Graham Scholarship for a performing arts student, and the Indigenous Students Support Fund, an initiative of four Old Boys, continues to garner support to help our Indigenous students.

New to Annual Giving this year was the Old Boys Shooting Appeal, which the Foundation is managing on behalf of the OBU. This has attracted almost $18,000 from the Old Boy and shooting communities which has allowed new rifles to be purchased and contributed towards improvements at the School’s Meadowfield small bore range.

Finally, thanks must go to the many current parents who in addition to their fees, make a donation to the Voluntary Building Fund. They can be assured the money is being well spent; among the current projects utilising the fund are the extensions to White House for Middle School boys’ boarding, the refurbishment of Dangar House for girls boarding, and the upcoming transformation of the woodwork room (the previous gym) into a Year 12 study and social common room.

**Word of Mouth makes the page**

It was an afternoon of laughter, song and friendship when Jim Graham (staff, 55-98) celebrated the launch of his latest book, Word of Mouth at a gathering at his home at Macksville on 5 September.

The book, a compilation of articles, speeches and lectures written by Jim over 50 years, was borne from an idea of Old Boy Ian Johnstone (51-55) who officially launched the publication and made possible by one of Jim’s best known students, Peter Cousens (69-73).

Jim said he was initially reluctant to accede to Ian’s request, but did so after being convinced that would be of interest and historic merit.

The book is broken into several chapters: personal reflections, an observation of three Headmasters, after-dinner speeches at various Old Boys reunions, miscellaneous addresses, speeches to boys, and narratives about distinguished former students CC Dangar and PG Taylor. It also includes Jim’s Short History of TAS (to 2003).

The book is sure to be of interest to anyone who fell under the influence of the school’s ‘Mr Chips’.

The initial print run was only a small one and few copies remain. There may be a second small print run should there be enough demand; anyone wishing to purchase a copy should contact Cressida Mort, Director of Development at cmort@as.edu.au

Ian Johnstone (left) and Peter Cousens were the driving forces behind Jim Graham’s new book, Word of Mouth, which was launched at Macksville in September

---

*Ian Johnstone* and *Peter Cousens* were the driving forces behind Jim Graham’s new book, *Word of Mouth*, which was launched at Macksville in September.
Congratulations to David Connah (57-58) who graduated from UNE in March this year with a well-earned MA (Ancient History). His wife Barbie (Staff 79-04) and son James (82-87), who came up from Hobart, helped him celebrate with family and friends. David’s interest in Ancient History was sparked by Jim Graham (Staff 55-98) over 50 years ago.

It was most interesting to read in the Chemistry Newsletter from University College, London, news about retiring college Professor, Michael Ewing (60-65, Senior Prefect and Captain of the School). A University Medalist at UNE, Mike joined the Chemistry Department of UCL in 1975 (working for his duration of his career in the area of Physical Chemistry). He was promoted to Professor in 2002 and held various posts including a record stint as deputy head of the Chemistry Department, Vice-Dean of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Faculty and the college’s Dean of Students (Academic). To quote from a tribute in the newsletter: “his competence and his perspicacity have been impressive… From the duties he has undertaken, he has had a greater effect for good on more students and more staff than most academics ever have.” Mike continues to live in London with his wife Jean, a retired secondary school teacher.

The tribute also made reference to Dr Ken Marsh, who was Mike’s PhD supervisor at UNE. Although not an Old Boy, Ken was on the duty staff of Dangar House from 1961-63, while completing his own PhD, and now lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Thanks to Rob Busby (63-68) for passing this on.

Well done Sinclair Croft (89-94), who was one of a five-member Australian relay team who were the first swimmers to cross the English Channel in 2015! Sinclair said the swim, on 23 June, was no easy feat, with rough conditions, strong, unpredictable tides, 13.9 degree water, a two metre swell, seasickness, jellyfish and the occasional visit by curious seals, all within the busiest shipping lane in the world.

Sinclair was third position in the relay team making an impressive 5.4km in his second hour in the water, thanks to the tide.

“Perhaps it was the swimming lessons at Guyra swimming pool during my primary school years that contributed to the cold water acclimatisation!”, he writes.

While in London Sinclair caught up with Paul Gossip (91-94) pictured below with Sinclair, for the first time in around two decades. Paul has been living in London for the past 19 years, and working in the banking sector, based at Canary Wharf.

Obituaries

Robert ‘Bob’ Peter Cannington (54-59) passed away on 10 June, aged 73. Bob was one of four sons of WGH Cannington (17-20), solicitor of Newcastle, who came to TAS, the other brothers being William (52-57), John (49-54), both deceased, and James (49-53). Bob lived at Hinton with his wife Diana, after moving from Newcastle, where he worked in the Newcastle business world initially as an accountant, then later in the private sector until his recent retirement. Bob and Diana had three daughters, Stacey, Christine and Louise. One of his eight grandchildren, George Sedgwick (10-15) is currently a prefect in Year 12, the son of Stacey and Will Sedgwick (79-83). Whilst at TAS Bob made many lifelong friends, including John Sippe (54-59), who delivered the Eulogy at Bob’s memorial service. Bob will be sadly missed by family and friends alike.

Dick Hays (41-46) advised of the death on 17 June of his Tamworth neighbour of 20 years Dudley Malcolm White (44-45). “Dudley had a property in the Boggabri area for many years, and retired to Port Macquarie and then Tamworth. He was a very good lawn bowler,” Dick says. Our condolences to his wife Pat. The couple had no children.

Made an Honorary Old Boy by the OBU recognising his service to the school, Trevor Vautier Robinson passed away on 3 July. From arriving as a jackeroo at Gostwyck Station, Uralla in 1945 until his departure as manager some 42 years later, he also contributed greatly to TAS, where his sons Graham (72-77), Peter (74-79) and Ian (77-82) attended. A member of the TAS Council from 1978-1989, he chaired the Property Committee which gave him oversight of an extensive building program including the Cash Building, Croft House, McConville Centre, and extensions to Junior School and Fisher Wing. “These were all challenging projects affording him the opportunity to exercise his disciplined management skills… he was a steady hand during a turbulent period of TAS, a man of high integrity, hard working and totally honest,” former Council chairman Max Browning said at his funeral. Vale Trevor.

It was sad news indeed to learn of the sudden and unexpected death on 12 July of Quentin Croft (82-85) just a month before making the trip to TAS for his 30 year reunion. Quentin was the elder brother of Carlisle (88-92) and Sinclair (89-94), and a son of Helen and Robert Croft (49-54). “The TAS motto Absque Deo Nihil was a constant in Quentin’s life,” Sinclair said. “He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, though we are grateful for the time we had in his company.” Our deep sympathies to all his family, particularly his wife Nerida and daughter Saskia.

Another who had been looking forward to catching up with friends from school days was John Ede (54-56) who passed away suddenly on 14 July from a cardiac arrest, despite being in good health. Lloyd Hancock (52-55), who John had helped in tracking down 1955 leavers for their 60th reunion at Old Boys Weekend exactly a month later, recalled John’s love of sports cars (he owned 11), flying, and his life from an accountant auditing service stations throughout Queensland for BP, to owning a popular chicken shop in Toowoomba. At TAS, John was a Monitor, played in the First XV for two years and was a member of the GPS Shooting team. “He was also a keen photographer, often taking shots of Masters in class even catching some of them (including Des Harrison) asleep!” Lloyd recalls. He was also hard of hearing: “Once on parade the command was given ‘Ede, attention’ – John misheard this and replied ‘How much?’, thinking he had been given a detention!” Vale John, and our condolences to Jan and family.
Bits ‘n’ Pieces

It’s great to have Pat Irwin (60-64) as a new life member of the OBU! Starting at TAS as a nine year old in Form II (Year 4), his time at TAS cut short by a family relocation back to the UK for a few years and he eventually finished school back in Australia at Belmont High. Despite qualifying to study Medicine, he eventually completed Architecture at Newcastle University and has been a practicing architect in Perth for more than 20 years. Welcome Pat to the OBU – even after 51 years!

The ideas that get cooked up! At a catch-up lunch at Balmoral Beach with Kwon Lam (61-62), Rob Busby (63-68), David Howe (61-62) and Michael Webb (61-63), Patrick Flower (62-63) (dot-joiner extraordinaire) concluded Bob Crossman (58-64) and Michael would be in Southern France at the same time.

Here they are, with wives, sharing a moment that went well into the night at the Le Negresco Hotel in Nice.

Stuart (‘Shorty’) Hartigan (78-83) and his partner Bev have sold their house in Coffs Harbour and taken to the road, travelling Australia in their motor home. He is a tour guide for Willie Creek Pearl Farm at Broome, during the tour season. Thanks to his mother Tina for passing this on.

Keen to contribute to the governance of TAS? There are six Old Boys Union-appointed Members of the TAS Company, and two OBU-designated Directors on the School Board. The OBU invites Old Boys with key skills in areas such as financial management, law, marketing, agri-business, corporate governance, business, strategic development and education, to nominate or be nominated for consideration for key positions. Please send details to the Hon Sec, TASOBU c/ Locked Bag 3003 Armidale, 2350.

Hundreds visit TAS for a great weekend

Aged from 90 to 19, former students of TAS returned to Armidale for Old Boys Weekend on 14-15 August for a few days of fellowship, competition, and reminiscing about days gone by. Scheduled to coincide with the final home game of the GPS Third grade competition, the weekend was filled with a range of activities and reunions for leavers from 10 years to 65 plus. The annual ambrose at the Armidale Golf Club was followed by the third OBU v School debate, with the students defeating a team of 20 year leavers that ‘Tradition is a thing of the past’.

On Saturday there was great support for seven sporting competitions. The Old Boys won the tennis, the inaugural Moffatt Shield (kindly donated by Tim and Mal Moffatt) for hockey, the TAS Dads/Old Boys v TAS Third XI Football game (an ADFA competition match) and the Tug-o-War, thanks to the hefty work of some 30 year leavers (including former Wallaby Richard Tombs). TAS won the shooting and chess – meaning the Old Boys retained the Croft Cup, 4-3.

There were tours of the school, the Bell Tower Brunch for the Bell Tower Society (Old Boys aged over 70), a concert and recital of the new Memorial Hall organ, and of course, plenty of quality schoolboy rugby culminating in the TAS First XV v St Joseph’s College Thirds.

With the historic Sulman building and Memorial Hall bathed in blue light thanks to the technical wizardry of Anthony Carlon (08-13) and Will Forsyth, around 160 Old Boys and guests attended the annual OBU Dinner in the Dining Hall. Younger Old Boys held reunion dinners at various locations around Armidale. Old Boys travelled from as far as Tasmania, the UK and Asia to attend the weekend.

Special guest at the dinner was outgoing PNG Ambassador to the UN Robert Aisi (70-75), who reflected on the gift and legacy of a TAS education, the value of friendship and family, and the importance of coming together.

The Old Boys chapel service was one of the best supported for many years, and the weekend wrapped up with the OBU AGM. Current parent Graham MacDougall (78-83) was elected president and thanked outgoing president (and also current parent) Mark Berry (79-81) for his time at the helm; Tim Hughes (78-82) was re-elected Secretary and Alex Thomas (82-87) was returned as Treasurer. It was great to see ‘young blood’ Andrew Heath (94-99) join the Committee.

The OBU expresses its thanks for allowing festivities to be held at the School, and particularly, the staff of the Development Office. In 2016, the GPS rugby season will be considerably earlier – and at the time of going to press the OBU committee is finalising the date for the 2016 event – quite likely to be the last home game of the season, in July.


Stuart (‘Shorty’) Hartigan (78-83) and his partner Bev have sold their house in Coffs Harbour and taken to the road, travelling Australia in their motor home. He is a tour guide for Willie Creek Pearl Farm at Broome, during the tour season. Thanks to his mother Tina for passing this on.

Keen to contribute to the governance of TAS? There are six Old Boys Union-appointed Members of the TAS Company, and two OBU-designated Directors on the School Board. The OBU invites Old Boys with key skills in areas such as financial management, law, marketing, agri-business, corporate governance, business, strategic development and education, to nominate or be nominated for consideration for key positions. Please send details to the Hon Sec, TASOBU c/ Locked Bag 3003 Armidale, 2350.
1965 leavers gather in Big School before the Union Dinner

Part of the large 50 year reunion crew were David ‘Tex’ Toppin (64-66), Susan and Greg Stewart (60-65), Veronica and Tony Frazer (64-65)

The Old Boys (in white) won the second annual Moffatt Family Shield after defeating TAS in hockey

Michael Burnett (50-55), Grant Harris (65-70) and Ben Evans (90-95) teamed up on the golf course

Hitting the tennis court for the Old Boys were Dennis Martin (55-65), Hugh Goddard (63-68), Bill Mitchell (82-87), David Ross (88-93), Simon Wright (86-91), and (front) Sam Coupland (84-89)

Thirty year leavers (from front) Brian Johnson (80-85), Craig Collier (83-85), Richard Tombs (84-85), John Jaquet (79-85), Ted Coupland (78-83), Shaun Trevitt (80-85), Scott Kermode (80-85), Charles Mason (81-85) took home the tug of war

Ten year leavers enjoyed their first reunion

Twenty year leavers Sam Brown (90-95) (front) and Aaron Binnie (90-95) debated for the Old Boys
Diplomat urges boys to look globally

The United Nations is an unusual place where there is much talk, a lot of compromise, and “countries have interests, rather than friends,” a senior diplomat told students at his old school in August.

Based in New York for the past 13 years where he has been PNG Ambassador to the UN, Rob Aisi (70-75) had plenty of wisdom to share about the diplomatic service, the legal profession and life in two very different cultures. Whilst a political appointee initially, his four terms straddled four governments, giving him a unique insight into domestic as well as global politics.

“As frustrating as the UN is, it does a lot of positive things – particularly in the areas of security, conflict resolution, and climate change,” said Rob, whose own country has had to relocate residents from tiny islands that are now too saturated from seawater to produce agricultural crops.

One of a number of PNG boys to attend TAS between the 1970s-90s under various scholarship schemes, Rob then studied Law at the University of PNG and later, human resources management at the International Institute of Public Administration in France. He also served with the Executive Branch (Legal Affairs) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and for some years chaired the United Nations’ Special Committee on Decolonisation.

Contrary to a widely held belief that it was the major super-powers which were always at loggerheads in the General Assembly, he said the most intense and long-running disagreements were between a number of neighbouring countries.

“Each country has one vote – so often the 120 smallest states can work together and reverse the power paradigm,” he said.

Year 8 student Thomas Price said it was fascinating to hear the workings of the UN.

“It broadened my perspective on how the UN and its various organisations benefit the world on issues such as humanitarianism, peacekeeping, trade, economics, global warming helping developing countries move forward. He emphasised the critical role of diplomacy, and that being a lawyer and having knowledge of the history and culture of a country helps to be an ambassador.”

Rob and his daughter Elizabeth returned to TAS for the annual Old Boys Weekend, at which he is special guest.

Long Lunch a great success

Almost 90 Old Boys from across the decades attended the OBU Sydney Branch’s second Long Lunch, held at the Menzies Hotel on 21 August.

When star of stage and screen Peter Cousens (69-73) was unable to attend to introduce fellow Old Boy Phantom of the Opera performer Ben Mingay (92-95), Dai Griffiths (87-92) stepped and did an admirable job.

Ben regaled those in attendance with stories of his adventures as a singer and actor here in Australia and in the USA, on stage and in television shows including Wonderland and Packed to the Rafters.

Guests chipped in for one of a number of TAS rugby balls signed by five TAS Wallabies Greg Cornelsen (63-70), Joe Roff (86-88), Sam Payne (84-89), James Holbeck (83-90) and Richard Tombs (84-85), and had their knowledge of TAS history tested by a trivia challenge that was won by the newly elected OBU President Graham MacDougall (78-83)!

Special thanks to Paddy Flower (62-63) and Nick Tuit (78-81) in particular for organising the event. The Sydney Branch is already looking forward to hosting a larger scale social event in 2016, possibly tying in with the Wallabies v England test in Sydney on 25 June.

Outgoing PNG Ambassador to the UN, TAS Old Boy Rob Aisi spoke with TAS students Brough Whibley, Alexander Chalmers, Charlton Grant, Henry O’Neil, Thomas Price and Jonathan Frogley at his old school on 13 August.

Year 12 Formal unites Old Boys

The Year 12 formal was an Old Boys reunion of sorts, with 15 fathers also former students of the school! Thanks to photographer Simon Scott for this terrific photo featuring (left-right) Duncan McDonald (77-81), Michael Makeham (78-81), David ‘Ted’ Coupland (78-83), Richard Apps (82-83), Scott Mills (79-84), Greig Stier (79-84), Graham MacDougall (78-83), Rob Pollard (77-84), Peter Howard (72-73), Will Sedgwick (79-83), David Wright (77-82), Cameron Moore (83-88), James McGowan (80-83). Somehow avoiding the photo but there on the night was Stephen Bennett (77-82).