As we look ahead to 2014, it seems likely that the political environment we will be operating in will be as turbulent as it has been this year and it is important that we avoid the temptation to stall our planning as we await developments.

Through this year, and especially in recent weeks, government, Catholic and independent schools across Australia have been closely following the latest developments in a range of school education issues. The spectrum of debate has been wide, from the freewheeling argument over funding that has left us unsure of exactly what funding will be available even next year, to the most recent announcements of shifts in focus toward new policy for curriculum, teacher quality and classroom discipline to be developed in 2014.

It seems to me that new education policies, including those surrounding school funding, are always developed under the assumption that somehow today’s students and schools are quite different to their predecessors and require new policies to meet their needs in a changing world. New generations are given new labels and new characteristics that enable us to identify them and understand the different rules they operate under.

I see this as unhelpful, as I don’t believe that the generation of students here today is fundamentally any different, for better or worse, than those that have gone before. Nor do I believe that the foundational elements of good school education have changed much over time. Today’s students are still inspired and perform best when taught by great teachers and great teachers are still those who have a love for their discipline, an abiding belief that their purpose is to develop a love of learning and genuinely care about those in their charge and the development of their character.

This has always been true. Plato recognised it in his belief in holistic education, covering facts, skills, physical development and creativity. Aristotle offered similar thoughts, focusing on education’s role in producing good and virtuous citizens and specifically stating that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.

In that tradition, schools like TAS carry a mission and purpose that extends well beyond the ambit of government curriculum and funding schemes and ours has remained largely intact over many generations. In the uncertain times that lie ahead, the steadying influence of that mission will be all the more important.

May I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and safe travels.
A large crowd of parents, students and members of the school community enjoyed a speech day address from writer, journalist and sports commentator, Peter FitzSimons. He spoke directly to the boys with great passion and enthusiasm.

“Boys, 15 years from now when you’re embarked on your careers, or your lives or whatever it is, you will be able to tell whether you are in a good job or a bad job or a good place or a bad place, by the clock on the wall.

If you look to the clock on the wall on a Monday morning and it says 13 past 9, and you immediately dot three, carry one, subtract two, and work out that in three hours and 17 minutes you will be at lunch, and at 2.30 in the afternoon you want it to be five o’clock so you can go home and when in August you want it to be December so you can go on Christmas break, you’re in the wrong job, the wrong career, you’re living the wrong life.

You’ve got to find yourself in something so that when you look at the clock on the wall it says 13 past nine and the next time you look up it says 10 to six, and you don’t know where the day’s gone because you’re so into it and you so love what you’re doing that you’ve found the thing that you’re passionate for.

And the challenge for you as you get out, it’s very difficult to quantify people and the way they live their lives, but I love the line of my brother, ‘it’s not about wealth, it’s not about prestige, but if you look to people to admire, they are community builders, people who build the community around them’ - and that too will be a challenge for you.

So to you young men who will be leaving here in one year, two years five years or whatever it is, I wish you for the remainder of your time at school and forever after, resist the impulse for inertia. Resist the idea of “doin’ nuthin’” or getting away with as little as possible, and I know you are in a culture which is not that culture but have a go at everything you can, find the skills, find the thing you are passionate for, DO NOT expect it to be plain sailing all the time either here at school or ever after.

I mentioned that phrase that I love, ‘suck the marrow from the juice of life until it runs down your chin’ it came from a movie Mum and I were watching in 1968, I was seven years old, it was our first television set, it was black and white and late at night, and I’ve been trying to find that movie and I can’t, but the essence of it was there was a beautiful woman who was 22 or 23 years old, and she was down and she was depressed and she was crying, and this fabulous old man put his arm around her and said, ‘my dear my dear, you must understand that the force of life that makes the birds sing, that makes the trees grow, that makes the oceans roar is the same force of life that is within you, and you must suck the juice from the marrow of life until it runs down your chin’.

The idea being, embrace this fabulous life you’ve got, by attending this fabulous school you are off to a fantastic start, not through the sweat of the brow but to the sweat of your parents and the staff. It’s for you to take this fabulous opportunity you have been given, and go hard with it.

Cherish these times, they will not come again. Give it everything you have. Thank you and goodbye.

This is an abridged version of Peter’s speech. It will be published in its entirety in the 2013 Armidalian or contact the Binghi editor for a copy.
Lions' Youth of the Year

A speech about the importance of youth doing something meaningful rather than just self-affirming helped win Patrick Williamson the Armidale Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

Hosted by the Armidale Dumaresq Lions Club, the competition brought together students from across Armidale secondary schools, who were judged on academic achievement, leadership, community service, and public speaking of both impromptu and prepared speeches.

Patrick, a Year 11 student was declared the winner following a strong speech entitled The Importance of Young People Doing Things Without Being Asked.

“The world now moves so fast that we feel the need to say something before we’re washed away in the news feed. Ads have thirty seconds to grab our attention. Vines have six. Memes have two. We want to stand out in a place that’s gradually moving faster and faster;” he said, “encouraging youth to validate themselves not by being ‘liked’ but by what they can do for others.”

He evoked the bravery of Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head for insisting on the right to education.

“Malala lives for something bigger than herself, and that’s something we all wish we could do…. You don’t need to be a hero to be heroic… If you’re doing good in the world, then you’ve gone beyond fame or money,” he said.

Patrick now proceeds to the regional finals in early March.

Pondering the Big Issues

Is it our duty to give to charity? Should you always listen to the opinions of others? How free should speech be?

Sixteen boys from The Armidale School pondered these and other big questions with success, securing honours at the Northern NSW Philosothon at Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour.

Attended by more than 100 students from across northern NSW TAS fielded four teams from Years 7-11. The format is based on a Community of Inquiry model, with students involved in group discussions about five different philosophical questions. Students are judged on their ability to help the group explore a given topic, gain greater understanding of the issue and discover different viewpoints.

Year 11 student Sam Doyle (below) was awarded a Spirit of Philosothon medal, which is awarded to an individual philosopher who impresses the judges with their mature discussion and ability to listen to the ideas of others.

“My favourite topic was ‘How free should speech be?’ because we had to discuss the way various social and political structures interact,” Sam said.

Leaders' Forum

Sam Doyle wants to be a doctor and he will have the opportunity to explore this avenue more fully having been chosen to attend the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra in January.

Chosen from a field of 1300 applicants was nominated by the Rotary Club of Armidale and selected following a rigorous process.

He is looking forward to mixing with the brightest young minds in the country at the forum which is co-ordinated by Rotary International.

“This will give me an understanding of how things work in the world and for me, how the body works is of particular interest,” Sam said.
The questions are tricky enough to leave many a science teacher scratching their head – but for The Armidale School’s Year 11 student, John Dennis, the Australian Science Olympiad competition was all in a day’s work.

John achieved a distinction in the qualifying Physics exam for the Australian Science Olympiad competition, a training and selection process for top performing science students which culminates in the International Science Olympiads – the Olympic Games for science students.

While he missed out on selection for the Australian team, John’s distinction placed him in the top 10 per cent of students in the qualifying exam.

“It was very challenging, a lot of it was university level,” John said.

Classmate Riley Baile was awarded credits in both the Physics and Chemistry, while Jay Kennedy and Bryan Morley also sat the Physics exam and Jay and Patrick Williamson, Chemistry.

“We only allow the very best students to enter and this year our five boys did very well indeed. The questions are very tough and only the best young science minds in Australia get selected for the Olympiad, so for them to do so well is a great credit,” said Co-ordinator of Science at TAS, Mr Geoff Derrin.

Nickolas Allen’s vertical filing system gives a whole new perspective on hiding things behind a door.

The Armidale School student’s Design & Technology HSC major work – a sleeve of six A4-sized pockets that hangs over a door, and the accompanying design portfolio – has been nominated for designTECH, the subject showcase equivalent of ARTEXPRESS.

Made of industrial PVC canvas, the idea for his ‘Student Booster’ came to Nick after a brainstorming session in class last year.

“I needed an organisational solution that was close at hand and easy to use, otherwise I wouldn’t use it,” he said.

He estimates it took almost 35 hours to make, much of it at the industrial sewing machine of Armidale master saddler Jason Simmons who with his wife Naomi, mentored him in the project.

Nick said he was thrilled the work had been nominated for designTECH and hopes it makes the final selection, which will be announced in January.

“I put a lot of effort into it and the portfolio, which is worth a majority of the marks. I’m really grateful to the Simmonds the help and guidance they gave me with the project,” he said.

Design may well be a career path for Nick, who is considering studying either mechanical engineering or architecture at university, after a gap year.
TAS Boys Amongst State’s Top in 2013 HSC

Two boys on the All Round Achievers List and top-20 placings in three subjects are amongst the highlights of this year’s outstanding HSC results for students at The Armidale School.

Aidan Hammerschmid, a boarding student from Melbourne, and Will Howard, a boarder from Sydney, were named on the All-Round Achiever’s List, with Aidan also placed seventh in NSW in Business Studies. It is the third consecutive year that two TAS boys have featured on the list, which recognises students achieving a score of more than 90 (or equivalent) across their top 10 units of study.

Meanwhile the outgoing Senior Prefect, Darcy James, a boarder from Ebor, capped off an outstanding year with five Band 6s (or equivalents), including second in the state in History Extension and 19th in English (Advanced).

Overall, students achieved 38 Band 6s in 19 subjects, including six for girls studying at TAS. This includes eleven results above 90% in English courses – results that defy a state-wide trend of boys not achieving in the humanities.

![Aidan Hammerschmid](image1.png)

**Aidan Hammerschmid**
**ATAR 99.70**

![Darcy James](image2.png)

**Darcy James**
**ATAR 98.85**

![Will Howard](image3.png)

**Will Howard**
**ATAR 98.30**

TAS Headmaster Murray Guest said the results were a great tribute to the students and the school’s out of hours academic support program, including tutoring and a residential study camp all of which contributed to the strong academic success.

“In addition to these three students are many boys who have achieved above expectations and deserve success. That achievements were in 19 subjects says much about the breadth of offering and the commitment of teachers, and I thank and congratulate them also.”

![Waseem Sajeev](image4.png)

**Waseem Sajeev**
**ATAR 97.45**

![Alex Wright](image5.png)

**Alex Wright**
**ATAR 95.40**

![Lachlan Akers](image6.png)

**Lachlan Akers**
**ATAR 98.85**

![Tom Gordon](image7.png)

**Tom Gordon**
**ATAR 91.85**

![Jack Tearle](image8.png)

**Jack Tearle**
**ATAR 90.40**

![Matthew Maunder](image9.png)

**Matthew Maunder**
**ATAR 90.05**

**Highlights**

- For the third consecutive year, two TAS boys (Aidan Hammerschmid and William Howard) made the Premier’s All Round Achievers List
- Senior Prefect Darcy James came second in State in History Extension and 19th in English Extension
- Aidan Hammerschmid was seventh in State in Business Studies
- 38 Band 6s were achieved in 19 subjects, including six for girls studying at TAS
- TAS was ranked 59th in the State for English - the highest in the region for the third consecutive year
Leadership, Service, Adventure

When prefects were first appointed at TAS 120 years ago, few boys were keen to take up the office believing that elevating some students over others ran against the egalitarian ideals of Australian society. But far from conflicting with these ideals, the system recognises that there is a role for seniors in setting standards and examples for others, and particularly juniors, to follow, Headmaster Murray Guest told students and parents at the induction ceremony for the incoming prefects.

“Prefectship is not a prize for what a boy has done already, nor is it an attempt to offer a good experience to a student who might be in need of that. Rather, it is a call to serve the school community over the coming year. The call is to assist the direction of the School in maintaining its standards in all areas; supporting students and inspiring pride in the school through good example,” Mr Guest said.

“Above all, they have been called to join in our most important task – ensuring that every boy in this school is able to feel supported and is confident that his best efforts will be applauded and never derided,” he said.

Prefects for 2013-14 are back row, left to right) Jack Simmons (Tamworth), Duncan Carmichael (Armidale), Sam Johnston (Armidale), Hamish McPhie (Armidale), Morgan Broadbent-Wicks (Armidale), Clarence Butcher (Armidale), Sam Doyle (Armidale), Thomas Lane (Inverell), Travis Mund (Sydney), (front) Thomas Kingham (Limbr), Harrison Abeyasekera (Armidale), Dylan Ruba (Austral Eden), Senior Prefect Benjamin Mulligan (Moree), Deputy Senior Prefect Harry Lloyd (Armidale), Patrick Williamson (Armidale), Michael O’Sullivan (Armidale), Clay Lillyman (Walgett) and Headmaster Murray Guest

Called to Serve the School Community

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Compassion wins out

When Sam Zuill met 10 year old Thai boy Chachani, he thought it would be a fleeting association for the duration of a school service trip. But so inspiring was the young AIDS orphan that Sam has decided to sponsor him into the future.

Sam, along with 11 schoolmates from TAS and six girls from PLC Armidale, chose compassion over relaxation, helping the residents of the Agape AIDS Orphanage and the McKean Rehabilitation Centre for Leprosy sufferers, both near Chiang Mai in Thailand.

At the orphanage, the Armidale students painted a nursery, caught and gutted 100kg of fish from breeding tanks at the centre in mid-30 degree heat, and played with the children, including with ukeles donated by Black Dot Music in Armidale.

At the McKean Centre, for those with leprosy, maintenance of landscaping was an important contribution - cutting grass and tidying the grounds.

“It felt good to know we helped people who had suffered from leprosy, something I knew nothing about. Some of the residents we met had even walked all the way from China because the McKean Centre was the only place that would accept leprosy sufferers at the time.

“It was a great experience, not just the service, but we also managed to have some fun,” Sam added.
Life in an orphanage in Fiji opened the eyes of a group of Year 8 TAS students to not only another culture, but themselves.

Far from doing nothing during their school holidays, the 15 boys and an equal number from New England Girls’ School and PLC Armidale gave their time to help out at St Christopher’s Orphanage, Suva, as part of the Christian service project which TAS instigated some 15 years ago.

“While we were at the orphanage we helped make a new vegie garden and built desks and benches to go with the tables, and were ‘buddied up’ with one of the orphans. Mine was named Zac, aged two,” Wally Davidson of Attunga, said - seen below with Zac and Jock McMaster.

Wally said it was satisfying being able to help the Orphanage, and make the Sisters and orphans feel “more important and loved in the world”.

“I learnt that I am really, really lucky to have what I do when they have nothing and seem so much happier,” Wally said.

“I’ve also learnt to respect all my belongings more and appreciate life because you only live once.”

Trip co-ordinator Fiona Taber from TAS, said the pilgrimage is a transformative experience for those who attend, and is true Christian service in action.

“There is no doubt that as comfortable Australians we have plenty we can give to the kids of St Christopher’s but every year, our students come back with more than they took away. They come back with a new gratitude, a deeper understanding of how similar people across the world really are and the knowledge that it is better to serve than be served,” she said.

Cultural Enlightenment

“Two weeks in France enjoying French and Art experiences was quite amazing. We hit the ground running in Paris as we headed to see the Musée D’Orangerie, a gallery filled with countless, colossal waterlily artworks by Monet. We were also able to visit Monet’s home and garden in Giverny, which was the inspiration for these artworks.

Our French driver, Sébastien, drove the coach like a sports-car, and it wasn’t long before we arrived at Versailles, an example of aristocratic opulence at its best. The château – estimated today at anywhere from US $2-$300 billion – was exceptional.

At le Mont Saint-Michel, a medieval abbey and part-time fortress constructed on an island, it was amazing to see how the monks could live in isolation for so long and build something so advanced without today’s technology.

For the French students the three-night homestay was most beneficial. We spent time at an international school situated in the Loire Valley, in the town of Loches. There were a couple of striking contrasts between this school and TAS. For example, from Year 10, the students could smoke between classes (off campus), provided that their swipe-card showed they had good marks and behaviour.” Patrick Williamson

“From the Parc Asterix and the Centre Pompidou, the museum of contemporary art. My personal favourite was “Untitled”, by Unknown Artist. This expressive, abstract work boasted a black background with a single red box, fantastic but being the scholar that he is, Mr White happily explained the significance.

On to the Louvre, and host to the most valuable painting known to mankind: the Mona Lisa, yeah, it was okay. After our intricate plan to steal the Mona Lisa failed, we walked through the Jardins des Tuileries to the Champs-Elysées. Here Madame Tamminga was lured into her 422nd shop of the trip, while Mr White continued to give perspicacious comments about consumerism.

The Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower were on the agenda but time was running out in Paris and we sprinted through yet another museum of art, this time the Impressionists, resisting Mr White’s overwhelming knowledge of every single artwork in the Musee d’Orsay. We followed this with some well-earned free time around Paris. Twenty-nine hours later and we were home.

This was an unforgettable experience and extremely culturally enlightening.” Travis Mund

Above left to right; Darcy Smyth from Bingara, buddy Roko and Lukas Cook from Moree
The 2013 Round Square Conference in Florida was attended by five Year 11 boys from TAS, seen below left to right; Harry Lloyd, Hamish McPhie, Sam Johnston, Jack Simmons and Cameron Norbury.

The theme of the conference, *Waves of Change*, was based on the belief that collective power is able to achieve much more than any individual. So we were encouraged to reflect on the potential of the world’s youth, to make change together. We listened to those who had already taken action who pointed out that the gap between an idea and making it reality is really very small. We were also urged to think about service and whether we could do more than just donate money.

Conference isn’t really the right word for the occasion, because it’s a gathering, pretty social at times, of 600 students, from every school imaginable, looking to become leaders, and looking to make change.

On the pre-conference tour to New Orleans we met people, were shown the local sites, heard survivor stories from hurricane Katrina and helped an organisation for disadvantaged African American and Hispanic kids. New Orleans is the jazz and blues capital of the world. The city is pretty much as it’s depicted in popular culture; poor, culturally diverse and with blues and jazz littering the streets. It was amazing.

Meeting other students was the highlight of the trip. When you’re dropped into a room of 100 strangers, you don’t know what to expect. But we soon got to know students from Denmark, South Africa and Canada to name but a few and everyone soon became very good friends. We were billeted out to members of Saint Andrew’s School community in Boca Raton, Miami.

Inspirational speakers, entrepreneurs and leadership workshops were littered throughout the conference week. Their goal, to hook us on the idea of collective power, to outline the simple steps needed to be taken to turn a concept into reality and most importantly to entertain. The trip was a great place to build friendships and to be inspired. It was an adventure for us all and one that formed indelible memories.

Next year’s conference is in Jordan, in the Middle East. This will be an incredible venue and we encourage the current Year 10s to become involved.

Thank you, Harry Lloyd

Honouring those who gave their lives

The sacrifice of those who gave their lives in war was commemorated by students and staff at the TAS Remembrance Day service. They paid tribute to the 97 Old Boys and four staff who gave their lives in conflicts from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

“We remember all of them and their sacrifice. Lest we forget,” said Senior Prefect Ben Mulligan.
Abseiling into a water-filled canyon, navigating through World Heritage rainforest, becoming an accredited volunteer rural fire fighter and achieving surf life saving credentials – the TAS boys spent an adventurous week stepping out of their comfort zones and learning more about themselves.

ACTIVITIES WEEK

Cadets trekked, canoed and canyoned at Nymboida Canoe Centre near Grafton, Year 10 Pioneers made their way through Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks east of Glen Innes, while in Year 11, boys either gained their chainsaw certificate at Armidale TAFE and helped the Dumaresq brigade as part of the Rural Fire Service program, or achieved their surf bronze medallions thanks to a partnership with Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.

“Activities Week inspires a wide range of emotions, from excitement about the promise of physical challenge to relief at the break from class, through to trepidation and even fear of what lies ahead,” Headmaster Murray Guest said. “All of this is good. The program has been carefully designed to be achievable for all, whilst presenting something new and challenging enough to inspire new confidence and perhaps even shape habits and self belief.”

He said this is why the cadet program steps up in adventure and challenge each year from C Company in Year 7, to B and finally A Company (Year 9), in line with the growth in boys through these years.

“It is also why there are different pathways beyond the compulsory years of cadets, through formal leadership training and responsibilities, the tailored small group experience of Pioneers, practical training through the Rural Fire Service and the physical challenge of Surf Lifesaving. Each offers an experience and an opportunity to develop that we believe is fundamentally worthwhile and will contribute in some way to the formation of good men.”

The week places big demands on TAS staff, and Mr Guest said it was a contribution that said much about the culture of the school and was part of TAS life.

“It is never taken for granted though and I offer my considerable thanks to all who have made the past week such a success and a time that will be remembered by the boys in their care.”
Marathon Paddle for Charity

Digging deep to draw on inner strength, 21 paddlers from the TAS Kayak Club successfully completed the 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic held overnight, proud of their efforts in the water and out of it, having raised more than $35,000 for charity.

Considered one of the two great canoeing challenges in Australia, the overnight paddle from Windsor to Brooklyn Bridge is a key fundraiser for the Arrow Bone Marrow Foundation, which assists in Leukemia research. The students, staff and parents from The Armidale School, PLC Armidale and New England Girls’ School, spent months preparing for the 37th annual event, with ideal weather conditions resulting in a one hundred per cent finish for the team.

“It is the first time that all our paddlers have arrived at the end without being withdrawn from the race for being sick, injured or too slow for the cut-off times. The weather and tides were very favourable for us and all who participated in the event, paddlers and land crew alike, enjoyed themselves immensely,” team co-ordinator Tim Wheaton said.

“Our fastest paddlers were Lachlan McDonald and his father Duncan, TAS Old Boy (77-82). The father and son team crossed the line in 12 hours, 23 minutes and 44 seconds. Meanwhile Duncan’s wife Fiona and another son Jock, completed the gruelling event in 15.01.30. The last paddlers through finished in just under 18 hours.

The Hawkesbury is very much a team event with landcrew staying up through the night to offer support to the paddlers out in the dark at two refreshment stops.

TAS is proud to have been associated with the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic for 35 of its 37 years. Over the decades TAS has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Arrow Foundation and this year was no different with more than $35,000 raised. With the Macquarie Group Foundation matching the $14,000 raised by their employee Duncan, the McDonalds were responsible for $28,000 of this – a terrific effort.
Knox Claims Bronze

TAS athlete Huw Knox booked a berth in the Australian All Schools championships, after coming second in the final of the 15 years 800m at the NSW All Schools Championships. Huw crossed the line in a time of 2.03.29 seconds.

Having had a spell from intensive training for some months, he set about preparing for the titles, which were held in Townsville. His preparation paid off; running against boys almost a year older, he won a bronze medal in the under 16 years division in 2.01.08.

To do this well at Australian All Schools is a fantastic achievement and Huw is to be congratulated on this terrific effort.

Triple Crown Winners

Thomas Lane, Jock McDonald and Lachlan McDonald have swum, run and paddled their way out of their comfort zones and into the history books as the first recipients of a new award at TAS recognising endurance and challenge - the Gold Triple Crown. The Triple Crown recognises those who successfully complete the 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim, the 14km City to Surf run and the 115km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic during their time at TAS. If all are completed in a single calendar year they are eligible for the Gold Triple Crown.

“The TAS Triple Crown is an award which aims to espouse the values of determination, resilience and aspiration amongst our students,” said Jim Pennington, who is in charge of athletics and triathlon at TAS.

TAS staff member Mr Tim Hughes is also to be congratulated on also achieving the Gold Triple Crown Award.

Below are the award recipients, Thomas Lane, Lachlan McDonald and Jock McDonald

Cash and Clemson

Our creative arts and inter-house competitions reached their crescendo for 2013 with the Cash Cup and the Clemson Cup.

The Cash Cup saw an out-pouring of great energy and enthusiasm from every house and whilst it was evident that not all our students are destined for the stage, the spirit of the night was wonderful to see. Well done to Croft House for taking out the Cup for the second year.

Similarly a huge audience enjoyed the public speaking competition - the Clemson Cup. The impromptu topic “The Heroes of my Life” provided great entertainment, from personal disclosures to deep philosophical commentary and comparisons of our Deputy Headmaster to superman. Well done to all.
Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet tonight and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

My name is Samuel Jackson-Bolton and I’m from Lightning Ridge in NSW. I’m also from the Yuwaalaraay and the Yuwaalihaay people. I attend The Armidale School, otherwise known as TAS and I am currently in Year 9.

My first year at TAS was awesome, but also pretty rotten at times. Before I arrived, I was very excited to be going to a new place and meeting new people. But this all changed very quickly when I arrived in my dormitory and started unpacking.

The strongest memory I have of this day is looking out the window and seeing Mum driving away down the road. That is when it first hit me and I realised that this place was my new home and I had to stay here for the next six years in this creepy, old, three-storey building. I started to miss home immediately. For that whole afternoon, I remember lying on my bed thinking about what all my friends were doing back home and how much fun they were having without me. But, within the next few weeks, I began to get used to the busy school routines and it became easier for me to focus on other things such as playing sport, travelling to Sydney to play rugby and making new, life-long friends.

Then, towards the end of my second year at TAS, I was selected as a coxswain for the First IV rowing team. This gave me the opportunity to compete with the crew in the GPS Head of the River regatta at the beginning of this year. It also makes me the very first Aboriginal to ever compete for TAS rowing, and I believe I am only the second Aboriginal to have competed at the NSW GPS Head of the River – and I can't tell you how proud that made me, and my family.

And as great as that was and I never thought it would get any better, I now have the opportunity to represent my school, Yalari, myself and my family on an international student exchange. I was accepted into the Round Square program, so I am now currently saving for my 10-week trip to Stanstead College, in Canada early next year.

Another great experience I have recently had is the Yalari Year 9 boys’ outback camp. This camp really helped demonstrate the wide variation we have within Aboriginal culture. A strong example of this for me was the young children who at about eight years of age were speaking their own language fluently. I couldn’t believe this because it was so different to the community where I grew up. The reason for this is because the small communities we travelled to on this camp have somehow managed to keep their culture, and appear to be relatively untouched by other cultures. I believe this is because the communities in Central Australia are so remote that not many others, besides traditional people, would like it.

In some ways, I can’t believe how lucky I am to have been given these opportunities, but I am really grateful to all who have helped me achieve so much in the past three years.

Firstly, I have to thank my family. They were unable to be here tonight due to work commitments, but I acknowledge the sacrifices they have made on my behalf. I know Mum found it hard to be strong for me when I was homesick and just wanted to head back home for good. But I can honestly say now that I’m glad that she helped me to stick it out for those first few months at TAS. Since then, things have only got better.

Secondly, I’d like to thank Waverley and Llew for all they have done for me and every other Yalari scholar in the country. And also for the amount of work and effort they put in for every Yalari student each and every day and never giving up on any of us.

Next, I would like to thank the majority of this audience. The sponsors, and perhaps future sponsors, of Yalari! Without you, none of this would be possible. So, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of every Yalari scholar I would like to say thank you. Thank you for everything you have done for Yalari!

I would also like to say thank you to Mr Barnaby Buntine. Thank you for helping me and the growing number of Aboriginal boys at TAS. Without you, Matt and Yalari my confidence would be nowhere near the point it is at today and there is no way I would have been able to give this speech.

Lastly, I would like to give my special thanks to Matt Plant. Without you I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to speak at this dinner nor hold the dream of one day having a trophy truck.

Thank you all for listening to my story tonight and I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.
On a desk dusted with flour Dominic Ferguson cracks an egg into a volcano of pastry. He and his Year 4 classmates then rolled, cut and cooked gnocchi listening to tales of Italy along the way.

Playing Korean and Japanese games, introducing themselves in German, discovering what goes into a croissant and learning the Japanese art of folding - TAS Junior School immersed itself into its Languages Day.

"Food featured significantly on the menu given it is a gateway to learning about other cultures," said TAS Languages co-ordinator Kathryn Tamminga. "The children learn best with hands on activity and food and games are a great way of introducing them to other languages."

"Decorating the Buche de Noel was great," said Lachlan Thornton of Year 5. "We learnt about its Christmas meaning and how it is made with respect. The day was full of fun activities and we learnt heaps about other countries in a really fun way," he added.

Junior School children strapped on their helmets for some fun at their annual Bike Day and triathlon. At the much anticipated annual event the children learnt bike care basics, completed obstacle courses and went for a distance ride through the school, before listening to national mountain bike champion and 2013 Armidale junior sports star Holly Harris and her New England Mountain Bikers (NEMB) teammate Ben Brunckhorst present a talk and film about some of their exciting adventures.

In the afternoon, all students took part in a triathlon, either as part of a team or as an individual.

"We had to see how many times we could ride around one of the ovals in half an hour, and also did an obstacle course riding through a track marked by ropes," said Nicola Simmons, of Year 4.

Classmate Tristan Rottcher, who rides with NEMB, agreed.

"I really enjoyed doing the laps, and also the triathlon. Bike riding is very healthy and a lot of fun."

Junior School Languages Day

On a desk dusted with flour Dominic Ferguson cracks an egg into a volcano of pastry. He and his Year 4 classmates then rolled, cut and cooked gnocchi listening to tales of Italy along the way.

Right: Cassidy Williams, Asher Game-Lopata, Tristan Rochter, Fletcher Jackson learn how to make gnocchi from Kim Englehart.

Below: Ben Simmons and Jack Sewell get some tips from Nadega Bossuyt on how to decorate their Buche de Noel.

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DID I GET A BARGAIN!

From murals on surfboards to abstract desert landscapes the diversity of artistic creativity was on show at the TAS Parents and Friends art show which ran in conjunction with the RazzamaTAS fete this year.

The TAS Jazz Band provided plenty of atmosphere and watercolourist James White opened the exhibition.

TAS P&F Co-President Sally Carmichael said the show offered something for everyone.

"There were oils, acrylics, watercolours, multimedia works in abstract, modern and realistic styles," Mrs Carmichael said.

"The sale of works was very satisfactory," she added.

2013 RazzamaTAS Fete an Incredible Success

Fortunately the weather knew how to behave and threw us a terrific day for the annual RazzamaTAS fete. Our biggest social event of the year was a great success with a significant amount of money passing into the hands of the P&F Association. The TAS family (as well as the ‘professional’ fete goers who tend to turn up early) was there in force and in a good mood, making the day a very happy one throughout.

Many very generous supporters from our school community worked tirelessly, both on the weekend and in the months leading up to it and we offer the considerable thanks of the School to them for once again creating such a wonderful atmosphere and sense of community.

The TAS Art Show

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"The sale of works was very satisfactory," she added.

Seen left is Art Show Co-ordinator, Phillipa Charley-Briggs with TAS Old Boy Stuart Jay Wissing (68-69), who creates incredible wood sculptures.
The launch of a rowing ‘four’ re-named in honour of a historic New England family with links to both its old and new owners kick-started the 2014 rowing season for TAS in mid November.

Hitting the water on Malpas Dam the newest addition to the TAS rowing program was purchased from Cranbrook School in Sydney with funds donated by the TAS Foundation.

Re-named *Dangar* because descendants of colonial pioneer Henry Dangar have had connections with TAS and Cranbrook since the founding of both schools, as students, governors and benefactors. “This made the choice of name a logical one,” TAS Headmaster Murray Guest said.

“In New England, localities such as Dangar’s Lagoon, Dangarsleigh and famous Armidale properties Gostwyck and Palmerston are associated with the family.”

Rowing was re-introduced at TAS in late 2011 after a hiatus of more than a decade. Having fielded one team at the GPS Head of the River in 2012 and then an additional crew this year, the purchase will allow three boats to compete in the prestigious schoolboy regatta in March.

“With what lies ahead of us, it is all about commitment as much as talent,” said Rowing MIC Will Caldwell.

“Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.”

The squad have had two overnight outings to Malpas Dam each week ahead of the First IV rowing in the Gold Cup Regatta in Sydney at the end of November. The squad also competed in regattas in Grafton in December and will compete in Sydney in February, ahead of the GPS Head of the River on 15 March.
Old Boys' Notes

Here and There

Alan Smith (42-44) caught up with his cousin Michael Brooker (51-55) in Perth and thought we would be interested to know that Michael is an avid ornithologist, specialising in wedge-tailed eagles and more recently the DNA collection of two species of wrens, near his Gooseberry Hills home in Perth.

Note from Russell Lander (48-55). “It was great to get Binghi 162 by email, really enjoyable to see how the school’s prospering. When I left in 1955 I think the head count was 299 – how things have improved!”

I recently received a phone call from John Lennox (49-55) who, as only John can do, sat next to an elderly lady on the bus from Edgecliff to Darling Point and struck up a conversation. To John’s amazement the conversation revealed that she in fact came from Curlew, near Gunnedah, and her father and uncle had gone to TAS. The lady’s father proved to be one Colin William Simson who attended TAS from 1914 to 1919 and was Captain of the School and Senior Prefect in 1919, as well as House Captain, member of 1st XV, 1st XI, boxing mid weight champion and the shooting team. His brother John Norman Simson also attended TAS from 1914-1918.

A note from Bill Johnstone (59-64) on how independent exercise has kept him fit. “The Class of 63 attracts a very high OBU reunion attendance. Every five or 10 years we meet and recall with some mirth the shenanigans that we had taken part in during our school days.

“We the class of 1963 regularly engaged in rugby as our main team sport. I still recall the agonies of having to undo my bootlaces with frozen fingers on those cold winter afternoons after rugby practice! Regular team sports led to a good deal of bonding among us. However, I was not good at rugby. I am quite short-sighted and needed glasses to even see the opposition with … what ball? So I was pretty hopeless on the team. Nevertheless, I did my best.

“Instead I was given leave to go cross-country running, sometimes with Tim White (63-64). The freedom of setting my own running pace on bush tracks challenged me, and gave me a good appreciation of exercising without the necessity of team support.

“In 2008 I had a TIA – a mini-stroke – which lasted about 15 minutes but with apparently no adverse effects. Fortunately I suffered no brain damage. I am now on aspirin, a very low dose of cholesterol-lowering medication and some vitamin supplements – nothing else.

“I attribute my ongoing fitness and the minimal after-effects of the TIA to the routine that was established when I was a boy at TAS. I was encouraged to pursue running, instead of relying solely on a team sport for fitness.”

Christopher Wright (54-60) and Margot have retired to the coast, to Byron Bay, and son Jamie (83-88) is now managing the property at Wollomombi.

Peter Tomkins (62-67) and his wife Ann have moved to Warwick and live only five kilometres from the town centre. They would love to see anyone from Peter’s year if they are passing through. His email is pwatomkins@bigpond.com

Ben Blomfield (91-96) and wife Emily, along with Layla and Archer, have moved to New Zealand, where Ben has joined a veterinary practice at Darfield out of Christchurch. His email, if anyone is passing through, is: belablomfield@vodafone.co.nz

News of Nigel Davidson (75-76) who has been living in France. Nigel recently visited Australia with his daughters catching up with his brothers Tony (73-74) in Hobart, Guy (72-73) in Sydney and his father Peter (44-47) as well as a number of his TAS mates. As a result of the sale of his business to American company Kapoo he is their Vice-President (Europe) trading aircraft components throughout the continent.

An email from Angus Smyth (84-90) on the Coffs Coast. “I have recently changed firms and am now with MBT Lawyers in Coffs Harbour practising principally in Commercial Litigation and Business Advisory work.

“I am also President of the Coffs Harbour Junior Rugby Union and have enjoyed bringing rugby teams up to TAS over the last two years. We have been grateful for the schools hospitality on our visits.

“I have for many years been a patrolling member of the Coffs Harbour Surf Club so its great to see the TAS boys here on their house coast weekends, as well as competing in the Ocean swims. Always makes me proud to say I’m a TAS boy as well.

“I travelled up the hill on the long weekend for the 120 year Rugby celebrations and had a ball playing with and against a large number of old boys- great times. Always keen to catch up with any TAS boys travelling through Coffs feel free to drop an email asmyth@mbtlawyers.com.au”

Hugh Perrottet (84-85) is now the Gaming Manager of the Country Club of Tasmania in Launceston. There is a Casino, a golf club and a number of villas – great for visiting golf players.

Binghi 163 Term 4, 2013 17
Wayne Threlfall (86-88) is a Project Director at Defence Material Organisation in Canberra. He completed a Bachelor of Science, in Psychology and Computer Science at the Australian National University.

James McBroom (87-88) is a lecturer at Griffith University in the School of Environment.

Jamie Nancarrow (87-92) along with his wife and three children has moved to southern Tasmania from Fremantle for a ‘rebalance’ (tree change). He has been there for six months and is loving it.

We note that Sam Brown (90-95) is now the CEO of Livecorp, the livestock export industry’s service delivery company.

Philip Manners (92-97) is a Director of The Centre for International Economics in Sydney having completed a MPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford. Phil also holds a degree in Economics (honours and University Medal and a Science degree (Mathematics) from Australian National University.

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OBITUARIES

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

With thanks to Helen Lindqvist, daughter of Tom Wood (31-32).

“TAS Old Boy and Bell Tower member, Tom McRae Wood passed away peacefully on 27 October aged 94. He had been quite cheerful when I spoke to him Friday night but he died in his sleep the following Sunday morning. He always loved keeping in touch with TAS and reading Binghi. His lunch with the TAS Old Boys in August 2011 was a highlight for him. His funeral was held on 1 November in Victor Harbor SA with a huge representation of friends and relatives. Many mentions were made of his book ‘Dust, Bumps and Mileposts’ which contain stories of his time in Armidale.” A copy of this book is in the school library – Ed.

James Oliver Croaker Perrottet (42-47) passed away in the early hours of 9 September, 2013. His wife Jill let us know, “sad news, but a relief for him as it was the fifth stroke over a period of years. His brain was good but the body was not.”

Phillip Leonard Carter OAM (42-47) passed away on the 15 October, 2013 at the age of 83. Phillip followed his father, Len (14-18) and his uncles Geoff (14-18) and Ray (20-27) to TAS. Phillip’s brother Arthur (45-48), cousins John (50-51), Tony (58-64) and nephew Ian (69-74) also attended TAS. At TAS Phillip loved sports (rugby, cricket, tennis and athletics) and he achieved second class Honours in the Leaving Certificate. After leaving school he returned to the family property where he played polo. At the 1951 Quirindi Polo Carnival, the Quirindi B Team consisted of TAS Old Boys Phillip, Bruce McDonald (42-45), Len and Arthur Carter.

All his life, Phillip was a passionate participant in the Show movement as a horseman and exhibitor. He exhibited at the Sydney Royal Show every year from 1952 until 2013, appointed an RAS Councillor in 1971 and later Vice President. Phillip was awarded the OAM for his service to the RAS and the Show movement in 2003.

Phillip was an exceptional breeder of pigs, cattle and sheep and an accomplished apiarist. He developed the Woorak Stud Piggery to the point it became the largest registered stud piggery in Australia containing three registered breeds, Tamworth, Large White and Landrace. Later he specialised in developing cattle for exhibit. Finally when he was no longer able to handle larger livestock, he returned to his early love of apiary. Thanks to Tony Carter for this information.

Malcolm Lillyman (69-72) farmer of North Star, passed away after a short illness in July this year, aged 58. He is survived by his sister Lenore Woods.

Antony John Croft (51-56) died in Tamworth on 17 November. He leaves a wife and son and daughter and grandchildren. For the last few years Tony has been breeding budgies and finches for sale at a small property just outside Tamworth. Many thanks to my dear friend John Chapman who keeps me up to date on these sad events – Ed.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Wallabies legend and former TAS teacher John Hipwell OAM (staff 76-79 and 89).

John passed away suddenly at the age of 65. He represented his country over a career spanning 14 years winning 36 caps for his country.

John received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1982 and was inducted into the Australian Rugby Union Hall of Fame in 2006. Note from Peter Cornish (staff 78-81) who remembers Small Motor Maintenance at TAS with Hippy. He adds, “I now understand as a farmer the vital importance of this course – I am breeding and selling Black Angus and wines in the Kanimbla Valley, just west of Blue Mountains.”

LATE NEWS: On 6 December Bishop Peter Chiswell, Anglican Bishop of Armidale 1976-99 passed away. Peter was Chairman of TAS Council from 1976 - 1989, then Visitor to the School and served a second term as Chairman in 1999, during his tenure, overseeing the appointment of three Headmasters. A full obituary will run in the next Binghi.

Dangar House Cricket Team of 1937

I ran this image in Binghi 160 asking if anyone could identify those in it and Mrs Berenice Carter, wife of John (David) Carter (36-41) of Barra, now deceased, produced a definitive list. At 86 this is a remarkable feat on the part of Mrs Carter and we thank her very much indeed for putting pen to paper. - Ed

Back row left to right: David Carter (36-41), John Clift (37), William Challis (37-42), Ronald White (36-43), Percy Rigby (37-40)
Front row left to right: Geoff Border (37-41), John Cordingley (34-38), Owen Schwilk (Captain) (34-41), Keith Noble (37-39), Anthony Jenkins (35-38)
Seated: Anthony Bishop (37-41), Victor Jenkins (35-41)

Congratulations

Angus Trenererry (04-11) is pictured being presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award by the NSW Governor Her Excellency Marie Bashir, at Government House in June.

Angus, who is studying a Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney and Ben Brunckhorst (05-11) qualified for their gold awards while at TAS and for their adventure project, undertook a four day, 250km mountain bike ride and camping expedition from the village of Deepwater to Dundurrabin, on the eastern fall of the Great Divide. Ben was unable to attend the ceremony due to exams at the University of Queensland, where he is studying a Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Economics.
‘Long Lunch’ attracts 100

More than 100 old boys spanning six decades attended the OBU Sydney Branch’s ‘long lunch’ at the Menzies Hotel on 29 November.

Special guest, Old Boy and ABC rugby league commentator David Morrow (64-70) spoke about his career and interviewed former league player and coach Paul Langmack about his time as a player with the Canterbury Bulldogs and assistant coach with South Sydney. Master of Ceremonies Dai (David) Griffiths (87-92) acknowledged several in the audience who had represented Australia in their chosen sport. It was fantastic to see such a wide spread of old boys from Haille Smith (48-50) to Ben Tooth (05-10).

Special thanks to the Sydney Branch committee, particularly Paddy Flower (62-63) for his finessing of the details, and his son Alistair Flower (88-93) for sponsoring refreshments and organising the raffle ticket sellers. Thanks to all who made the effort to attend what is likely to be the first of similar, bigger events.

Finally, the Sydney Branch would like to extend a huge thank you to Anne White for her support of our branch over the years and wish her all the very best for the future.

Andrew Erratt (74-79), President TASOBU Sydney Branch

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2014 OBU Weekend

The 2014 OBU Weekend will be held on 15, 16 and 17 August. All Old Boys and their partners are most welcome to attend. Below is a list of reunion co-ordinators for the weekend.

60+ Year Reunion (Venue: TAS Dining Hall)
Donna Jackson
Ph: (02) 6776 5800  M: 0427 482 868
djackson@as.edu.au

Barry Brooks
Ph: (02) 6736 1443  karlynbrooks@hotmail.com

50 Year Reunion (Venue: TAS Dining Hall)
Seeking expressions of interest

40 Year Reunion (Venue: TAS Dining Hall)
Seeking expressions of interest

30 Year Reunion (Venue: tba)
Rob Pollard
M: 0417 532 830  Rob_Pollard@investblue.com.au

20 Year Reunion (Venue: tbc)
Jonathon Heath
M: 0438 447 894  jonathon@jonathonheath.com

10 Year Reunion
Seeking expressions of interest

5 Year Reunion
Seeking expressions of interest

If you are interested in co-ordinating a year reunion in 2014 could you please contact Donna Jackson
Ph: (02) 6776 5800  M: 0427 482 868
djackson@as.edu.au

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1967 Leavers’ Lunch at Parliament House
The lunch was held in the Speaker’s Dining Room on 25 October, hosted by George Souris, Member for Upper Hunter and organised by Bruce Jacob. Fourteen members of the year attended from as far afield as Rockhampton (Andrew Palmer), Brisbane (Bruce White), Geelong district (John Lyons), Orange (Duncan Stuart) and Uralla (James Croft). A fine time was had by all present.

Seated L to R: James Croft (59-67), Peter Johnstone (62-67), Bruce Jacob (65-67)

Mark Berry, President of the TASOBU presents Anne White with a farewell gift on behalf of the Old Boys’ Association.

Adrian ‘Moose’ Skeggs (78-82) is busy in training for a 1200km charity ride from Adelaide to Melbourne in March to raise money the incurable muscle wasting disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Moose is hoping to raise $25,000 for the cause, which has debilitated the life of young James Thompson, whose father Julian, Moose coached in rugby.

To sponsor Moose go to www.tourduchenne.com.au and click on Adrian Moose Skeggs.