Coast Weekend

The annual coast weekend may look like a short beach holiday taken far too early in the year, but I see it as one of the early milestones that helps set the tone for the journey of the school year ahead. For our boarding houses especially, the opportunity to take a break after the hectic first fortnight of the year and focus on relationships in the House, routines and building new friendships is very important. From all that I saw, last weekend was a great success on all these counts and I offer special thanks to the many staff who headed away to help make this happen.

Swimming Carnivals

With the senior 200m individual medley events completed on Monday night and a very successful Junior School carnival yesterday, swimming carnival week is now well underway. This continues on Thursday evening with our 200m freestyle races and the house war-cry competition. It may seem a little strange to newcomers to the School, but the war-cry competition is one of the big parent events for the year and it is deliberately scheduled to follow the Middle School welcome barbecue.

It is also one of the most keenly contested house competitions for the year and I know that all houses have been composing and practising at every opportunity over the last fortnight. I thoroughly recommend both Thursday evening and the main carnival on Friday as great spectacles and look forward to seeing many parents there.

P&F AGM

I am delighted to say that at the P&F annual general meeting last night our President (Sue Cartwright), Treasurer (Mandy van Duijnhooven) and Secretary (Sall Molesworth) were all re-elected to their positions and they were joined by new Vice-President Rachael Nicholi in an expanded P&F Executive. This continuity is a very good thing for our P&F and it was clear at the meeting that there is real purpose in the plans for P&F activities this year. I take this opportunity to offer thanks to our Executive and all who were at the meeting last night for their great commitment to the School and I look forward to working with them through the year.

Co-education Consultation - Armidale

The series of consultation meetings with our school family begins tonight with the session in the Hoskins Centre from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This meeting will begin with a presentation on the proposal to introduce full coeducation in 2016, covering background information on the School’s position, the academic research regarding single sex and coeducation, trends in Australia and the UK and why this is being considered at TAS. The presentation will be followed by the opportunity to ask questions and make comment. We will be joined by the Chairman of the Board, Sebastian Hempel and Mr Chris Duncan from the Association of Independent Schools who co-authored their recent research paper into the issue.

To read more, including the full research paper presented to the Board late last year, and to book for tonight or other sessions, follow the links located on the TAS website.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

**Week 3**

**Wednesday 11 February**
- Armidale Co-education Consultation Session
  - Hoskins Centre 5.30pm

**Thursday 12 February**
- Middle School Welcome Barbecue and War Cry Competition

**Friday 13 February**
- Middle/Senior School Swimming Championships

**Saturday 14 to Wednesday 18 February**
- Cadet Leadership Course

**Week 4**

**Monday 16 February**
- Walcha Co-education Consultation Session
  - Walcha Sports Club 5.30pm

**Wednesday 18 February**
- Gunnedah Co-education Consultation Session
  - Gunnedah Civic Centre 2pm - 4pm
- Tamworth Co-education Consultation Session
  - Tamworth Golf Club 5.30pm

**Saturday 21 February**
- Year 9 Father & Son Weekend
  - Nymboida Canoe Centre

**Sunday 22 February**
- Year 9 Father & Son Weekend
  - Nymboida Canoe Centre
  - 11am 1st Round FFA Cup
  - (Doody Park)

**Week 5**

**Monday 23 February**
- Scholarship & 2016 Prospective Student Information Day

**Wednesday 25 February**
- Narrabri Co-education Consultation Session
  - Riverside Room, Crossing Theatre
  - 5.30pm

**Thursday 26 February**
- Walgett Co-education Consultation Session
  - Walgett Sporting Club 5.30pm

**Friday 27 February**
- Activities Day No. 1
  - Social at TAS
    - 7.00-10.00 pm Year 9/10
    - 7.00 - 9.00 Years 6-8
  - Moree Co-education Consultation Session
    - Moree Plains Gallery 5.30pm

**Saturday 28 February**
- Brisbane Co-education Consultation Session
  - Rendezvous Hotel Brisbane on George 5.30pm

**Week 6**

**Monday 2 March to Friday 6 March**
- Primary Industries Year 12 Workplacement

**Tuesday 3 March**
- NCIS Swimming (Lismore)

**Inverell Co-education Consultation Session**
- Riverside Restaurant 5.30pm
- Kokoda Expedition Information Evening

**Wednesday 4 March**
- Year 9/10 Music Day at NECOM

**Glen Innes Co-education Consultation Session**
- Town and Country Club 5.30pm

**Thursday 5 March**
- Scone Co-education Consultation Session
  - Scone Golf Club 5.30pm

**Friday 6 March**
- Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews

**Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews**
- HSC Music Days at NECOM
- GPS Rowers depart for Sydney

**Newcastle Co-education Consultation Session**
- Newcastle Jockey Club 5.30pm

**Saturday 7 March**
- GPS Head of the River (Sydney)

**Week 7**

**Tuesday 10 March**
- Sydney Co-education Consultation Session
  - Union, University and Schools Club
  - 5.30pm

**Wednesday 11 March**
- NCIS Football Championships

**Thursday 12 March**
- Year 6/7 Parent Teacher interviews

**Friday 13 March**
- Year 6/7 Parent Teacher interviews

**Saturday 14 March**
- Once Upon a Mattress performance

**Week 8**

**Monday 16 March**
- Summer House & Co-curricular photos
- 19 March
- Year 7 Vaccinations
- 20 March
- Once Upon a Mattress performance
- Activities Day No. 2
- 21 March
- Once Upon a Mattress performance
- Year 11 Mother & Son Weekend
- Once Upon a Mattress performance

**Week 9**

**26 March**
- Year 12 Automotive Workplacement
  - 1.30 pm Year 11 Study Seminar
Life to the full - John 10:10

With the introduction of a mountain bike track on site at TAS, there is a proliferation of crazed wanna be mountain bike heroes. Unlike their road cyclist counterparts, these young men look for the next exciting challenge at every turn, they seek danger, not simply avoid it. So it's no surprise that the accompanying challenge is to make sure all wear helmets. As this was being discussed amongst the staff on Monday morning it was pointed out that life can be a risk, and perhaps we should all wear helmets all the time. I, of course became a case in point. In case you haven't yet heard, I should wear a helmet at all times. Friday became the second time I sustained as serious head injury due only to my own… clumsiness here at TAS. In the most recent case, I descended the internal stairs leading from my room a little too enthusiastically, leaping off the last couple of steps in a moment of term beginning boyishness I cracked my head open on the door frame that I should have been seamlessly passing through. Six stitches and some embarrassment later here we are. If you would like a look, please just ask.

We all need protection from clear and present dangers. We sometimes talk of Jesus being that sort of safe haven. He does protect and provide. We even sing ‘God is our Strength and Refuge’ – he is our safe place, and this is true.

However, some would turn that around and say that belief of this sort is simply a crutch or helmet as the case may be, there only for the believer’s comfort. Yet belief and trust, even dependence on Jesus is so much more than living the safe life, Jesus said he came that we might have life to the full, not a safe life.

I've been enjoying Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s biography. In it I read a fantastic quote that describes authentic Christianity in this way, “Christianity is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God’s will.” I wonder if this type of courageous Christianity describes your view of following Jesus, the life that will be filled to overflowing?

COUNSELLOR’S CORNER, ROB HADFIELD

Last week we talked about the nature of change. Today we look at change through the lens of ‘transition’.

Transitions are sometimes hard for us to manage. When something ends and the shape of what is next is only vaguely seen, we feel uncomfortable, somewhat lost and uncertain. If we are used to being able to structure our lives and suddenly that structure dissolves, we can experience confusion and a temporary loss of confidence. It is the experience of ‘betwixt and between’ – something has ended and what is to come lacks definition.

Transitions can be of two kinds – developmental and circumstantial. Developmental change arises from fairly predictable ‘normative’ movements in our lives as a result of ageing and the sense of moving from one ‘stage’ to the next. Circumstantial transitions arise from events, chosen or unchosen, that force us into a different life situation. Some transitions are a mix of both normative, age-related change and circumstances that force change. Moving from school to work or university, the transition from Middle School to Senior School, changing location, retirement, getting married, learning to live with a permanent disability as the result of an accident, are examples of transition.

As we noticed in the last Counsellor’s Corner, change includes risk and opportunity. Transition is a type of change. During the transition experience it can help to process the experience with a good friend or perhaps, a counsellor/psychologist. It helps to talk about the experience itself and the kinds of issues that emerge. Identifying, the risks that are present also enables a movement towards embracing opportunity for growth and change.

Depending on the nature of the transition the movement towards the new and different can take time. Sometimes we have to sit in a kind of impasse until clarity begins to break through the confusion and doubt. We may be impatient to move on but sometimes transitions require a more gradual approach, a process of connection to a range of experiences that surface during the transition.
Annual General Meeting

The AGM is now done and dusted for the publication of this week’s TAS Talks, but as I write it will be held tonight.

Next week we will let everyone know the Executive and committee for 2015.

Swimming Carnivals

Junior School swimming carnival is also over for another year, and I extend a huge thank you to everyone who gave time and or baked goods to assist in the first fundraising event for 2015.

But still to come is the Middle/Senior Swimming carnival on Friday 13 February.

The school provides lunch for parents however your friendly Liaison Parents will be looking for volunteers to bake (or buy) cakes and biscuits and roster on the Cake Stall. Many hands make light work and in the past it has worked best with each year group covering one hour but please help out wherever you can.

If you cannot spare any time to work on the cake stall but would like to provide some baked or bought goodies, they can be dropped off on the day.

Please contact Sandra Kaynes on 0438 373 189 or email skaynes@bigpond.com if you would like further information or a time slot!

Liaison Parents

For each student year group, volunteer liaison parents help co-ordinate the P&F efforts throughout the year as well as arranging social events and get togethers for families. This network provides parents with the opportunity to contribute to the life of the school in a meaningful way.

Late last year parents expressed an interest in becoming Liaison Parents (or even Co-ordinators for Junior/Middle/Senior School) and I now invite you to confirm your availability. Whether or not you have already volunteered but would like to become a liaison parent, or even if you would like to know a little more about what is involved, please email me your contact details at sue_333@me.com and I will give you a call.

We will also be having a Welcome Lunch for all Liaison Parents in the next few weeks – more details to follow.
TAS regrets to advise that the Yipirinya service trip planned for April will no longer be going ahead, due to a major management restructure at Yipirinya School. TAS values enormously the opportunities for service and cultural understanding that such trips provide and it is anticipated that a similar program can be developed for Year 9 students in 2016, either at Yipirinya or elsewhere in Australia.

Mr Tim Hughes

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A new subject at TAS – Positive Education

It is hard to believe we are almost weeks into the year, having done so much so early. However, one measure of progress is the comfort with which our new students are now handling daily life at TAS and it is great to see the smiles, albeit surrounded by some sunburn and fatigue, of the boys who had such a lovely time on Coast Weekend.

One of the most exciting developments for 2015 from a pastoral perspective is the formal teaching of Positive Psychology from Years T-8. From T-6, this is coming within the framework of You Can Do It, an international curriculum that helps students develop emotional, social and academic strengths. A link to the website is here - [http://www.youcandoiteducation.com](http://www.youcandoiteducation.com) - and classes are being taught by Ian Lloyd to Year 5 and by homeroom teachers in Year 6.

In Years 7-8, Mr Edward Morgan and Miss Jayne Heagney are, between them, teaching all classes for a once-a-fortnight period. They are developing a TAS curriculum called Positive Education that looks to cultivate strengths and foster resilience. We are very excited about these developments as they consolidate the progress made in developing both staff and student wellbeing in the past few years.

Mr Barney Buntine
Director of Pastoral Care
It appears that the vast majority of students have settled in well to their classes for the year. The feedback I’m getting from teachers and boarding houses is full of praise for their focus and diligence. This time of year can be difficult for those entering new stages of their schooling. The 'step up' in workload and expectations can be hard for some to manage and we all need to put it into perspective at times.

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring to your attention some significant changes this year.

Careers

Mr Mark Taylor takes on the role of Careers Advisor in addition to his PDHPE Coordinator role. Mr Taylor brings a great deal to this position as he has extensive knowledge of the HSC, ATAR scaling and, as a past parent of two TAS boys, an understanding of the pressures that students and families can face during the final years of schooling. He has great plans for the development of Careers for our students in Years 10, 11 and 12 including careers expos in Tamworth and Sydney later in the year. He will have a regular spot in our Year 12 Activities Day program to help students navigate the world beyond TAS.

Diaries

Many of you will have already seen the new school diary for 2015. This has come about from an initiative of the SRC who approached me just over 12 months ago to review the school diary. Their concern was that they didn’t have enough room to write down their prep - something we have hopefully now addressed! I have heard that some boys are concerned that the diary no longer fits in their pocket but with this comes the decreased likelihood of it accidentally going through the wash.

Student Wall Planner

In 2014 we introduced a student wall planner for students in Year 11 and 12. Again an initiative from the student body, it was designed to be a visual reminder of their upcoming commitments both in class and beyond. Students in Years 8 to 10 will also receive a wall planner in 2015 as it was seen by many of our younger students last year and suggested that we extend its use. Please note that some calendared items can change from the date of publication and students and families must always refer to the website for the timing of events.

Year 11 and 12 Subject Changes, Goal Setting and ATAR estimates

A big change this year is that Year 11 and 12 subject changes and meetings with students and families regarding ATAR estimates and University entry will now be conducted by Mr Taylor. Please contact him directly to organise a time to meet.

Advisors and Subject Coordinators

A reminder that your child’s Advisor is the first point of call for any concerns that you may have regarding their academic program. If your concern involves their placement in a core subject (English, Maths, Science or HSIE) then you should make contact with the relevant Coordinator by calling Reception and being put through to them directly.

HSC Tutoring

HSC tutoring in some subjects commenced last week. We are looking to expand this program where and when quality tutors are available. An updated schedule will be sent to students when changes are made. In the meantime, students should refer to the last email that has been sent. In some cases, we will be attempting to expand this program to Year 11 classes and we hope that students take up the opportunity to attend these sessions when they are able to. It is not expected that students attend all sessions because their other commitments and workload can change on a weekly basis. These sessions are focused on revising concepts already taught by the classroom teacher.

Mrs Seonia Wark
Director of Studies
Applications are invited for Academic Scholarships for the commencement of the 2016 academic year as follows;

TAS Foundation Middle School Scholarships (for students entering Year 6, 2016)

TAS Foundation Academic Scholarships (For students entering Years 7-11 in 2016)

Applicants are required to sit the Academic Assessment Services Scholarship Examination held at TAS on Monday 23 February, 2015. Applications are welcome from both current and prospective students. All applications are taken online and must be submitted prior to the close of business on Friday 13 February. To apply and to read the terms and conditions, including scholarship examination fees, please use the following [LINK](#).

For any questions, please contact the Enrolments Office on 6776 5823 or email info@as.edu.au

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**Read Co-education Research Paper**

There are still a number of copies of The Armidalian 2013 that were not collected by families at last year’s Junior School and Senior School Speech Days. One copy is available for every family with a child at the school last year. The Armidalian is the official magazine of the school and a record of the breadth of school life. If you have yet to receive yours, copies will be available for collection from the main school Reception during the swimming carnival on Friday. Otherwise, please email reception@as.edu.au or call Mrs Veronica Lucas on 6776 5800 to enable the eldest of your children at school to collect your family copy.

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**Book to attend Consultation Session**

If you would like to take part in the co-education consultation process by putting forward your comments please book to attend one of the consultation sessions using the link below or contact consult@as.edu.au or phone our dedicated number 0487 549 477. New to the consultation process is the availability of the research paper prepared by Murray Guest and we invite you to view the document below.

Please note: An electronic survey will be emailed to all parents, Old Boys, staff and students after the last consultation session on 10 March in Sydney.
Languages Department

Bienvenue! Introducing Mademoiselle Audrey Panon

We would like to welcome Audrey Panon to the TAS Languages Department. Audrey will be spending 2015 assisting in French classes across the school, from Transition through to Year 12. We are looking forward to her sharing her experiences of her native France, as well as assisting students in extending their French language skills.

Audrey comes to us from Noisy-le-Sec, which is found approximately 30 minutes out of Paris. She has taken time out from her work as an Administrative Assistant in a large Parisian firm to spend this year working as a Teaching Assistant, as she is keen to become a French teacher in her own right. Audrey has travelled extensively, worked as a nanny in the United States and a trained childcare worker, and so she brings with her a wealth of experience.

We are delighted to be able to welcome Audrey!

ART FRENCH CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE TRIP 2015

Bonjour!

A reminder for all Art-French trip participants to please return their Travel Insurance form, Home Stay form and Tour Participant form to TAS Reception by the end of Week 3. We also require photocopies of each participant’s current Passport.

A copy of these forms is available on the TAS website under Parents Portal - French Trip, 2015 or they are available for collection from TAS Reception.

Merci beaucoup. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Mme Kathryn Tamminga
Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice. 

Carved into four black granite pillars that form the Isavuru Memorial to Australian and Papua New Guineans who served and died on the Kokoda Track in 1942, the words represent the qualities of those who gave so much in the Second World War. They also reflect the personal stories of fathers and sons (and at times, mothers and sisters) from The Armidale School, which on five occasions has organised an expedition to walk the famous trail.

Combining personal challenge and respect for service, TAS first organised an expedition in 1997 to mark the centenary of the school’s Cadet Unit, and it was completed by 32 cadets. The last trip was in 2011.

Accompanied by local guides, each day’s outing starts with a briefing about the withdrawal and attack of Australian troops, and at certain points, a closer examination of the positions taken by the Australians and the Japanese during conflict.

Along the way, tribute is paid to those who had lost their lives; as part of their preparation, each TAS boy has to research a soldier who served.

While the significance of the expedition as commemoration to those who served and sacrificed has remained, it has also evolved to include the TAS family more broadly and it has become particularly popular with parents and their sons or daughters.

The Kokoda expedition has stood the test of time at TAS because boys still crave great adventure today as much as they ever have, but nothing compares to the real thing.

Need A Challenge In Your Life?

Walk the Kokoda Track where Australian soldiers fought the invading Japanese in 1942.

DATES
September holidays 2015 (Dates TBA)
20 positions are available for Year 10 and 11 students, parents and staff of TAS, PLC and NEGS.

To find out more you are invited to attend an information evening at the McConville Centre on 3 March at 7.00pm.

CONTACT
Mr Mark Taylor Ph 0428 726 362 or email mtaylor@as.edu.au
"All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players” or perhaps life is a game of chess or a sporting team or an orchestra. Whichever way you look at it our various pursuits are metaphors for life.

In every group activity, we recognize that each person adds value. They all have their strengths and a role to play. There are moves that only they can take; skills that only they possess and sounds that only they can make.

So audition for Treasure Island or strive for selection in the NCIS Football Team; join an Ensemble or try out for the Chess Team; sing in the Chapel Choir or sign up for the Cattle Team. By doing so, you will get to play your part and, what’s more, receive a greater appreciation for these activities.

It is a feature of TAS, that students will involve themselves in a multitude of activities. It is not uncommon for a student to have participated in almost every sport offered, to perform on stage and to learn a musical instrument. This involvement engenders respect for each other and an appreciation for all pursuits.

TAS Talks will keep you updated with upcoming events. If you want to know more you can look on the School website, talk to the relevant staff member or come and see myself or Mrs Hutton. You all have a part to play!

Congratulations to all those students that have already participated in swimming events this week. Whether you are in the pool, supporting in the stands, announcing, setting up, serving refreshments, recording, marshalling or assisting on the pool deck, you are helping to make the carnival a success.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend both the war cries on Thursday night (commencing at 7:30pm) and all other events on Friday (commencing at 8:45am). Best of luck to all competitors!
**Equestrian**

Michael Paull represented Armidale Horse & Pony Club at the Zone 13 Jamboree in Glen Innes on 9, 10 and 11 January 2015. At the conclusion of the event, he was named 13 & under 15 years Reserve Champion boy. His results are as follows:

1st Boy rider
1st 3 Mug race
2nd Barrel race
3rd Bonfield Bounce
4th Bareback
5th Flag Race
13-15 Years Reserve Champion boy

**Cricket**

Nicholas Day scored his maiden century for TAS on the weekend. His final score of 120 not out helped our 1st’ team score a convincing win over City Maroon. With most of the usual 1st team away at Coast Weekend, Nick stepped up and allowed the team to achieve a surprise victory. Thank you to the younger students, teachers and parents who filled in for us on Saturday.

**Armidale Junior Merino Sheep and Fleece Judging Competition**

Joe Carlon (Year 8) was the only TAS student to participate in the Armidale Junior Merino Sheep and Fleece Judging Competition, held on Tuesday 3 February.

He won the Junior Sheep Judging and came Second in the Junior Fleece Judging which included participants from NEGS, O’Connor, Farrer, and Maclntyre High, Inverell and this section included students from Year 7 - 10.

When the Junior and Open Sections (Year 11/12 & tertiary students) were combined and scores tallied, Joe won Fourth place overall in the Sheep Judging and Fifth place overall in the Fleece Judging.

Joe and the winner of the Open Section were invited by the NRBA Committee to be Associate Judges for the main show in the afternoon and judged rams from studs statewide.
Mountain Biking

This week's race was held on a shortened version of the SportUNE MTB track. The race was again very popular which meant that riders were sprinting from the start to secure a good position before heading into the tighter single track. Our boys rode really well and there was a very noticeable improvement on last week's race with all students riding for the whole 35 minutes (except for a few students who either sat out of the race or did just a few laps to conserve energy for the individual medley swimming race held later in the evening). Our students had the added incentive of trying to chase down Mr Kennewell (TAS MTB Coach) who was also racing in the first race this week. In the end the students didn't succeed at this additional goal however Josh Jones and Alex Kirk put in strong performances to keep the pressure on for the whole race! Congratulations to all riders who put in such a great effort at Mondays race! Your results can be found HERE.

Special mention to Year 11 student Michael Harris who won the elite men's division (in the second race) for the second week and looks like he will continue to hold this position for the rest of the series. Best wishes Michael for the upcoming National MTB Series Races over the coming weeks.

Next week's race will be held at the Armidale Pineforest. For the students who meet us there, we will be meeting at the second entrance to the pine forest on Rockvale Rd. Heading from town, this is just after Tilbuster Creek.

Football

TAS is hosting the NCIS Football Championships on Wednesday 11 March.

All boys interested in being in the TAS Open Primary side (Year 6 and under) are requested to attend some trials.

Trials will be held on the following dates:

- Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February commencing at 1.20pm on Wakefield.

Please let Mr Polson know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend this trial and still wish to be considered.

Please ensure you bring your soccer gear to change into. Boys will require football boots and shin pads for this trial.

It is envisaged that the team will train at the following times leading up to the championships:

- Wednesday 18 February 1.20pm on Wakefield
- Wednesday 25 February 1.20pm on Wakefield
- Wednesday 4 March 1.20pm on Wakefield
- Monday 9 March 1.20pm on Wakefield

Students will be required for the full day on Wednesday 11 March, 2015.

Cost will be $10 per head and charged to accounts.

I encourage all Football players in Year 5 and 6 to attend these trials enabling us to pick the best team to contest the championships. A NCIS Primary Boys team will be selected from these championships to attend the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships later in the year.

The team will be coached by Mr Allan Moore.

Thanks

Mr Luke Polson

Socials

The first of the 2015 socials will be held on Friday 27 February. Years 6,7 & 8 will be hosted at NEGS and the Year 9 & 10 students hosted here at TAS.

Middle School Socials are from 7pm until 9pm with all students leaving from TAS and being picked up from TAS. Year 9 and 10 socials are from 7pm until 10pm. All students must be neatly dressed with collared shirts, no thongs, no singlets.

All socials cost $5 which will be charged to your son's account. Any monies left over once costs are covered will go to the SRC and their fund raising projects for 2015. Students in Years 9 and 10, who wish to attend will be asked to register their name after assembly on Tuesday next week 17 February. Middle School students' names will be collected during homeroom periods.
It seems that teasing Treasure Island in the school assembly and then mentioning it again in last week’s TAS Talks has generated a lot of interest in the show. Posters will be going up soon about auditions but we’ve received so much interest that I’ve decided to make some early announcements here. There will be two separate casting calls for the show: one for the young lead Jim Hawkins and the other for the remainder of the cast. Because of the structure of the show and the intention within the script to double-cast roles we are making some final decisions on how large the cast will be, with one female role and a number of male roles. The cast auditions are open to students in years 10 - 12, Old Boys, Parents, Staff and members of TAS families. The intention is for the show to be a TAS community project and provide the opportunity for students to work collaboratively alongside adults on the stage. Rehearsals for the show will start this term and involve interaction with the show’s writers and composer, with Treasure Island walking the planks of the stage in Week 8 of Term 2. Below is some key information on the two auditions:

Jim Hawkins Auditions
Auditions will be held Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 February from 1:10pm - 2pm in Hoskins.
TAS students in years 6 - 9 are invited to participate.
For the audition you are asked to prepare a song and bring in the sheet music. At these auditions you will not be required to perform a scene.
The part of Jim Hawkins requires you to sing Treble and, as there can be the challenge of young boys’ voice changing, the intention is for more than one student to be cast in the role. If you need advice on this you are encouraged to talk to Ms. Roobol.
An audition timetable will be going up on the Hoskins Office window soon for students to book a time.

Cast Auditions
Auditions will be held on Saturday 21 February in the Hoskins Centre
Information on the specific audition requirements will be released soon and will involve both singing and acting.
There is one female role and a number of male roles (where some adults can be played by students)
I would also like to put out another call for those interested in assisting with the alteration and making of costumes for our musical Once Upon a Mattress - if you are able to help please contact me through the school and I will connect you with our Costume Designer. On top of that, the construction of our set is nearing completion and our generous set designer James White is putting the final touches on the concept, so there will soon be calls for people to assist with a paintbrush as well.
In the Creative Arts we greatly appreciate any and all support offered to us as we attempt significant and ambitious projects so if you think you can help in any way for any show I am very keen to hear from you.

Mr Andrew O’Connell
Creative Arts Co-ordinator
THE ARMDALE SCHOOL PRESENTS
the hilarious Broadway hit musical comedy

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

Music By MARY RODGERS
Lyrics By MARSHALL BARER
Book By JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER and MARSHALL BARER

MARCH 13, 14, 20, 21 7:30pm 14, 21 2:00pm
TICKETS $25, $20, $15 | hoskins.as.edu.au | 6776 5878

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF R&H THEATRICALS: www.rnh.com
TAS Camerata and TAS Junior String Ensemble

As mentioned last week we are excited to announce that our new String Ensembles will be on again this Thursday - Seniors at 7.40am and Juniors at 8.00am in the Music Centre.

Mr Robert Jackson will conduct the Senior String Group - TAS Camerata and Ms Laura Curotta will conduct our younger string players in the TAS Junior String Ensemble. All students learning strings are welcome to come along.

To view the TAS Ensemble rehearsal time for Term 1 please click [HERE](#) or visit the [NEW Music website](#). The newly created website will house updated music news, rehearsal and practice times and other useful information.

Boarders’ Practice Times

To support our instrumental and vocal students, the Music Centre will be open at the following times this term for Boarders’ Practice. Students are permitted to come over to the Music Centre at the times listed below and are required to sign in with the Boarders Practice Supervisor upon arrival. The Supervisor will be in the Music Centre for each session to oversee and assist students with their work.

To view Boarders’ practice times click [HERE](#) or visit the music website.

Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) Workshop

A string workshop conducted by the Australian Chamber Orchestra will be held at the New England Conservatorium in Mossman Street, Armidale on Thursday 14 May from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

The workshop is recommended for string students of Grade 4 AMEB/Trinity level and above. The workshop is FREE OF CHARGE and students will form a string orchestra with the ACO musicians leading each section. Don’t miss this fabulous opportunity. Please apply to NECOM by Wednesday 1 April.

To find out more click on the links below.

[ACO String Workshop Information](#)

[ACO Application Form](#)

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher and Mrs Broadbent
The last two weeks

Almost immediately following school last Friday the boarders from White and Dangar travelled to Coffs Harbour for the annual coast trip. It was really encouraging to note that a number of wider school day boys availed themselves of this opportunity, too. Needless to say perhaps, but all seemed to have a wonderful time: swimming in the pool and the sea; living in cabins; ten pin bowling; the Jetty Jump; trampoline competitions; BBQ meals and beach walks. It is encouraging to report that, after only one and a half actual school weeks, the boys were more often than not laughing and communicating so easily with one another and the staff. I know for a fact that boarders have been very busy as this weekend follows the first where so many activities were arranged on campus – all of which were designed to enable boys and staff to get to know one another quickly and well.

So, we’ve now completed two weeks and from reports made by Middle School staff, I’m increasingly confident that the boys are progressing well. New ones, especially, are managing adjustments to new routines in a new school with so many others they’ve only recently met. But, as indicated over the last few weeks, we need to keep contact as there may be some issues relating to your sons that we can assist with to ensure the easiest possible management of school life at the beginning of the year. Further, it’s important for them to know that you are communicating with us. I know that Homeroom staff have begun contacting you to introduce themselves and this communication will provide you with the opportunity to forge mutually beneficial relationships that concern your children and their well being at School.

Positive Education

Whilst on the subject of relationships – Positive Education is a new strand in the Middle School curriculum. Essentially, the subject concerns itself with building good relations with their peers and also with staff. The timing is good. Students at this age are growing into themselves, developing stronger personality traits and, as such, beginning to form stronger friendships. They’re also at that stage of life where they realize they can’t be everyone’s friend; a stage where they need to develop strategies that enable them to live and work happily with others regardless of friendship groups. For Middle School students, in particular, such a process is vital because it encourages tolerance, enquiry and engagement of and with others. I’m likely to be writing about this topic again, but suffice it to say that all students are being given some strategies you and I probably weren’t given at the same age to assist the formation of normal and positive relationships, especially early adolescent ones.

Swimming Carnival

You’ll have received by now information about the Parent Information Session, BBQ and start of the Swimming Carnival this coming Thursday evening. Again, I encourage you, wherever possible, to attend these sessions and also the continuing swimming activities on Friday. For many families this will be your first actual contact with the boys and it’s time to ‘catch up’, encourage and listen to them. Certainly, there’s much news to tell and I know the Middle School boys are looking forward to the end of this week, in particular. All, for example, have been attending their Senior Houses for War Cry sessions and such activities are necessary to the development of their perceptions of ‘community’.
The Boarding House Prefects and Swimming Captains are making our boys feel welcome in their respective Houses – I know this for a fact because I've been trailing after them to witness the activity. As was the case over the last few years, while the boys' capacity (I refer to boys of all ages, not just yours) to 'hold a tune' is questionable, the volume is nothing less than impressive and I know you, too, will enjoy the carnival. I'm looking forward to meeting and seeing you again on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Middle School Information Session and Welcome BBQ

5:30pm Middle School Information Session - parents will meet in the Middle School and children will go to the Hoskins Centre to watch a movie. This will be supervised.

6:30pm BBQ at McConville Centre

7:30pm War Cry competition at the Swimming Centre – all boys are strongly encouraged to attend.

Boys are to wear their House Shirts.

Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

House Leaders Announced

It is with great pleasure that I announce the House Leaders for 2015. A new initiative, this concept has been driven by the students themselves after much discussion in the SRC last year. They are: Broughton House: Frank Perrotet, Hugo Catterall and Joshua Miron; Green House: Harrison Ditchfield, Isabel Newton and Ben Rowe; Ross House: Cameron Le Surf, Blair Eichorn and Samuel Ball. Many opportunities will exist for many students at TAS through the SRC and other structured activities, and we are encouraging every student to become involved in projects to which they believe they can contribute. The House Leaders role continues beyond the Swimming and Athletics Championships becoming an important part in the School's leadership structure. As a topic, Leadership was discussed in class before all Year 5 students presented a speech to all students in Years 3 to 5 who then had a preferential vote. At the end of Term 2, another opportunity will exist to modify each House Leadership team to maintain a highly motivated and balanced group of students throughout the year.

We wish our leaders well for 2015 and have already been impressed with the enthusiastic way they have embraced the challenge in preparing for the Swimming Championships.

Camp Australia
Direct Contact number 0450 265 303

The After School Care Centre is settling into its new routine, and I thank Jenn Thomas and Annikki Reader for the time and effort they are putting into the organisation of the Centre. With improved attention to issues such as compliance and documentation and the structure of the offering has taken a good deal of energy. It ensures a high standard of care and with a better understanding between the School and Camp Australia, I am convinced the move has been a good one. Further information is readily available by calling 0450 265 303 or from the Camp Australia website.
Sport in 2015

With some fantastic weather at the start of the year, and our School Swimming Championships done and dusted, we look forward to our sporting program getting into full swing. Mrs Christine Wright has spent a huge amount of time in preparation and I take this opportunity to publicly thank her for the time and effort she (and her team) has dedicated to this huge task and we look forward to seeing the run down from Tuesday’s Swimming in next week’s edition of TAS Talks.

Absentee notices

Exemption forms are a BOS requirement for any child taking leave for any other reason than medical or illness. Forms can be downloaded from the Junior School Homepage. In the case of illness please email your classroom teacher, with a copy to Fiona at junior@as.edu.au as soon as possible. All records for absentees will be filed at the School for administrative reasons.

Healthy Harold and the Life Education Program

Healthy Harold will be with us 16-18 February.

A variety of themes will run ranging from cyber-safety to healthy eating choices, body systems and the effects of drugs and second hand smoke, peer pressure and positive relationships.

Each Year groups will have a targeted area with the Life Education Program being very interactive.

Harold Merchandise for sale in 2015 is below. If your child would like to purchase an item, please place correct money in an envelope with your child’s name and the product they would like to purchase clearly marked on the front.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
<td>$ .50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Ball</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sticky Note pad</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery Set</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Ring</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Toy</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 5 Homework Centre / Library

Year 5 have the opportunity to visit the Library in the afternoons after school. In the Library the children are expected to act responsibly at all times. This is a special treat available only to Year 5 students. Should you wish your child to be allowed to do this, please email or write to Mrs Waters, as the Library staff will only allow those children whose parents have written to Mrs Waters to use the Library. Due to the absence of a Junior School staff member children using the library are not allowed to use their laptops during this time.

Happy Birthday

This week we wish a very happy birthday to Toby Inglis.

Arrival at School

Now that family routines are established again for school term, we would appreciate children arriving at school no later than 8.45am each morning.

Beginning the day with some time to play with friends and starting classes on time is a good way to contribute to a healthy approach to organisation. It improves learning and minimizes distractions for all. While we understand that there will be occasional difficulties, we appreciate your assistance wherever possible and are very thankful of your support of staff and other children by helping us with this.
Chess Club

Chess Club will be held on Monday mornings at 8.10am in the E&E classroom room.

Middles School students will be on hand to give advice and help those students who are learning the game of Chess.

Head Lice

Please be diligent in checking your child's head for head lice. Many children in the Armidale area have already had head lice this year and we would love to keep lice out of the school.

Below is a link to the Government website on head lice detection and control. Please take the time to view this document.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2015

We are again running the PRC in 2015. Even though the Challenge officially runs from 1 March to 28 August 2015, books read from 2 September 2014 can be counted towards this year's challenge.

If you would like to participate in the 2015 PRC please come and see myself, Mrs Allan or Mrs Ramazani in the Library so we can give you a permission note for your parent/guardian to sign giving you permission to participate in the Challenge this year. If you are new to TAS but have completed the challenge before at another school, I will need to know which school it was and your password details so I can change you over to TAS. The booklets for the 2015 PRC will be handed out to those who have handed in a permission note.

I won't be able to register you online for the 2015 PRC until March, 2015 so you will need to keep your Reading Log in a safe place until we can start entering your books.

Please see the table on the following page so you know how many books to read in each Challenge.

The PRC website has all the book lists for you to look up.

One very important rule to remember is about the series books - in an approved series, any two books from the series can be read as part of official PRC reading. Up to five other books from the same series can be read as personal choice books.

We keep a full copy of the book lists in the Library for K-2, 3-4, 5-6 & 7-9 challenge lists. We have also marked the books that we have from the lists with a PRC sticker - the K-2 stickers are red, the 3-4 stickers are green and the 5-6 stickers are purple and are located on the spine towards the bottom of the book. If you don't know what to look for just ask Mrs Allan, Mrs Ramazani or myself and we will be able to help you. I will be entering the books online for you from your reading log. From March, it would be helpful if you could bring your reading log to the Library during your weekly Library lesson so I can check on your progress and enter the books you have read. If any parents have any questions you can email me on jranck@as.edu.au, phone the Library 67765833 or call into the Library and see me on Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday. All the information, rules & book lists can be obtained on the above website.

Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Janine Ranck
PRC Coordinator

Book Club

The Junior School will be participating in two book clubs this year. We will be continuing with Scholastic, but also providing brochures from Lamont, a company which is 100 per cent Australian owned and will offer a slightly different range of books to Scholastic. You will see also that the brochures from each company have now been combined into one booklet, which aim to be more targeted to each age group.

Both Lamont and Scholastic Book Clubs now offer parents the opportunity to both order your books and pay for them on their websites. All the instructions for ordering and payment are contained on the back pages of the brochures, and also there are easy to follow steps outlined on their respective websites.

We would appreciate if all orders could be placed online by Friday 20 February. If it is not suitable for you to place an order online, please come and see us in the library for further information or contact Mrs Ramazani on nramazan@as.edu.au.

Thank you!

Mrs Allan, Mrs Ranck and Mrs Ramazani
### PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2015 TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books needed to complete the Challenge</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books for your Challenge</th>
<th>Maximum number of personal choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklist selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3-4, 5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Baccalaureate PYP Update

Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend parent information sessions last week, many of you will now have a greater understanding of how the Primary Years Programme is being introduced in the Junior School classes during our candidacy phase.

Last week the concept of a Central Idea was introduced. This week will provide an insight into the Central Idea being inquired into in each class. All classes have commenced the deconstruction process and students have all had the opportunity to ask inquiry based questions around the central idea. All units currently being taught will allow for both local and global perspectives to be explored.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Transdisciplinary Theme</th>
<th>Central Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>How we organise ourselves</td>
<td>Schools are organised to help us learn and play together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Where we are in place and time</td>
<td>Documenting personal histories allows us to reflect on and celebrate who we are and where we've come from.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Where we are in place and time</td>
<td>Families from the past and present can share many similarities and differences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Sharing the planet</td>
<td>People can establish practices in order to sustain and maintain the Earth's resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Sharing the planet</td>
<td>Over time, living this need to adapt in order to survive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Where we are in place and time</td>
<td>Exploration leads to discovery and develops new understandings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Where we are in place and time</td>
<td>Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mrs Veronica Waters  
PYP Coordinator
**TAS TALKS**

**Gymnastics**

Despite the humid conditions on Monday afternoon the excitement amongst our 17 gymnasts was great to be part of.

The warm ups were once again completed energetically. The balancing on the beams and the spring into the pit were particularly impressive.

The group of students then rotated through the following stations:

Group 1- Rotation- tight body activities and forward rolls. Many have mastered forward rolls.

Group 2- Statics- clubs were used to create letters and to balance in one hand.

Group 3- Locomotion- cartwheels and animal walks. The improvement from some was wonderful to observe as cartwheels using the hand-hand, foot-foot, method were starting to form cartwheels.

Please pack a snack for afternoon tea prior to our session.

**Mrs Veronica Waters**

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**Under 12’s Cricket**

The U12s put a valiant fight chasing an impressive total set by CSC Easts.

Dominic Ferguson and Jasper Russ bowled very well getting wickets and not giving up many runs.

There were some great catches taken from Dominic Ferguson, Lachlan Morgan and Jack Van Roy who also scored well with the bat.

Archie Chick had a great all-round performance scoring runs, a good catch at wicket keeper and boooing very well getting a wicket.

Ben Rowe batted very well at the end of the game and had a real shot at closing the gap with just a few overs to play.

Ultimately we had conceded to many runs in the field and were defeated in one of the best matches of our season.

**Mr Allan Moore**

---

**THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL CRICKET 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 Cricket App on your smartphone or tablet now!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. **Download TeamApp from the [App Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps) or Google Play app store.**
2. **Sign up to TeamApp. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.**
3. **Log into the App and search for “The Armidale School Cricket”.**
4. **Choose your applicable access group(s).**
5. **If you don’t have a smartphone go to thearmidaleschoolcricket.teamapp.com to sign up and view this App online.**

Need help?
Contact: Amanda Robins
Email: arebins@as.edu.au
Phone: 0267765800

[teamapp.com](https://teamapp.com)
The Junior Swimming Championships was a great success yesterday with a huge participation rate that included our Transition students right through to our seniors, many of whom swam in each race that was available to them. The records fell (one of them was almost 20 years old) and the House spirit was fantastic, as each rallied throughout the day to belt out their new war cries. While a full report will be in next week’s edition, we congratulate all swimmers who participated to achieve points for their House. The winning House was Ross with 504 points followed by Broughton (446) and Green (434). Thank you to all our parents and friends who assisted throughout the day with timekeeping, judging and helping in the canteen.
Join Heath Grundy and Alex Johnson* from the Sydney Swans for a FREE Auskick Community Clinic

**WHO:** 5 – 12 year olds  
**WHEN:** MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015  
**TIME:** 4.00 PM – 5.30 PM  
**WHERE:** BELLEVUE OVAL  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND,  
(Enter cnr Handel St & Meredith Rd)

**ENQUIRIES:** Rachel Thorsen 0400 663 071  
David Thorsen 0413 407 242

*Players subject to change*
NEVER smile at a crocodile - so join The Alligators TODAY! Because it’s FUN!

The Armidale Alligators is a NSW Swimming affiliated club which operates out of The Armidale School (TAS) Sports Centre to provide year round swimming for its members. Proudly sponsored by Harwood Swimming and the TAS Sports Centre - Like us on Facebook - Follow us on Twitter

For more information please call Lisā Russell on 0408 989 994 or email armidalealligators@gmail.com


Your first two club nights are free.
Racing is against swimmers of similar ability, not age, with the focus on beating your own best time. Swimmers are encouraged to try and “DO A PB” (personal best).

Club nights are run every Friday night during summer (Terms 1 & 4) and every second Friday night during Winter (Terms 2 & 3), with the exception of school holidays.