ALSO INSIDE:

SPEECH DAY
Prof. The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir shares her wisdom

ACTIVITIES WEEK
Students engage in a broad range of challenges

GALA CONCERT
A grand new organ for a fine old school
In this issue

From the Headmaster 2
Chairman’s Speech Day Address 3
Speech Day Guest - Dame Marie Bashir 4
Solid HSC results 5

Academic Focus
Asian study tour .............................................................. 6
Autos action on the skidpad ........................................... 6
Screened for success ....................................................... 7
D & T project wins award .............................................. 7
Young scientists receive accolade .............................. 7

Staff News
Departing staff farewellled .......................................... 8
Ralph Hunt retires after 41 years ............................... 8

Wellbeing
Steps program gives life lessons .................................. 9
Mosman Prep visit ........................................................ 9

Co-curricular life
Musos join London Symphony Orchestra ............... 10
TAS to stage musical world premiere ..................... 10
Croft Cup under the spotlight .................................... 10
Rowing season launched with a new boat ............. 10

Leadership, Services & Adventure
Activities Week in pictures ....................................... 12-13
Thailand, Fiji service trips .......................................... 14
International Round Square Conference ............... 14
Cadets win Tri-Service shield ................................ 15
Record falls at Hawkesbury Canoe Classic ........... 15
Gold Triple Crown for 13 ............................................. 15

Junior School News
Michael Crossland an inspiration ................................ 16
Orienteering champions .............................................. 16
Triathlon & Bike Safety Day ....................................... 17
Science insight ............................................................ 17
Extension class links with author ............................. 17

TAS Community
P&F hosts activities .................................................... 18
TAS Foundation hosts organ launch ..................... 19-20
Big screen an Old Boy attraction ............................. 21

Old Boys news ........................................................... 22-24

The reward of being challenged

Teenagers today, right across the world, have unprecedented access to technology and it is widely recognised that, as a generation, they spend more time with media than in any other activity except sleeping. It is also clear that children across the Western world are spending less time outside, participating in less physical activity and have less contact with nature than any previous generation. The concern about this, of course, is that excessive screen time is associated with distinct health, social and learning disadvantages, whereas physical activity and time outside in contact with nature is associated with positive health and learning outcomes. Exacerbating this is the finding that screen and physical activity habits in adolescence and the wellbeing issues associated with them, track into adulthood.

This understanding reinforces the importance of the School taking responsibility for engaging our students with activities that see them physically active and socially engaged with one another. I am pleased to say that at TAS this is getting better, not worse, and there is no sign that the enthusiasm for sport, outdoor and physical activities is doing anything but growing. Whilst others bemoan the indolence of today’s youth, what we are seeing here is a growing hunger for genuine challenge and it is at its strongest when success in the challenge is by no means assured. This is an attitude based in a culture of resilience and it is to be applauded.

Whilst others bemoan the indolence of today’s youth, what we are seeing here is a growing hunger for genuine challenge and it is at its strongest when success in the challenge is by no means assured.

None of this is possible though without staff that see their role as extending well beyond the academic curriculum. At no time has this been clearer than during Activities Week, the last full week of term, when we had more of our academic staff in the field than we have ever had before. Extreme weather at the start of the week might have curtailed less well established programs, but that would have sent a very poor message. Instead, Pioneers staff found a new location away from the fires in the Gibraltar Range, the planned simulations for the Rural Fire Service activity were replaced with active fire fighting for the week and the surf lifesavers moved to the Coffs Harbour jetty for their board work to avoid the wild onshore winds. Cadets carried on, with their protocols for weather adjusted activity well in place. By the end of the week the weather had settled and the rewards that come with persevering had been earned, as is evident in the photos elsewhere in Binghi.

We are very fortunate to have such a committed staff, both as teachers and in other support roles, and their efforts are to be applauded.
Continuing to pursue the vision

In early 2012, we published the document ‘TAS Vision 2025’. In it we stated ‘the Vision for 2025 and the strategic plans around it are based on TAS becoming the pre-eminent boarding and day school in regional NSW, and among the best in the nation.’

We went on to state: ‘We are proud of our history and traditions and membership of the GPS, yet at the same time we are liberal, progressive and adapt quickly and effectively to shifts in our educational, social, economic and technological environment.’

Nearly three years later the vision has not changed and we, the School Board and the School Executive working together, continue to pursue that vision we have set. That vision is wrapped around our purpose as an Anglican school and the focus on the full breadth of spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional development in our students fits neatly with it. This is a school that has always evolved, and will continue to evolve, and adapt to meet the needs of parents, country families and the regional community.

TAS occupies an important position in the Armidale community. Not only do we provide education for boys, and some girls, whether they live locally or further afield, we do more than that as an educational institution situated in a regional city located a long way from Sydney and Brisbane.

When you think about it you may realise that TAS is one of the largest employers in Armidale. It is also a significant provider of boarding school education to families across New South Wales and beyond. This means we bring income into the Armidale community, and keep Armidale relevant as an educational centre.

Our swimming centre, sport and training facilities at Doody Park, superb theatre and other facilities in the Hoskins Centre, playing fields, and other activities and facilities are not hidden behind a six foot fence only for our student use. Our generosity of community spirit results in them being a resource for the whole community, and it is my belief, that our students and staff are the better for that. On top of our GPS and other sporting competitions, our students participate in local sporting competitions representing the school and TAS students, staff and parents are big contributors to other community activities.

We have many girls enrolled in our beautiful Junior School and we recently announced that girls will be enrolled through to Year 6, an important step that recognises our commitment to co-education in these years. As many of you are aware, for some years we have also provided senior school lessons for girls, in a range of subjects (in classes with our boys). We did this for around 45 girls this year, and next year we anticipate, based on demand, providing senior subjects for a similar number of girls, including 25 going into Year 11.

While other schools in NSW are closing their boarding houses, we have been renovating and extending ours. Next year we will have around 210 boarders at TAS. Back in 2003 TAS had over 200 boarders. To have these numbers 13 years on, servicing the needs of families near and far, is a good achievement.

There are so many people associated with the School that deserve our thanks. Together, we are moving towards the vision we have set.

Mr Sebastian Hempel

This is an extract of the Chairman’s address, which will be published in full in The Armidalian
Professor The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

TAS was honoured to have Prof. The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir as our Speech Day guest. After recounting the inspiration of Bishop Broughton in both her own life as well as the history of TAS, and acknowledging the special place of Aboriginal and regional Australians, she spoke about leadership. A transcript of Professor Bashir’s speech will appear in The Armidalian.

Good leadership emerges quietly

Today marks the conclusion of the school year and I know that most of the Year 12 scholars have already departed to prepare for the next inspirational chapter in their lives. You, our present students, particularly those in Year 11, are moving forward to undertake the challenges of leadership in its various expressions. I am quietly convinced that your generation of Australians are destined to provide a most valuable and critical leadership role in chartering the future of Australia - which I like to think of as the conductor of the Asia Pacific orchestra, bringing people together in tune with one another, in harmony with their neighbours and even beyond.

Good leadership models emerge quietly. I’m sure all of you have experienced from your teachers, the many fine role models in your families, your school and fellow students, what it takes to be a good leader. Your efforts towards scholastic ability and intellectual development, development in understanding and appreciating the arts, loyalty and friendships, all those are powerful ingredients for good leadership, and they must never been forgotten.

I’d like to summarise all the issues which I consider important for young people, like yourselves, destined for leadership in some setting, whether it be the workplace, in sport, in business, and for some of you, in diplomacy as you represent Australia.

First of all, be positive – always have a positive attitude, and expect also, that if you treat people properly you also will have that respect addressed to you. Always give open and clear communications. Be mindful if ever you promise anything, of what the costs will be and what you are proposing as a leader – the negative aspects as well as the positive ones.

Never gossip or share negative comments about a colleague. There’s always a high risk of being quoted somewhere, later, and it possibly being quoted in a distorted form, which can damage trust and certainly damage teamwork.

Throughout your lives, keep learning. Keep doing courses, keep reading. That is so important. Encourage and support your peers and your junior team members, that will build their confidence and you will learn a lot from them as well.

And caring for one’s health and wellbeing is so important, and as a doctor now, I’d like to tell all our young people across the land, never, never smoke. It’s not just lung and heart problems it can bring about, but many others also. You also need some joy and fun in your lives also to keep healthy. Whatever it is, keep up your sport, your music, your interest in drama, we all need that something special to look forward to at the end of a hard working week.

The school’s stirring words say, ‘explore, experience, and excel’ – I think TAS boys are destined to do all of those things having had the great start in life that you’ve had here in this splendid school.

Where serious conflict arises, involve someone whom you trust, to help resolve the problem.
Broad success for TAS students in HSC

An Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking of 99.5 for Dux Patrick Williamson, four boys with ATARs above 97.5 and a student on the All Round Achievers List for the sixth consecutive year were among the highlights of the 2014 Higher School Certificate results for TAS.

Patrick, who achieved a mark of 90 or above (or equivalent) in English (Advanced), English Extension 1, Mathematics, Music Extension and French Continuers, said he was ‘nicely surprised’ when he accessed his ranking.

After a year working as the ‘Chapel gappie’ at TAS, Patrick hopes to study a Bachelor of Philosophy at Australian National University in Canberra, a research based-degree that will have a strong humanities focus.

Sam Johnston was named on the Board of Studies All Round Achievers List having achieved a Band 6 (a mark of 90 or more or equivalent) in seven subjects - English (Advanced), English Extension 1, Legal Studies, Mathematics General 2, Modern History, History Extension, and PDHPE (Personal Development, Health and Physical Education). Sam is confident his ATAR of 98.35 will get him into International Global Studies at the University of Sydney.

John Dennis was rewarded with an ATAR of 98.85 and achieved a Band 6 in Economics, English (Advanced), Mathematics Extension 1 and French Continuers. He is looking at an Economics degree at either the University of Sydney or ANU, where Riley Baile hopes to study Advanced Science, having achieved an ATAR of 97.7 and Band 6s in English Extension 1, Mathematics and Mathematics Extension 1.

Overall, of 68 boys who sat the HSC at TAS, 11 achieved 32 Band 6s (or equivalent) between them, in 15 subjects, including a Year 11 accelerant in Mathematics. Six students achieved a mark of 90 or more in English Extension 1 – results that defied a state-wide trend of boys not achieving in humanities.

TAS Headmaster Murray Guest said he was pleased with the results of the cohort, particularly again in English.

‘An ATAR is of course only one pathway to the future, and I would like to congratulate the 63 boys and 23 girls who undertook HSC subjects at TAS, on their achievements,’ he said.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patrick Williamson</th>
<th>ATAR 99.5</th>
<th>Band 6 in 5 Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Dennis</td>
<td>ATAR 98.85</td>
<td>Band 6 in 4 Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Johnston</td>
<td>ATAR 98.35</td>
<td>Band 6 in 7 Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Baile</td>
<td>ATAR 97.7</td>
<td>Band 6 in 3 Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Abeyasekera</td>
<td>Selected for OnSCREEN and ARTEXPRESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asian study tour opens eyes

The Great Wall of China and the plumes of ash from Mt Sakurajima in Japan were among the memorable highlights of an Asian study tour undertaken by 14 Japanese language and HSIE students and two staff during the spring holidays, but so too was a greater understanding of our place in the world.

The tour aimed to improve the language skills of students whilst exposing them to historical sites and immersing themselves in the culture of two important Asian countries. First stop was Beijing, taking in Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, The Great Wall, and the Olympic Games site amongst others.

The second leg of the trip was to Tokyo, where the students stayed in a traditional Ryokan with the tatami floor and slept on a futon. Here they took in many different areas including Studio Ghibli, Asakusa and Akihabara, before catching the bullet train to Kyoto to visit its shrines and temples.

The group also visited the moving A-bomb museum in Hiroshima, stayed overnight on the island, Miyajima, famous for the red Torii Gate, and also spent time at Kagoshima, watching the volcano, Sakurajima erupt in the distance.

The last stop was to TAS’s sister school Meitoku, a strong sporting school that has produced world champion baseballers, sumo wrestlers and golfers. Three students stayed on for a school exchange until the end of the year.

Jonathon Chamberlain (right) and Floyd Harding (left) support Lukas Cook as he attempts to eat a scorpion in Beijing.

Autos take classroom action to the skid pan

From a design on a piece of paper 12 months ago, Year 10 Industrial Technology Automotive students finished their school year behind the wheels of home-made vehicles at the Armidale Driver Training Centre on 19 November.

As part of their course work learning about brakes, suspension, chassis types and more, students design and build a go-kart, culminating in a spin on the skid pad.

Once safety procedures and briefing were complete, the groups settled into a day of camaraderie and competition, always a highlight on the Term 4 calendar for Year 10 students and staff.

Philosothon award winners Mike Nyathi, Harry Wright, Felix Gifford and Jack Halliday contemplate the big issue of where they will put the trophy TAS won at the Northern NSW Philosothon.

Students win quest pondering life’s big questions

We once thought the world was flat – what else might we be wrong about?

This big mystery question at this year’s Northern NSW Philosothon was clearly no hurdle to a team of 17 young philosophers from TAS, being named overall Division A winner and taking out the individual titles in both senior and junior divisions.

Felix Gifford (senior) and Mike Nyathi (junior) won the Spirit of Philosothon awards, given to the students who best demonstrates the qualities of a philosopher - acceptance of others’ ideas, ability to continue a discussion positively, and encourage others to do the same.

Meanwhile, Harry Wright (Year 11) and Jack Halliday (Year 6) took out the Philosopher’s Philosopher, determined by participants who vote for the students that best grasp the philosophical question, craft outstanding arguments and contribute original ideas.

Teams from schools from the North Coast and New England competed in the ‘Big Ideas’ event, held at Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour on 14 November.
Screened for success

When the credits roll in the blockbuster films of the future, the name Harrison Abey will surely one day appear amongst them.

The 18 year old budding director, who has just completed his HSC, has had not one, but two films selected for prestigious events that showcase the best HSC major works in Drama and Art.

A heist film with a twist, Harrison’s movie Business Trip is one of only three student films in NSW selected for OnSTAGE/OnSCREEN, a showcase of HSC Drama works that will be held at the Seymour Centre, Sydney, in February.

Meanwhile an animated film Harrison created as his HSC Art major work, United We Stand, has been chosen for inclusion in ARTEXPRESS. Using photos that were manipulated in various software programs, the film draws on the true story of an astronaut’s response to the horrors of 9/11, when he realises he is the only American not on the planet and able to physically ‘connect’ with the tragedy.

Harrison is in no doubt where his future lies; before the HSC results were even released, he had been accepted into the Australian Film, Television and Radio School in Sydney.

Corrugated sander takes out award for Brandon

A sander specially designed to shape plastic power point backing mounts to fit corrugated iron has won Brandon Harradine a prestigious University of Wollongong award, and several hundreds dollars in cash.

Brandon’s design project – his major work for HSC Design & Technology – appealed to the judges who named him as the major award winner in the Indigenous Student category.

Students from all over NSW entered the university’s annual Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences’ NSW Year 12 Design & Technology competition, which recognises excellence and innovation.

Brandon, from Narrabri, said he conceived the idea while working for his father, a builder.

“When we would fit mounts onto corrugated iron we would have to fill the gaps with silicone which didn’t look that good. So I came up with a few ideas and with the help of my teacher Mr Scott, developed this,” he said.

Brandon accepted his certificate and prizemoney at an awards ceremony at the University of Wollongong on 21 November.

As a result of his efforts, TAS has also won an award. The total value of the award to Brandon and TAS, is almost $2000.

Science students receive accolades

A shot at representing his country at an international Physics forum is among the honours achieved by a Year 11 Science student at The Armidale School this past term.

Ali Ahsan is one of only 80 students nationally to be invited to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School at Australian National University from 6-22 January 2015, having earned a Gold Medal in this year’s Australian Science Olympiad examinations.

Ali also earned a Gold Medal in Chemistry, while classmates Tom Mailler gained a Distinction in Chemistry and Felix Gifford, a Credit in Physics. The trio attempted either or both Physics and Chemistry papers that contained university-level questions that would challenge most undergraduates.

The results put Ali in the top half of one per cent of students studying the two subjects in NSW.

At the summer school, students will have access to lecturers, tutors and facilities to help hone their theoretical and practical science skills, and learn the equivalent of a first year university course in one of four science disciplines.

Based on their performance, 17 students will be selected to represent Australia at an International Science Olympiad against students from 80 other countries. The International Physics Olympiad will be in India and the International Chemistry Olympiad in Azabijan.
Staff News

Headmaster pays tribute to trio

In his Speech Day address, the Headmaster made special mention of three long-serving, retiring staff members, Peter Hall, Keith Brown, and Ralph Hunt.

After taking leave early in Term 2, Mr Hall, the former Director of Studies and Head of Mathematics, officially retired after 26 years at TAS. Mr Hall had a special interest in canoeing and kayaking and was a stalwart of the school’s involvement in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic.

Keith Brown retired from the HSIE Department after 32 years teaching in a range of areas, particularly senior Economics and Business Studies, while after 41 years at TAS and many different roles, including Housemaster, English and Middle School teacher and coordinator of the English Language Centre, Ralph Hunt retired from TAS and a long and fruitful teaching career.

“Together, these three have served our school for 99 years and, individually, Mr Brown and Mr Hunt have taught at TAS for more than a quarter and a third of the School’s history respectively,” Mr Guest said.

“Service such as this leaves its mark on a school and literally thousands of students will remember their classes and their contribution to the broader life of the school. Their names will come up for decades into the future as Old Boys share their memories at reunions. They have been contributors to many positive changes at the school over the years and we are grateful to them.”

Some things never change

When former Headmaster Alan Cash interviewed a 23 year old Ralph Hunt for a Year 7 teaching job at TAS, it was in a converted garage on the Central Coast. Finishing a diverse 41 years at the school including as coordinator of the Rural Fire Service program, overseer of the English language program for international students, boarding housemaster and cast member of TAS Music Halls, he reflected on just how different TAS is now, to 1973.

“Physically, the grounds of the school are a thousand times better. There was only one Aboriginal student here in my first 30 years, and now there are 20. There were only a handful of females on teaching staff – and of course no girl students in Junior School – and the pastoral care left a lot to be desired,” he said.

As Housemaster during the boarding boom of the late 1980s, he remembers “ninety 10 to 13 year olds sleeping in double bunks” in Dangar and Moyes.

Some things, though, have remained constant. “The boys are still refreshingly down to earth compared to those at school in the city. When put in situations like this year when our Rural Fire boys had to rise to the occasion and fight fires, I was so proud of their ability and commitment, alongside adults.”

He said staff at TAS give a lot of themselves, but benefit from a strong sense of community and collegial support likely to be unequalled by many other schools.

Ralph Hunt is part of a very small group of staff who have given more than four decades of service to the school, including Jim Graham (43 years), Brian Mattingley (41), Des Harrison (41) and George Crossle (40).

Mr Hunt said he is looking forward to travel, teaching English in East Timor, bike riding, and continuing his volunteer work with the RFS.

Co-curricular visionary takes on a new challenge

From Junior School teacher to visionary overseer of student life beyond the classroom, the contribution of outgoing Director of Co-Curricular Jason Lincoln was celebrated at an official farewell on 14 November.

More than 200 members of the school community filled the Hoskins Centre to thank and wish well Mr Lincoln, whose career at TAS started as a teacher in Junior School in 2002.

During his period as Sportsmaster and later as Director of Co-Curricular, he oversaw the growth of sport supporters groups, the immersion of TAS into a full GPS rugby program including the new Third XV competition, and the re-introduction of rowing including our debut appearance at Head of the River.

Headmaster Murray Guest said Mr Lincoln will be particularly remembered for three things: as a natural teacher who had a wonderful rapport with his students; as the founder of the TAS Rugby Carnival that has grown from 18 teams in its first year to being the biggest rugby carnival of its type in Australia, and his absolute belief in the importance of spirit – pride in one’s School, House, and developing a tone of support for everyone in the school, that every activity is important.

Mr Lincoln leaves Armidale – and education – to take on the role of Executive Officer at the Northern Inland Academy of Sport in Tamworth.

Tim Hughes
Program arms boys with life skills

Navigating their way through the pitfalls of the digital world, across an ironing board and around the silverware at a dinner table, Year 10 boys at The Armidale School took part in the Steps to Manhood program during their final week of term.

The program is designed to instil a range of life skills to help students become more independent, resourceful and equipped to take on the world as capable and considerate young men.

Sessions included ironing, financial management, manners and etiquette, adolescents and the law, the art of conversation, and forums discussing ‘the well educated young man’ from both women’s and men’s perspectives.

“It is designed to cover a number of those skills and life perspectives all young men should be exposed to, but that are usually sacrificed in the crowded curriculum of schools,” said Headmaster Murray Guest, who himself delivered sessions on table manners and the psychology of handshakes.

“It is hoped that these boys who will take their places as leaders in the coming two years gained at least some insight into some of the skills they will need as good men,” he said.

Mosman Prep get a slice of rural life

During Activities Week Year 6 hosted the annual visit from Mosman Prep School in Sydney, their visitors getting a big slice of country life.

In what has become an enduring and important tradition, the expedition from the city boys ‘up north’ reciprocates their hosting of TAS, during Excursion Week.

On the first day the boys visited Wollomombi Falls, fed the fish at the Ebor Trout Hatchery and got a fabulous insight into rural life at Jeogla Station, as the guests of TAS parents, station manager Richard Braham and his wife Katherine. There, the boys witnessed calf marking and sheep shearing, with some of the boys having a turn at holding the shearer’s handpiece. Mr Braham and his men, Marcus and Will, then gave the group a demonstration of the horse sport Cutting.

Orienteering at Dumaresq Dam was followed by several activities at Grant and Kim Harris’ property ‘Canterbury’, including tying knots, making and cooking damper over a small fire, and playing Stalk the Lantern.

The final action packed day included a trip to McCrossin’s Mill Museum at Uralla to learn about bushrangers, visiting Thunderbolt’s Rock and grave, and finally, fun on the inflatable at the TAS pool.

The visitors returned back to Sydney with a greater insight into country life and bonds further strengthened between the two schools.
Within weeks of their last HSC exams, Music students Nicholas Hadfield and Will Smith were warming up their instruments with the acclaimed London Symphony Orchestra. Nicholas and his French Horn, and Will and his trumpet, spent a week with the LSO in Sydney, attending individual workshops, full rehearsals and then performing alongside them at a special concert. In preparation, the boys had to familiarise themselves with three pieces of music: Elgar’s ‘Nimrod’ from the Enigma Variations; ‘America’ by Leonard Bernstein from the musical West Side Story, and The Lieutenant Kije Suite by Prokofiev.

“On our first night we attended a concert they gave at the Sydney Opera House, and then through the week we rehearsed and performed with them the three pieces have been given to learn,” Will said.

Will says Music will be part of a Bachelor of Arts in secondary education that he intends to study at the University of New England, while Nick “hasn’t ruled out” going to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

TAS to stage world amateur premier of Treasure Island: The Musical

With the show still in creative development stages, the US-based team will be interacting with the cast and crew remotely, using Skype and the well-equipped production studio in the bowels of the Hoskins Centre, that will also have its debut with this production.

Mr Hoskins said that TAS had been chosen to premier the production was “third party verification” about the school’s reputation for the creative arts. “It’s a philosophy that’s not just about facilities, but that culture matters more than buildings, and this is the latest manifestation of that,” he said.

The high usage of the facility by community and touring groups was also evidence of this.

“In saying that, it’s wonderful that the creative arts centre is not just a passive performance space but a place that can capture live material that can now be digitally edited, thus being a living platform for a new generation of content,” Mr Hoskins said.
On-stage rivalry under the spotlight

The school body entertained itself in fine style in late November when a capacity crowd gathered in the Memorial Hall for the 2014 Cash Cup, for inter-house creative arts. This year's theme, 'modern day heroes', provided plenty of inspiration and humour, with the interpretation of the theme being diverse and resourceful. The winner on the night was Tyrrell House, just ahead of 2013 winners Croft. Tyrrell's take on breaking the drought through song may well have swung the farmers amongst the judging panel and it had to be a good choice.

Rowing season launched with an addition to fleet

The Armidale School will be competing in next year’s GPS Head of the River in all its own boats for the first time, thanks to the generous donation of a supportive anonymous TAS Old Boy.

At the launch of the 2014-15 season at Malpas Dam on 7 November, the latest addition to the fleet hit the water, bringing the TAS rowing fleet’s tally to three ‘fours’ and a training ‘eight’. The donation made possible the purchase from St Ignatius College Riverview of a Sykes bow-coxed four, which has been fully refurbished for competition. The boat has been re-named Jason Lincoln, acknowledging the contribution made to the school and its re-newed rowing program, made by the departing Director of Co-Curricular - who just happens to be a Riverview Old Boy.

Rowing was re-introduced at TAS in 2011 and the school fielded one team at the GPS Head of the River in 2012, expanding to three ‘fours’ in 2014 and 2015.

The squad competed at the Head of the Clarence regatta in early December and will also race in Taree and Sydney early in 2015 ahead of the GPS Head of the River on 7 March.
Challenges set and met at Activities Week

Abselling into a water-filled canyon, navigating through World Heritage rainforest, becoming an accredited volunteer rural fire fighter and achieving surf life saving credentials – the boys at The Armidale School spent an adventurous Activities Week stepping out of their comfort zones and learning more about themselves.

Cadets trekked, canoed and canyoned at Nymboida Canoe Centre near Grafton, while in Year 11, boys in the Rural Fire Service program gained their chainsaw certificate at Armidale TAFE and helped various New England RFS brigades fight fires near Tingha, or achieved their Surf bronze medallions, as part of a program with Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.

Hot weather and the risk of bushfire resulted in the relocation of the Year 10 and 11 Pioneers program from Washpool National Park to Buccarumbi on the Nymboida River, to the south east.

Meanwhile at school, Year 6 hosted the annual visit from Mosman Prep School in Sydney, their visitors getting a big slice of country life.
Mateship was strong at cadet camp

Percy Duncan, Jacob Faint, Jordan Frahm and friends tow Hugh Worsley during the inter-platoon games competition

More than a dozen boys earned official rural fire fighting and chainsaw credentials, the culmination of a year’s association with Dumaresq Rural Fire Service brigade

Mosman Prep and TAS students had a go at shearing at Jeogla Station

Building skills at Sawtell

Sam Tullie and friends set off for a bushwalk at Pioneers

Boys gained their Surf Bronze Medallions as part of the program run in partnership with Sawtell SLSC
Service rewards in Thailand, Fiji

While most school students spent their holidays relaxing, 21 TAS boys put their hand up to work overseas with orphans, HIV sufferers and those recovering from leprosy.

At St Christopher’s Orphanage in Fiji, 12 Year 8 boys and a similar number from New England Girls’ School and PLC Armidale re-tiled dormitories, partly renovated bathrooms, repaired pushbikes and entertained children.

Checks were made to the solar hot water system donated and installed by the three schools in 2012, while dozens of towels, sheets and pillow cases donated by TAS families were also distributed.

“I learnt that you don’t need much to be happy. These children have nothing, just each other and God and that alone brings happiness to them,” Sambavan Jeyakumar said.

At the same time, a group from the three schools including nine TAS boys volunteered at the Agape AIDS Orphanage and the McKean Rehabilitation Centre for Leprosy sufferers, both near Chiang Mai in Thailand.

“Many times throughout the week we had a stab of realisation that most of the kids at Agape were orphans and were living with HIV. This experience was a real eye-opener. While we did make a difference, the biggest change was within us,” Charlie Wyatt, of Year 10 said.

At the McKean Centre for Leprosy, the group weeded gardens, made compost of elephant excrement and were inspired by the story of residents.

“Some had arrived from the war-stricken Burma with severe burns and injuries, others had been outcast from their own families for having leprosy – but at the centre, they were loved and treated for,” Charlie said.

These experiences allow me to look at the greater world and appreciate the little things in life and how much family means to me. It also shows that those with few materialistic possessions are overwhelmingly happy.”

The two service trips are offered annually to senior TAS students as part of the school’s Leadership, Service and Adventure program.

International Round Square Conference inspires

A tour of Istanbul, Gallipoli and Cappadocia in Turkey was a fascinating curtain raiser for students Will Archer, Brad Doak, Felix Gifford, Liam Howard, Jock McDonald and Will Waterson and two staff prior to the Round Square International Conference hosted by King’s Academy, Jordan, in October.

In Istanbul, the Enka School home hosted the students, introducing them to life in a fascinating city. Then it was off to Gallipoli, where the group followed the footsteps of ancestors who fought there, located the graves of Old Boys in various cemeteries, and observed a moving ceremony at Lone Pine, organised by Mr Grant Harris, who was the Round Square tour guide on the Turkey pre-conference trip.

A long bus journey to Cappadocia in Central Anatolia revealed a unique semi-arid landscape, marked with volcanic peaks and ‘fairy chimneys’ and underground cities, dwellings in the side of hills and mountains dating back to Persian times around the 6th Century. Ballooning is very popular to allow for the best view of these amazing landforms.

The theme of the conference, Ahlan Wa Sahlan (Peace and Greetings) filtered through the entire program, combined with wonderful Arab hospitality in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. King’s Academy is situated on the King’s Highway on the fields of Moab (near Madaba) where Ruth and Moses walked. Steeped in history and great stories, the group travelled through the Kingdom down to Petra, exploring Shobak and a crusader castle en route. Petra is a historical and archaeological city that is famous for its rock-cut architecture (312BC) and water conduit system, the latter giving Petra the advantages of a fortress being watered by a perennial stream. A swim in the Dead Sea was also memorable, even if not so enjoyable!

The conference speakers were confronting and inspirational, giving more than 500 delegates from around the world a greater insight into cultural, social and geographical issues and creating new friendships from around the globe.
Paddlers break record at Hawkesbury

Two TAS paddlers broke a long standing record in the gruelling 111km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic held on 25-26 October.

Paddling in an Elliott Vulcan kayak in the Junior Long Rec division, Year 11 boys David Williams and Harry Wright completed the race in 11 hours 13 minutes – knocking more than two and a half hours off the previous record of 13:53:24 set in 2005 (by TAS boys Simon Pain and Lachlan Shaw).

“It was still a little slower than we had hoped but we were happy we had a good race,” said David, who said completing three Myall Classic events was good preparation for the Hawkesbury.

“It was a bit tough after Wisemans Ferry when there was still 60km to go, but we got out and had a stretch just as the tide turned to be with us for the rest of the race, and we could paddle twelve – to fourteen kilometres an hour for the rest of the race.”

The youngest paddlers in the TAS contingent, Year 9 students Liam Donaldson and Sebastian Scott navigated their Nomad to also cross the line ahead of the old record, in 13 hours and three minutes, almost an hour faster than their expected race time.

Of the TAS team, 22 of 24 boys and 17 of 18 boats entered, finished the event. Technology helped landcrew track the progress of this year’s TAS paddlers, with GPS trackers fitted to seven boats included those expected to be first and last in.

The TAS team also included parents, Old Boys and girls from NEGS and PLC Armidale, together raising around $14,000 for the Arrow Bone Marrow Foundation – almost 10 per cent of the $145,000 pledged to the 416 paddlers who took part in the 38th annual event. TAS boys have paddled in every Classic except the first two.

TAS wins Cadet Tri-Service Shield

They may be relative land-lubbers, but cadets from The Armidale School more than held their own to take out the annual Tri-Service Shield competition between Army and Navy cadet units from across northern NSW in Armidale on 10-12 October.

Held at the Armidale Navy Cadet training unit’s headquarters TS Armidale, and in the field and on the water at Dumaresq Dam, the competition involved 111 cadets from Army units from Glen Innes and Tamworth, and Navy units TS Armidale, TS Culgoa (South West Rocks), TS Rushcutter (Port Macquarie), TS Vendetta (Coffs Harbour), TS Shropshire (Coffs Harbour) and TS Lismore.

Competing in a range of events from canoeing, running, drill, swimming, general knowledge, tug of war, first aid, low ropes and other initiative games, the TAS Skill at Arms team came equal first with TS Rushcutter for the Tom Stevenson Shield for outstanding teamwork, and won outright the overall Tri-Service Shield.

Gold Triple Crown recipients (l-r) Thomas Stier, Callum Bourke, Nicholas Bennet, Daniel Allen, Sebastian Gibson, Nicholas Finney, David Williams, William Claridge, Jock Jackson, Jack Bennett, Harry Wright and Lachlan Mills.

Absent: Will Brissett

Thirteen gain Gold Triple Crown

It’s a grueling challenge, but 13 boys were presented with certificates at the final school assembly of the year having achieved their Gold Triple Crown. Instigated last year, the Triple Crown recognises all boys who complete the 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim, the 14km City to Surf fun run and the 111 km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, during their time at TAS.

If all three are completed in one year, they achieve a Gold Triple Crown. The award has contributed to larger entries in each event; this year 36 boys swam at Coffs, 56 boys ran the City to Surf, and 22 boys paddled the Hawkesbury.
Michael Crossland was an inspiration

Find your inner spark and ignite it, and never ever give up on your dreams – the inspiring story of motivational speaker Michael Crossland had a moving impact on students, staff and parents at this year’s Junior School Speech Day.

Mr Crossland made the crowd laugh and cry as he shared his life story, from being diagnosed before his first birthday with an aggressive cancer of the central nervous system and given very little chance of survival. His first chemotherapy treatment was at one year old, and he was the only participant to survive a trial for a new drug. Although he survived, he was left with only one lung, a damaged heart and a sensitive immune system.

Before his teenage years, Michael had already experienced heart attacks, and by his mid-20s had spent lengthy stints in hospital, as well as contracting both bacterial and viral meningitis.

However he was determined to achieve his dreams, and, as documented in the ABC TV Australian Story episode called Field of Dreams, was dogged in his drive, despite the set backs. He has kept alive his goal of working in the world of professional baseball, became a successful businessman in the banking world, and is an ambassador for Camp Quality.

“Success to me is about waking up each and every day, knowing in our heart that today we will make a difference in someone else’s life. By living this way, we can all make the world a different place,” he said.

Orienteering champions

Most Junior School students competed in the annual PSSA Orienteering competition, run by the Armidale Orienteering Association.

Skills in navigation, deduction and physical effort rewarded the youngsters who attended the event, held at Gara Dam TSR east of Armidale on Friday 6 November.

The majority of participants completed the ‘score’ course, in which they had to visit as many control points as possible within a one hour time limit.

The remainder completed a ‘line’ course, in which they had a to complete a set course in the shortest possible time.

Sophia Rutledge, Casey Smith and Henry Douglas-Menzies used their navigation skills in the PSSA Orienteering Challenge.
Triathlon tops off Junior School Bike Safety Day

Some rode with trainer wheels and handlebar ribbons, others on cycles with racing tyres - but it was safety and fun that were the common element at the annual TAS Junior School Bike Safety Day and Triathlon on 25 November.

Gears and brakes checked, and seats properly adjusted, students were given some safe cycle tips and heard from cyclist Harrison Munday about his professional cycling career. Mr Munday recounted his pre-race training regime where he pedals 1400 km in a week and then tapers off to a mere 60 km a day, and shared all manner of detail, from the weight of his bike to the food he consumes during a 200km race.

The girls and boys then put their skills to practice along a special obstacle course, before the annual triathlon was held in the afternoon.

Teams and individuals from Transition to Year 5 swam a lap or two of the indoor 25m TAS pool, mounted their bikes for a 200m or 400m ride, then ran the same distance before crossing the finish line.

While the focus was on participation, the coveted Sarah Heagney Memorial Trophy was won by Nick O’Neil of Year 5, who was the fastest individual triathlon competitor.

Meeting challenges in and out of the classroom

As part of a Science unit, Year 4 conducted all sorts of interesting experiments that helped them better understand the water cycle.

TAS parent Michael Price, a science lecturer at the University of New England, assisted the children as they made a cloud in a jar, measured temperature and humidity, observed air pressure in action and made a solar ‘still’ using Milo and water to simulate the way evaporation separates salt from water.

Skype Chat with Author

The Junior School Year 5 Extension & Enrichment class enjoyed a Skype conversation in November with illustrator/author Trudy White, whose projects include The Book Thief and Japan Diary. The students were able to ask Ms White many questions about the books, her illustrative techniques and if she has any pets!
Music lovers celebrate magnificent gift of music

From the drama of JS Bach’s Toccato and Fugue in D Minor to Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Phantom of the Opera, musical magnificence was showcased before 200 people at a special gala concert hosted by the TAS Foundation to launch a splendid new organ in the TAS Memorial Hall on 17 November.

A gift from an anonymous Old Boy, the organ was put through its paces by acclaimed organist Warwick Dunham, who was joined by various choirs and soloists.

“Music, in all its forms and compositions can bring such unbridled pleasure and singing can lift the spirits and restore the soul. As an Old Boy of the school and in our own reflections on just how integral music was for each of us in our education, we knew it was essential that TAS have an instrument to inspire and transform the lives of young people who are fortunate enough to attend the school,” the donor said.

The $100,000 custom-made organ was manufactured by the Allen Organ Company of Pennsylvania, US, and is the largest concert instrument in Armidale and the only one of its kind in Australia.

The organ has three keyboards and 50 ‘stops’ which provide a broad range of musical tonal colour. The console has been shaped from American walnut finished in oak, with French-style draw knobs fashioned from rosewood stems and maple faces.

The climax of the concert was congregational singing of the School Hymn, the lyrics for which were co-penned by long-time staff member Jim Graham, who made the trip from Nambucca for the occasion. Needless to say, there was a standing ovation for both Jim and the organ - and barely a dry eye in the house!

Clockwise from above: Jasper O’Neil’s solo was a delight. Brass complemented the organ magnificently. Soloists Leanne Roobol and Stephen Tall sang excerpts from Phantom of the Opera. Sue Cartwright, Catriona Doyle and Sam Doyle loved the concert. Val Terbutt and Don and Jacquie McDonald were many of the friends of TAS who travelled considerable distances for the event. Bruce Moffatt, Poppy Abbott and Lynne Walker celebrated the launch of the new organ. Phil Oxley conducted the TAS Chapel Choir. Photos: Tim Scott, Tim Hughes

Organist Warwick Dunham demonstrates the majesty of the new organ

Andrew Knight was delighted to meet TAS creative arts stalwart Jim Graham
Andrew Knight was delighted to meet TAS creative arts stalwart Jim Graham.
P&F hosts community events

TAS opened its gates to the public over three days in early November for a trio of community activities.

The weekend commenced with the opening on Friday night of the third TAS Art Show, in the TAS Hoskins Centre. The show featured around 100 works on paper, ceramics and sculpture from more than 40 well known and less familiar artists from across the region and interstate. “This is the third art show and every year we get new artists wishing to be part of it,” co-ordinator Philippa Charley-Briggs said.

On Saturday the RazzamaTAS fete was held on the school’s front fields, including a jumping castle, sideshow alley, chocolate wheel, fashion emporium in the Memorial Hall, and the ever-popular ‘bash-a-bomb!’

Then on Saturday and Sunday, the school grounds were opened as part of the St Peter’s Armidale Garden Tour. The opening allowed the public to enjoy the Chapel garden, the Lawrance Memorial Quadrangle and other areas not visible from outside the school gates. This was the first time for many years TAS has been part of the St Peter’s Garden Tour, which this year honoured the Diocese of Armidale’s centenary celebrations.
Big screen attraction

If you’ve been watching movies in the past few months, there’s a good chance you’ve seen a TAS Old Boy in the credits, with a number undertaking creative pursuits.

Well known for his role in stage musicals, Peter Cousens (69-73) had the challenge of directing an Academy Award winning actor in his first feature film.

Peter’s latest venture has been the big budget slavery film Freedom, which had its Australian release on 21 August. Among those he worked with on the film were Oscar-nominee cinematographer Dean Cundey and Oscar winning actor, Cuba Gooding Jnr. Peter had a cameo role in the film, and was also its executive producer. The film was the most successful box-office independent film in the week of its release.

Angus Sampson (91-92) has also made his film directorial debut in 2014, with the quirky Australian comedy The Mule. Inspired by true events, The Mule tells the story of a naive man who is detained by federal police with lethal narcotics hidden in his stomach. Angus, who has been seen in the past few years in various roles on the small screen (including, currently, dressed up as in a fireman’s suit in an AAMI insurance ad), co-wrote, co-directed and co-produced the film, assembling a stellar ensemble cast including Hugo Weaving and Noni Hazlehurst. Among Old Boys who are ‘bit’ players and extras is Alistair Flower (88-93), while Dai Griffiths (87-92) and Angus Coupland (87-92) are both executive producers. Angus has a role in the keenly awaited Mad Max: Thunder Road; meanwhile The Mule is available on Foxtel on Demand, or for purchase on DVD.

Last seen at TAS in a touring stage version of Treasure Island, Joss McWilliam (71-76) stars in The Suicide Theory, which had its cinema release in the US, in June. Also featuring on the big screen in the US this year was Toby Levins (90-99) in the sci-fi Godzilla, and on television in the fantasy TV series Once Upon a Time in Wonderland. Another movie, The Age of Adaline is in post production, while shooting has been completed in another feature film, Lockdown.

As mentioned in Binghi 164, Eddy Bell (91-92, 98-00) won the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director at the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films for his short film Grey Bull.

Many friends, family and old boys attended the black-tie premiere screening of the first film by Edward Inchbold (09-13), Hard Lines, at the Roseville Cinema on 15 December. Written, directed and edited by Edward, the film centres on a man returning to Sydney’s underworld after a seven-year stint in gaol.

Meanwhile Gareth Rickards (96-01) will appear in the Australian comedy adventure Rough Stuff, to screen in 2015. Gareth plays the main character Buzz Burroughs, who lives on the fringes of society and will take any job that pays. When he and his troupe of rovers team up with a documentary crew in the Outback, his past catches up with him, with fascinating consequences.

On the small screen, Ben Mingay’s (92-95) role as Rob Duffy in the series Wonderland has been signed for another season on Ten. In the TV news world, Geoff Breusch (79-86) is reporting for Channel 7 in Brisbane, Chris White (91-96) is a newreader for NBN in Newcastle, and Jonathan Uptin (84-89) presents the news for Channel 9 in Darwin.

Of course this list is far from complete, and doesn’t include the many former students involved in the theatre world. One thing however is conclusive; the legacy of the creative arts at TAS, is well and truly alive.
Robbie’s a Harvard Champion

An undergraduate science research team co-captained by Robbie Oppenheimer (03-08) has not only become the first from the southern hemisphere to compete in the annual BIOMOD competition at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, it has taken out top honours.

Called Team Echidna, Robbie and four colleagues from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute won the Grand Prize at the competition in November with their potentially life-saving advancement in the area of bionanotechnology.

The team has managed to program DNA to detect disease by lighting it up, initially focusing on Ebola virus. “It’s a DNA machine that’s a bit like a light switch. When the DNA comes into contact with Ebola virus, it turns on and starts to glow like a beacon – alerting scientists and doctors of its presence,” Robbie said.

“We’ve designed it so the DNA could also be programmed to detect other types of disease, like a mutation associated with cancer or a gene causing antibiotic resistance. It could also detect HIV or tuberculosis.”

Robbie is currently studying a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at the University of NSW, with his honours research being done at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Earlier this year he graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Economics and Anthropology) and Bachelor of Science ( Biology). Of the 34 teams from around the world which took part in BIOMOD, Team Echidna also took home Best YouTube video and were runners up for Best Presentation and Audience Favourite.

Obituaries

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

Brian Cohen (42-44) wrote earlier in the year to advise of the death of Roderick (Ike) Fisher (42-44). Rod was apparently one of five of the 22 members of the Leaving Certificate class of 1944 to graduate in Medicine. Two others from that year had distinguished careers in two Services in different countries. The late Brian Treloar (43-45) became a Rear Admiral and Director General, Naval Health Services, in the RAN, while Douglas (Algie) Paton (42-44) retired as Major-General in the Royal Army Medical Corps of the UK. The other two doctors were Robin Fisher (40-44) (no relation to Rod) and Ray Bassett (43-45). Apologies Brian that this was overlooked earlier.

The School lost a great supporter with the passing of William (Roy) Forsyth (32-35) in early October. One of five brothers to attend TAS, he was a chartered accountant in early November. Rick died of some repute. A past president of the OBU, he also served on the School Council for two years, and at the time of his death was the School’s oldest Honorary Life Vice President.

Condolences to his sons David (63-68) and Michael (68-72).

Phillip Curtis (65-68) advised us of the sad news of the passing of classmate Rick Evans (65-68) in early November. Rick died suddenly at his property ‘Yandooya’ west of Warwick, and leaves behind his partner Sue and teenage sons Rupert and Oscar. Our sympathies to his family.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death, on 5 September, of Andrew Busby (Staff, Croft House 06-09), at the age of 36. While not an Old Boy, Andrew loved his time at TAS and as a keen musician, was very involved in creative pursuits at TAS and more widely in Armidale. Our thoughts go to his father Rob Busby (63-68), sister Emily and extended family.

Congratulations

Dick Hays (41-46) and his wife Clare celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September, with 30 relatives and friends – among them Keith Coulton (39-46) who made a valiant effort to attend, and Geoff Reardon (42) who was one of the many Sydney boys relocated to TAS during the war. Dick said the couple were delighted to receive congratulations from several politicians as well as the Queen.

Well done Randal Thomas (90-95) on his marriage to Amy Curtis on 25 October, in Armidale. The wedding brought together many TAS families, and prompted a reunion of several staff!

Guy Fitzroy (92-97) and his wife Kim, of ‘Avondale’ Delungra, are pleased to announce the arrival of their second child, Ruby, on 11 October. Rugby is a sister for Maggie, and another beautiful grandchild for Caroline and Brian Fitzroy (57-63).

Here and There

We’d love to hear what some of our Old Boys from the 1940s and 50s are up to. Drop us a line about your family, travels or interests, to binghi@as.edu.au or to Binghi, c/o The Armidale School, Locked Bag 3003 Armidale 2350.

1960s

Bob Gillard (60-64) has moved from Swansea to Taree, sharing a locality – and a PO Box – with his brother Greg (64-66). Since moving there, he says he has caught up several times with Bob Crossman (59-64).

1970s

Veteran sports broadcaster David Morrow (64-70) has retired after 43 years in the industry including 34 years at the ABC. David began his career in country New South Wales as a general announcer with radio 2KM (now 2MC) in Kempsey in 1971, joining ABC Sport in 1980 and covering the first of his eight Olympic Games in Los Angeles four years later. He was at the heart of ABC’s league coverage on radio for 24 years, and in 2005 was awarded an OAM for his services to the community, sport and sports broadcasting. Dozens of former players and staff fans wished him on air before broadcasting his final NRL grand final, and also on his last day of duty for ABC Grandstand on 30 November.
Chris Davidson (66-70) of Tamworth is currently Principal of Andigen International, a technology company specialising in Environmental Consulting in the design and delivery of state of the art recycling and bio-energy technology.

1980s

After many years as a horse-whisperer based on the mid-north coast, Ken Scott (81) is now living near Uralla with his wife Hiroko, whom he met while working in Japan, and married 12 years ago.

Currently General Manager, Safety Systems with Virgin Australia, Stuart Aggs (78-88) was one of the keynote speakers at the Swinburne Aviation Industry Conference, Hawthorn Victoria, earlier in the year. Stuart has been with Virgin Australia since 2004, having previously been with Regional Express and Hazelton Airlines. His Master of Science in Aviation (UNSW) follows from his experience in general aviation and as a charter freight pilot and flight instructor – a passion he pursued after university at UNE.

He sees Bryn Griffiths (83-88) and Bill Bailey (83-88) reasonably often as they both reside in Brisbane.

Rowan Bourne (87-88) has been an electrical power systems engineer for about 20 years (after studying at the University of Newcastle), and is currently a power supply connection consultant with Electrical Network Design. He writes that he is happily married to Sharon and has five year old twin boys, Hamish and Oliver.

1990s

Nice to hear some months ago from Michael Stanton (85-90): “We are enjoying Florida’s weather and life by the beach in Juno Beach, Florida. I am now working for Ocwen Financial Corporation, one of the largest mortgage servicing companies in the US.”

David Kapcejevs (86-91) is a Business Development Manager with Ord Minnett and a key member of the Intermediary Services team. Prior to joining Ord Minnett, David worked at Perpetual as a Private Client Adviser, as a Technical Analyst at Sealcorp (ASGARD) and at Westpac Financial Services in both technical and advisory capacities.

Sinclair Croft (89-94) has been working as a heritage consultant with Graham Brooks and Associates for the past three years. While Sydney-based, his work takes him into regional NSW and interstate, working with developers on proposals concerning heritage buildings or within conservation areas. A keen swimmer at school, he has joined an adult training squad, and recently competed in an open water swimming event on Lake Erie, Cleveland, Ohio. Next year, he will be part of a relay team swimming across the English Channel.

Brett Spokes (89-94) is living in Muswellbrook and working in the mining industry.

Nigel Henley (90-95) is keeping very busy, teaching several subjects at primary and secondary level at Bundarra Central School. He is also coaching the school’s senior girls touch football team, and reserve grade with the Inverell Highlanders RUFC: “I still play but am ready to give it away!” He and his wife Melissa have a daughter Emily, and sons, Alex, and Thomas.

The White old boys had their own private family reunion at a friend’s wedding in the Blue Mountains recently. Back left to right: Hadley White (92-97) is a senior design engineer with ResMed in Sydney; Edward White (95-00) is a doctor working in emergency in Tamworth; Anthony White (93-98) is a primary teacher at Bondi Public School in Sydney and (in front) Christopher White (91-96) is a newsreader with NBN based in Newcastle.

Elton Clodumar (93-95) sent a lengthy email from his homeland Nauru, to where he returned after leaving TAS. In 2005 he became Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO), reporting on the methods and haul taken by tuna fishing vessels. Two years later, he moved to Marshall Islands for five years, working as a PIRFO trainer, working with officials from several Pacific islands agencies including the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). He is now also involved in the Australian Awards Scholarships program on Nauru, keen to broaden his knowledge through tertiary study to further equip him to “become an influential individual, an asset to my country and to the limited marine fisheries resources that we small island nations are so dependant on”.

2000s

David Metcalfe (96-04), Andrew Paterson (99-04) and Luke Brattoni (99-04) are sharing digs in Artarmon.

Charles Cull (00-07) has joined the NSW Farmers Association as a policy adviser. A former Dux of TAS, Charles graduated with first class honours in Commerce and Arts from the University of Sydney. It was while writing his thesis on coal seam gas that he chanced upon research conducted by NSW Farmers president Fiona Simson – and on that basis, sought a job with the association. He is particularly interested in drought assistance policy and advocating against the introduction of mandatory electronic livestock identification tags for sheep and goats.

Digital sales marketing manager Mark Wright (03-07, son of Gary 72-79) has become somewhat of a celebrity in the UK where he has lived for some years and, just as Binghi was going to print, was named winner of season 10 of BBC reality TV show The Apprentice! As part of his prize, he lands a £250,000 investment from UK billionaire businessman Lord Sugar in his digital marketing agency after beating 19 other would-be entrepreneurs in the BBC1 competition. Lord Sugar, who is the Donald Trump of the UK version of the series, co-founded global electronics company Amstrad. More details in Binghi 168 - congratulations Mark!
There were plenty of tall stories of past sporting glories, friendly rivalry with old foes, and fortunately no torn hamstrings when 43 Old Boys from the 1981 and 1982 cohorts represented TAS in the GPS Gold Challenge on 3-4 October.

Held every two years as a major fundraiser for the Red Kite Foundation, the event brings together almost 700 GPS Old Boys who have turned, or are about to turn, 50, for competition in a range of disciplines.

At the shooting at Kings on Friday, the TAS ‘81 team narrowly came second, and the TAS ‘82 team, came third. Several also played golf at Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club.

On Saturday at St Ignatius College Riverview, TAS competed in tennis, touch football and athletics, and even lent a couple of swimmers to Kings. The highlight was that evening at the dinner for more than 650, when the TAS ‘81 team were presented with the David Hutchison Trophy for winning the touch rugby! TAS also came second in the debating - more like a public speaking competition, in which one representative from each school had to speak to the topic ‘That GPS Schools should be Coeducational’ (TAS was one of five schools given the Affirmative).

So impressed with the TAS performance that Peter FitSimons wrote, in his SMH column: “It was an extremely popular win. In the words of one participant (from another school), ‘TAS is like your country cousin that most of the family has long forgotten. Then you catch up for a few beers in the corner at your sister’s wedding and you realise he is a really great bloke.”

Congratulations to organisers Nick Tuit and David Thompson (both ’81) and Duncan McDonald ('82) for their efforts. With any luck, the ’83 and ’84 Old Boys will be wanting to make it an even better year for TAS, at the GPS Gold Challenge in October 2016!

Old Boys launch Shooting Appeal

TAS has a proud history of Rifle Shooting; indeed in the very first competition against fellow GPS schools in 1904, it came second to Newington College. Since that time TAS has had great success in the GPS competition, most recently in 2012 as joint premiers and in 2011, being GPS Champions, winning all three competition shields. Proudly supported by the Old Boys Union, it is the sport with which TAS has had most success at GPS level – but we now need to seek your help to ensure this rich heritage can continue.

It has become apparent that the program needs a significant financial investment of around $40,000 to upgrade rifles, facilities and training opportunities. To this end, the OBU has launched the Old Boys Shooting Appeal to raise the necessary funds – initially, to purchase new small bore (.22) calibre rifles suitable for competition and a SCATT aim-tracking system. The OBU has committed $10,000 from investment funds, while the P&F Association has pledged $5,000 and the Rugby Supporters Group, $2,500. In addition, more than $1,500 has been promised from Old Boys before the appeal has officially been launched. This wonderful support from a cross-section of the school community reflects the passion for shooting at TAS and the opportunity it gives our students, and we are hoping you will also pitch in your support.

To ensure donations are tax deductible, the appeal is being managed through the TAS Foundation. It is preferred that donations are made online through a special donation page that has been set up on both the TAS website and the TASOBU website (www.tasobu.com.au). Otherwise call TAS Reception on (02) 6776 5800; if cheques are to be sent, please make them out to TAS Foundation Building Trust and mark on the back of the cheque ‘Old Boys Shooting Appeal’.

I thank you for joining me to make a real difference to the school’s shooting program.

Mark Berry
Old Boys Union President

Old Boys’ Weekend 2015

At its most recent committee meeting, the OBU, in liaison with the School, has set the date for Old Boys Weekend as 14-16 August 2015. As has been custom for the past two years, the date was chosen to coincide with the last home GPS rugby fixture – in 2015, against St Joseph’s College. A full program of activities will be published in the next issue of Binghi. Organisers are now being sought for 1, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60+ leavers; please contact Donna Jackson in the Development Office djackson@as.edu.au or 6776 5800 if you can help.