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Parental involvement is greater than ever

There was a time at TAS when parents put children on the train for the start of the school term and welcomed them home at the end, with not much contact in between. Parents were, by comparison to the current day TAS, strangers to the school. Today, parents are highly visible and thoroughly involved in school life, both on campus and when we are away. This applies every bit as much to boarding parents as it does to day and equally to parents of our youngest and most senior students.

Criticising parents who are closely involved in their children’s lives has become a favourite pastime for social commentators. They bemoan the new generation of ‘helicopter parents’ who hover over their children lest they make a mistake and the ‘lawnmower parents’ who mow the path in front of their children to make their way in life easier. This malaise is touted as being widespread and that would be troublesome if it were true at TAS, but it is not what I see and it does no justice to the many parents who are so positively engaged in school life.

“The days of parents keeping their distance from school activities are clearly over”

As readers of Binghi will see right through this edition, the support of parents who are interested enough in the activities of their children to get involved in a meaningful way appears close to ubiquitous. This year we have had parents playing alongside their sons in our cricket, football and hockey clubs, swimming with them in the Coiff Ocean Swim or running in the City to Surf, paddling in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, serving at Yipirinya Aboriginal School and camping at parent and son weekends. The more traditional involvement has continued too, in fundraising and support for sporting and social events at the extraordinary level that our community might see as the norm, but which is not.

The days of parents keeping their distance from school activities are clearly over: Parents want to be a part of school life and I know that brings a great deal of satisfaction to many. Far from being some unhealthy form of pernicious shielding of children from the ups and downs of life, at TAS it is a thoroughly healthy family engagement and it is clear to me that TAS would be a lesser place without it.

At the Valedictory Day luncheon and presentation in the Dining Hall, special guest Harry Warrick (Senior Prefect 2007, pictured right) reflected on his first seven years in the big world, and his path as university student, coffee maker, political journalist and the random discussion that led to his current position with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection – a path which has required him to make his own judgments.

“I owe that power of thought to TAS. A place that promotes the freedom to express one’s ideas and thoughts and always promotes the individual as the most powerful tool in seeking success,” he said.

“What is left for you to pursue on your own two feet is the desire and passion to say ‘yes’ and go on that journey that takes you outside your comfort zone. Who knows where you will end up, but you have a ripper of a time going on that adventure, which really for all of you starts today.”

All that was left was the Year 12 Formal at the Armidale Bowling Club, where boys, parents and staff celebrated the milestone together in style.

Valedicts Farewell

It was time for both solemnity and celebration, as the HSC class of 2014 was officially farewelled from TAS at several events in Valedictory Week.

As has been the tradition for the past few years, after the conclusion of formal classes on Wednesday morning, all boys and key staff travelled to the coast for 24 hours to spend their final time together in House groups. On their return on Thursday, parents joined their sons for a light lunch on the Chapel lawn, before the Valedicts processed through a guard of honour made up of the entire school from Transition to Year 11 and their parents, who lined the drive from the Chapel to the Memorial Assembly Hall. At the end of their final Assembly, Year 12 shares some special reflections of teachers, before, that night, attending House dinners at various venues in Armidale.

Valedictory Day commenced with morning tea on the Chapel lawn before the Valedictory chapel service in the Memorial Assembly Hall, the symbolic candle ceremony and final rendition of the school hymn were moving moments for the boys as well as their parents.
Solving crime all part of the holiday

Analysing dirt from under fingernails, testing blood types, comparing different fibre samples – such were some of the thrills at the 17th annual TAS Forensic Science Camp held during the winter school holidays.

Improving scientific research skills and laboratory practice were just some of the benefits of this year’s camp, which attracted 77 boys and girls from 28 different state and independent schools, in cities and country towns, in three states and territories.

Participants were divided into groups and then solved fictitious felonies using a range of forensic techniques. They analysed the evidence, identified and interviewed the suspects, ordered medical and scientific tests and searched criminal databases. On the final day, teams presented their committal cases to a UNE law lecturer who determined if they are strong enough to go before a court.

“The scenario that my group and I worked on was called Final Words and it was about a man who killed his girlfriend and her best friend,” said Nicholas Jackson of Year 8.

“We had to do a large range of tests such as seeing if something actually is blood, determining the pH level of water or dirt, determining fibre types and analysing dirt samples. It also helped develop many other skills such as teamwork, public speaking, logic and patience.”

The camp is largely run by older students who have previously taken part – some developing the crime scenarios, some managing the event itself. Camp Director Angus Lloyd, a Year 10 student at TAS attending his third camp, started working on this year’s event with a team of others, as soon as last year’s wrapped up.

da Vinci offers unique academic challenge

Almost 600 students from schools as far as Scone, Dubbo, Moree, Coffs Harbour and Tenterfield competed in the Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon, hosted by TAS in early September.

Devised by Knox Grammar School in Sydney, the competition involves students working collaboratively in teams of eight who compete in tasks that encompass engineering, mathematics, code breaking, games of strategy, art and poetry, Science, English and philosophy. Three former Knox students who oversaw last year’s inaugural event, returned to assist this year, adding special fun activities such as trivia quizzes about the travels of Mona Lisa.

Convenor Ms Catherine Boydell said TAS is extremely grateful to Knox for allowing us to be a satellite venue for da Vinci Decathlon competitions.

“The exposure to the types of challenges, the opportunity to mix with students who were like minded and for staff involved in enrichment, to make contacts and swap ideas, is truly worthwhile,” she said.

“As a final thought, Philosophy is probably the hardest area for many schools. How would you answer this question: If you could fill a box with happiness, what would you include?”
From Mars to TAS

Teachers Tim Wheaton and Churchill Fellow Nicolette Hilton spent two weeks in the Simpson Desert in June involved in research projects for planetary exploration, bringing their experience back to TAS for the benefit of students.

The Arkaroola Mars Robot Challenge Expedition is the latest in a series of expeditions run by Mars Society Australia (MSA), and was this year used by PhD researchers to explore three areas: standardisation testing of remote controlled robotics; measuring how the human condition changes across different terrains, and geological exploration into the earliest known life forms.

While there, Mr Wheaton used his drone to assist with the research, while Ms Hilton focused on developing teaching and learning resources to help teachers to embed geology in a space exploration context.

In addition to this, TAS Year 10 Extension Mathematics/Science students were one of only three schools involved in a video conference hosted by the Powerhouse Museum called ‘If we find alien life on Mars, what would it look like and should we help it?’, which gave students the chance to interact with world renowned astrobiologist and planetary scientist Dr Chris McKay from NASA Ames in California. Following on, the boys were given the opportunity to remotely drive a rover across the Mars Yard, a re-creation of the Martian surface created by NASA for research purposes.

Nursing an island to health

Sister Marilyn Miller (right) normally dispenses nurturing care to sick TAS boys, but during the winter holidays, it was the ecology of Lord Howe Island she was nursing back to health.

Each day during her working holiday on the World Heritage listed island, she was part of a group that spent hours trying to eradicate introduced botanical villains including climbing asparagus and sea spurge (Euphorbia paralias).

“They are a great and unique place, and I went there because I wanted to do something useful as well as learn more about the bird life and ecology,” she said.

While there we got rid of the last patch of wild buddlea, the bird life and ecology,” she said.

“At the end of the day, it was very satisfying.”

The eco-tour was put together by passionate botanist and resident, Ian Hutton.

Speakers challenge thinking

Three influential women with powerful messages in helping adults and students navigate life’s challenges, were special guests at school this term, as part of the school’s wellbeing program.

Authors, researcher and social commentator Nina Funnell looked at the social world of high school, including cyberbullying, the power of social media and relationships between the sexes. Tips on how parents can empower young people to form positive bonds with others, effective strategies to cope with the inevitable tensions, and the importance of unsupervised play were all taken home messages.

Celia Lashlie (pictured below) made a return visit to the school and again challenged parents – particularly mothers – on how they can help turn their gorgeous boys into beautiful young men. Her message for mothers to step back, and fathers to step up, was insightful and instructive. Thanks to the P&F for making her visit possible.

Then it was the turn of local magistrate Karen Stafford to appear before our boys – hopefully before the other way around. Her no-nonsense messages about adolescents and the law, were a raw and honest account that confronted our boys, and gave them valuable information about making good choices.

Strong message at Boarders’ Dinner

The importance of running your own race and letting your own individuality thrive, was a key message at the year’s second Boarders’ Formal Dinner, held at the start of Term 3.

Bringing the residential community together, the event recognises the special significance of students living together as a school family.

Like anything with a sense of occasion there was some formality involved: the School Grace was said in Latin, the Chaplain offered prayers and an address, Middle School students provided the table service and the boys were entertained by a guest speaker after dinner. This time, it was the turn of Deputy Senior Prefect Harry Lloyd, whose entertaining and poignant short speech also encouraged the boys to support the individuality of others.

Such events are special to those boys and staff for whom TAS is very much a home as much as it is an academic environment, and contribute greatly to the happy and positive sense of wellbeing in the boarding community.

Focus on wellbeing deepens

The importance of ‘gratitude’ and ‘stillness’ are a strong focus of the school’s adoption of Positive Psychology practices. In the Advisor groups in which they meet four times a week, boys have been encouraged to write a thank you note to someone in the school community – no mean feat for the digital generation.

Meanwhile, at three morning meeting each week, staff observe a minute’s stillness to temporarily disengage from the busy-ness of school life. Not that wellbeing is all about peace and quiet; for part of the final day of Term 2, staff joined together to participate in various activities including coffee making, rifle shooting, yoga, Japanese cooking and music making, building relationships and teamwork.

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**Community**

The growing support from the TAS family for two winter sports has resulted in wonderful success both on and off the field.

The TAS Hockey and Football Clubs were formed in 2012 to help create a sense of community about two important, but lesser profiled, winter sports. Playing in local adult competitions provided the opportunity for supporters to not only assist boys from the sidelines, but be part of the journey on field, alongside them.

This year, both the TAS Thirds football team and the B and C Grade Hockey teams, have included fathers, Old Boys, staff and friends of the school.

It’s provided a wonderful platform for role modeling, building relationships, mentoring and skills development, in some cases, between fathers and sons. Director of Co-Curricular Mr Jason Lincoln said, “The result has been the growth of the sports in both community engagement and standard, with TAS winning the C Grade hockey premiership, and the TAS Thirds making it to the semi-finals in the football.”

The ownership of these initiatives has been taken up by the parents, and their ongoing support has been reflected by the inaugural Hockey Club presentation dinner, when 150 members of the school family gathered to not only celebrate individual performances, but also the growth of the community.

Similar events were held for football and cricket, each of them embasing all members who contributed to the club success. This continuing growth of these sports seems assured.

**Nick set for State tennis challenge**

Keen young tennis players have had success on the court this term in two major competitions.

At the North Coast Independent Schools championships in Grafton in September, Ben Simmonds won the primary boys section. The team of 12 players ranged from Years 3-11.

Meanwhile 13-year-old Nicholas Barnier (at right) is off to Sydney for the Tennis NSW State Championships in October as part of a combined North West/North Coast team, having made the semi-finals at the regional Tennis NSW Junior Development Series Champion of Champions in Inverell in September. Nicholas went into this event as the number one ranked 13-year-old on the JDS North West circuit.

**Footballers set new benchmark**

Tight possession and calculated play delivered the TAS First XI its first ever Armidale District Football Association first grade premiership, after a 4-3 victory over Uralla on 13 September.

While winning their previous 17 games meant the school team went into the grand final as favourites, history was not on their side, it being nine years since the school was last a grand finalist and never, the minor or major premiers.

It was the fourth time this season the two teams had met, and Uralla’s determination was reflected in scoring more goals against TAS than the schoolboys had conceded in any game this season.

Coach Richard Newton said the boys, who ranged from Years 9-12, had to dig deep to win the game, and played beyond their years. The historic win was a reflection of how well the boys played as a team.

TAS also took out the ADFA 12As division.

**Snapping happy**

Members of the TAS Photography Club have had success in an online photo competition. Photos from Tom Bishop, Calliden Hunter and Riley Clarke were published in the World Youth Adventures Best of the Best Photo Album. The photos had a range of subject material, and the club is growing in popularity with boys sharing technical tips and creative feedback.

**Polocrosse brothers wear national colours**

Guyra brothers Sam and Tim Finlayson have enjoyed outstanding success in polocrosse over the past few months, earning national representative honours in the sport.

At the Australian Polocrosse National Championships in Darwin in July, Sam was a member of the NSW under 16s team which beat Queensland in the final with a score of 19-17. His individual efforts were rewarded as he was named as one of 12 boys to be selected for the Australian under 16s squad.

Days later, younger brother Tim, who had been Sam’s strapper in Darwin, was selected for a NSW Junior side that played a two-match series against a USA Junior team, the first in Narrabri and the second, a week later at Warren. In both games Tim was awarded best number 1 position player, and best Australian Stock Horse.

The rep season is over for the year, so for the moment, they are back in the saddle playing for Guyra at various carnivals in northern NSW and southern Queensland.

**The victorious C Grade Hockey team! Back row: Drew Ferguson, Adam Bush, Angus Simmons, Paul Cornall, Sebastian Hempel, Brad Evans, Andrew O’Connell, (front) Don Hine, Brian Shaw, Nash Pyte, Harry Mackenzie and Richard Mackenzie**

**First XI goalkeeper goalkeeper Dylan Ruba has his eye on the ball**

**The Armidale School**

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Co-Curricular

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Co-Curricular

**COMMUNITY**

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The rep season is over for the year, so for the moment, they are back in the saddle playing for Guyra at various carnivals in northern NSW and southern Queensland.
This year’s GPS fixtures involved 13 TAS teams from 13s to the Firsts, from TAS, Sydney Grammar and Sydney Boys’ High and the Thirds from The Scots College. The GPS Thirds competition was initiated last year and involves the Firsts from the three joint premiers all secured seven wins and a loss.

“It will give me the chance to be exposed to a higher and faster standard of rugby,” I’m very grateful to the New England Rugby Union Referee Association who have supported me with the scholarship, and to TAS for encouraging students to take up refereeing,” coach Jamie Moore said.

Elsewhere on the rugby field, Percy Duncan, Year 9, wore the gold for NSW Country 15s placing fifth. Grammar and Scots again broke the NRA Shield record, with Grammar winning the cup.

In September the team played the Melbourne Rebels 1s, before departing on a seven day tour to Fiji, playing the island’s best sides.

Good effort from shooters

The GPS Shooting competition was staged at Hornsby Rifle Range on Tuesday and Wednesday 15-16 July. TAS again fielded two eight man teams for the first grade and second grade premierships at the AAGPS-Shooting competition at Hornsby Rifle Range in mid-July.

The first match, the Rawson Cup, was fired at 500m and 600m with seven shots to count at each range. Mixed results saw the TAS First VII placing sixth. Grammar, High and Scots all broke the Rawson Cup record, with Grammar winning the cup.

Also on the first day of competition, the National Rifle Association (NRA) Shield was fired at 600m with 10 shots to count. The team improved one place from the previous match, placing fifth. Grammar and Scots again broke the NRA Shield record with Grammar taking the match. Sam Johnston shot exceptionally well to drop only one point all day.

On Wednesday morning the Second VII competed in the Seconds Premiership, shooting seven shots to count at 500m and 300m. Our very young team excelled, mostly shooting personal best scores.

That afternoon the First VIII competed in the Buchanan Shield, the last of the three matches that make up the First Grade Premiership. Shot as a 300m deliberate application followed by a military-style snap application with eight shots to count for each, our team produced mixed results in tough head wind conditions and was placed seventh.

Congratulations to Grammar for winning the Championship.

Rugby opportunities

On the sideline, everyone can be an expert – but that’s no disincentive for junior rugby referee Morgan Broadbent-Wicks of Year 12. After achieving his Level 1 qualifications in 2013, he has this year gained more experience as one of 13 NSW recipients of an Australian Rugby Union Student Scholarship. This has included running the field at the State under 14s championships in Orange in June, and being an Assistant Referee at the Country vs City titles in Tamworth in July.

Morgan expects to further his refereeing qualifications when studying in Canberra next year – perhaps in Pure Mathematics, which appeals to his sense of something being either right or wrong.

Mr Fox was just fantastic

Middle School students brought to life a classic about a family of foxes and their cunning plan to outwit three greedy farmers, in the first Middle School play to be staged at the Hoskins Centre.

In Fantastic Mr Fox, a play based on Roald Dahl’s novella, the boys took on roles as humans and personified animals with great enthusiasm. Each day, Mr Fox risks his life making nightly visits to three farms, in order to snatch livestock to feed his wife and four little cubs. A battle of wits ensues – and then Mr Fox devises a truly cunning plan to ensure he never has to take such risks again.

Tall stories, curved logic and plain old fashioned showmanship were features of inter-house debating held during this term. The final, between Croft and Green Houses, was on the topic, ‘That international sporting events are a waste of money’, and provided some insightful and entertaining arguments by both teams. The debate – and the Clemson Cup itself – was won by Green House.

In addition, all of Middle and Senior School were treated to an entertaining showcase when the inaugural Great Debate was held during Assembly in early September. New England Country Living magazine Editor Jen McMahan, Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall and TAS Creative Arts coordinator Andrew O’Connell argued the case ‘That Armidale is the thriving hub of the New England North West’ against the TAS First team of Sam Doyle, John Dennis and Patrick Williamson (pictured above). Much to the pleasure of the home crowd, the boys were awarded the day.

Students argue the point

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Central Australia service trip forges bonds

Three boys, two fathers and a staff member from TAS, and an equal number from NGS, spent time in July helping run an inaugural school holiday activities program at Yipirinya School at Alice Springs, an independent school for disadvantaged Aboriginal children. Yipirinya Principal is former TAS Headmaster Ken Langford-Smith, and another staff member is James Howey, former TAS Counsellor Brother James.

Each day the group travelled to collect children from town and bush camps, some of which have been identified as having amongst the poorest living conditions in Australia, with up to 20 family members in housing with poor sanitation. During the day, organised sporting, craft and science activities engaged the children, who were also given nourishing meals in a safe and positive environment.

“I had been a bit hesitant to go, but it was the best thing I’ve ever done in my life. To see those conditions here in Australia was confronting, but it was a really great experience,” said Year 10 student Ben Moffatt (pictured above with a new friend). Added Liam Treavors: “We came back knowing that material possessions don’t buy happiness, and how fortunate we are.”

To the Yipirinya children, the presence of two fathers (Tim Moffatt and Greg Treavors) with their sons was a powerful role model, and they also made a significant impact on the older boys in their own right.

The service week was bookended by some sightseeing at Alice Springs and a three day cultural expedition to Kings’ Canyon, Uluru and Kuta Tjuta, including a sacred Aboriginal site not open to the public. It is hoped the Yipirinya trip will become an annual part of the TAS cultural expedition to Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kuta Tjuta, including a sacred Aboriginal site.

Leadership and service was recognised with precision and ceremony at the Cadet Unit’s annual passing out parade on September 14, and the cadet Dining In Night the evening before.

Special guest at both functions was Brigadier Bernadette Boss, Adjutant General with the Army Reserves, and a magistrate based in the ACT.

A recipient of the Conspicuous Service Cross, Brigadier Boss performed operational service duties in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan and at the parade, reflected on the values embodied in the uniform worn by the cadets.

“Respect – for one and another, for our great nation, for our Armed service, and for difference and diversity. Teamwork – the ability for us to become more than we are as an individual. Initiative – to take life by the horns and not just wait for it to take us where it will, and courage – not just physical courage, but also moral courage to stand up and speak for what is right.”

In the centenary year of the start of the First World War, Brigadier Boss referred to former TAS student Lt Clive Stuart Slade who served on the Western Front with the 32nd Battalion and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and initiative when, under heavy fire, he assumed command after his company commander was wounded.

Amongst those officially passing out were 16 senior cadets in Year 12, who were acknowledged for their service to the unit, departing the parade ground in a ‘slow march’ as cadets stood to attention and the band played Auld Lang Syne.

The Sword of Honour for the unit’s senior cadet was presented to CUO Harrison Abeyasekera, and the McConville Sword for the unit’s second in command presented to CUO Nicholas Murray. A number of other awards were presented at Dining In Night.

TAS set a pace in City to Surf

The City to Surf fun run in Sydney may be a gruelling 14km, but long distances were clearly no impediment for a team of 61 runners from The Armidale School who not only made a 1000km round trip to be part of it, but were the largest school group entered in the iconic event.

More than 85,000 people entered this year’s race, which goes from Hyde Park to Bondi.

The first team member to finish was Joseph Makeham who crossed the line in 55 minutes and 12 seconds and came 28th of 1154 competitors in the male 16-19 category. In his first attempt at the fun run, the Year 11 student averaged 3.66 minutes for each of the 14km of the event, including the infamous 1.6km Heartbreak Hill at Rose Bay which he scaled in just over six minutes.

Athletics MIC Jim Pennington said it is only growing in popularity with students, partly due to its inclusion as part of the TAS Triple Crown, an award for those students who complete the City to Surf, the 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim and the 111km overnight Hawkesbury Classic during their time at the school.

The event was tough, but Armidale kayakers put in outstanding efforts at the annual Myall Classic near Tea Gardens on Saturday 13 September. The Myall Classic is one of the Big Three flatwater marathon races in Australia along with the Hawkesbury Classic and the Murray Marathon.

Three paddlers from The Armidale School kayaking club came first in their divisions.

In their second year competing in the 47 km event, Harry Wright and David Williams took out the junior men’s double in the 27km event, crossing the line in 10 minutes, while Jack Bishop was the fastest single in the 27km event, missing the line in three hours 40 minutes.

Difficult tides meant a number of boats were turned around at the half way mark, failing to make the average 7.7km/hr speed for the 47km event of 1.35km for the 27km race.

Leadership, Service, Adventure
Junior School explores IB Primary Years Program

TAS Junior School is looking to build on its reputation as a unique and dynamic place of learning, by seeking to introduce the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP).

The IB Primary Years Program focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. It is defined by six trans-disciplinary themes of global significance explored using knowledge and skills derived from six subject areas, with a powerful emphasis on inquiry-based learning.

Head of Junior School Martin Lloyd said the decision to apply to the IB was to allow the school to offer students a programme that is truly international in nature, with the aim of giving them an edge when they move on to the next stage of their education.

The IB program offers a framework that is flexible enough to be tailored to the needs of individual schools and students. It provides a balance of academic and personal development, and encourages students to develop both confidence and the skills to have responsibility for their own learning.

The PYP program is a model flexible enough to bring together the current, quality offering of Junior School yet at the same time having access to all that the IB community has to offer. While the full IB continuum has been researched, an application for candidacy in the Middle and Senior School is not being considered.

From these groups it was clear that there was universal support for the co-educational nature of the school, and also for exploring educational models that strengthened the academic offering whilst complementing the school’s development of the individual.

Among the attractions of the PYP is the focus on international mindedness and empowering students to develop both confidence and the skills to have responsibility for their own learning.

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As part of the consultation process with the Junior School community, parents have had the opportunity to learn more about what distinguishes IB teaching, how PYP fits with the broader school vision, and the application process.

The TAS Board has endorsed the move and it is expected the application to the International Baccalaureate for candidacy as a PYP school will take place in early October.

Juniors entertain Seniors at special concert

The residents of Armidale’s Autumn Lodge were given a special treat on 27 August, when 40 girls and boys from Junior School gave an hour-long concert.

The talented young members of the TAS Beginner Band played instruments as varied as trumpet, saxophone, violin, recorder, piano, and electric guitar, that were in some cases, not much smaller than the musicians themselves.

‘The TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble also entertained, singing a range of old favourites familiar to the lodge’s residents, many of whom joined in. Head of Junior School Ian Lloyd said the concert was a great success, combining a sense of community service for the children whilst providing a performance platform where they could build their confidence in front of an appreciative audience.

Mastering Beginner Band

Playing as a band means working as a team – and around a dozen keen young musicians from Years 2-5 have been developing important skills as part of TAS Beginner Band. They have already learned how to set up, tune up and play together, the aim of the ensemble is to consolidate and develop these skills to enable students to move into other ensembles as they get older, and have a great time as they do so.

Led by Mr Alastair Finco or Mrs Rachel Butcher on Wednesday lunchtimes, Beginner Band is boosting the confidence and competency of boys and girls who will take what they are learning, with them for life.

Good win for swimmers

It may have been the middle of winter but swimmers from TAS Junior School hit the University of New England pool with enthusiasm on 19 August, taking top honours at the Hanna Shield Swimming Carnival.

Six primary schools compete in the carnival, a team event with swimmers competing in boys and girls divisions in 10 metre freestyle and 10 metre medley relays.

TAS won the overall boys section, and the boys and girls won the overall enrolment trophy. It was the third year in a row TAS won the Hanna Shield. Participating schools were TAS, Martins Gully Public School, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Ben Venue Public School, Armidale City Public School and PLC Armidale.

Jump Rope for Heart

Singles, doubles, triples – skipping rope has always been fun, but Junior School students have once again also chosen it to raise money for a good cause.

Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraiser for the National Heart Foundation and has been supported by the boys and girls for many years. Heightening awareness of heart disease is a focus of the program; last term in PD classes as part of discussions about making healthy choices, and in Term 3, in relation to physical wellbeing. At the launch of this year’s fundraising campaign, TAS and Minimbah students were treated to wonderful display of skipping experts from Kempsey East Public School, who are Jump Rope for Heart Ambassadors. Their inspiration paid off, and our girls and boys were thrilled to raise $2703 for this wonderful cause.

Leonardo inspires students!

Year 5 and 6 students were thrilled to be part of the Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon, hosted by TAS in September. Junior School teams prepared for the event as part of their normal classwork; the da Vinci competition focused on specific subject areas such as Cartography, Maths and Chess, Art and Poetry, Philosophy, Creative Producers, English, Science, General Knowledge, Code Breaking and Engineering. Well done to all who took up the challenge – a number of them are keen to represent TAS at the State da Vinci Decathlon in Knox Grammar next year.
News from the Foundation

Community generosity for our Annual Giving 2014

Many of the school projects that our community are keen for us to embrace require financial assistance beyond that which the school can provide and this is where the generosity of our community reveals its strength. Gifts through our Annual Giving Appeal this year have enabled us to move rapidly on our desire to reduce our carbon footprint by replacing all light bulbs with energy efficient LED ones and purchasing a cover for the swimming pool to reduce heat loss. It has also allowed us to refurbish the upper level of the War Memorial Assembly Hall.

We have also had wonderful response to our call for financial assistance for scholarship and bursary funds, our Indigenous Student Support Fund and the Jim Graham Scholarship.

In addition to all of this, our call for assistance with the rowing program has resulted in the purchase of a fabulous ‘Four’ and a refurbished trailer.

Our next focus will be an appeal to upgrade resources for a revamped shooting program. Long a hallmark of TAS, the school has, in recent years, been GPS Champions in 2011 and Premiers in 2012. However, it is now clear that many of our older rifles need to be replaced and that the school’s small bore range at Meadowfield must be upgraded to improve its security, amenity and standard. While the exact details of the appeal are still being finalised, the cause has already attracted pledges from passionate Old Boys. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at cmort@as.edu.au if you are interested in being a key donor to this important program, which is so richly entwined with our history and success.

Organ Donation of a Musical Kind

One of great highlights of this year – the school’s 120th year – will be the Gala Launch of the new Memorial Hall organ gifted to the school by an anonymous Old Boy and his wife. In response to a call for help to fund the replacement of the existing organ which had served the school for 40 years, this exceptionally generous donation has allowed us to purchase a new handcrafted, French concept Allen’s Organ, the only one of its kind in Australia.

The massive range of toral chords will allow sounds from the ‘lowest timbre to the highest sounds audible to the human ear’, according to our organist Mr Warwick Dunham.

The Gala Launch Concert will be held on Saturday November 15 and will feature choirs, brass and soloists and of course, the magnificent new organ played by our organist Mr Warwick Dunham.

The Big Tent Goes Up

Making its debut appearance at Old Boys’ Weekend was a splendid new addition to the school, a gift from the TAS community. An initiative of the TAS Old Boys’ Union and co-funded by the P&F TAS Foundation and Rugby Supporters Group, this marquee, measuring 15x9 metres, will be of great benefit to those attending our larger TAS functions, particularly on extra sunny – or wet – days near Badgfield.

At a cost of around $23,000, it is a considerable investment from these important stakeholder groups. The marquee is branded with the TAS logo and acknowledges the four bodies who have made it possible. Our wonderful grounds and domestic staff erected it with good humour and relative ease, given it came without an instruction manual!

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

Richard George (Dick) Saunders (38-40) died on 26 May aged 88 years. Dick came from Bangalow where his father was the Anglican minister. He left TAS and joined the bank until he was of age to enlist in the RAAF, completing his flying training as war ended. He returned to his banking career and retired from Canberra to live in Bega. Dick succumbed to Motor Nuerone disease. He had not long celebrated 66 years of marriage to his wife Nola, who with four of his five children, survive him. Many thanks to his second cousin Peter Dale (41-46) for passing this on.

Our condolences to the family of John Colin Chapman (48-52) of Werris Creek, who passed away at Elouera Nursing Home Quintini in August. His funeral was held on 19 August at St Bede’s Anglican Church, Werris Creek. John was a brother to Paul (52-57), Mark (60-61) and uncle to Andrew (80-83) and Trent (83-88). A bachelor, he practiced as a Pharmacist in London, Ballarat, Orange, Dubbo, Tamworth, and for 30 years, at Werris Creek. A passionate traveller, in his younger years he also enjoyed Apex and Tamworth Pirates Rugby Club, and latterly, the Railway Museum at Werris Creek. Thanks to Paul for the information.

Cecil Thomas Spence (57-63), formerly of Tia via Walcha, passed away on 14 August. We were saddened to learn of the death of Bruce Morison Treloar AM (40-44) of the Tamworth retailing dynasty. At school he was a Prefect and was an all round sportsman. Bruce was president of the TAS Old Boys’ Union from 1971-73, and a member of the School Council (equivalent of Board Director) 1969-80. In the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 1993, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to business and commerce, particularly in the retail industry. Our sympathies to his extended family, including sons John (65-70), James (68-73) and Bruce R (72-77). The Treloar connection to TAS continues, with John’s wife Janet, one of the 24 members of the TAS company.

Melbourne Old Boys Dinner

Old Boys spanning four decades came together for drinks and dinner at Young and Jackson Hotel in Melbourne on 5 September. They enjoyed meeting the Headmaster and hearing more about the school now, and sharing memories of their own time at TAS.

Among those from the 1980s at the event were (above, left to right) Matthew Nash (82-84) who runs an import/export business in Melbourne, Tim McDonald (77-82), now a logistics consultant, and Lawrence Harvey (82-83), an associate professor in sonic architecture at RMIT. The trio are pictured in front of Jules Joseph Lefevre’s famous painting ‘Chloe’ after which one of the hotel bars is named.
Welcome rain didn’t dampen the spirits of almost 1000 Old Boys and their partners who returned to TAS for Old Boys’ Weekend. Festivities started with the annual Golf Day, before the focus then moved to the Hoskins Centre for the second Old Boys vs School debate, where three 20 Year leavers narrowly defeated the TAS Firsts team, arguing the topic that TAS Boys Aren’t What They Used to Be debate, where three 20 Year leavers narrowly defeated the TAS Firsts team, arguing the topic that TAS Boys Aren’t What They Used to Be. Around 80 people then gathered for the Jock Perkins Memorial Art Show, jointly hosted by the 5 Year leavers and the Perkins family, in memory of their classmate who last year died from cancer.

Festivities started early on Saturday, with two new additions to the program — hockey out at the UNE hockey fields (which the Old Boys won in a penalty shootout) and chess in the Archdall Room, which TAS won 2-1. TAS won the tennis, the Old Boys won the shooting, the football was a draw, and the touch football also went to the Old Boys, ensuring the OBU retained the Croft Cup for competition between the former and current students.

For mor...
Is this the first time a TAS Old Boy and a TAS Old Girl have married? **Susannah Warrick** (TAS Junior School 92-98) and **Tom McCarthy** (02-04) announced their engagement in July. While of the same cohort, Susannah (daughter of Will, 62-67 and Pip, the TAS Registrar) had moved on to continue her secondary education at PLC when Tom started at TAS – so they didn’t meet until 2002 when both were organising their respective school contingents in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. For the past two years the couple has been living in Alice Springs, where Susannah is a lawyer with a firm in town and Tom is a charter pilot. They love the Red Centre and are amused at their unique TAS alumni status!

More accolades for Boggbi cotton grower **Andrew Watson (83-88)** and his wife Heike, who were presented with the 2014 Brownhill Cup at AgQuip in Gunnedah in August. The Brownhill Cup recognises innovative farming practices that improve sustainability, productivity and profitability in agriculture. Managing water usage is a challenging issue for Andrew, and has been central to the success of his family’s 3,000 hectare operation. Moisture sensors and crop canopy heat sensors are helping determine water requirements and lateral move irrigation systems have also been introduced. At the same time, the Watsons focus on ‘soft’ chemistry and pest management methods. The Cup comes with $2000 prizemoney. Here’s Andrew and the trophy – picture courtesy Northern Daily Leader.

It’s a small world… whilst competing at an international showjumping event in France in July, **Rowan Willis (92-97)** was asked by a fellow Australian who heard his accent, where he was from. ‘Armidale’ was the reply – thus started a conversation between Rowan and **Stewart Mitchell (81-85)**. Now living in Berkshire, Rowan has been based in the UK showjumping for the past 15 years – “A gap year that hasn't ended yet,” says his father **David Willis (62-66)** who went over to support his son and organised this photo of himself with Rowan (on the left) and Stewart. “The two star event was held in the former moat of the historic Citadel of Blay, in the Aquitaine region. It really was quite magnificent,” David says. Stewart, now a show jumping coach based in Ireland, was there supporting one of his pupils from Thailand.

Congratulations to **Hamish Barnet (00-08, Dux '08)**, on recently being conferred the University Medal for Mechanical Engineering from the University of New South Wales. Graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering with First Class Honours (his thesis, in the field of nanomedicine was entitled ‘Optical Properties of Nanoparticles for Tumour Hyperthermia’), Hamish has had an exemplary scholastic record at UNSW, having previously been awarded Dean’s Awards from the Faculty of Engineering (2013), Australian School of Business (2011) and the Faculty of Science (2010) as well as completing a Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction. During his time at university Hamish was a recipient of a Leighton Rural Scholarship in Business, a merit-based scholarship for rural students undertaking a business degree. On completing his studies he worked for three months gaining experience in project management and design experience in the resources and manufacturing unit of engineering management company Aurecon.

Currently travelling in Eastern Europe, Hamish has signed a contract to work as a mechanical engineer with the defence and government division of international engineering consultant group Beca. Inspiring achievements, Hamish.

Congratulations to **photojournalist Matt Bedford (96-02)**, for winning the community portrait award at this year’s PANPA newspaper awards. His photo **Girl and Her Horse** (left) featured Bronte Dagg with her horse, Smithfields Toy Dancer. Matt has recently left his job as senior journalist at The Armidale Express and is now at The Canberra Times.

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Academic Focus