P&F Funding

At the P&F meeting last Wednesday night decisions were made about funding priorities for 2015 and the outcome was a thoroughly positive one for the School. Each year the P&F looks at requests for projects and items that will benefit a wide range of students, but are unlikely to be funded through the usual school budgeting process. This was certainly the case this year as well over $50,000 was committed to a diverse range of activities and projects. Beyond the regular support for the Year 8 and Year 10 excursions, the rugby tour to NZ, a share of Binghi and membership of the NSW Parents Council, the P&F approved funding that will impact on learning in the D&T area, hockey, mountain biking, rowing, kayaking and the tidiness of the Quadrangle. This funding will excite teachers and students alike and I thank the P&F very much on behalf of all at TAS.

GPS Athletics

Reports on the great spectacle that is the AAGPS Athletics Championships are included in this edition of TAS Talks and I recommend them to you. The TAS team performed with courage and conviction throughout the day, being rewarded with some strong results and many personal bests, and it was a pleasure to be associated with them. Competing in front of a huge and vocal crowd at Olympic Park is as memorable as it is daunting and I was encouraged to see that the experience was seen as an important and positive one by our athletes, regardless of their individual results.

100th Birthday

It was a great privilege to be invited to the 100th birthday of Mo Witten in Barraba last Thursday. Mo has recently taken on the mantle of TAS’ most senior Old Boy and it was very affirming to see that in a life that has been so full of wonderful relationships and contributions to the Barraba community, his connection to the school he left 83 years ago remains such a fond one. Mo’s passion for cricket remains and it was a great joy to hear him reminisce about his playing days at TAS, experiences in Abbott House and the rich life he has lived since.

The accolades from family and friends were every bit as important as the messages from the Queen, Governor General, Prime Minister and I was pleased to be able to add the congratulations of the School to them.
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS, TERM 2

### Week 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 - 15 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Metals &amp; Engineering Work Placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Twilight Concert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Friday 15 May | NCIS Cross Country (Tweed Coast)  
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Dubbo)  
Interschools Chess Tournament |
| Saturday 16 May | Rugby vs Kinross Wolaroi  
(Coonabarabran)                                                          |

### Week 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 May-14 June</td>
<td>Armidale Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 May</td>
<td>Tri-Schools Debating - Middle School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 21-22 May   | Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews  
da Vinci Decathlon at Knox, Sydney                                      |
| Friday 22 May | Board Meeting  
5.30pm Foundation Board Meeting                                    |
| Saturday 23 May | TAS Company Members AGM                                              |
| 23-24 May   | Rugby Trial v Riverview in Sydney  
(1sts/2nds/16As)  
Warwick Prize Shoot  
Country Rugby Championships in Armidale (U12, 13, 14) |

### Week 6

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 May-14 June</td>
<td>Armidale Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-29 May</td>
<td>Years 6, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-29 May</td>
<td>Sydney Careers Expo (Year 11/12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 May - 2 June</td>
<td>Coonabarabran Horse Expo</td>
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| Friday 29 May | TAS v Farrer (at Farrer) - Dick Hodgson Shield  
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Goondiwindi) |

### Week 7

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 May-14 June</td>
<td>Armidale Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>1- 4 June</td>
<td>Years 7 and 9 Half Yearly Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4 June</td>
<td>Classes conclude</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5 June</td>
<td>Staff PD Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 June</td>
<td>Queens Birthday Holiday (boarding houses closed)</td>
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### Week 8

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 June</td>
<td>Boarders’ charter coaches return pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9 - 11 June | Inter-House Debating - Years 6-12  
(Hoskins Centre)                                                      |
| 10-13 June | ‘Treasure Island’ performances                                       |
| Thursday 11 June | Year 7, 11 and 12 Vaccinations                                      |
| Friday 12 June | NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Newcastle)                               |
| 12/13 June | TAS vs Sydney High School at TAS  
(various sports)                                                       |
| Sunday 14 June | Eisteddfod Gala Concert                                               |

### SENIOR CASUAL BOARDING

Currently our Senior Boarding Houses are extremely full and therefore space is limited.

If you require Casual Boarding, please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate in the Senior Boarding Houses.

You will be advised by email from Mrs Veronica Lucas in Reception when your request has been approved.
Student Absence

Attendance is recorded each period of every school day. As a parent or caregiver, you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sport and activities days unless your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious illness.

Daily Absence

If your child is to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please advise the appropriate Administration Assistant, explaining the reason for absence by phone, email, or written note before 10.00 am that day. In addition, a written note confirming the circumstances of the absence is required within 7 days.

Sickness in excess of 4 school days requires a doctor’s certificate detailing the nature of sickness and duration of sickness.

Late Arrival and Early Leave

If your child arrives late or is to leave early, they must report to the appropriate Administration Assistant and register their arrival or departure. A late slip will be issued to the student to take to their teacher.

Parents/caregivers who know in advance if their child is to be absent during term time need to apply for leave by completing either an:

1. Application for Exemption from Attendance at School (other leave)

   OR

2. Application for Extended Leave – Travel/Holiday (travel leave greater than 5 days)

If the leave is granted, an appropriate Certificate of Exemption will be issued.

Contacts for Absentees

Junior School  Mrs Alison Evans  
E: junior@as.edu.au 
or 6776 5817

Middle School  Mrs Susi Redhead  
E: middle@as.edu.au 
or 6776 5819

Senior School  Mrs Veronica Lucas  
E: absentees@as.edu.au 
or 6776 5800

PLEASE NOTE: Parents/Carers are NOT to send notice of absences to teaching staff or Advisors – this advice must go to one of the contacts above.
Normative, age-related transitions are an unavoidable part of life. They are built on the perception that various phases exist in life and that each has a distinctive character. We move from earlier to later phases progressively and the movement from one to the next is called a transition. So the movement from adolescence to adulthood in one such transition.

There are other transitions that are not age-related at all. Certain events have consequences for the way we are positioned in the world and how we see ourselves. So becoming parents, being in a serious road accident that leaves us with trauma, moving into a new job, getting married, moving and so on, are transitions created by events, some chosen, some not.

Transitions signal that something is ending and something is beginning.

The movement between them can be uncomfortable, exciting, bewildering, affirming or diminishing. However, all transitions signal that change is occurring and with change comes the many tasks of adjustment to new realities. Sometimes the period of adaptation takes time and the transition is gradual. Sometimes there is pressure or a set of circumstances that requires more rapid engagement with a new reality.

Transitions include some uncertainty – about self, social relationships, meaning and purpose. There is an insecurity about change because there is unfamiliarity and there are some challenges to previous ways of being ourselves and the prior assumptions about reality that had become automatic ways of perceiving, interpreting and reaching conclusions about things. Transitions are good times for reflecting on our lives and listening to ourselves. Making such reflection external by talking to friends, mentors or a counsellor/psychologist, can help clarify our experience and its meanings.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

I don’t know if you saw the SMH article on Snoop Dogg recently. It goes something like this.

Snoop Dogg has revealed himself to be a Game of Thrones fan for a rather surprising reason. Now it won’t surprise you to learn I am no expert on either subject, but I do know his response is ridiculous.

The rapper told the New York Post he was “truly a fan” of the popular fantasy television show.

“I watch it for historic reasons, to try to understand what this world was based on before I got here”.

“I like to know how we got from there, to here, and the similarities between then and now.” Deep Dawg!

The journalist tried to steer Snoop back on track by asking him which parallels he had drawn between “[a] fictional TV show, and the modern world”, but the rapper didn’t seem to get the hint.

So in case you don’t know, Game of Thrones is a fictional (that means made up) television series based on a series of books written by American author George R.R. Martin.

Snoop, real name Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr (not quite as catchy as Snoop Dog), perhaps has been living in the land of fantasy for too long.
P&F ASSOCIATION, SUE CARTWRIGHT

RazzamaTAS - the fete is back! (or is it?)

The RazzamaTAS fete is on again in 2015 on Saturday 7 November. Whether it stays in the same format or is morphed into something new and exciting is up to you!!

To give the most number of parents an opportunity to contribute their ideas, there is a brainstorming session scheduled for this Saturday 16 May 3-5pm in Lower Maxwell. We are looking to develop an enthusiastic sub-committee for the fete but, most importantly, we are looking for ideas, and lots of them.

If you can spare some time on Saturday please come along – all suggestions are welcome. If you can’t make it, but have some ideas you’d like to contribute, please drop me a line at sue_333@me.com.

So come along and enjoy an afternoon with friends and help us get started with planning this major fundraiser.

Term Two P&F General Meeting

Our meeting for Term 2 was held on Wednesday 6 May, and I will provide more information on our funding requests and other discussion items next week. Thank you to all who attended.

STUDENT SERVICES

Queen’s Birthday - ‘closed weekend’ at School - boarders’ travel on Rural Charter Coaches and Train

There is still time to finalise bookings for Queens Birthday weekend, Friday 5 - Monday 8 June. If your plans are well-enough advanced, then please let me know if you need coach or rail booked. Email is best please – travel@as.edu.au.

Thanks to those who have already been in touch and confirmed.

Timetable Update

Times are approximate dependent upon roadworks and weather conditions.

Seats are still available on the service to:

Moree via Inverell

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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depart TAS</td>
<td>3.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depart NEGS</td>
<td>3.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depart PLC</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inverell Tourist Info</td>
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<td>Warialda Tourist Info</td>
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Narrabri via Gunnedah

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<td>NEGS</td>
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<td>Gunnedah McDonalds</td>
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<td>Boggabri</td>
<td>6.30</td>
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<td>Narrabri McDonalds</td>
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Sunday 17 May

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<tr>
<td>Depart Moree McDonalds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunnedah McDonalds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamworth McDonalds</td>
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Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews

Year 11 Parent Teacher Interview sessions are planned for Thursday 21 May from 3:30pm - 6:00pm and Friday 22 May from 1:30pm - 5:30pm. These will be held in Memorial Hall.

Information regarding booking your times online have been emailed to parents.

Two Parent Information Sessions are planned for Thursday 21 May at 6.15pm and a repeat session on Friday 22 May at 11.45am. Both these session will be held in Big School. Please email vobrien@as.edu.au to indicate which session you will be attending.

There was an issue for those wanting to book interview times on Friday 22 May - this has now been rectified so you will now be able to see the booking times available for Friday 22 May.

If you have any questions regarding Parent Teacher Interviews please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien on (02) 6776 5806.

Canberra 2015

The year 10 excursion to Canberra this year was a great success with all boys engaged and enthused about various aspects of the trip.

Highlights included Old Parliament House, the War Memorial, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Australian Defence Force Academy, ice-skating, rock climbing and the Questacon Maker Project Workshop.

Special thanks to the boys who drew excellent comments from all the places we visited, the staff who accompanied the excursion and the staff of the YHA in Canberra. We also acknowledge the travel assistance provided by the Federal Government Parliament and Civics Education Rebate and the TAS Parents and Friends.

Please visit the photos from the Excursion HERE
Take Your Marks…

Last Saturday I was privileged to witness my first ever AAGPS Athletics Championships. The hype and atmosphere could not be overstated and the TAS Athletes certainly rose to the occasion. Many boys achieved Personal Bests while all boys showed outstanding courage and determination and should be very proud of their efforts. A full set of results is available on the TAS Athletics webpage. The season continues as 10 of our Cross Country runners, head off to Ballina on Thursday to compete in the NCIS Championships. This provides runners with the opportunity to progress to CIS and potentially NSW All Schools events.

Meanwhile a much fiercer rivalry is brewing. In the classroom and throughout the co-curricular program there is tremendous unity between our Dayboy and Boarder population. However, when it comes to the Boarders versus Dayboys debate in Assembly next Tuesday, there will be no love lost. This event will officially launch the 2015 debating season. TAS will then host PLC and NEGS on Wednesday May 20 for a Middle School Tri-Schools Debate followed by the inter-house debating competition during Week 8 of this term. This is a relatively unthreatening and fun environment to develop the skill of speaking in public. I would encourage all boys to consider this opportunity and speak to their House Captain if they would like to be involved.

I am sure that many parents and students have received the 2015 Eisteddfod program and are in the process of planning the month ahead. With many students performing on several occasions it will be a busy period and demands effective time management. I would encourage students to look ahead and plan how they will balance the Eisteddfod with their studies and other co-curricular commitments. Amidst all the pressure should be a great sense of accomplishment and enjoyment. I wish all students the very best in both their preparation and performances.

This Saturday, May 16, our Rugby players make their annual pilgrimage to Coonabarabran to play against Kinross Wolaroi School. This is a good test for our boys leading into our first GPS Fixture on June 13 against Sydney Boys High. The Rugby Supporters Group will again subsidise the trip and we are looking forward to the warm hospitality of the Coonabarabran Rugby Club.

Team Apps

The Armidale School is testing a application for Sport teams. The App is in its trial stage and we will be monitoring how effective it is. The purpose of this is to give you access to quick information to stay in touch with the latest sports news.

Instructions on how to download and use the app can be found on the Sport pages. CLICK HERE

If you need any additional help please contact Mr Will Caldwell by email wcaldwel@as.edu.au
With brilliant sunshine heating the blazing red track, the 120th GPS Athletics Championships produced yet again, so many outstanding performances. From the outset, the boys were focused and driven, straining for every second, driving themselves on as their muscles distorted with pain.

Sam Jones set the standard from the first track event of the day, in the 13 years 800m running a huge PB to finish 4th. Harry Mason played the same tune in the following event, gaining 4th, again in a PB. Nicholas Makeham, searching for a sub 2:10 performance as a 15 year old, blasted that goal, racing to a 2:06:92, and a 4th place finish. Joshua Stevenson flew out of the blocks to record yet another 4th place finish and a 2:04:12 PB whilst Joe Makeham raced with utter determination in the Open 800m to record another impressive result.

Lachlan Knowles, in one of the finest performances of the day, finished on the dais in the 15 years 400m running to a 3rd place finish with the time of 52:99, equalling the school record from 1987. Michael Baldock then raced to a PB in the 16 years 400m and in the 17 years, Brett Kelly-Wirth scorched the track with a sensational 51:91 6th place finish.

Liam Smith, the sole shot putter for TAS threw a PB of 8.50m in his inaugural GPS carnival, a welcome addition to the team.

The Open 100m Championship saw Thomas Gall, a true stalwart of the TAS Athletics Team for many years, break the 12s barrier for the first time in his final year. A remarkable achievement by such a terrific young man. Brett Kelly-Wirth backed up his 400m with a flashing 11:57 100m and James O’Brien collected another PB in the 13 years 100m.

Nicholas Barnier-Merzliakov put everything on the line in leading the 14 years 1500m for the first two and half laps. His tenacity was apparent for all to see. The same drive was evident in the 4x400m relays with all teams doing themselves proud, especially in the Seniors. KB Fergusson, Thomas Gall, Nicholas Rogers and Will Claridge represented their school with pride.

The Championships highlighted some emerging talent at TAS, with Thomas Goodfellow, Harry Mason, Sam Jones, Lewis Taylor, Angus Webber and Jordan Frahm all demonstrating that with the appropriate training, they can be competitive at this level.

Joe Makeham in his final 1500m, again set the pace, the leading from the start and only relinquishing his position in the last 250m as the pace increased rapidly. With many in the field already left behind from the frenetic early stages, Joe held on to finish 3rd in the time of 4:12:23.

2015 saw the culmination of Joe’s time at GPS and he leaves both a legacy and a record that may never be toppled. Four GPS 1500m titles and two 3rd places. Never off the dais in six years, always racing from the heart giving everything he has, every time. Joe embodies the GPS code. He is a role model to all those around him and a wonderful ambassador for TAS.
**Horse Sports**

We have 10 boys competing shortly at the Coona Equestrian Expo and representing TAS.

The boys are participating in numerous events including Polocrosse and Show Jumping, and are all skilled riders. We are camping with NEGS and PLC and will have close to 100 competitors representing the three schools mentioned.

The boys going are:

- Ben Harpasum
- Ben McElroy
- Michael Paull
- Tim Finlayson
- Sam Finlayson
- Hamish Edmonds
- Harry Deshon
- Tom Deshon
- Jack Davidson
- George Rodgers

A warm THANK YOU to Annie Rodgers our team leader.

Good luck to all the boys!

Ms Genevieve Geyle-Chick  
E: ggeylech@as.edu.au

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**Under 13s Hockey - TAS Blue**

Under 13s On a chilly Friday evening, TAS Blue 13s went up against City Hornets. With the Hornets being a well-oiled machine and our team consisting of a few players who are only beginning their hockey journey, it was always going to be a tough contest for us. Despite this, one couldn’t knock the enthusiasm and determination shown by our players as they fought hard for every ball and defended bravely against the quick sticks of City. Cooper Johnson did a valiant effort in goals, often facing two or three attackers; whilst on the field, players such as Cooper Mills, Andrew Kirk and Jack Gellie work tirelessly on and off the ball. TAS had a few opportunities after some solid passing into the attacking quarter, however were not able to consolidate. A solid win to City, however some great positives to draw off from our boys.

Mr Alex Portell

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**Under 13s Hockey - TAS White**

On Friday, U13 TAS White played against City Bees. After the team giving 100 percent effort, and some great hockey being played, it was unfortunate to see TAS defeated 5-3. Some excellent team play and individual performances by Cassidy Williams in goal, and Toby Smith in midfield.

Ms Rachel Harrison
Twilight Concert

A reminder that everyone is welcome to attend our Term 2 Twilight Concert this Thursday 14 May from 6pm in Memorial Hall.

Come along to enjoy a variety of repertoire from TAS students in Years K - 12. There will also be refreshments available in the foyer.

EISTEDDFOD 2015 Plans

IMPORTANT: Parents need to advise TAS of student absences for individual events at the Eisteddfod 2015.

The 2015 Eisteddfod has started and many students will be participating in not only ensemble events for TAS, but also in solo events. Parents - if your son/daughter is participating in any individual events at this year’s Eisteddfod you need to let TAS know they will be absent. If they are leaving school to attend the Eisteddfod please have them sign in and out as required. Boarder students must also sign in and out and can make arrangements at Reception for a taxi to take them to the appropriate venue. Please contact the Music Department on 6776 5890 if you have any queries.

It is always lovely to have the support of parents and friends at some of the events and you will see the entry costs and event times below.

Audience Entry Fees

Adult: $3.00 single session; $6.00 day ticket; $20 season pass
Concession: $1.50 single; $3.00 day ticket
Family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children): $45 season pass

Eisteddfod Dates and Times for TAS Ensembles

The Music Department team will be keeping TAS informed about the plans for our ensemble members who are participating in the Eisteddfod with regard to transport and other arrangements - see below. Here is the plan for the ensembles participating in the Eisteddfod next week.

Please note that students must wear formal uniform to school next Tuesday 19 May.

EISTEDDFOD Choir Day & Night

Tuesday May 19 - 9.45am MORNING session
Lazenby Hall, UNE
TAS Jnr Vocal and K-2 Choir will depart TAS by Edwards Coaches at 9am to Lazenby Hall, UNE and will be returned to TAS at 11.15am by Edwards.

EVENT 1

CH05: Vocal Ensemble K-6
1. TAS Jnr Vocal Ensemble
2. St John's Vocal Ensemble
3. PLC Jnr Vocal Ensemble
4. NECOM Cantilena Chorale

EVENT 1

CH03: Choir Unison K-6
1. Drummond Memorial Public School
2. TAS 3-5 Choir
3. St Mary's 3-4 Choir
4. St John's Primary Choir
Tuesday May 19 - 6:30pm EVENING session
Lazenby Hall, UNE

Day students in TAS Singers & TAS Chapel Choir need to make their own way to meet at Lazenby Hall at 6pm. Wear formal uniform please.

Boarder students in TAS Singers will have dinner at TAS at 5.30pm and then depart TAS by TAS Minibus at 5.45pm from near old book room to Lazenby Hall, UNE.

They will be returned to TAS at the end of the evening events by TAS minibus.

EVENT 1

CH07: Choir (19 Years & Under)
1. TAS Singers
2. NECOM New England Singers
3. PLC Senior Choir

EVENT 2

CH10: Choir, non-competitive (Open)
1. Duval High Choir
2. TAS Chapel Choir

EVENT 4

CH09: NE Choral Championship (Open)
1. NEGS Senior Choir
2. PLC Senior Choir
3. NECOM New England Singers
4. O'Connor Choir
5. TAS Singers

Yours in music,

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent
Treasure Island
a new musical
10 - 13 June
The world amateur premier performance

Tickets $25, $20 | hoskins.as.edu.au | 6776 5878

Australia Day
By Johnathon Biggins

Nothing is sacred as the national identity is put through the ringer in this thoroughly modern ripper of a comedy!

TAS Hoskins Centre
15 June 7:30pm
Tickets $25, $20 | hoskins.as.edu.au
‘Time waits for no man’

By the time you’ve scanned this one, we’ll be nearly halfway through the term! Amazing, isn’t it, the apparently accelerated pace of time in this place? Despite the pace, boys and staff are settling into the steady period of those pre-exam weeks (about a full fortnight away, actually) so necessary to establish a sense of calm and increasing confidence so that the approach to them is serious, though not stressful. The latter always occurs to an extent and it’s our collective job to minimize it. Stress is a fact of life, so the best we can do is advise ways to minimize it and students need to know that we (parents and staff) work as one on this issue.

As is often the case, I’ve already received communication from a number of you about the exams – such a good and healthy thing, too. Please be assured that students will begin to receive, beginning next week, Exam and Study Packages containing information about examinable topics, ‘styles’ of questions, including marks values attaching to each of the ‘above’. I’ve already spoken to a number of Year 7 students about the wisdom of ‘Study Groups’. Those I’ve discussed this with are receptive to the idea, too.

Exams: they’re necessary components of school life. While people don’t look to them with the kind of enthusiasm that attends a sporting fixture or a cultural pursuit, the ‘new’ attitude that attaches to them is healthy challenge, or, increasingly calm resignation. But it isn’t a kind of resignation that carries a negative charge; rather, it’s a resignation that academic testing is part of normal life at this school and, as such, something that isn’t to be feared. The current Year 11 group is the first cohort to have been subject to formal exams from their first senior school years and I’m really interested about the effect the initiative may have on the quality of their final results next year. I’m lucky enough to teach them, so I should know this information ‘first hand’.

Over the next week, I’ll visit the various classes, indicating the necessity of utilizing the Study Packages that will be received very soon. I’m sure that students will give the exercise their best effort and will advise that we’re here to assist them – but that the day before an exam may not be the best time to do this. In other words, I will tell them to determine problem areas as soon as possible, being proactive and alerting us to issues of concern over the next several weeks.

NAPLAN

It’s that time of year again: NAPLAN testing sorted on Tuesday and will continue until Thursday, but before I outline the schedule, on behalf of all I wish the Year 7 boys luck. On Tuesday the boys completed the Language Conventions and Writing sections. Wednesday will continue with the Humanities theme as boys complete the Reading Comprehension paper. Thursday will involve two Mathematics papers, namely one that involves calculator use and another that has to be completed without calculators. It’s important that parents know this coming Friday will be a ‘catch up’ day for students who, for whatever reason, miss one of these scheduled sessions.

Coonabarabran Sports

This next weekend will see hundreds of TAS boys in Coonabarabran: the first big Rugby fixture, against Kinross, of the year. Middle School boys are excited about the prospect of going away. It’s affirming to know they’re still so young and not at all awkward showing how they really feel about events in their lives. They’ll be weary on their return of course, but they will have had the whole of Sunday to rest before getting back into academic mode.
This, I believe, is one of the greatest recommendations of TAS: it keeps boys gainfully employed, provides enough variety to stave off the mind-numbing nature of boredom and allows enough R&R so they’re not exhausted. Effectively, there’s balance to life here and, as parents, you should be encouraged that you’ve made the right decision sending your boys to the School.

**Tri-Schools Debating**

Involving students from NEGS, PLC and TAS the next round will be hosted here and I’m looking forward to having a more active role this year. I recommend the initiative as it’s so good that the boys have the opportunity to hone their speaking skills. It’s very healthy for students from the three schools to be together on such occasions and, if its predecessors are any indication of success, the day promises to be a very good one for all of us.

I’ll be in touch next week,

**Mr Mark Harrison**

**Head of Middle School**

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**HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD**

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**NAPLAN Assessments**

This week, our Year 3 & 5 students (along with those in Year 7 & 9) are completing their NAPLAN Assessments, some for the first time. There has been plenty of exposure about the purpose and value of these assessments and no doubt, this will be an on-going topic of conversation and debate. However, the data received from such standardised tests is useful for diagnostic purposes, particularly as results are compared over time and we have been in a position to look at our programming as a result.

I uncovered a letter sent by a teacher of Year 3 students, which does help to keep this whole debate in context and I include an excerpt here. “This test does not assess all of what makes you exceptional and unique. The people that score these tests don’t know that you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use an App. They have not seen you dance or kick a ball and they have not seen how your friends depend on you when they are sad. They do not know that you are a caring and thoughtful and that every day you do your best to please - because these things cannot be tested. These scores tell you how you did on the day, but they do not tell you everything. So be ready to do your best for the NAPLAN tests, and remember there is no way to test “all” the wonderful things that make you the special person you are.”
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Friday, 22 May Junior School Playground at 10:15am

Once again the Junior School will be hosting ‘Australia's Biggest Morning Tea’ in our Junior School playground. Please come along, bring something to share and join in to support the Cancer Council of Australia. The link below is a very informative look at how the Cancer Council uses the money raised from this extraordinary fund raising event. We are really pleased that we can do our part.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk5OT7ebh8o

Children are asked to bring a plate to share with their friends, remembering that we are an Allergy Aware School and that NO NUTS should be used in any of the items provided. We would also appreciate a gold coin donation on the day and the Year 5 leaders will be circulating through the school with collection boxes at this time.

Cross Country

You will find a report from the recently held Armidale PSSA Cross Country and note the impressive list of results. I would particularly like to congratulate Jonathan Harris and Emily Buntine on their outstanding podium finishes, and wish both Jonathan and Jasper Russ well as they represent our School at the NCIS Cross Country event this Friday in Ballina.

Rugby Carnival – Most Improved Award

At the recently held TAS Rugby Carnival, the award for the Most Improved and Impressive Sportsman was announced yesterday at the Senior School Assembly. Congratulations to Ben Rowe in Year 5, who is in his first year of rugby and has made outstanding gains in both his skill level and the enthusiastic manner in which he approaches his rugby.

Chess Players

This Friday, our Year 5 Chess team will be competing with other local schools in the area and we hope the hours of practice they have been committing to holds them in good stead. The team consists of Josh Miron, Harrison Ditchfield, Marcus Hempel, Will Jubb, Cameron Le Surf, Harrison Price, Frank Perrotet and Sam Ball. We look forward to hearing about their day in next week’s TAS Talks.

Winter Sport

I had the opportunity to travel to some of our matches on the weekend and saw that the competitive, yet sportsmanlike attitudes of our players are alive and well. It is always a pleasure to see how much children gain from playing in a healthy and spirited manner and I thank all our parents and coaches for continuing to instil this in our children. I look forward to catching up with you all on the sidelines.

Looking Ahead

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13 May</td>
<td>Year 2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN – Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN – Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 May</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22 May</td>
<td>Australia's Biggest Morning Tea – 10.15 am in Junior School</td>
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Happy Birthday Wishes

We wish a very Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays this week: Lochlan Gerdes, Cameron Carruthers, Hugo Catterall & Archie Douglas-Menzies.

Learn French and/ or Japanese at TAS

Bonjour! Konnichwa!

A reminder for Junior School Parents to sign up for our Introduction to French and/ or Japanese classes. These will be conducted by Mademoiselle Audrey Panon, our French Teaching Assistant from Paris, and the learned Moore Sensei.

These classes are scheduled to begin next week, Term 2, Week 5. There is no cost involved so please come along!

Japanese: Tuesday evenings 6.00pm – 7.00pm

French: Tuesday evenings 7.00pm – 8.00pm

If you would like to attend either of these, please register your interest by emailing us at ktamming@as.edu.au (French) or amoore@as.edu.au (Japanese) as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact the Languages Department for further information.

Merci! Arigatou!

Madame Kathryn Tamminga
PYP-Junior School

All IB PYP candidate schools are provided with a consultant. The role of the consultant is to work closely with schools to ensure they headed in the right direction ready for verification visits. We have recently been allocated our consultant. Communication has commenced with our consultant and will occur on a regular basis. We are able to receive 20 hours of remote communication and two days of face to face support.

Our consultant is Nicole Jaggers and she comes to us with a wealth of teaching and IB PYP experience. I have provided a brief introduction below.

Nicole commenced in a new role in 2015 as PYP Coordinator and Executive Teacher Kinder-Year 1 at Miles Franklin Primary School in Canberra. Prior to working at Miles Franklin, she was Assistant Head of Junior School at Radford College, Canberra, where she held a range of responsibilities over time, including that of PYP Coordinator P-6, educational leader of the Early Learning Centre and oversight of pastoral care programs P-6. She has a particular interest in running workshops on concept based learning, reading and writing through inquiry and PYP in the early years.

The support and expertise she has already provided us with has been extremely worthwhile and it is comforting to know we have Nicole to support all our staff as we continue to plan and implement the PYP.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator
PSSA Zone Cross Country – Friday 8 May

Congratulations to all students who participated so eagerly on Friday at the PSSA Cross Country event. There were some outstanding results on the day with every child competing well. Most events had approximately 60 runners, so the following results are very pleasing.

Girls 8/9 years:
Scarlett Buntine – 20th
Millie Coupland – 55th

Boys 8/9 years:
Toby Inglis – 7th
Tom Ball – 11th
Iles Baker – 35th
Banjo Lawrence – 37th
This team was second place on the overall point score.

Girls 10 years:
Emily Buntine – 2nd
Dimity Chalmers 37th

Boys 10 years:
Jonathan Harris – 1st
Jasper Russ – 6th
Hugh Taylor – 13th
Daniel Morgan – 23rd
This team was second place on the overall point score.

Girls 11 years:
Isabel Newton – 9th

Boys 11 years:
Hudson Eichorn – 12th
Marcus Hempel – 22nd
Isaac Gerdes – 30th
Frank Perrottet – 37th

Boys 12 years:
Sam Osborne – 8th
Stewart Williams – 20th
Alexander Gibson – 23rd
Joseph Anderson – 24th

NCIS Cross Country – Friday 15 May

We wish both Jonathan Harris and Jasper Russ the very best of luck as they venture on to the NCIS Cross Country in Ballina this Friday. Mr Pennington will be taking the boys down with a senior team this year to compete in the NCIS competition. We wish both boys well and look forward to hearing of their results.

Jonathan Harris comes first in the U10 boys event

L-R: Joseph Anderson, Sam Osborne, Alexander Gibson and Stewart Williams
**TAS U9s Hockey**

Coming off a close win last week, the mighty U9s were super keen to get out on the field on Saturday morning. With the sun shining and a gentle autumn breeze, the team got off to a great start against their opponents Harlequins 3, making some great moves up the field and showing some good defensive skills when Harlies got the break down the field. Millie Coupland was showing some great confidence with her stick work, as was Christopher Bower, particularly in attack. Lily Peart and Maddie Buntine were always in the thick of it and made some great traps while Scarlett Buntine and Archie Douglas-Menzies were solid as ever. Eventually, Charlotte Portell broke the defence as she ran the ball wide and around the wall of purple players to score the only goal for the match. TAS defended their lead bravely to finish on top. Well done to all players and we look forward to our opponents next week.

*Mr Alex Portell*

**U11’s Hockey**

After a late dash to UNE a small restructure had to take place and the two TAS Under 11s teams played each other. This was a nice introduction to hockey for some of the children who had not played hockey before. All players from both teams played well and everyone was involved. It was pleasing to see us all sharing the free hits around and allowing different people to have a turn.

This week at training there is going to be a focus on standing back five metres when a free hit is awarded and also we will be doing lots of practice at passing the ball to the player.

Thank you to all our supporters who cheered us all on regardless of the final score. All players need to have shin pads and a mouth guard for training as well as the game.

We are looking forward to another action packed training session on Wednesday afternoon.

*Ms Tabitha Dowse*

**U10’s football**

The boys had a wonderful start to the season with their enthusiasm and willingness to work as a team. After the opposition scored two goals in the first ten minutes I thought we were in for a white wash! However the boys began to work on some teamwork and the results began to turn. The final score was 6 - 4 to the DK team and this was indicative of the team spirit the u10’s have and their willingness to dig deep and stop the opposition scoring. Lachie Hunt did a fabulous job in goals, Daniel Morgan has been discovered as a little dynamo and was effective in scoring goals and defensive work, Oliver Smart did some super work up the front and finished off with some nice goals and Hugh Taylor showed he has some very effective skills in the mid field. A personal thanks to Neil Smart for his refereeing throughout the game and thanks to the O’Neil family for the oranges, which were demolished. A reminder that shin pads need to be worn both at the game and at training, and to bring a water bottle to both as this saves the boys rushing off to get a drink when we are doing team talks.

*Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon*
## TAS SPORTS CENTRE

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<tr>
<td>Reduced Mobility Circuit</td>
<td>Tuesday - 5.15pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10.15am</td>
<td>Tuesday - 5.15pm</td>
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<td>Thursday - 5.15pm</td>
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<td>Saturday - 4.15pm</td>
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All classes are held in the TAS Sports Centre. If you have any questions please contact Chris Doherty on 0414 984 378 or visit the [TAS website](#).
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC
presents

2015 JUNIOR ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP
WED 24 & THURS 25 JUNE 2015

The New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) annual Junior Orchestra Workshop gives young musicians an inspiring two days of invaluable performance experience playing in a large orchestra under the leadership of specialist conductor Anne Phelan and NECOM tutors.

The Workshop is open to students in Years 3-8 who can read music and have at least 12 months experience playing one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, double bass | flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone | trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba | Orchestral percussion (pianists may apply)

Dates
Wed 24 & Thurs 25 June 2015
Times
Wed 24 June 8.45am-3.30pm
Thurs 25 June 9am-3.00pm
Free concert
Thurs 25 June, 2.30pm
Venue
NECOM, Armidale
Dress
Casual (no uniforms)
Lunch
Bring lunch both days
Morning tea provided
Fee
$95 OR $85 Early Bird Discount*
*Discount paid by 4pm Fri 12 June
Bursaries available on application

For information & enrolment forms:
New England Conservatorium
Web: http://necom.une.edu.au
Tel: 02 6773 6419
Fax: 02 6772 7511
Email: admin@necom.org.au
CB Newling Building (Old Teachers College)
Cnr Mossman and Faulkner Streets, Armidale
PO Box 1313, Armidale NSW 2350
Operatic Recitals
Young virtuosos of classical song
www.vociistupende.com

ARIMDALE
16th May 2015
4.00pm
St Peters Cathedral
www.trybooking.com/130167

WALCHA
17th May 2015
2.30pm
Walcha Presbyterian Church
8 Hill Street East, Walcha
NSW 2354
www.trybooking.com/130765
Ticket Prices:
Adults- $35.00
Full Time students- $25.00
Family(2 adults, 3 children)- $100
Children 17 or under -$15.00
Under 14 -Free

CONTACT:
JANE FRASER
0267781233
From Little Things Big Things Grow

‘Cultural pride, self esteem, and community confidence are just a few of the aspects that a community garden will bring’, says Armidale Aboriginal leader Steve Widders.

In acknowledging his Aboriginal ancestry, Mr Widders reflected on the symbolism of the Aboriginal flag – the way it portrays the people and their relationship with the land, and with the giver of life, the sun. He emphasised that a communal garden would nourish these connections, and bring a new sense of unity, engagement and purpose.

Dr Kate Wright, who is undertaking a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the School of Arts at UNE, agreed that such a project would have far-reaching benefits. The garden is not only about growing fresh produce, but will also promote Aboriginal environmental science and management through native medicines and foods, as well as foregrounding interactions between plants and insects, and the subterranean world of soils and soil organisms, to deepen understandings of ecology.

As they regenerate soils and vegetation, Widders and Wright hope that there will be much interest regenerated in a wide cross-section of the community, including school children, who can come to learn more about the environment, about Aboriginal Australian cultures and knowledges, and about how to grow fresh and nutritious food.

Widders and Wright are both members of a “seeding” committee who have been working to develop the garden project over the last 12 months. Members of the committee include representatives from Minimbah School, the Clontarf Academy, Jobs Australia, TAFE New England, Best Employment, UNE, the Oorala Centre, The Armidale School, Beyond Empathy, and members of the Aboriginal community. The seeding committee has arranged an Open Day with an invitation to all interested members of the public, potential sponsors and supporters, and volunteers.

The Open Day will be held from 1pm on Saturday the 23rd of May at the garden site, Mossman Street, East Armidale (near Doody Park Oval), with parking via Mann Street. The highlight of the day will be a visit from well-known celebrity gardener, Costa Georgiadis (ABC’s Gardening Australia). There will be performances by local musicians and dancers, farmers’ market stalls, speeches from local community leaders and Aboriginal Elders, a free BBQ and campfire cooking, and opportunities for guests to have their say about the future of the garden, and to sign-up to become garden members.

A public forum on community food movements and Aboriginal environmental knowledge, featuring Costa Georgiadis, UNE scholars and Aboriginal community leaders, will be held at the Oorala Aboriginal Centre, UNE at 11.30am on Friday 22nd May.

For further information on events please contact Dr Kate Wright at kwrigh33@une.edu.au. Phone: 6773 3867