Once Upon A Mattress

As Andrew O’Connell reports in this edition of TAS Talks, the curtain is now down on ‘Once Upon a Mattress’, but the talk about it continues. Staging a major production such as this engages very many people, on and off the stage, and to all involved I offer congratulations. Being a part of something so personal, emotional and intense will stay in the memories of all those involved and that is quite special. I am sorry to say that I have had to rely on video of the play as I have been away, but I have been greatly encouraged by what has clearly been an outstanding success in every way.

ANZAC Day 2015

The 2015 ANZAC Day commemoration will be of great significance at TAS. As is the case around the country, we come together this year to recognise events a century ago that contributed so much to our national psyche. Conflicting emotions swirl together each year on this anniversary; bravery, sacrifice, pride, regret, mateship and loss, and all are equally legitimate. As a school, we are able to look back at the part that TAS Old Boys and staff played in conflicts around the globe, including Gallipoli, and offer tribute to their sacrifice.

ANZAC Day in this year of the centenary of Gallipoli falls, unusually, during school term and this will give us the opportunity to acknowledge it as a school community, both at the TAS service at 7:00am and later as our full cadet unit marches in the Armidale ANZAC Day parade. The TAS Ceremonial Guard will provide the catafalque party for the TAS, Dangarsleigh and Armidale services and I wish them well for their preparations for this service to our community.

Chess

The competitive chess season is underway and I offer congratulations to our First IV on their success in the first round of the NSW Junior Chess League this week. Chess has a long history at TAS and I am very pleased to see it in good shape with a keen and able senior team and plenty of interest from younger students. I encourage all who would like to learn more about the game to get in touch with Ms Boydell.

Founders’ Day and New Traditions

This year we combine our annual Founders’ Day commemoration with the inaugural ‘Great Cloisters Run’. This new inter-house competition will see representatives from each house race the bell around the quadrangle and bring great fun to the more serious business of recognizing our heritage and, this year, our history of service to Australia in war.

Details of this new event are provided later in this edition of TAS Talks and parents are welcome to join the School for it.
### Week 9
**Primary Industries - Year 12 Workplacement - All Week**

- **24 - 26 March**: Visual Arts Excursion - Sydney
- **Thursday 26 March**: 6.00 pm Twilight Concert
- **Friday 27 March**: Activities Day No. 3
- **27 - 29 March**: Pre Season Football, Athletics and Rugby (Scots)
- **28 - 29 March**: NIAS Football Squad Training
- **Sunday 29 March**: Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim

**Foundation Rugby Referees Course (McConville Centre)**

### Week 10

**Monday 30 March**: 8.45am MS/SS Easter Service

- Year 9 Parent Teacher interviews
- 11.20am Founders Day
- 1.10pm Great Cloisters Run
- 2.00pm JS Easter Service

**Tuesday 31 March**: Year 9 Parent Teacher interviews

- Junior School Athletics Championships
- Board Meetings
- 6.00pm TAS Cricket Dinner (McConville Centre)

**Wednesday 1 April**: MS/SS Athletics Championships

End of Term

**Thursday 2 April**: Staff Day

**Friday 3 April**: Good Friday

### HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

13 April - 17 April: Young Round Square Conference (12-14 yr olds), Adelaide

15 April - 20 April: SISER KYCK Service in Sydney and Katoomba

18 April - 19 April: TAS Rugby Carnival

18 April - 20 April: TAS Rifle Club Fullbore Training Camp (Wollomombi)

### UNIFORM AND BOOK SHOP

The Uniform and Book Shop will be open 9.00am to 5.00pm Friday 17 April. This is the day before the TAS Rugby Carnival starts. Junior Rugby players please take note.

**Hours during the first week of Term 2**

- Monday 20 April 9.00 am to 5.00pm
- Tuesday 21 April normal hours resume 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Wednesday 22 April 1.30pm to 5.30pm

### UNIFORM REGULATIONS

As outlined in the Rules and Regulations which can be found on the website, the School expects its students to wear their full school uniform correctly and with pride and sets high standards for students both in public and at school. During the school day students arriving and departing grounds must wear a blazer and Akubra hat unless given approval otherwise; shirts must be tucked in and socks pulled up.

This includes all boys who are delivered to school by parents, as well as those who walk or arrive by bus.

It is also an expectation of the school that uniform and shoes will be clean and in good repair, and that only approved TAS backpacks be used as school bags.

The support of families in abiding by these regulations is expected and appreciated.
As Term 1 races towards its conclusion, we have still have a few events to look forward to…. TAS Rugby Carnival on 18 & 19 April.

The TAS Rugby Carnival is the single largest event on the TAS calendar and it is both a super weekend of primary rugby, and also a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school to the broader community. Not only its physical assets, but also the way our school family pulls together to make things happen, and the hospitality we offer. AND it’s also a great opportunity to meet up with friends both old and new.

Can you help? We are looking for volunteers to cook (cakes, slices and the barbecues at school), sell on the cake stalls, make up lunches and generally assist in the McConville Centre. Keep an eye out for a note from your Liaison Parents, or feel free to contact me directly on 0409 973 247 or sue_333@me.com to confirm a time slot if you are able to spare any time over this huge weekend. We’d love to see you there.

**Community Service hours for boys will also be available for those who are interested. Please contact Mrs Boydell ASAP to register your interest**

We have both the Junior and Middle/Senior Athletics coming up next week and we will be looking for more baking and selling assistance to help raise those much needed funds for our school.

Please look out for contact from your Liaison Parents to enlist your help – many hands make light work, and it is all to benefit our children and those that come after them. If you don’t hear form your LP but would like to drop in some goodies to sell on the day – please take it directly to the stall which will be set up behind the gym.

POSTPONEMENT - Liaison Parents Welcome Lunch

Unfortunately, and due to circumstances beyond our control, the LP Welcome lunch has been postponed – stay tuned for a new date! We do look forward to spending an hour with you to thank you and get to know you.

STUDENT SERVICES

Note for parents planning public transport travel for their son(s) during the vacation.

Students 16 years and over are advised to apply for a NSW Transport Student Concession Card available from the Travel Office. This entitles the holder to half adult fare on buses, trains and ferries. It also contributes points towards a proof of identity check.

Please apply to Mrs Meg Sadler by emailing travel@as.edu.au
Easter is coming… Hebrews 10:1-7

About this time last year, a young man from TAS came up to me and asked, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Fair question, but quite unexpected, not many people know of Lent, less people bother with it. It’s a time when Christians have traditionally given up something, often for 40 days, as they lead up to Easter, as a way of focusing their attention on Jesus and what he has achieved on the cross. Not a bad idea. So I looked up a few things that people are giving up these days, or at least things that people are doing for lent. The following are some ideas:

• Don’t eat the last bite of your food
• Park at the very back of the parking lot
• Don’t use your apps
• Cut out all screen-time (phone, TV, computer) after dinner
• Sit and stand up straight – don’t slouch! It sounds like my mother wrote these ideas…until I got to the next one
• Don’t use utensils
• Put a popcorn kernel in your shoe every day
• When you wake up, jump out of bed, kiss the floor, and learn humility, or in my case flexibility
• Use your weekends to babysit for free – don’t get me wrong but if you offer to babysit our kids for nothing, I’m going to be suspicious…
• Don’t straighten or curl your hair - Toaks has been practicing Lent for a while it seems…

If you have had your eyes open you will have noticed that the supermarkets have been full of Hot Cross Buns and Easter Bunnies for some time now… it seems that we have been leading up to Easter for more than the 40 days prior to the 5 April date this year. In fact the more we look, the more we notice that it’s not just the supermarkets that have been leading up to Easter for some time. Before Jesus came and lived and died and rose again, the Jews had been longing to see the one who would come and fulfill all that the Old Testament had been looking forward to. All things in Scripture are and were geared towards the Easter event. In fact all things are geared to this event, for in it God fulfills his promises, and provides what is needed to restore this messy world. All things in life scream at us of something bigger and more significant than our selves, the mess in the world and in our lives speaks to us of the need for restoration. All these things find their answer in the Easter event, and it’s not an egg shaped answer, but rather a cross-shaped solution.

When I was in 4th grade my teacher often talked about places he had lived as a teacher ‘down on the Murrumbidgee’ or ‘down on the Murray’. The romance of far-away places took hold and I would dream of visiting such places. On one occasion we all received an outline of NSW and we had to write in as many towns as we could. I enjoyed that activity even though these days it would be seen as a rather pointless or boring task. My imagination was fired simply saying and writing some of the strange names. The spell of far-way places still draws me. Travelling is always something to fire the imagination.

We all need something that will capture our imaginations, help us to dream dreams, somehow re-locate us through day-dreaming. Far from being a waste of time such processes are important - creating vision, hope, and an expanded view of possibilities. They help us go beyond the predictable and routine nature of everyday life. Australians are well-known for their love of travel. Overseas destinations call us to adventure, to new and different experiences. Somehow, connecting with other places and cultures, is important, perhaps because we are the people from ‘down under’, the antipodes, the end of the earth.

Education needs to include such a sense of adventure and possibility, to open horizons that call us to become curious about the world, to other ways of being in the world apart from what we have known. It may begin by engagement with the many opportunities that TAS provides that go beyond the predictable and known.
Year 9 Parent Teacher Interviews

Year 9 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held next Monday 30 March 3.30 - 6.00pm and Tuesday 31 March 1.30 - 5.30pm.

Information for making your interview bookings online has been sent to parents. If you have any difficulties with this process please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien on 6776 5806. A parent Information session will be held later in the year.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test in May each year. The assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class.

For students in Years 3 and 5, there are four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar). For students in Years 7 and 9, there are five tests including two tests in numeracy – a calculator allowed test and a non-calculator test.

The NAPLAN test results and the student reports are released in September.

The results provide information about student achievement that can be used to inform teaching and learning programs. NAPLAN tests provide point-in-time information regarding student progress in literacy and numeracy and are intended to complement the wide range of formal and informal assessments that are already conducted in schools. NAPLAN test results are not intended to be used in isolation from other school-based assessment programs.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has responsibility for the central management of the NAPLAN. The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) is the NSW Test Administration Authority (TAA) and is responsible for the administration of the NAPLAN tests in all NSW schools.

For further information regarding NAPLAN please contact the coordinator, Ms Catherine Boydell on 6776 5800.

Click HERE to download NAPLAN letter.
ACADEMIC

Year 10 Canberra Excursion

As part of 2015 Excursion Week Year 10 students will travel to Canberra. To find out more about the trip, visit the dedicated website. This is where information and updates will be posted. CLICK HERE

Dates: 27 April — 1 May (Week 2 Term 2)
Depart: 6am, Monday 27 April from TAS
Return: 6:30pm, Friday 1 May

Mr Tim Scott

Science and Engineering Challenge

Last Wednesday, Chelsea Webster-Knife took 32 science students from Year 10 to the University of New England to compete in the University of Newcastle - Highland Science and Engineering Challenge. The students had to organise themselves into groups of four and compete in one full or two half day activities. These activities included; Bridge Building, Catapults, Public Transport Systems, Power Stations, Earthquake Proof Structures, Mars Vehicle Suspension Systems, Bionic Hands and Hovercrafts. They competed against seven other schools in the region including schools from Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha.

TAS won the Highland Science and Engineering Challenge and now progress through to the State finals that will be held at Newcastle in August. TAS achieved success in retaining the Shield for the third year in a row and due to Guyra not being able to attend two years ago, have attended the Newcastle State finals five years in a row.

This event is a great opportunity for students to experience unknown challenges and be able to work as a team to solve problems with finite resources. This experience has also influenced previous TAS students in their decision to enrol in Engineering courses at university.

Mr Tim Wheaton

Easter HSC Revision

Easter HSC Revision Programs by Sci School are running 13-17 April. Lectures are live-streamed and accessible from any broadband-connected desktop or mobile device. Covering HSC Mathematics 2 Unit, Ext. 1 (3 Unit), Ext. 2 (4 Unit), Physics and Chemistry, these fully-interactive lectures will equip Year 12 students to revise this term and get ahead for next. To register or find out more, visit scischool.com.au

Miss Amanda Robins

Chess

Congratulations to the Chess First IV - first round winners in the NSW Junior Chess League, defeating O’Connor Catholic College 3 boards to 1 in the TAS Library on Tuesday. This was a lovely reversal of last year’s result, when O’Connor defeated us narrowly after an epic two hour game. Congratulations to Ali Ahsan, Charlie Wyatt, Harry Pollard and Josh Stevenson on their efforts.

Harry Pollard (right) vs Tom Frazier from O’Connor Catholic College in one of the Junior Chess League matches yesterday.
Destination Dreaming – Indigenous Perspectives Project 2015 for Round Square schools in the Australia & SE Asia region

Round Square schools of the Australasia & East Asia region are invited to join the Indigenous Perspectives Project (IPP), facilitated by Destination Dreaming, with student bursary support by Friends of Round Square.

The IPP will give your students an opportunity to work with and learn from an Indigenous community in our region. This will offer a wide cultural mix of Round Square students from our region. We also offer 2 Staff Volunteer positions, with on-ground expenses paid.

Who will participate
Senior Students (over 16 years old), 16 Students, 1 Facilitator (from Destination Dreaming) and 2 Volunteer Staff.

Program itinerary
This Project will be a seven day program from 22 - 28 June 2015, run on location on Minjerribah, N.Stradbroke Island, QLD. Each of the Round Square IDEALS will be explored in an interactive way. See www.forsaust.org.au Project Flyer

Cost per student
$1700 per student including all on-land costs from Brisbane PLUS airfares. Students will organise their own flights. A deposit of $500 payable by 1 May, and the balance due 31 May.

Bursaries for students
FORS will offer $500, to eligible students who need assistance. See www.forsaust.org site for details.

Application and Administration
Reps to send the completed Participant Form, and a letter of recommendation from the Headmaster or RS Rep, and Deposit Form to robyn.angus64@gmail.com by 1 May, 2015.

We hope you can be part of this special experience...

Please see Mrs Barnier or Mr Buntine (Round Square Representatives) to discuss this further.

Round Square International Conference 2015– United World Colleges of South East Asia (UWCSEA), Singapore

The theme of the conference is “Act Today, Change Tomorrow” and the focus will be on sustainability, a UWC mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

The conference will be preceded by an adventure trip (trekking and kayaking) in Northern Thailand (yet to be confirmed) and is open to students in Years 11 and Year 10 should we not fill the six spots with the more senior students. The conference runs from 2-8 October.

Website: The conference website is now live so please take a look.

Mr Buntine and Mrs Barnier are taking applications now as registrations close early April. This is a great opportunity to meet lots of students from across the world, challenge yourself and be part of global group of young people looking to our future.

To complete an application CLICK HERE
ANZAC DAY

This year’s 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day is to be commemorated by the whole school on the day - 25 April 2015. This year ANZAC Day falls on the Saturday at the end of Week 1 Term 2. The whole school is to be in attendance at our 7.00am commemorative service outside the Memorial Hall where we remember the 103 fallen Old Boys and staff and many others whom served our nation in time of war and peace. We are very fortunate to have long time supporter of TAS Major General Iain Spence, Head of Cadets Reserves and Employer Support Division, as our invited guest to speak at the service. Our 16 man ceremonial guard will form the catafalque party for the ceremony. The service will be followed by a Eucharist Service in the Memorial Hall.

At 8.30am our ceremonial guard will form the catafalque party at the Dangarsleigh War Memorial Service.

At 11.00am the whole cadet unit (A, B, C Coy, Q Store and Signals Platoon) will march in the Armidale City Anzac Day Service. The unit’s ceremonial guard will form the catafalque party at the service in Central Park. The remainder of the school will attend the service in Central Park from 11.00am.

Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

Your support of this most significant occasion is greatly appreciated.

Trevor Thatcher
Major (AAC)
Commanding Officer, Cadets
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

Cadets - Activities Day 3

Activities Day 3 26 & 27 March commenced with a back brief by the SUO and Coy Commanders to the Coy OICs on Monday 23 March at 1.15pm.

Orders were delivered to all cadets on Tuesday 24 March during Period 3 (normally Assembly).

Cadets in 3 Platoon and 6 Platoon will attend an overnight bivouac on Thursday night 26 March.

A Coy

1 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
River Crossing
Fieldcraft Exercises
Parade 8.40am Fri 27 March
Dismissal 3.30pm

2 Platoon - Gara Gorge
Abseiling
Roping Acty
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Fri 27 March
Dismissal 3.30pm

3 Platoon - Mt Duval
Overnight Bivouac
Parade 3.45pm Thur 26 March
Dismissal 3.30pm Fri 27 March

B Coy

4 Platoon - UNE Property 'Kirby'
Navigation Training
Team Building Ex
Tri-Lesson (2)
RATEL
Parade 8.40am Friday
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday

5 Platoon - Dumaresq Dam
Canoeing
Water Safety / Survival
First Aid / RATEL
Tri-Lesson (2)
Field Cooking
Parade 8.40am Friday
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday

6 Platoon - Peatfields Overflow (Little Mt Duval)
Overnight Bivouac and navigation exercise
Parade 3.45pm Thursday 26 March
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday 27 March

C Coy - UNE Property 'Kirby'
Navigation
Fieldcraft
Team building and initiative excercises
Parade 8.40am Friday
Dismissal 3.30pm Friday

Mr Trevor Thatcher
Major (AAC)
Commanding Officer
Pioneers - Activities Day 3 - Friday 27 March

Pioneers and Pioneers Support will head off to Dumaresq Dam and its environs for a day of rogaining practice for Year 10, and radio setup, monitoring and handover for Year 11.

Rogaining involves navigation with quick decisions, and this day is practice for Day 4 where teams will attempt to gain as many points as possible, with control points having more points the harder they are to gain. Prizes are awarded for the best team on the day.

Students will need a hat, running shoes, sunscreen, wet weather gear and a water bottle. Lunch is provided.

We meet at the Pioneers shed on Wakefield at 8.45am and should return to TAS by 3.30pm

The Day:

0845: assemble at Pioneers Shed on Wakefield
0900: depart for Dumaresq Dam
0930: review maps and navigation
0945: each group of Pioneers moves off with staff to navigate to various points on the map, with each member of the group taking turns at navigation. Each groups reports to Pioneers Support when they successfully locate a control point. (minimum of three to be recorded)
1300: Lunch at northern meeting point (GR 667374)
1345: depart for southern entrance checking controls en route (minimum of three to be recorded)
1515: depart on buses for TAS
1530: arrive TAS for dismissal

Details always available HERE

Mr Martin Levins
MIC Pioneers
Save the Date
TAS Community Open Day
Friday 24 April, 2015
9.30 - 12.30

There’s plenty to see at this year’s TAS Community Open Day (incorporating Grandparents Day) on 24 April. Be entertained by music performances, marvel at our climbing wall, visit your child or grandchild’s classroom, or simply come and take a tour around TAS. 9.30-12.30pm, morning tea provided.

To register please use the following link. REGISTER TO ATTEND OPEN DAY

Honoured past and a new tradition on Founders Day

Next Monday 30 March is Founders Day, and two events will commemorate the school’s past and future.

During Advisors, the annual Founders Day Assembly will be held, this year commemorating the service of Old Boys and staff in the First World War. The Assembly will be held in the Lawrance Quadrangle to accommodate a special attraction!

Then at 1.10pm the inaugural Great Cloisters Run will take place, also based around the quadrangle, and inspired by an athletics challenge made famous in the film Chariots of Fire. Students from each sporting house and age group (under 13s to Opens) will each run a lap of of 306m rectangular course around the Quadrangle to Junior School and return. The race will start under the quadrangle clock, when a bell donated to the school in the 1960’s, is rung for the first time in many years. Students will be assembled in House groups around the course, to cheer on their runners.

Parents are welcome to attend, but must be in position above the covered way (upstairs Fisher Wing) by 1.05pm.

Good luck to all runners!

Pic caption: Joe Makeham, Sam Finlayson and Sam Jones get ready to check out the course of the inaugural Great Cloisters through the historic heart of TAS on 30 March.
Measuring Success

With the term coming to an end it is natural that we would reflect on our co-curricular activities. Personally, I like the simple framework, what should we:

1. Stop Doing,
2. Keep Doing and

I would encourage you to share your views with the coordinator or staff involved in your activities so that we can use this information to plan for the future.

However, before we evaluate, it is important to celebrate the successes. There have been many outstanding individual achievements including Joe Makeham winning his fifth Campus to City Canter, Tom Ball making the final of the U/9’s Freestyle at NSW CIS Championships and Michael Harris coming 6th in the National U/19 Mountain Biking Championships. There have also been many memorable team performances including our First XI and 16A’s winning cricket Premierships, our Rowing crews all achieving Personal Bests at the GPS Head of the River and the cast and crew of Once Upon A Mattress proving hard work can be fun.

This list is by no means exhaustive and everyone will have a slightly different measure of success. Personally, I believe success comes at the end of sustained effort where the journey is as important as the destination; where character is built and relationships forged, where commitment and teamwork are more important than natural talent, where pushing beyond your limits and overcoming adversity is more important than coming first and where sportsmanship, integrity and humility are valued above all else.

For those who have realised success this term, celebrate it. For those who have not, recognise that success is accessible to all – the win is within.
FOOTBALL

Recent Fixtures

Well done to the TAS First XI football team on its recent performances against Carinya and Tamworth FFC in matches last Thursday and Sunday respectively. See match reports following. Despite the results of both games not being in favour of TAS, the performances certainly hold well for the upcoming season.

CIS knockout vs Carinya Football

TAS Firsts played against Carinya Christian School in the first round of the CIS knockout on Thursday 19 March. The TAS team started strong, maintained possession and created some chances early into the match. Unfortunately a few mistakes presented Carinya with a chance to shoot and we finished the first half 1-0 down. The second half started well with a solid passage of play that ended with Jim Orr finishing an amazing goal from outside the box. A long range goal from moments later from Carinya put us 2-1 down and although a number of chances presented themselves, including a penalty, we were unable to fight back.

Mr Christian Nexo

Upcoming Fixtures

This Thursday our U15s Bill Turner Side, coached by Mr Richard Newton, will play their knockout game against Armidale High, commencing at 1pm at Doody Park. Any support would be appreciated and we wish the boys well. Additionally, we wish all the best to the First XI side travelling to Sydney on Friday to play against Barker College, and have a training session with Paul Wade. We hope that the boys find this experience valuable and we wish all the best to the boys for their fixture.

Westfield FFA Cup

On Sunday 22 March the TAS First XI competed in the first knockout round of the Westfield FFA Cup. We were drawn against Tamworth FC, a team from first division Premier League. The TAS boys rose to the occasion playing against a very physical opposition. Unfortunately the Tamworth team found the back of the net twice in the first half even though the team were defending well. We started the second half well and grew in confidence as the game went on but were unable to score and finished the game 2-0 down with a solid draw in the second half. Congratulations to all the boys, this was an outstanding performance against a very tough team.

Mr Christian Nexo

Registration Fees and Football Accounts

All football families will receive a charge on their account in the coming few weeks. This will include any fixtures from Term 1 (such as Bill Turner, FFA Cup etc), a charge if you attended the Sydney Football Tour and a charge for the first instalment of the football registration fees. There will be a second instalment due part way through Term 2. This is due to a change in when fee payments are being called upon by Northern Inland Football.

Football Website

Over the coming week, the football site will be updated with all information for the 2015 season. This will include team lists, coach details, clothing requirements etc. It is important that all players and their families familiarise themselves with this site, as it will be the central point of information throughout the season. Please note, that age groups with more than one team will have selections through the training sessions during the first week back of Term 2. Additionally, the draws will be released the first week of Term 2. A start date of competitions will be posted on the website as soon as it is made available.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC Football
North Coast All School Regional Kayaking Championships

Five TAS boys and one PLC girl (a TAS Old Girl) travelled to Nymboida Canoe Centre on Thursday the 19 of March to compete in the North Coast All Schools Regional Kayaking Championships three day event held on the 20 - 22 March. They competed in three different paddling disciplines of Slalom, Whitewater Sprints and Downriver racing.

Highlights for the weekend were David Williams achieving four second places and two thirds in his events, Nicholas Bohlsen - first in the Junior Mens K1 Sprints and places in other events, Heath Chandler – first in the 13-14 Mens K1 Slalom and places in other events, Remy Taylor – first in his Sub-Junior Mens SK1 Sprints and Downriver Run, Harry Graham received three thirds and a second place in his events and Kate Allen coming first in the Sub Junior SK1 Sprints and places in other events.

TAS was ranked third out of all the schools that competed at the end of the competition.

There will be training sessions held for Kayaking during Term 2 and beyond, so if you would like further information about kayaking or would like to read the full report on the Regional Championships, please access the Kayaking page on the TAS website.

Add yourself to the ‘Kayaking – The Armidale School’ Team App for information regarding future if you are interested in attending one of the following;

Rolling practice at the TAS Pool
Flatwater practice at Malpas Dam
Whitewater Trip to Barrington/Nymboida or Georges Junction

Mr Tim Wheaton

Mountain Biking

The second last race for the season was held yesterday afternoon at SportUNE. The results (found here http://www.nemtb.com.au/results) showed that the boys have certainly improved in fitness over the term with everyone either increasing the amount of laps they completed since last time we raced here, or completing the same amount of laps in a faster time. This was despite some boys feeling fatigued due to the end of the long racing season. The students will have a well earned rest at training this Wednesday as they’ll be viewing some video footage and photos taken of them over the season (a reminder that student’s won’t need their bikes on Wednesday). The last Summer Series Race will be held next Monday at Kookaburra Crest.

On Saturday most of the MTB students will be competing in the UNE 12 Hours in The Piney (4 or 8 hours for juniors) which should be a great experience for them!

Mrs Joanne Benham
Middle/Senior School

ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Events for Days 1 to 3

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<td>TRAINING DAY - SKILLS DEVELOPMENT - 3:50-5:00PM</td>
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Middle/Senior School

ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Events for Days 1 to 3

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On Saturday evening our 2015 TAS Production *Once Upon a Mattress* lowered the curtain to the rapturous applause of a full house. It was the culmination of six months of preparation and two weeks of a performance run and was the perfect end to a wonderful experience. Throughout the whole process I have been amazed by the dedication and talent of the students and they deserved all the audience’s praise for their strong characterisation, fine singing and work as an ensemble. After such a lengthy and demanding process it was so encouraging to see the majority of the cast come in on Sunday to help bump-out the show and highlights for me how committed a group we had and how much they enjoyed the production. Of course, the work of staff and TAS community members was also on show and made the production possible, so I think it important to make a few acknowledgements here. I would like to thank Miss Constance Rolfe and her costume team, Mr James White, Ms Aimee Brown of PLC and Mr Stephen Tall for their work throughout the development of the production. The contributions and talents of our orchestra should not go unnoticed, with those professional musicians being hugely supportive of the students. My production team of Mr Anthony Carlon as technical manager, Ms Leasa Cleaver as Assistant Director and the shared efforts of Mr Warwick Dunham and Ms Leanne Roobol as co-Music Directors should also be recognised with those four committing an extraordinary amount of time and effort. But final thanks must go to the students themselves for making this such a positive and enjoyable experience and I hope we will see many of the same faces on the stage in 2016. Coming from several years of well-know dramas, the decision to do a comedy unfamiliar to Australian audiences (though ranking in most top 10 lists for American musical theatre) was initially met with some scepticism; the fun the cast had and their natural talents for comedy as enjoyed by the audience has proven this to be a sound choice and I think it is now clear to everyone that it is not the name of the musical, but the quality of the performers, that is the true motivation for getting to the Hoskins Centre.

But, beyond a few hours after bump-out on Sunday, there is no rest for the theatre and auditions for Treasure Island continued Monday afternoon. A full cast list was teased last week but unfortunately people will still have to wait with bated breath a little longer. There will soon be coming through a call for expressions of interest for those who would like to help with the production elements, particularly costume design and prop construction, so keep an eye out for details if that interests you.

Mr Andrew O’Connell
Creative Arts Coordinator
Twilight Concert Thursday 26 March - 6pm

Don’t forget that the Term 1 Twilight Concert is coming up this Thursday in Big School commencing at 6pm. The concert is FREE and everyone is welcome to attend. Why not come along? You will be entertained by vocal and instrumental students from K-12 performing a variety of repertoire.

Junior School Students performed at Morning Melodies

What a pleasure it was to watch some of our youngest TAS students perform some rock music and songs for Armidale Seniors. The FanTAStics (our TAS Junior Band) and TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble travelled by bus to the Armidale Bowling Club to perform in the Morning Melodies concert last week. Thank you to Mrs Butcher and the Junior School students that were involved in the concert and gave such wonderful performances for the Armidale Care for Seniors at their annual event.

'Once Upon A Mattress' - What a fantastic show!

Congratulations to all the TAS staff and the TAS, NEGS and PLC students who put on such a great show over the last two weeks. Your commitment and hard work really paid off and 'Once Upon a Mattress' was professional and highly entertaining. Well done to all!

IMPORTANT: Cadet Band rehearsal next Monday afternoon from 3.40pm.

All Big Band members will be required to attend cadet band rehearsals next Monday afternoon from 3.40pm in the Music Centre as we prepare for ANZAC Day on the first weekend of next term. With time running out this term, we need everyone in attendance next week.

You will also be picking up your uniforms for ANZAC Day from Q Store so please ensure you come along next Monday at 3.40pm on the dot.

Junior Vocal & TAS Singers rehearsal next Tuesday morning

With TAS ensembles preparing for the Armidale Eisteddfod coming up in Term 2, we also require full attendance at the Junior Vocal Ensemble and TAS Singers rehearsal next Tuesday.

We understand the Junior School Athletics Carnival is also on next Tuesday but would like all Junior Vocal members to be in attendance please.

TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble will be rehearsing with TAS Singers next week so it is really important we have everyone in the Music Centre at the following times:

Tuesday 31st March
7.40am TAS Singers rehearsal
8.00am Junior Vocal Ensemble rehearsal with TAS Singers.

Yours in music,

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent
Athletics, Debating and other concerns

There's a difference between Athletics Carnivals now and those from years gone by: essentially, with the House points system there's greater facility and incentive for all students to become involved. The same principle attaches to our Debating teams where boys are regularly encouraged by Sam Redhead and Mr Hughes to 'try out' for teams such as the fast approaching Tri-Schools competition on Wednesday at PLC. Due thanks go to Mr Will Caldwell and his overarching co-curricular philosophy, arguably one that centers on such concerns as enabling and empowerment of the School's senior captains. Yes, granted, the House points system has been around for aeons but, no disrespect whatever intended, the motivation, participation and encouragement of Senior House Captains seem to be undergoing a more 'user friendly' renaissance over recent years. I've seen these senior boys in action; they've somehow perfected the 'omniscience and omnipotence' duality, being everywhere and all powerful at the one time.

As was the case with the Swimming Carnival, during the weeks preceding the Athletics day, the Captains are inviting our boys to their Senior House meetings and they've also attending our Town Meetings, encouraging individual participation and general Senior House support. The result is mass participation, regardless of individual sporting expertise. The effect, of course, will be a day where Middle School boys are in 'just about everything' and they'll no doubt enjoy themselves at the same time, simply because they're actively involved in the life of their school. On Thursday I helped time the 3000 metres run and was impressed by the number of our boys who participated and, considering the arduous nature of such activity, finished. Needles to say, perhaps, the full Athletics Carnival day (1 April - seriously) promises to be a real success.

Activities

The third full day of Activities fell last Friday. Boys have been to all 'four corners of'... Armidale and they've benefited from having a 'day with a difference' as we near the end of the year's longest term. It's really healthy for them to be engaged in physical activity, working together as members of teams and also testing themselves as individuals. I know that I've indicated this before, but it's so good that the boys get to know teaching staff on these as people who assist them. The days allow for and require mutual support mechanisms not to mention more informal and consultative interactions between boys and adults and most, regardless of age, enjoy them very much.

You are no doubt aware that all boys will be having another Activities Day this coming Friday. A good number of our boys will be out overnight. It's good that cadets will be completing their overnighters at this time because the weather's still warm enough to 'make for' a pleasant experience. As a general rule, from what I can glean, they enjoy this experience, too.

Whilst on the subject of Activities: we have not received all of the Excursion Permission Sheets back from parents of Middle School boys. Please can you help us here as we're unable to finalize arrangements for ExcursionWeek, being the second week of next term.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
From last week, you will have seen that Mrs Veronica Waters and I were fortunate enough to have travelled to the Annual Regional International Baccalaureate Conference in Macau. It was a fantastic experience in many ways, and the benefits of such visits are multi dimensional. To join with over a thousand educators from around the globe and experience the depth of passion for pursuing the education of children was invigorating to say the least. The resultant input for our program will be incredibly valuable, as will be the on-going ties now developed with many school, teachers and administrators in the IB community. I am sure there will be much more to be said, but in the meantime, I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity and I am very appreciative of the support from the school, particularly Mrs Christine Wright and the Junior School staff.

I hope that the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with your teacher has been a very valuable one. In each case, discussion allows for a much deeper understanding of children's progress and we have found the chance to talk about it opens the door to more valuable feedback. Please let us know how the system is working for you and we always want feedback to see where there might be room for improvement.

It was really pleasing to note the report from Mrs Butcher about our students performing last week for some of our community. These experiences are meaningful for all, offering the chance to get involved through the Creative Arts. Our thanks go to our Music department for their time in preparing our students and to Mrs Butcher in particular who consistently amazes us with the quality of the children's experiences.

We wish a very happy birthday to the following students: Wilkie Davison, Harry Pennington and Evelyn Junge.

Just a reminder that daylight saving finishes Sunday morning, 6 April when clocks are put back one hour.

NOTE: Activities Day Friday March 27
Looking ahead

Wednesday 25 March  Parent Teacher Interviews continue
                      No Assembly
Friday 27 March     Activities Day – Athletics field events with Minimbah
Monday 30 March     Founders Day
Tuesday 31 March    Junior School Athletics
Wednesday 1 April   Transition Assembly Classes Conclude

TERM 2
Monday 20 April     Staff PD Day
Tuesday 21 April    Classes Commence

Morning of Melodies

Last Wednesday the Junior School Band, ‘The FanTAStics’, the Junior Vocal Ensemble and several soloists performed for Armidale’s seniors at the Morning of Melodies held at the Armidale Bowling Club. This is the third year TAS Junior School music ensembles and soloists have performed at this event. Congratulations to all the students involved for their wonderful performances and for their community service to the senior community of Armidale.

Mrs Butcher

Chapel Street Car Park

We continue to ask for our parents cooperation in keeping the turning circle a safe and effective ‘drop-off and pick-up’ area.

Please help others waiting in the Chapel Street turning circle by:

- Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area
- Please have your child’s school bag in the car with them, so the driver does not need to get out of the car to open the boot
- Drivers should remain in their vehicle at all times and drop-off or pick-up within a 2 minute timeframe
- Make sure the children use the footpath-side-door when getting in and out of the vehicle
- Never double park or reverse your vehicle

If your child is not ready for collection at the time you are entering the turning circle, please continue around and park your vehicle or rejoin at the end of the turning circle queue.
Tuesday, March 17 was "The Sydney Academy of Chess Inter-school Competition" for Primary students at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School in Tamworth. Several schools from across the region were involved in the tournament. All teams played Swiss style chess, which involves a timer, so the pressure was on!

Our stellar chess teams consisted of: Joshua Miron, Cameron Le Surf, Harrison Price, Marcus Hempel and Frank Perrottet from Year 5. Dominic Ferguson, Cassidy Williams, Stewart Williams, Henry Moore and Jude Piper comprised our Year 6 team. Many chess games were played, with some won, some lost and some drawn. We came fourth overall, missing third spot by half a point! Stewart Williams won a seventh place medal for personal points achieved. All boys proudly represented TAS co-ed Junior School and TAS Middle School. Fun was had by all!

Mrs Anne Hine
PYP in Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have had a wonderful start to their formal schooling and have shared many wonderful things about themselves and their families.

They have been actively involved in exploring the following central idea: Family history allows us to celebrate who we are and where we have come from.

As they ventured into this unit of inquiry they have developed an "I wonder" wall. The Kindergarten students have used this wall as they have come up with many things they wanted to find out about their families from the past.

Their Action Wall showcases the ownership of the central idea taken by many as they brought in many items from their families past to share. The oral language development has been a major component of this unit.
Activities Day – Athletics Events - Friday, 27 March

We are looking forward to the first of our Athletics Days this Friday, as Minimbah School join us for events from 9:30am. This will be Minimbah’s actual carnival where points are allocated for each event. TAS children will be participating in two field events, which will count toward points for the Championships. The Long distance events, the 400m and 800m will also count toward both individual and house points. Sprints on the day will be practice events only for TAS students. Our Activities Day will conclude at around 2:45pm. Children will then move back to class to clean up for the week. Any parents who would like to join us for the day and are able to assist with events, please contact Mr Ian Lloyd or Ms Fiona Chappell.

Athletics Championships – Tuesday, 31 March

Next Tuesday will be our Athletics Championship day. The day will commence at 9am with a House March Past. Children must wear their house coloured t-shirts on the day and ensure they have applied sunscreen before coming to school. A hat and a drink bottle are also required. Children will enjoy a BBQ lunch during the day, along with the treats supplied by our cake stall. A small amount of money will need to be brought to school if you wish your child to purchase morning tea at the cake stall.

Events for this day will include, 70m, 100m and 200m sprints along with the two field events not completed on Activities Day. House relays will be toward the end of our Athletics day.

Parents able to assist with events on this Athletics Day, please contact Mrs Christine Wright on cwright@as.edu.au

Full overviews and the Athletics Championship Program will be available on the Junior School web page later this week.

NSW CISSC Swimming

Joseph Anderson, Sam and Tom Ball, Ruby Straker and Abbott White all competed last Thursday, 19 March in NSW CISSC Primary Swimming and Diving Championships held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

After a year long commitment, these students gained qualification from the Lismore meet to enter the Sydney level. Congratulations to Tom Ball on making the final but missing out this year on the State final which he gained a ribbon in last year. Well done to Joseph for qualifying for a third year and to Sam and Abbott for great PB’s in a 50m pool. This was Ruby’s first time in the event, after recently competed in Speedo Sprints in Sydney. Ruby was also the overall champion of Alligators Swimming Club for last season. Next year these swimmers will target qualification from this meet for All Schools at State level then interstate level. Swimmers will continue their winter training for the New England & North West Championships hosted by Armidale Alligators at TAS Sports Centre in July this year.

These students should be extremely proud of their efforts to obtain qualification, as the field and level of competition in Sydney is significant.

Mrs Jacinta Anderson
Please return signed note to Library

Permission to borrow Library books during the holidays
I give permission for my child ____________________________ in Year _________ to borrow two books from the TAS Library during the holiday period, and will return these books in good condition in the first week of Term 2, 2014.
Should the books not be returned, or are returned damaged, I agree to the purchase cost of the replacement books being charged to my Child’s school account.

Signed ____________________________  Date ______________________

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Pottery Classes

Rick and Suzanne Hatch are again offering after-school classes in clay work in Term 2. The goal of our teaching is for the children to have heaps of fun while developing imagination, hand skills and the ability to solve problems with creative flair. All classes are held in Art Room one of the Hoskins Centre at The Armidale School.

Year K - 3 is on Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm from 28 April
Year 4 - 8 is on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm from 30 April

The all inclusive cost for the six week term of lessons is $145.00.
For enrollment or for more information please feel free to contact Rick Hatch on 67725371 or at weemalapot@yahoo.com.au.

When enrolling please include your child’s name and age and your name and phone number.

Rick Hatch
GARDEN PARTY

10:30am Sunday March 29, 2015
A morning of beautiful music from the Armidale Youth Orchestras in the magnificent garden of our host Rosemary Leitch. Lunch is provided.

Armidale Youth Orchestras Garden Party 2015
Sunday March 29 at 10:30am
58 Garibaldi Street, Armidale
TICKETS: www.trybooking.com/GYHN
Adults: $45 • Pensioners $30 • Students $20

Thanks to
Armidale High School,
NEGS and TAS