Much has taken place in the last week and I am always enthused when I report on the eclectic nature of the activities of the students at TAS. Excursion Week has been deemed to have been a great success and the range of experiences that engage the students from Years 6 to 10 is quite extraordinary. All reports back from the staff that accompany the boys reflect high standards of behaviour and a real engagement in the opportunities provided. I would, again, like to offer my thanks to our staff who travel away from their own families and homes for that week in order to enhance the lives of the students they teach.

On both weekends either side of Excursion Week there were TAS students involved in athletic endeavour. There were a good number of our rugby players representing the New England Zone at two sets of Country Championships in Newcastle and Nowra. Percy Duncan in Year 9 was selected in the NSW Country U15 team and also nominated as ‘Best Back’ in the U15 Championships. Our athletes travelled to the annual AAGPS Championships last weekend and performed admirably. These young men give up their time between summer and winter sports and travel unheralded from all of the different excursions and their exams to compete in front of ten thousand or so spectators.

There is no place to hide on the running track, jumping pit or throwing grid and these boys should be justifiably proud of their performances. I commend their efforts and those of Mr Pennington and Mr Drain who work for many hours to prepare the team. They do this on top of their other sporting and Housemaster commitments. Joe Makeham was awarded the Cup for Best TAS Performance and Ben Broster the Cup for Services to Athletics in yesterday’s assembly. This weekend our rugby players travel to Coonabarabran to play Kinross in all grades.

On the academic front the NAPLAN tests are being conducted for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 this week. This national assessment of learning covers language conventions, reading, writing and numeracy and is set for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

I am excited about the upcoming service trip to Yipirinya School in the Northern Territory that is on offer for boys in Years 9 and 10, and their parents. Yipirinya School has been offering service learning programs for some time now and is currently developing its first ‘holiday’ program for indigenous children. We are very excited to be the first school to be part of this very worthwhile service opportunity and I would recommend you discuss it with your sons.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week 3

Wednesday 14 May
NAPLAN Testing
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 15 May
NAPLAN Testing
MTA Assessment Day (Year 12)

Friday 16 May
Year 8 Maths Day
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Dubbo)

Saturday 17 May
Rugby vs Kinross at Coonabarabran
NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Dubbo)

Week 4

Monday 19 May
Metals Work Placement (Year 12) all week

Tuesday 20 May
Board Meeting
Metals Work Placement (Year 12)

Wednesday 21 May
Metals Work Placement (Year 12)
Maths Olympiad (Year 5)
7.00 pm P&F Meeting

Thursday 22 May
Metals Work Placement (Year 12)

Friday 23 May
Metals Work Placement (Year 12)
4.00 pm TAS Rugby vs Farrer at Farrer
Foundation AGM

Saturday 24 May
TAS Company Members AGM

Sunday 25 May
CIS Football Trials in Sydney
Hawkesbury Canoe Classic
Familiarisation Paddle - Malpas Dam
6.00 pm Boarders to St Peter’s Cathedral

Week 5

Monday 26 May
CIS Football Trials in Sydney

Tuesday 27 May
CIS Football Trials in Sydney
Eisteddfod Choirs & Choral Night
(Lazenby Hall, UNE)

Wednesday 28 May
Motivational Media presentation
(Yrs 6-11)
New England Sings! Primary
Choirs Workshop
TAS/NEGS/PLC Combined Chapel
Service at TAS

Thursday 29 May
Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
da Vinci Decathlon
(Knox Grammar, Sydney)

Friday 30 May
Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
NW Equestrian Expo (Coonabarabran)
Dubbo Bull Sale

Saturday 31 May
NW Equestrian Expo
Inter School Rugby 7’s
Tournament at TAS
Dubbo Bull Sale

Sun 1 Jun
Year 12 Careers/University Expo in Sydney
NW Equestrian Expo
HCC Grafton Training paddle

Week 6

Monday 2 June
9/10 Mid Year Exams
NW Equestrian Expo
Dubbo Bull Sale

Monday 3 June
9/10 Mid Year Exams
NW Equestrian Expo
Dubbo Bull Sale

Wednesday 4 June
9/10 Mid Year Exams
6.30pm Evening Prayer
Year 9 and 10 Parent and Son Service Opportunity

At the recent Year 9 Parent Teacher Information Session Barney Buntine flagged an opportunity for students in Year 9 to travel to Alice Springs to stay at Yipirinya School and work with indigenous school students and conclude the visit with a three day trip to Uluru.

For several reasons we have made some changes to the timing and format of this opportunity and would now like to open up the invitation to Years 9 and 10 to either participate as an individual or with a parent. There will be an accompanying staff member.

The service program offered runs from Saturday 5 July returning to Armidale Monday 14 July (last week of July school holidays). The cost is $1550, inclusive Armidale to Armidale.

Yipirinya School have been offering service learning programs for some time now and is currently developing their first ‘holiday’ program for indigenous children. We are very excited to be the first school to be part of this very worthwhile service opportunity! Your task would be to assist in running the activities and interacting with the children from outlying communities for four days at the school. This would be followed by three days at Uluru.

WHAT NEXT! If you are interested, please contact Mr Barney Buntine or Mrs Anna Barnier before Monday 19 May - we will have to move quite quickly to finalise travel arrangements etc.

God, who knows?
Psalm 19:1-6

They say Mountaineers climb because mountains are there. I think this is to downplay the splendour of the summit. One particular TAS old boy who is a climbing enthusiast found himself nearing the climax of a wall in the Warrumbungles. As he approached the summit, the experience was nearly overwhelming, the effort, the moment, the risk, the beauty culminated in such a flurry of emotion, as he clambered over the top, reaching the horizontal, defeating death and exhaustion, the amazement of the view brought forth tears, such a stream, that he was left a blubbering mess. Frankly, I think, it sounds so extreme that I would have been balling like a baby long before the beauty of the summit. You might have found yourself on a cliff top or on the crest of a wave and simply been amazed at the beauty and power that surrounded you. You may have been stirred to the core by the experience of nature and of life. Cadets, as you are stretched to your capacity on Mount Lofty or in the canyon; Pioneers, as you trek through the wilderness – as you come face to face with this world what is your conclusion?

In Bill Bryson’s "A Short History of Nearly Everything", he summarises the astonishing world around us, with these following statistics: If the Earth were 5% closer to the sun everything would boil away, 15% further away everything would be frozen; the Earth’s molten core ensures critical outpourings of gas, sufficient to build the atmosphere that will protect life... and so on he goes.

For Molecular Biologist Michael Denton, not a man of faith, the data pushes him to this conclusion, “The evidence supports the proposition that the cosmos is a specially designed whole with life and mankind as its fundamental goal and purpose... science which has been for centuries the great ally of atheism and scepticism, has become at last, in the these final days the defender of the anthropocentric faith.” In other words, he suggests as we look around and consider our world and universe, all the evidence points towards a God who created, with human beings central in this creation.

Somewhere around the 2nd Millennium BC the author of Psalm 19 noted what Denton has only recently discovered. The world around us speaks loudly and plainly of a God who has planned and created with purpose.

But are these vague observations all we have to go on. Is this God knowable in any other greater way? Is this God able to be known personally?
And the winner is…….

Our Mother’s Day Raffle was drawn last week and the lucky winner of the basket of goodies was Tanya Alcorn. Second prize, the strawberry basket, was won by Libby Makeham. Congratulations to you both.

TAS P&F Meeting – Wednesday 21 May

The TAS P&F holds only four meetings each year and the next one is particularly important. It will be held on Wednesday 21 May at 7.30pm in the Lower Maxwell Room. In addition to regular business, this is the meeting where we will discuss funding requests from different parts of the school and we invite open and frank discussion of the individual requests, then we can all vote on the distribution of our funds raised over the last 12 months. The diversity of the funding requests are interesting and it provides a good insight into parts of the school you may not normally be familiar with.

Red Shield Appeal

Sunday 25 May is The Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal.

Any students who would like to volunteer their time on Sunday morning from 8:45am until 12 noon, please register your name by emailing Ms Boydell, cboydell@as.edu.au. (You will be eligible for three hours of Community Service.)

If parents would like to volunteer as drivers please email Ms Boydell as well.

ACADEMIC

Academic Awards 2013

The following students were awarded academic colours and medallions in assembly this week, recognising their outstanding and consistent efforts in their studies throughout 2013.

Colours

- Sam Johnston: Silver (2013)
- Riley Baile: Gold
- John Dennis: Gold
- Patrick Williamson: Gold
- Hamish McPhie: Silver
- Michael O’Sullivan: Silver

Medallions

Year 10 2013

- Hadrian Wright: Gold
- Ben MacDougall: Gold
- Syed Ahsan: Gold
- Samuel Redhead: Gold
- Harry Wright: Gold
- Thomas Mailler: Gold
- Sebastian Gibson: Gold
- Thomas Gall: Silver
- Robert Butcher: Silver
- Joshua Stevenson: Silver
- Nicholas Finney: Silver
- James Gilson: Silver

Year 9 2013

- Charlie Wyatt: Gold
- Jack Tizzard: Gold
- Angus Lloyd: Gold
- Jarrod Bourke: Gold
- Lachlan Tonkin: Silver
- Jack Parker: Silver
- Michael Harris: Silver
- Robert Pullar: Silver
- Jack Boydell: Silver
- Nathan Rasmussen: Silver
- Alister Braham: Bronze
- Samuel Finlayson: Bronze
- Hugh Morton: Bronze
- Samuel Danke: Bronze
- Alexander Chambers: Bronze
- Angus Simmons: Bronze
- Charlton Grant: Bronze

All parents are welcome and I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend, allowing all requests to receive fair and considered deliberation.
AAGPS Athletics 2014

Once again I was immensely proud when attending this extraordinary event on Saturday. Our boys represented themselves and our school with distinction. To compete on a stage where you are being watched by thousands of spectators in a cauldron atmosphere against athletes supported by elite programs reaffirms both the resilience we see daily in our young men as well as the wonderful support that our staff and families continue to offer. I congratulate all those boys who competed on a day full of PBs and new TAS records and which was highlighted by pure grit and determination. Fighting for positions whether from 4th to 3rd or 9th to 8th is something that has to be witnessed to be fully appreciated. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful leadership of our Year 12 group and especially thank our MIC Mr Jim Pennington and Mr David Drain for the huge amount of work both put in to ensure our boys were well prepared and supported both in the lead up to and during the event itself. We continue to learn from these events and will strive to improve the experience of all boys as we look to the opportunities availed to them both in 2015 and beyond.

Sport Training and Game Attendance

A reminder that it is imperative for a student to give proper notification to his coach and MIC should he require to miss a training or game well in advance. We would also expect that a parent email would support his email should an illness or family engagement etc. cause an absence. Thanks in advance for your support of this request.

Farrer 23 May (Friday night)

Next Friday we have our annual Farrer fixture where we will compete in Chess, Clay Target Shooting, Football, Hockey, Rugby and Tennis. It is a wonderful celebration of our boys co-curricular endeavours and I look forward to seeing many families sharing in celebrating the efforts of all our young men.

Rugby

U12’s rugby

Our second carnival with the Junior Blues was in Gunnedah on Sunday, a large component of the players were away with the New England rep team so our remaining boys showed great courage and stepped up to the challenge playing four tough games. Once again, the boys improved immensely over the day and celebrated a win for their final game, with Nick O’Neil scoring three of our four tries for the day, a solid effort. The boys discovered that with leadership comes great responsibility and Archie Chick lead by example as our captain for our final game, supporting the team in their win to finish the day. Our U12’s look forward to playing Coonabarabran Juniors next week in conjunction with the school trip to play against Kinross Wolaroi.

Ms Alice Hudson
TAS Hockey

TAS Hockey Club - Registrations

With team lists and players well and truly sorted for the 2014 Winter season, it is now imperative that all players have been registered online via the Hockey NSW Website. This is for the first time the responsibility of the player/family and MUST be done for insurance and invoicing reasons. If you have not registered yourself, your son or daughter, please go to hockeynsw.com.au and click on the Register Here button to complete the online registration details. TAS Hockey players may choose to pay their HNSW Registration via the online payment options or choose to pay later, in which case TAS will invoice at a later date.

Please ensure all registrations are completed by this weekend as there are many behind-the-scenes processes that require this information to be on the HNSW database.

Volunteers Needed

With the growth of the TAS Hockey Club over the past two seasons, so too grows the expectations of the club in terms of Hockey New England responsibilities. We have a number of wonderful family and club members who regularly offer their time to help in areas such as canteen, tech duty, coaching and umpiring duties, however it would be great to see some of their burden being shared by other TAS Hockey families. In particular, we are seeking assistance from club members or family members able to commit to regular Umpiring Duties (Senior and Junior), assistance with weekly Wednesday training barbeque Duties (4.15 - 5.30ish), as well as some of the Club Committee roles which have become vacant for the 2014 season, such as President, Vice President and Assistants to the Social Convenor. Please contact MIC Hockey, Mr Alex Portell on aportell@as.edu.au or 0458 006 053 should you be able to assist.

Game Attendance

It is with some disappointment that I must mention that players listed in TAS Hockey teams, especially those playing HNE Mens B and C Grade competitions, must ensure that they attend all games in order for TAS Hockey to field competitive and respected teams in the competition. Legitimate absences must be advised by email with as much notice as possible to team coaches, with the MIC of Hockey to be Cc’d into all requests. As a member of such teams, it is an expectation that you make every possible attempt to attend games and that coaches and /or the MIC be given the opportunity to assist you in attending should the need arise.

TAS Trainings

A reminder that all Senior School boys are expected to attend Circuit Training with Chris Doherty at the TAS Gym on Tuesdays from 3.45pm as well as the Wednesday UNE training sessions. Please see the TAS Hockey webpage for additional training and transportation details.

TAS C Grade

TAS C grade played two solid games of hockey over the weekend.

Running on with only eight players on Friday night and carrying a few injuries they went down to an experienced United team 2-0. All TAS players worked tirelessly in attack and defence with new recruits Will Brissett and Henry Perrottet unlucky not to score in the first half. Goal Keeper Jack Bishop, backs Drew Fergusson and Bill Perrottet kept the United team at odds for most of the game and it was only lost in the final moments when United scored two quick goals as the boys tired. It was great to have David Williams and Matt Turnbull boost the team numbers. Mr Bill Perrottet deserves a special mention as he carried an injury for most of the game and didn’t give up.

Sunday morning was a different story as a determined and full strength TAS team returned to the pitch. Servies caught the boys off guard and scored an early goal in the first few minutes. After that Coach Michael Cursons had the boys worrying the Ex-Services team for the remainder of the game, with the forwards and midfielders passing the ball around with speed and accuracy. An “own” goal off the opposition came after much hard work in the circle. Jonathon Chamberlain scored the second goal from a succession of tight passes. The boys were unlucky not to convert their many short corners. The defence and midfielders were again very-solid, keeping the ball out of the D and in setting up play. New recruits Adam Bush, Matt Turnbull, Mr Simon Chamberlain and Max Cushway worked hard in defence. Tom Bishop, Sam Wright, Angus Simmons and Nathan Rasmussen were always running. Thank you to Harry Wright and David Williams for stepping up to assist the C grade team. TAS eventually won 2-1. Well done boys!

Mrs S. Wright

TAS Firsts B Grade

Sunday 11 May saw TAS Firsts up against City B in their first encounter for the season. With a dynamic mix of youth and experience, it was obvious from the very start of the match that City were going to be tough opponents. We began the match rather flat, as City moved the ball beautifully, regularly winning the one on one challenges to maintain a high proportion of possession. Rushing the play, we were forgetting many of the basics and finding it difficult to penetrate through the halves to the forwards, opting for impossible hits and inaccurate passes that City were picking
of with relative ease. Despite the run of play, City were unable to consolidate and thanks to some solid defence and skilful keeping from Will Brissett, the half time scoreline was nil all.

In the second session, we began to work better as a team and the work rate picked up to ensure a more solid man to man defence from the halves and forwards. Throughout the game centre half Matt Kaukiainen worked tirelessly to provide opportunities to the forwards and in the second half there were many more attacking opportunities as the TAS support play opened up some holes in the strong City defence. Despite a number of short corner opportunities and some clean stick work into the circle, we were unable to strike and as the clock ticked down on a nil all scoreline, it was agreed by all to be a worthy result.

Mr Alex Portell

**Football**

The football season is well and truly underway. The commencement of the season has been underpinned by a number of solid performances across several divisions. It has been terrific to see the mighty blue and white being represented around the grounds on a Saturday morning. Congratulations all on a fine start to the season.

This week, our First XI will meet Pacific Hills in the next round of the CIS Knockout. Please come along and support. 6.30pm kick off at Doody Park, Thursday 15 May. We wish Rev Newton and his squad all the best for this encounter.

**Around the grounds this week**

TAS 1st XI play South Armidale United - 3pm Armidale Sportsground
TAS 2nd XI play South Armidale United 2 - 1pm Armidale Sportsground
TAS 3rd XI play Demon Knights Days - 1pm TAS Adamsfield
TAS 16As - BYE
TAS 16Bs play North Armidale Thunder - 8:30am Phil Wheaton Oval
TAS 14As play North Armidale Quokkas - 10:10am North Oval 2
TAS 14Bs BLUE play North Armidale Predators - 10:10am TAS Adamsfield
TAS 14Bs WHITE play North Armidale Spartans - 10:10am Phil Wheaton Oval
TAS 12As play North Armidale Spirit - 11:20am TAS Adamsfield
TAS 12Bs play North Armidale Vikings - 09:00am TAS Adamsfield
TAS Typhoons (9s) play Walcha United Wizards - 9:30am Rologas 14

TAS Trucks (8s) play Ex Services Westmead - 10:50am Jack Vance 3
TAS Tigers (7s) play Uralla Wolves - 9:30am Rologas 7
TAS Taipans (7s) play North Armidale Corsairs - 11:20am Rologas 5
TAS Terriers (6s) play North Armidale Fury - 10:30am Rologas 6
TAS Tadpoles (6s) play Walcha United Giants - 9:30am Rologas 9

Please note, that draws can be subject to change and it is advisable to check the TAS Football Club website on Friday evening to check game times and locations.

Please remember the TAS Football website is the central location for all information, including team lists, coach details, draws and training times. The website can be accessed from: http://wordpress.as.edu.au/football/

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC Football

**Rugby App Trial**

TAS is testing a new application for Rugby. 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 rugby news.

Information and Instructions on how to download and use the app can be found by following the link below or visiting the school website.

**Team App**

**THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL NOW HAS ITS OWN APP**

Download our awesome new app now and stay up to date with all the latest information!

Install the The Armidale School App on your smartphone or tablet now!

Follow these steps:
1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.
2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.
3. Log into the App and search for “The Armidale School”.
4. Choose your applicable access groups.
5. If you don’t have a smartphone go to theatmidaleschool.teamapp.com to sign up and view this App online.

Need help?
Contact: William Caldwell
Email: wcaldwel@as.edu.au
Phone: 0400461420
**Rugby News**

The 2014 rugby season kicks off this weekend with our annual fixture against Kinross-Wolaroi at Coonabarabran - but whatever the results, our school community is already a winner thanks to the generosity of the Rugby Supporters Group.

In recognition of the efforts of our parents in baking, barbecuing and buying refreshments at fixtures last year, the RSG (a branch of the P&F) is fully-funding the cost of this fixture to the tune of $8,056. This covers return bus travel to and from Coonabarabran, and lunch on the day for every player, across all age groups.

TAS is tremendously grateful to the RSG for this generosity. In a season when many of our families continue to struggle with drought and other seasonal factors, it is a way of ‘giving something back’ in a practical way. It also recognises that without the whole TAS community and the wonderful contribution it makes by catering at home games, there simply would be no TAS rugby program. It is a real show of goodwill and sets off the season with a tremendous sense of pride and school spirit.

Pictured are RSG president Greig Stier and vice president Graham MacDougall presenting a cheque for the initiative.

We also thank Mr Tim Scott, Mr Tim Wheaton and Mr Jamie Moore who are volunteering their time to drive buses.

Mr Will Caldwell  
MIC Rugby

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**Yr 6 Mosman excursion**

Thirty eight Year 6 students departed for Sydney to participate in the annual excursion with Mosman Prep School. It is a different type of excursion to previously experienced by our students due to them staying with the billeting family and getting to see the city type of life. All the students agree it is an amazing excursion and all found it fascinating to see how children live in this part of Sydney.

On Tuesday the students walked from Mosman Prep School to Clifton Gardens via the seaside walk which has the most amazing views of the city. They then made sand castles at Clifton Gardens beach before boarding a Captains Cruise boat to tour around the harbour. A definite highlight was going under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and seeing Bridge Climb walkers on the very top waving at us all underneath.

Wednesday saw the fascinating cultural side of the excursion where we first headed to State Parliament to be met by Mr Adam Marshall. The boys got to witness the beginning of the parliament session and therefore now have their visit forever written in the history books as they were welcomed to Parliament and all of this is recorded. Next was a visit to Hyde Park Barracks and then on to the Australian Museum. That night saw Mosman Year 6 boys, TAS Year 6 boys and Queenwood Year 5 and 6 girls come together for a night of dancing - and did some of our boys dance!

Thursday continued our lovely weather and we headed to Taronga Zoo. It was wonderful to see the boys making their way around the zoo and discussing animals they had seen after their visit. Our last joint experience with the Mosman students was a session of life saving at Manly beach. What a way to finish a great experience and it was exciting to see some of the boys manage to actually stand on their boards as they caught waves back into the beach.

Friday morning saw many sad faces as they said their farewells. It was fascinating to see a much younger sibling of a billeting family clinging to the legs of one TAS boy saying he didn't want him to leave! Priceless really!

It was a wonderful experience for all the boys and all are excited about the return visit in November when we welcome Mosman students into TAS homes.

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](#).

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**Canberra 2014**

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 Questacon. Special thanks to the boys who drew excellent comments from all the places we visited, the staff who accompanied the excursion, the staff of the YHA in Canberra and Mrs Rae Foot who again provided the boys with cakes for their lunches.

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](#).
**Eisteddfod 2014**

It is hard to believe that the 2014 Eisteddfod is coming up in only a couple of weeks! The dates and session times for the Eisteddfod are listed below for the TAS ensembles. Students will be required to wear formal uniform for all performances and transport will be arranged to take students to and from all events occurring during school hours. Boarder travel will be arranged for all evening events. All relevant information will be forwarded to parents and students over the coming weeks.

**TAS Beginner Band**

The new and exciting TAS Beginner Band will be commencing next week! The Beginner Band is open to any student in Junior School who is currently having lessons on their instrument. The band will be conducted by Mr Finco and Mrs Butcher. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Students are to eat their lunch first from 1pm and then come over to the music block by 1.15pm at the latest. Please remember to bring your own instrument with you on Wednesdays. Students are welcome to leave their instruments in the storage area in the music block.

*Just a reminder - any students that are interested in playing or singing in a TAS Ensemble should visit the Music Centre and have a chat with the teachers or Ms Roobol. It is never too late to join a group!*

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 27th May</td>
<td><strong>Choirs Day &amp; Choir Night Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Lazebny Hall, UNE</td>
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<td><strong>A. Morning Session 9.45am</strong></td>
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<td>CH01: TAS K-2 Choir</td>
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<td>CH03: TAS 3-5 Choir</td>
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<td><strong>B. Afternoon Session 1.00pm</strong></td>
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<td>TAS Trebles/Jnr Vocal Ensemble</td>
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<td><strong>C. Evening Session 6.30pm</strong></td>
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<td>CH07: TAS Singers</td>
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<td>CH10: TAS Chapel Choir</td>
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<td>CH09: TAS Singers</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>Thursday 5th June</td>
<td><strong>Strings Sessions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Morning Session 9.00am</strong></td>
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<td>ST67: TAS Guitar Band</td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th June</td>
<td><strong>Ensembles Day &amp; Band Night Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>Auditorium, Old Teachers College</td>
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<td><strong>A. Afternoon Session 1.30pm</strong></td>
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<td>EN26 &amp; EN27: TAS Senior Jazz Combo</td>
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<td><strong>B. Evening Session 6.00pm</strong></td>
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<td>EN22: TAS Big Band</td>
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<td>EN21: TAS Wind Ensemble</td>
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<td>Thursday 11th June</td>
<td><strong>Eisteddfod Secondary Ensembles</strong></td>
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<td>EN07: TAS Year 9/10 Class Ensemble</td>
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And now we’re back!

As indicated last week, I’ve been able to visit all the groups doing various activities during Excursion Week. And, to be honest, I had the best time. Monday involved travelling around the Year 7 activities at School. On Tuesday we ‘parted ways’: they travelled to Pindari; I travelled to Sydney and was able to catch up with the Year 6 and 8 boys over the rest of the week.

In tandem with Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon, Mr Luke Polson and Mr Jamie Moore, I met the Year 6 students at Parliament House on Wednesday morning. In turn, we were met by our State MP, Mr Adam Marshall who, giving us more time than he could probably afford, conducted us on a tour of both the Upper and Lower Houses, fielded questions from boys (and staff) about the general and specific operations of Parliament and then we ‘explored’ both Chambers. I was especially impressed by the questions boys asked; they were thoughtful, intelligent and it’s obvious students were genuinely interested in this activity.

Soon thereafter we walked to The Mint and were guided around each floor of this magnificent old building. Boys seemed genuinely interested in this aspect of the day as well. And, if some, for whatever reason, weren’t interested, there was nothing about their behaviour that suggested disinterest. The day didn’t finish there, however. As that foolish man, who did the knife adds on TV, used to say “But wait, there’s more”. We proceeded to Hyde Park, had lunch, were entertained by a bubble blower, talked too much and then went to the Australian Museum, looking at dinosaur skeletons, bird and reptile displays, a mummy, and the most amazing geological display that I’ve seen for a very long time. Again, the boys were so good.

Look, to be honest, there are times when your boys can be naughty. This, thankfully, is very normal, especially when we consider the age group of Middle School people. However, when they’re in public they generally ‘put their best foot forward’ and this is as much as we can ask for.

Likewise, my day with the Year 8s was just as enjoyable. Most impressive was their behavior and their activities were equally as entertaining. After having visited them at the Rocks YHA on Wednesday night I caught up with them on Thursday as we made our way to the Jewish Museum on Darlinghurst Road. Now, that was an amazing experience – not so much because History is ‘my thing’ but because the boys were fortunate enough to be addressed by survivors of the Holocaust. Theirs is the last generation that would have access to those who actually managed to survive the atrocities of camp life during WW2. Their talk about their childhood experiences was philosophical, telling us about the losses, in some cases, of their whole families. The Museum itself is amazing – there’s no other description for it. It exhibits feature the various and progressive steps from 1939 – 45 of the attempted annihilation of the Jewish people. The experience was not pleasant for your sons, but it is necessary to their historical knowledge and the message of hope (for humankind) of the speakers. In short, this was a powerful message for tomorrow’s adults. The afternoon saw us on the ferry to Cockatoo Island, a place steeped in history of course from its convict beginnings, to key naval installation during the war and, these days, to pretty wonderful interactive displays concerning the various Arts.

The week was full for all involved and, again, I must acknowledge the efforts of all staff who attended in their organisational and supervisory capacities. Our boys are so very lucky to be involved with staff and the efforts of all concerned are really appreciated.

NAPLAN began today for our Year 7 boys and, seeing them exit their first battery of tests, I can say that, so far at least, they’re faring well (enough). On behalf of all, I wish them well for the remainder of the testing period. Until next time, then…

Mr Mark Harrison
Year 8 Sydney Excursion 2014

Monday – 5/5/14

At twenty to eight on Monday morning last week, the class of year 8, 2014 gathered around the flag poles in front of Reception to receive our booklets, which included excursion activities and the itinerary for the week. We had some time to chat with friends before boarding the bus to mark the roll. We then made ourselves comfortable for the eight-hour trip looming ahead... We stopped for a quick lunch in Muswellbrook and then continued our journey to Sydney. Before we knew it there were skyscrapers all around us. We arrived at the YHA in Sydney’s Rocks area and pretty soon after we were receiving our keys and checking into our rooms. We had a large dinner before walking through the city to the Cook and Phillip Aquatic Centre, which is a large underground heated pool with an amazing wave machine. We arrived back at the YHA later than expected, so bedtime was around 10:00pm. Needless to say, we all slept very well that night!

Tuesday – 6/5/14

This morning after a 7:30 breakfast we made our way to the Art Gallery of NSW. On the way we walked through the Botanical Gardens, which is a massive garden with some of it facing onto the water of that amazing harbour. On our arrival at the Gallery we had to sketch it before we completed a number of work-related activities inside. We had to do things like work our way around the Gallery to find specific artists. At mid-day around fifteen students went to the Conservatorium of Music. They experienced a number of musically talented students. A pianist and a violinist are just two students they saw perform. In the afternoon we all travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art. Here we completed more activities like writing about an artwork called ‘Phantom’. The evening saw us on the ferry to Manly where we ate our dinner. We then caught the ferry back to Circular Quay before a bedtime of around 9:30-10:00pm.

Wednesday – 7/5/14

Today was our Languages day. The year group enjoyed French, Japanese or English Plus activities.

The Japanese Day – This morning we were on a train for around an hour, ready to go to the Tanken Centre in Kirrawee. Some of our activities were twister, making onigiri (Japanese Rice Balls) and a math quiz. We also went to the 100 Yen ($2.80) shop. We finished up catching the train back to Circular Quay.

The French Day – This morning we didn’t rush, as the French like to relax in the mornings! The first activity we completed was a French Quiz while we were waiting for the cinema to open. We then watched a French film The Finishers which was about a disabled man competing in the Iron Man challenge with his father. After this entertaining activity it was lunch for us lunch at Le Petit Escargot (The Little Snail) where some of us ate food that we hadn’t even seen before! Following this we had another French quiz before heading to the French Patisserie, which is just like a bakery, but with loads of the most delicious French food. During the evening we walked across the Sydney Harbor Bridge, giving us the most amazing view of this amazing city’s night lights.

English Plus Day – This morning we had a tour of the ABC studios, where everything about its operational mechanism was explained to the boys. We then toured the Chinese Gardens and had a delicious lunch in China Town. At the IMAX theatre we saw a documentary called Forces of Nature before going to the Sydney Eye, getting a spectacular view of the cityscape.

Thursday – 8/5/14

This morning we went to Kings Cross and then to the Jewish Holocaust Museum. It was a sad and touching experience that none of Year 8 should forget. We listened to a man telling us his experience of the Holocaust, which was sad but also freaky to think about. We had lunch in Circular Quay before going on the ferry to Cockatoo Island where we experienced interactive artworks instead of ones you just look at in a gallery. That night Year 8 went to Disney’s The Lion King. The musical was spectacular and was the true highlight of the trip. It was really a great way to finish our trip in Sydney.

Friday – 9/5/14

This morning we departed Sydney, reflecting on everything that happened in our capital city and what we would like to do again. On the bus trip some of us were hurrying to finish our Academic Activity Booklets while some of us were just trying to get some rest. The Sydney Excursion for Year 8 2014 was a truly memorable one that I will never forget.

Angus Haire 8M
Excursion Week

With the challenges of Excursion Week behind us, it is now time to get back in the groove for the remainder of the term. It was really pleasing for me to be able to visit both Myuna Bay and Lake Keepit before returning back to school and to be included in many of the activities during the week. There is no doubt that the sequence of excursions and activities is as exciting as they are challenging. Providing the opportunity for our students to take risks, to be challenged, to extend oneself is increasingly important and I feel that these activities are critical for the development of the whole individual. Comments we receive from the Sport & Rec Camp staff reassures us that our girls and boys are already well down the path towards independence and they are impressed with the resilience demonstrated by them (even if some of the staff have some way to go!)

But more seriously, when mentioning our teachers, I would like to restate my thanks, and that of so many parents, as they give up much of their own time to be a part of these excursions. Watching them care for the children while they are away, and observe the extraordinary steps they take to ensure the safety and success of such a week was impressive.

There is an increasing number of photos from the excursions and recent weekend sport, available on our Junior School website (http://teams.as.edu.au/groups/juniorschoolnewsandevents/). Please contact us if you would like a larger sized copy of a photo.

ICAS Competitions

The date for ordering these competitions is approaching and so I refer you to the letter sent previously requesting that you contact us if you do not want you child to participate. As explained, the value of this competition lies not in the content being covered or the comparison of performance, as the cohort varies so much. While there is some diagnostic value from which we draw, it is a good experience of exam like conditions and recognises those who do perform well in the wider community.

Our Gap Students this Term

We are again very fortunate to have maintained two Gap students to assist our classes this term. They contribute enormously to Junior School, in the classrooms and playground and if you ask your children about them, you will be surprised just how much they mean to us. Terry Thomas and Michael Cursons both hail from South Africa and have both already become important cogs in the wheel.

Transition Assembly

And lastly, with Transition and Kindergarten combining for their assembly this term, I encourage you to come along if at all possible. For those of you who have children contributing, I hope to see you there. For those whose children have moved to older grades, it is a great reminder about how far you own children have travelled and a lot of fun!

Looking Ahead

On 23 May at 10.30am we will be hosting a morning tea for Junior School in the under cover area of Junior School. It has become a regular on our calendar and along with Jump Rope For Heart, the focus of our fund-raising. I look for to your support for both these days, (remembering that we ask for nut-free recipes) and invite you along for the morning tea. It is an opportunity to mix with senior staff who also join us and enjoy each other’s company.
Happy Birthday Wishes

We wish a very Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays this week: Nicholas O’Neil, Archie Douglas-Menzies, Hugo Catterall and Oli Belson.

Dance Club

Dance Club is on Wednesday at lunchtime with Ms Colette. If your child is interested, Ms Colette would be very happy to see them. Permission notes are available from the Junior School office and payment will need to be received with the permission note.

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

Friday, 23 May - Junior School Playground
Time: 10:15am

Please note this important date in your calendar.

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. Watch the video from the link below to see how funds are used.

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

Children are asked to bring a plate to share with their friends. A reminder, no nuts please. We would also appreciate a gold coin donation on the day.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Year 4 excursion: Lake Keepit

Our excursion to Lake Keepit was fantastic in so many ways. This trip provided excellent opportunities for independence, cooperation and teamwork for your child.

Overall, Year 4 was excellent in their approach to all activities from washing up, to the 17 metre swing activity, to sharing a room with seven others. Their positive approach and enthusiastic manner was clearly evident. Overall, I can say that you can be very proud of your child and the efforts they made during those four days. So much learning took place in so many ways.

In this day and age, one could argue that risk taking could be encouraged a little more. The 17 metre swing was a fine example of risk taking. I am pleased to report that everyone did this activity and more than half the class did the complete 17 metre drop. It was a scary and exciting experience for all including Mrs Pollard and Mr Druce.

Lake Keepit reflection by Zoe Strelitz

I really enjoyed the big swing. I went half way. It was so much fun and scary. I also liked making rafts. It was really fun because we worked together and joined ideas together. I also liked kayaking. We did races and working out as a team. We did the washing and serving. It might seem boring but it was fun. At the night shows we did the mini Olympics. We went back to TAS on the bus.

We had a fun time.

Year 5 Excursion to Myuna Bay

Day 1

After an early departure, we arrived at Myuna Bay and had lunch. We then went on the Giant Swing. That was fun and challenging! Then we went to our cabins and found out who we were sharing a cabin with. We got ready for dinner and I got to serve dinner. Other children had to operate the dishwasher and clean the dining hall.

After dinner we went for a night hike around the lake. Our torches came in handy as we tried to spot the wildlife in the trees. It was funny when Josiah jumped out and scared Mr Lloyd, Mrs Waters and Mrs Hine. I enjoyed the supper of biscuits and chocolate milk. (Joseph Anderson)

Day 2

We woke up really early and tried to be nice and quiet. We had breakfast. I had vanilla yoghurt and Rice Bubbles. Our first activity was High Ropes. It was scary at first, but on the second try, it was easy. For lunch, we had salad sandwiches and cucumber with cheese. (Finn Daugherty)

Then after lunch, we did canoeing. I was in a single kayak to start with. I was really fast. I really loved the mangrove section of the lake. Then I tried a canoe with Henry and Cassidy. We stopped at a point on the lake in search of sting-rays and sea turtles. I was really hungry after all that fresh air, so the chicken schnitzel and veggies were delicious! The games night in the hall was cool! (Alexander Gibson)
Day 3

We all woke up feeling dazed from our lack of sleep. None of us had showers because we were having them in the afternoon. We headed off to breakfast and our dream came true when we found the bacon. Cereal was in low supply, but we all got our share. Afterward, we collected our plates for our delightful bacon and eggs. We finished off with a journey through the woods. We arrived at our damper picnic site. We made damper and put honey inside to cover up the “burntness.” We extinguished the fire, and started walking back to the camp. We came back and got ready for lunch, which was the usual: salad sandwiches. We then had free time at the tennis courts. Two games were on, one was a game, which was based around volleyball, although you could only hit with your feet. The other game was tennis. Afterwards, we went down to the lake to fish. Cassidy has never caught one fishy, but caught the first fish! We caught a lot more, and we were proven wrong, when we found out that none of them were actually legal. We caught small fish, and used them as bait, but no luck came to our favour. We were glad Archi Lawrence got to have a go at fishing, before he had to go home because of his broken hand. He was so brave. We eventually packed up and left. We chilled out, had showers and washed our hair, and for dinner we had sausages with mash and veggies. Dessert was chocolate mousse with a waffle. We packed up and went to bed. We got caught staying awake and were fairly punished. We were forming a group on the bunk, and were laughing and talking too loudly (how we got caught). (Max Barnsley and Stewart Williams)

Day 4

We woke up early and went down to the tennis courts to play games. We had sausages, eggs and hash browns for breakfast. We had to have a safety check on our helmets and bikes. We then went for a bike ride along the lake and through the forest. A few people fell off of their bikes. Then we went Rogaining, which is kind of like orienteering. We had hot chicken wraps for lunch since it was raining. Then we had free time at the volleyball courts. Cassidy, Hamish and Fletcher got buried in the sand. Then we went to the rock climbing wall. It was raining hard. Tristan went to the top to ring the bell both times. He felt confident both times. Archie didn’t make it to the top the first time, but did the second time! Then we went to the Souvenir shop and then we had free time. We had spaghetti with veggies for dinner. We really liked it! Then we went to the County Fair, which was pretty cool and fun. Then we had cake and chocolate milk for supper and went straight to bed. (Archie Chick)

Day 5

We had a rough sleep. Then we had cabin inspection to make sure that there was no rubbish or clothes left in the cabin. All suitcases had to be lined up on the verandah so the bus could get packed. We had pancakes and toast for breakfast. Then we had to make our sandwiches for our picnic lunch during the bus trip. I put ham, cheese, tomato and lettuce on white bread. We packed a piece of cake too. We got poppers. Then we went to the Archery range and had an enjoyable time, even though it seemed impossible to get a Bulls Eye! Then we boarded the bus, and had a relaxing trip home.

I am so looking forward to seeing Mum and Dad. (Tristan Rottcher)

We will be celebrating National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 21 May during recess at 11.20am. All across Australia, libraries will be reading the same story at the same time. This year the book choice is ‘Too many elephants in this house’ by Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner.

Junior School and their families are very welcome to come to the library to listen to this story. Feel free to bring your morning tea to munch on.

Year 3 - Lake Keepit

Year 3 enjoyed a terrific 3 day camp at Lake Keepit last week. We took part in archery, canoeing, low ropes, damper making and orienteering. We had an amazing time away from home and school and enjoyed working, cooperating and living together.

More fabulous photos can be seen on our Year 3 TAS Webpage.
Netball
TAS Turquoise

TAS Turquoise played a great game this week, with the weather on our side as well. VIP Poppies were well-matched opponents, giving our girls an opportunity to put their training drills to the test. Turquoise went away with a very convincing win, with most of the play being in our goal third. All girls worked very well together, with stand out play from Isabel Newton, Chloe Lincoln and Ruby Straker.

Ms Andrea Watts

Football
TAS Terriers U6

This week the U6 boys improved on a number of aspects in their game. Lachlan Schumacher was very good at encouraging the boys on the team to keep trying and not give up. It was pleasing to see that even though the boys were defeated they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the game and especially when they thanked the other team for the game at the end.

TAS Tigers VS Demon Knights Dragons

It was a nail biting close game on Saturday. In the first 10 minutes of the game the mighty TAS Tigers scored 2 nil. The Demon Knights Dragons were not happy. They fought back with great zeal. By half time it was a hungry standoff by both teams. The score was 3 all. However, this week it was the mighty TAS Tigers who triumphed with the final score being 5/3. It was exciting to watch the boys use the skills taught in training with the half line mark and how they are now beginning to see the importance of positioning.

Well-done boys. Bring on next weeks game!!!

TAS Trucks

The second game of the season was played with gusto and enthusiasm. The boys are increasingly sharing the ball and playing as a team already. Our training sessions are also played with plenty of interest with the skills developing very quickly. It was a great team effort, but I am very impressed with our newcomer, Wilkie Davison, who is applying himself with consistency and Joel Blackburn, one of our two successful goal kickers on Saturday, who is making a serious attempt to improve his game. Well-done team.

Hockey
Under 9 Hockey

TAS Under 9 team have made a fine start to the hockey season.

The last two games have seen TAS dominate the play and surprise our supporters with some brilliant teamwork.

Our first game was played on 3 May in freezing conditions against Harlies 1. This was a much younger team, which was an ideal way to start as we had many opportunities to pass the ball around and for our new players to see how the game is played! All players contributed to the many goals scored with brilliant teamwork the key feature in the game. I was impressed with the boys’ sportsmanship during the game by not screaming and shouting after each goal. Well done on a fantastic first game everyone!

The game on Saturday was against an older Harlies 2 team. Once again the TAS team showed a lot of talent with many runs up the field, keeping balls on our sticks and passing to each other. The skills I am seeing by some players are amazing. All the boys are happy to move around into different positions so each player has opportunities to be involved in the game. I don’t really believe in naming goal scorers as I feel each goal comes from a team effort and that was certainly the case with the three we scored in this game. Recognising the importance of every position and realising that we need to stop goals going in as much as scoring them is our focus at the moment. I believe the boys did this well as we kept our opposition from scoring any. Our focus for the next few weeks is on developing more basic skills for our new players and keeping focus for the whole game.

Well done Under 9s, can't wait to see you play again this week!!

Mrs Tania Ball

TAS Hockey Club - Registrations

With team lists and players well and truly sorted for the 2014 winter season, it is now imperative that all players have been registered online via the Hockey NSW Website. This is for the first time the responsibility of the player/family and MUST be done for insurance and invoicing reasons. If you have not registered yourself, your son or daughter, please go to hockeynsw.com.au and click on the Register Here button to complete the online registration details. TAS Hockey players may choose to pay their HNSW Registration via the online payment options or choose to pay later, in which case TAS will invoice at a later date.
Please ensure all registrations are completed by this weekend as there are many behind the scene processes that require this information to be on the hnsw database.

Volunteers Needed

With the growth of the TAS Hockey Club over the past two seasons, so too grows the expectations of the club in terms of Hockey New England responsibilities. We have a number of wonderful family and club members who regularly offer their time to help in areas such as canteen, tech duty, coaching and umpiring duties, however it would be great to see some of their burden being shared by other TAS Hockey families. In particular, we are seeking assistance from club members or family members able to commit to regular Umpiring Duties (Senior and Junior), assistance with weekly Wednesday Training BBQ Duties (4.15 - 5.30ish), as well as some of the Club Committee roles which have become vacant for the 2014 season, such as President, Vice President and Assistants to the Social Convener. Please contact MIC Hockey, Mr Alex Portell on aportell@as.edu.au or 0458006053 should you be able to assist.

PSSA Cross Country

PSSA Cross Country event will be held on Friday, 23 May. The following children have been selected in this team. It would be a great idea to continue your running now in preparation for this event in a week's time. Please take note of the distances each age division will run for this event.

8/9 Years – 2 km

8/9 Year Girls:
(9’s) Emily Buntine, Poppy Broun, Chloe Lincoln, Beatrice Henzell, Dimity Chalmers

8/9 Years Boys
(8’s) Tom Ball, Lennox Neilson, Jack Lincoln
(9’s) Sam Meehan, Jonathan Harris, Daniel Morgan

10 Years – 2 km

10 Years Girls: Isabel Newton, Sophia Rutledge, Isabella Rutledge, Chloe Moore, Zoe Strelietz
10 Years Boys: Asher Game-Lopata, Hugo Catterall, Hudson Eichorn, Archi Lawrence, Harry Litchfield, Frank Perrottet

11/12 Years – 3km

11 Years Girls: Casey Smith
11 Year Boys: Nick O’Neil, Stewart Williams, Alexander Gibson, Jack van Roy, Joseph Anderson, Harry Chandler

12 Years Boys: Harry Ashton, Liam Matherson, Cotter Litchfield, Will Young, Sam Behrend, Luke Evans

Further details on this event will appear in next weeks TAS Talks and also on our Junior School Sports web page.
NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC presents

2014 JUNIOR ORCHESTRA WORKSHOP
WED 25 & THURS 26 JUNE 2014

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 6 months experience playing one of the following instruments:
violin, viola, cello, double bass
flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone
trompet, trombone
French horn, tuba
Orchestral percussion (pianists may apply)

Dates: Wed 25 & Thurs 26 June 2014
Times: Wed 9.30am-3.30pm
         Thurs 9am-3.00pm
Free concert: Thurs 26 June, 2.30pm
Venue: NECOM, Armidale
Dress: Casual (no uniforms)
Lunch: Bring lunch both days
Morning tea provided
Fee: $90 OR $75 Early Bird Discount*
     *Discount paid by 4pm Fri 13 June
     Bursaries available

For Information & enrolment forms:
New England Conservatorium
CE Newling Building (Old Teachers College)
Cnr Mossman and Faulkner Streets, Armidale
Tel: 02 6773 6419
Email: admin@necom.org.au
PO Box 1313, Armidale NSW 2350
Email: admin@necom.org.au
Fax: 02 6772 7911

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new england conservatorium

Celebrating 10 years