I write this week from Nymboida where, until last night, it has been hotter than I have ever seen it during Activities Week. Rain does not often bring smiles from boys camping in hoochies, but the cool and wet change that swept through last night was certainly a welcome one. Our cadet program now has well established monitoring systems and protocols that dictate when activities should be modified or ceased due to the weather and these have been in play this week. Activities at Nymboida have been adjusted with some very early mornings and plenty of down time during the day, but none have been abandoned and that shows the strength of the system.

Our Year 10 Pioneers and their Year 11 support are in the Nymboida region this week too. Fires in the Gibraltar Washpool National Park forced a change of plans and the activity was shifted to Buccarumbi on the Nymboida River. The trekking has continued though, with the support of outdoors company Exodus Adventures, and thanks are due to Martin Levins and his team on the flexible thinking and good sense behind these late changes.

The stifling conditions are being handled by students and staff in impressive fashion and I congratulate cadets and pioneers alike on the positive frame of mind that they have maintained through the early challenging days of Activities Week. What I have seen from so many is good management and a frame of mind that welcomes challenge rather than shying away from it and I think that highlights what our Activities Program is all about; developing resilience and showing that there is more in each of us than we might have thought.

I look forward to seeing the surf lifesavers in Sawtell soon and hearing from those with the Rural Fire Service when back in Armidale.

Cash Cup

Last week the School entertained itself in fine style as a capacity crowd gathered in the Memorial Hall for the 2014 Cash Cup. The theme this year was ‘modern day heroes’ and the interpretations were diverse and resourceful. The judges saw the competition as very tight indeed, with the winner on the night being Tyrrell House, just ahead of 2013 winners Croft. Tyrrell’s take on breaking the drought through song may well have swung the farmers amongst the judging panel and it had to be a good choice.

Special mention must go to Will Davis whose art work was a clear winner in that section and nearly pushed Croft House over the line. It was a particularly clever piece digitally constructed from tiny pictures of all the boys in Croft – all clearly being modern day heroes of course.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term 4 - Week 8

Wednesday 26 November  Activities Week
2:00pm T - Year 2 Final Assembly
2:45pm Year 3 - 5 Final Assembly

Thursday 27 November  Activities Week

Friday 28 November  Activities Week
6:00pm Year 5 Farewell Dinner

Term 4 - Week 9

Monday 1 December
10.15am Staff Farewell (Dining Room)
10.30am Junior School Transition Orientation and Open Morning
12.00pm Middle/Senior School Carol Service
2.00pm Junior School Carol Service
6.30pm Junior School BBQ

Tuesday 2 December  Year 10 STEPS Program (Period 1,2,5,6,7)
8.45am Junior School to Monckton Aquatic Centre

Wednesday 3 December  Year 10 STEPS Program (Period 1-2)
1.00pm Junior School closes
1.00pm Middle School Family Luncheon
1.45pm Middle School Final Assembly
3.30pm Board Finance Meeting
5.00pm Junior School Speech Day

Holiday Activities

4 - 8 December  Rowing Camp - Grafton
8 - 12 December  Mountain Bike Camp
6 - 11 January  Taree Rowing Camp - Oxley Island
18 - 21 January  1st XI Cricket Festival - Riverview
19 - 22 January  Musical Camp - TAS
20 - 22 January  Forensic Science Management Camp
23 January  Staff Day No #1
26 - 31 January  Senior Australasia and South East Asia Round Square Conference - Cheong Shim, Korea
27 January  Staff Day No #2

STUDENT TRAVEL

Vehicle Conveyence Diaries
Boarders’ parents with approved applications are reminded to please have your completed Semester two diary at the school no later than Speech Day 4 December, so payments can be processed without unnecessary delay.

Mrs Meg Sadler

The Headmaster, Mr Murray Guest requests the pleasure of your company at

Speech Day 2014
Thursday 4 December at 10am
TAS Sports Centre

Guest of Honour
Prof. The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO
Former and second longest-serving Governor of New South Wales
Once more, a quote from the past:

Sir James Dewar (1842-1923) said the following: ‘Minds are like parachutes – they only work when they are open’.

Now what is that supposed to mean? Does it mean that we should never make conclusions based on the evidence? Does it mean we should never be committed to core values? Does it mean we should be empty headed? Clearly the answer to these questions is: ‘No’.

It seems that the word ‘open’ in this context means that we should remain willing to engage in new ways of seeing and construing experience, able to assimilate and accommodate such experiences, be willing to change in the light of new insights and understandings. In other words, we should remain curious and engaged. Openness in this context means being fully alive to all that comes our way and to be able to reflect on experience without defensiveness.

The opposite of course is to be closed - closed off from experience, to filter things through a rigid set of ideas and frameworks, to be incapable of change, to be defensive towards new and different ways of thinking and construing, to be unable to engage in a critical examination of our existing mind-sets, to stay committed to our constructions of reality when experience and evidence suggests that they have ceased to function well for us.

It seems that Dewar is commenting about a way of being in which we have a choice – to shut down or to live fully. When we are ‘open’ we ‘work well’.

S&F ASSOCIATION
SUE CARTWRIGHT - PRESIDENT

Sold out!

TAS PUDS

Thank you to all who supported the TAS P&F by purchasing a delicious pudding. The TAS Puds have now sold out!
On 19 November the Extension Mathematics/Science class presented their carefully considered research findings to an astrobiologist, Dr Carol Oliver, from the UNSW and the Powerhouse Mars Yard Team. The students have spent most of Term 3 developing research questions and developing investigations that would involve the use of the Mars Yard Rover for data collection. They then needed to analyse the data developed by LIBS (laser-induced-breakdown spectroscopy), determining which minerals were present in the samples they had collected.

Different minerals will form under different environmental and climatic conditions, this enabled students to make some inferences about what conditions may have been present in the past on the Mars Yard surface and assisted them in answering their research questions. Students were then interviewed by Dr Oliver and Isabelle Kingsley, of the Powerhouse Museum, with the opportunity to share their new conceptual understanding and experiences as part of Project Mars.

Dr Oliver and Ms Kingsley later commented on how impressed they were with the level of understanding of the scientific concepts and methodology the class demonstrated. This was a very elaborate project that involved advanced concepts in chemistry, physics, biology and geology, independent and collaborative work and sophisticated skills in problem solving. The Year 10 Extension Mathematics/Science class can be very proud of their level of achievement in this program.

Mrs Wheaton
2015 Art French Cultural and Language Trip – Information Evening

An outstanding opportunity

A short time ago an email went home to all current Years 8, 9, and 10 students of Visual Arts and/ or French about the 2015 Art French Cultural and Language Trip. If your son hasn’t done so already, please ask him to share this information with you. This biennial trip is also open to interested members of the TAS family who have an interest in French and Art.

We wish to hold an Information Evening for all interested students and their parents on Tuesday 2 December to talk though the itinerary and to answer any questions you may have. Please note that there is no obligation to join the trip if you come along! This information session will be held in the French classroom, which is situated on the ground floor of the Moyes Building, starting at 7.15pm.

This excursion will be an excellent opportunity for you to experience the language and the culture of France first hand, as well as to practise your language skills and appreciate the artistic diversity of Paris and the Loire Valley.

If you would like more information about this opportunity and wish to be sent a copy of the itinerary, or are unable to make the Information Evening and wish to know more, please contact Madame Kathryn Tamminga, either on 0410 952 648 or via email at ktamming@as.edu.au

Merci beaucoup!

Mme Tamminga
Cricket

Two TAS boys have been selected into the Central North U14s cricket team for the Kookaburra Cup country NSW/ACT zone carnival in January.

Henry Smith (Yr 8) and Kieran Dennis (Yr 7) were both invited to play in recent trial matches for Northern Inland against Hunter Valley, and from those games were selected into the Central North team.

They will join their Central North teammates in Newcastle in January for the prestigious four-day carnival.

Congratulations to both these players.

Ms Helen Dennis

Attention all Cricket Dads (or Mums!)

Do you miss the sound of willow on leather? Have a spare set of whites in the closet? Then TAS Cricket needs you!

Over the summer TAS needs to field three open cricket teams in the Armidale competition. With boarders returning home we have a number of places to fill on the pitch. We’d love to fill these with parents, uncles, siblings, Old Boys - we’ll take anyone!

There are games on 6, 13 and 20 December and 10 and 17 January. You don’t need to play all games but if you are interested in a game or two please contact John Farrar at chook5@activ8.net.au.

We need you! Our open cricketers are seeking help to fill spots over the summer holidays.

TAS Indoor Hockey

Five TAS boys represented New England in the U13’s Indoor Hockey State Tournament over the weekend of November 1 - 3 in Tamworth. Cooper Johnson (goalie), Liam Matherson and Zac Matherson were in the 'A' team in Division 2 and Sam Behrend and Jack Sewell were in the 'B' team in Division 3.

The 'B' team came fifth in their division and the boys played some close games with good team spirit and great sportsmanship. Over the tournament the team’s skills improved immensely. The 'A' team were undefeated going into the final, eventually defeating Parkes 7-1 to become the Division 2 champions. They were a tenacious team who displayed solid skills and played a team game. Over the six games played the team scored 51 goals and conceded only 12 against.

Three New England players were named in the NSW State squad, one of them being TAS player Liam Matherson as a shadow reserve.

Mr Paul Matherson
Mountain Biking

The inaugural New England Mountain Bikers Invitational Inter-Schools Mountain Bike Race was held last Thursday with TAS having 24 students from Middle School and Senior School attend. The race was a cross country olympic (XCO) format with riders completing a set number of laps as fast as they could. Our students rode exceptionally well, especially in the heat. With reports of around 80 participants hailing from schools from around the New England and North West, there were some notable results achieved by our boys. Some of these include:

- U19 - Rob Butcher 2nd
- U17 - Michael Harris 1st
- U15 - (with 36 in this category) Josh Jones, Alex Kirk and Toby Markerink finished 5th, 6th & 8th respectively.
- U13 - Finn Kennett 2nd, Hamish Newton 3rd and Cooper Mills 5th

In the end TAS finished second out of 10 schools, being pipped by not many points for the Inter Schools MTB Perpetual Trophy. Congratulations to all boys on this fine result!

The TAS MTB team’s final ride for the year will be this Saturday at 10.30 am with a BBQ to follow. Boarders are to meet at the Q-Store at 10am with their gear and with plenty of water. For more information please contact Mrs Jo Benham jbenham@as.edu.au

Mrs Jo Benham

Members of the TAS Mountain Bike team who competed in the inaugural New England Mountain Bikers Invitational Inter-Schools race last week.
**MUSIC MATTERS**

**Instrumental and Vocal Lessons for 2015**

Are you interested in learning an instrument or taking voice lessons next year? Getting in early is the best plan as our music tutor spots fill up quickly in the new year. Please contact the music team to have a chat if you are keen.

**REMINDER: Lesson Cancellations by End of this Term**

A timely reminder that if students wish to cease lessons this term the tutor must be notified by the end of this term to avoid another term's fees. Students - If you wish to try for another lesson time slot please have a chat to your tutor by the end of this term. At the end of each term there is often some shuffling around of lessons and a more suitable spot might come up next term if you ask.

**Annual Instrument Recall**

Instruments are being checked this week and will be ready for collection by Friday. Please email the Music Administrator with any queries or if you require an earlier pick up.

Thank you for your support in keeping our hire instruments in peak condition!

**Once Upon a Mattress - TAS Musical Camp**

19 - 23 January

A reminder from Ms Roobol and Mr O'Connell to complete the forms for the Musical Camp and send them back in!

**Final Week Rehearsals and Performances**

There are many important events involving our TAS Ensembles coming up next week! Please see the list below regarding rehearsal times and performances...

**Monday 1 December**

- TAS Singers rehearsal 7.40am
- TAS Vocal Ensemble rehearsal 8.00am
- JS Speech Day rehearsal 8.45 - 10.15am
- MS/SS Carols rehearsal 11.00 – 11.50am involving Chapel Choir, TAS Singers, PLC Choir and NEGS Vocal Ensemble

**Tuesday 2 December**

- MS/SS Carol Service 12.00pm
- JS Carol Service 2.00pm – 3.30pm
- Combined Big Band rehearsal 3.45 – 5.00pm
- Senior Jazz Band rehearsal 5.00 - 6.00pm
- JS Barbecue 6.30pm featuring JS Vocal Ensemble

**Wednesday 3 December**

- Combined Big Band rehearsal 10.30am – 11.40am
- MS Assembly rehearsal 11.40am - 12.25pm
- Final MS Assembly 2.00 – 2.45pm
- Big Band/Senior Jazz/ TAS Singers rehearsal 2.45 - 3.30pm (in Gym)
- JS Speech Day 5.00pm

**Thursday 4 December**

- Combined Band sets up 9.00am
- SS Speech Day 10.00am

**MS Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Finco and Mrs Broadbent**
Almost there

As the term hastens towards its final week, so too does the activity that accompanies it. By the time this arrives on your computer all Year 7 and 8 boys will have been at Nymboida for several days for end of year Activities Week and the Year 6 students and staff will have completed the Mosman Prep welcome, allocation of billets and begun their full schedule of activities. I’m lucky enough to be able to be with all boys during the week, spending a few days with the Year 6 boys and then, mid week, travelling to Nymboida to be with the Year 7 and 8s at Camp.

In addition, we are preparing for the Middle School Final Assembly, the Annual Carols Service, musical performances and Year 8 Leavers’ Certificate presentations in the Memorial Hall. I am hopeful that as many boarder parents as is practically possible can travel to Armidale for the Assembly and our final Middle School gathering at McConville on 3 December. Against the whirring backdrop of industrial strength fans (I hope) the School Speech Day will be held on 4 December in the Gymnasium. I’m certainly looking forward to seeing you on the days – and I sure know that your sons likewise are looking forward to being at home with you for the Christmas break. If it’s a wet Christmas I’m pretty sure no one will give a damn.

Final note

Because I will be at school with the Year 6 students for first and last parts of the week, I would be happy to speak to parents about ‘what’s in store’ for 2015. Especially, I’d be happy to talk to current Year 6 parents about plans for our Orientation to Year 7 afternoon very early in the new term. Alison Evans has my schedule for the week and would be able to give you details about my ‘whereabouts’ at various times during the week.

Again, I’m looking forward to seeing you over the next two weeks.

Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School

Staff Farewell

Not all years begin as their predecessors finish. Last week the staff went to the Red Grapevine to farewell Year 8 Homeroom and Learning Support teacher, Ralph Hunt. After 41 years service at TAS, Ralph will retire, begin full time family life again, travel, continue to read voraciously and generally enjoy himself. Being the voice of reason and sound common sense, on behalf of all staff and boys I thank him for advice and counsel and also the time he has spent with us in the Middle School.
For our penultimate TAS Talks for the year, I extend a very warm welcome to all our parents and friends to the various functions that will be taking place during this very busy end of year period. All the details can be found below and the opportunity to get together on for the Junior School BBQ on Monday evening at the McConville Centre, with our Junior Vocal Ensemble performing will be a wonderful way to join together and celebrate what has been a wonderful year. Parking will be available in the Brown St car park, through the boom gates. Please contact Junior School for further information.

Bike Safety Day and Triathlon

We were very privileged on Tuesday, to have a very successful Bike Safety Day and Triathlon. As you will see form the various photos that will be published on the website, the Bike Day was a fantastic success, with Mr Harrison Munday speaking to the School about his professional riding career. A local from Armidale, he now has a pre-race training regime where he pedals 1400 km in a week and then tapers off to a mere 60 km a day! The students were really interested in all manner of detail, from the weight of his (very expensive) bike to the type of food consumed during a 200 km race. Our thanks go to him, Mrs Jo Benham for organising this session, to Mrs Christine Wright for organising the afternoon’s Triathlon and to Mr Chet Davies and his ground staff who set up the fantastic course on Wakefield that challenged our riders through the morning. Without this team, the day would not be possible.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 26 November
Final Assembly
(T – 2 at 2.00 pm)
Year 5 Dinner
McConville Centre

Friday 28 November
Year 3- 5 at 2.45 pm

Monday 1 December
No Sport training this week
Junior School Carol Service 2pm – Memorial Hall
End of Year Picnic/BBQ
6.00pm-7:30pm at McConville Centre

Tuesday 2 December
Swimming Pool party
8.45am – Monckton Aquatic Centre

Wednesday 3 December
Junior School Closes 1pm
Junior School Speech Day
5pm – Memorial Hall

2015
Friday 23 January
Staff Day

Tuesday 27 January
Staff Day
Classes Resume
Transition Class –
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Week 1 only)

Wednesday 28 January
Junior School welcome barbecue (JS undercover area)
Birthday Wishes

We wish a very happy birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthdays this week: Chloe Moore and Lilly Peart.

Pool Party

The end of year Pool Party will be held again this year on Tuesday 2 December. The party will leave TAS at 8.45am and return at 11.45pm. Please ensure your child has sunscreen, t-shirt for use in the water, water bottle, and a hat.

Holiday Borrowing from the Library

Over the summer holidays, books may not be borrowed from the school library.

The library will work as below for the last weeks of the school year:

Week 8 - Activities Week. Stocktaking in the library. No library lessons. No student entry at any time.

Week 9 - Final week. No borrowing.

As the year draws to a close, could all families please look for class readers and library books that might have been over looked at home? It is school policy to replace any books that have been lost or misplaced, as they are often part of a set. Parents will be contacted but if the books cannot be located, their replacement cost will be charged to the individuals concerned.

Christmas Cheer

Yes, it is less than three weeks until the end of term and in Junior School we celebrate Christmas early! Many children like to give their classmates a Christmas card before going on holidays. We ask that it is just a card and that no chocolate or candy canes accompany the card please.

Summer Reading Club

The Armidale Public Library will be hosting the Summer Reading Club from 1/12/2014 until 30/1/2015.

The theme for the 2014 iteration of the Australian Summer Reading Club is ADVENTURE

Registration is FREE! When participants register at our library they will receive a Summer Reading Club pack with free prizes, activity books and a reading log.

You can also register at www.summerreadingclub.org.au

National prizes are up for grabs for those who participate in the online writing activities.

For more information call the Armidale Public Library on 6770 3636

Student Absence

For all absence other than medical or illness, an exemption form needs to be completed. This form is a Board of Studies requirement and can be found on the School Website, Parent Portal, and Parent Forms.

If your child is ill, please email junior@as.edu.au and the class teacher before 9.15am. If your child is away for more than 3 days, we will require a medical certificate on the child’s return to school.

Lost Property

If you would please check all clothing, hats and swimwear to ensure your child has collected the correct items. Any items that have inadvertently been collected that do not belong to your family can be brought to the Junior School and we will return these items to the correct family.

Visual Arts Classes - TAS Junior School

Term 1-4 2015

Years:  1-2 Tuesdays 1-2pm

Years:  3-5 Thursdays 1-2pm

Teacher:  Mrs Ingrid Evans (B.art.ed)

Term 1 Lessons Start: Week 2 and finish in Week 9

Private Visual Arts Classes for Infants and Primary aged students will be available in the TAS Junior School during 2015.

Classes will provide students with fun, thematic, ‘hands on’ 2D, age appropriate art making experiences, based on the study of artists and the use of a variety of art materials and techniques.

Students will predominantly work in a sketchbook learning skills that will lead to the production of thematic artworks.

Students will need to commit to a term of lessons for 8 weeks. A fee of $100 will be payable at the beginning of each term. Classes will have limited numbers.

Please contact Ingrid Evans for more details: nickgrid@bigpond.com or 0428966842.
**Gymnastics**

This week was the final Gymnastics sessions for this year and the coaches very generously planned an afternoon full of many fun activities, all of which were greatly enjoyed by the girls and boys.

The children had a wonderful time on the ribbon swing and there were many squeals of delight, especially from our younger gymnasts. The parachute also proved to be wonderful fun and the cooperation required from the groups members to keep the beanbags on the parachute whilst lifting it up in the air was wonderful to observe. The final rotation involved being a monkey on the beams, crawling along the top and then swinging under the beam from one end to the other.

All in all a great time was had! At the conclusion of session each child was presented with a certificate to recognise they had completed a term of gymnastics.

Mrs V Waters

**Basketball - TAS Red 3/4s**

In their last game of the year, the Reds were confident at having the best game of their season...and they didn’t disappoint. Facing the undefeated PLC 3/4s a tough game was on the cards, however, with key players targeted and a tighter defensive plan, the Reds got off to a strong start. All players were working tirelessly in the heat, using the full court in attack and defence. Point guards Isabel Newton and Flynn Broadfoot were doing a fine job slowing down the PLC fast break, allowing our strong and quick players to get back and work hard at marking tight and being hungry for the loose ball and rebounds. With a strong scoring run, particularly from Lewis Graham, but well supported by Jonathan Harris, Michael Janda and Alex Webber, TAS Red were leading 9-4 at half time. Following the break, we knew we had to remain close to the ball and not give PLC any room. With some strong PLC shooters being left alone under the basket too often, the game was swinging back in PLC’s favour, and before long the score was see-sawing with a one point difference. Isabella Rutledge, in her last game for TAS, was impressive all over the court, but certainly did her job using her height and scoring regularly. With about 20 seconds to go, TAS did have a chance to pull off a one point victory, which would have been their first win for the season and PLC’s first defeat, however, despite a great shot, the ball just didn’t fall our way and the 2014 season was gone. Well done to everyone on a fantastic game and don’t forget to practise those dribbling and shooting skills in the holidays.

Mr A Portell

**Attention all Cricket Dads (or Mums!)**

Do you miss the sound of willow on leather? Have a spare set of whites in the closet? Then TAS Cricket needs you!

Over the summer TAS needs to field 3 open cricket teams in the Armidale Competition. With boarders returning home we have a number of places to fill on the pitch. We’d love to fill these with parents, uncles, siblings, Old Boys - we’ll take anyone!

There are games on 6, 13 and 20 December and 10 and 17 January. You don’t need to play all games but if you are interested in a game or two please contact John Farrar at chook5@activ8.net.au.

We need you! Our open cricketers are seeking help to fill spots over the summer holidays.