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Cover: Fresh from his fifth consecutive win in the Campus
to City Canter, Athletics Captain Joe Makeham strides out
for Tynrell House in the inaugural Great Cloisters Run on
Founders Day. Photo: Tim Scott

The stamp of TAS excellence to remain

The recent decision by the TAS Board to introduce co-education in all year
groups from the start of 2016 will stand as an historic one in the life of the
School. It came as the culmination of two years of extensive research and a two
month consultation process that engaged thousands in our extended school
community. That consultation presented the full range of opinion on the matter
and highlighted the great affection that members of our community have for
the School and their keen interest in its ongoing prosperity and that was
most encouraging.

The Board carries responsibility for the School's strategic planning and its role is
to look to the future, not just to the coming year's budget, enrolments or HSC
results, but to the decades ahead. It is its responsibility to make decisions today
that will give the School the best chance of developing and flourishing as a
great school for another 120 years.

TAS has long prided itself on understanding the needs of boys and much of
the research focused on the ability of a co-educational TAS to retain this whilst
opening its doors to girls. The overwhelming message from the large body
of academic research over the past 50 years is that the ability to present the
highest quality educational experience is not impacted by being single sex or
collegiate and this, of course, is our ambition.

At the centre of the thinking behind the co-education strategy is the need
for TAS to grow in order to create the capacity needed for the continued
development of our programs, facilities and human resources. What has been
clear over recent decades is that the potential for growth in our geographic
environment and as a single sex school is heavily constrained. Offering a TAS
education to the other half of the population, both in Armidale and beyond,
provides the opportunity to attract students who would otherwise not consider
TAS or Armidale without an independent co-educational option.

As important as it is to look ahead to new opportunities, it is equally important
to look to the past and those elements of a TAS education that we must not
change and the Board has been acutely aware of this. Ironically, what is a
significant change in terms of structure and strategy for the School is not an
attempt to change the nature of the School, but rather to simply open it to girls
as well as boys. It is our firm determination that the stamp of the TAS experience,
from its nature as a boarding school to the breadth and significant challenge of
its co-curricular program, will remain.
A co-ed future for TAS

The TAS Board’s decision on 31 March to adopt full co-education across all years from the start of 2016 comes after a number of years of research and analysis and a two month formal period of consultation with current and former students, Old Boys and other members of the TAS community.

In order for a fully developed proposal to be put to the Board for consideration, substantial background work into co-education, as one of a number of options explored by the school to ensure growth, was required.

Background Findings

Among issues considered at this time was the state of the independent education landscape in the New England North West region, the limited population growth experienced by both the broader region and Armidale itself, the difficulty for families of Junior School girls who had to leave TAS in Year 5, the fact that TAS has had a co-educational Junior School since 1989 and taught girls at HSC level for more than 15 years, and requests from parents of girls in older years wishing their daughters could access a TAS education.

Against this backdrop, in addition to researching the independent school sector in research and analysis and a two month formal period of consultation with current and former students, Old Boys and other members of the community.

Among the findings:

• Overwhelmingly, the quality of a school is determined more by the vision, programs and quality of staff, than whether it is single sex or co-ed
• There is a global trend towards co-education and in the UK there are now only 24 boys-only boarding schools and 48 girls-only boarding schools compared to 257 co-educational boarding schools
• In Australia, Armidale remains the only regional hub to not have an independent co-educational offering, despite 85 per cent of Australian independent schools being co-educational
• Armidale is home to Australia’s three smallest independent single sex schools

In January, the Association of Independent Schools of NSW also undertook its own analysis into the future of independent education in Armidale and found that “a co-educational TAS will expand opportunities for independent schooling in Armidale and will appeal to families who have not had an independent co-education option in the past”.

Strategic planning sessions undertaken by key members of the School Executive and the School Board looked at various co-educational scenarios in order that a workable proposal could be presented to the TAS community and ultimately, the School Board in its entirety, for its consideration.

Consultation process

Following the AIS report being delivered in January, the Board announced a two month consultation process involving all members of the TAS community with the aim of providing all possible means for feedback to the Board for its consideration.

• 24 face-to-face consultation sessions with more than 1000 people across regional NSW, in Brisbane and in Sydney, attended by the Headmaster and key staff
• A dedicated email address and telephone number for recording comment
• meetings with the OBU, P&F and TAS Foundation committees, and key community stakeholders
• the background research, a developed Q&A and a video of the Armidale consultation presentation made available on the school website for those unable to attend a consultation session
• An online survey sent out over 4,500 members of the community.

The Decision

In making its decision based on strategic planning for the school and the feedback from the consultation process, the Board approved the adoption of full co-education from Term 1, 2016. Its decision recognised that a move to co-education was not about introducing fundamental change, but maintaining all that is good about TAS, its culture, traditions and customs, and making that available to girls. The resolution included, in part:

• Continue cooperation with NEGS and PLC Armidale, including the areas of:
  • Combined classes in Years 11 and 12 under the current arrangement
• Joint co-curricular activities that enhance the programs of the three independent schools
• Remaining open to continued dialogue with NEGS and PLC Armidale
  • The continued upgrade of boys’ boarding facilities concurrently with the creation of girls’ boarding facilities
  • Ongoing resourcing and upgrading of existing school facilities which will not be affected by the introduction of co-education
  • The continued delivery of quality Christian education in Armidale

Moving forward

Work has already begun to ensure a smooth transition towards implementing full co-education.

• Teaching and non-teaching staff spent the first day of the school holidays analysing the best attributes of TAS life according to the strategic pillars (academic, wellbeing, boarding, co-curricular, leadership, service and adventure, and facilities)
• Drawing from expertise in other co-educational schools that are not in direct competition to TAS for enrolments
• White House to be extended for all Middle School boy boarders, with Dangar House to be refurbished as a temporary girls’ boarding house
• Plans will be drawn up for a larger, specialist girls’ boarding house, with building expected to commence late in 2016
• Refurbishment of boys’ boarding facilities alongside that for girls
• Appointment of new key staff with expertise in girls’ boarding
• Investigating co-curricular sporting pathways for a greater range of sports such as hockey and netball
• The School will continue to keep the community well informed as it moves towards this exciting new era
New footrace tradition graced with history

Inspired by an athletics challenge made famous in the film *Chariots of Fire*, TAS hosted its own footrace through the historic heart of the school when the inaugural Great Cloisters Run took place on Founders Day, this year celebrated on 30 March.

In the film, two students sprint around the quadrangle of Trinity College, Cambridge, aiming to finish before a clocktower strikes twelve. For the TAS version (an initiative of MIC Athletics Mr Jim Pennington), a student from each sporting house and age group (from under 13s to Opens) ran a relay around the Lawrance Quadrangle and a 306m rectangular course through the school. The Headmaster started the race by ringing the Payne bell, which was donated by the Payne family of ‘Waverley’ Scone in 1966, in memory of their father Stephen (04-06) and brother Stephen James (39-45).

As students cheered on their House and the *Chariots* theme song played, runners sprinted past the Boston Ivy-covered cloisters, turning eastward at the TR Forster Block past the school’s second gym (now the woodwork room), around the RJ Magoffin Building that comprises Junior School, and returning to the west on paving flanked by the library, Moyes Building, CC Dangar House and AH Cash Building before passing the baton to their teammates.

Ultimately it was Ross House which crossed the line first in a time of 4 minutes 19 seconds — and what promises to be a new tradition at TAS, was born.

Stories from the battlefields re-told on Founders Day

Sometimes heart-wrenching, often humorous, excerpts from letters written by Old Boys at Gallipoli, in Egypt and the Western Front brought fresh perspective to this year’s Founders Day Assembly, which focussed on the centenary of the First World War.

Held in the Lawrance Quadrangle, the Assembly was led by Senior Prefect Jack Bennett and Middle School Monitors Nicholas Barnier, Henry O’Neil, Kieran Dennis and Will Forsyth.

Old Boy Clifford Richardson, who was wounded on landing day at Gallipoli and was the first Australian in the war to be awarded the Military Cross, wrote to his father:

“One shell fell in a boatload of 30 men and killed everyone on the spot. Not a soul moved, but sat there dead as if for a moment hypnotised — but never to wake again.”

While the ultimate sacrifice of 46 Old Boys and Staff was a century ago, it was clear that this spirit of service to others, the mateship that developed between soldiers, and a keen sense of adventure are enduring elements of a TAS education to this day. Representing the courage of so many, Will Claridge (Year 12) rode into the Assembly on horseback, wearing a uniform of the 12th Australian Light Horse. The uniform, usually on display in the Sandilands Studio, is on permanent loan to the school by Major Bill Upjohn, who kindly brought his horse Cyclops who was also appropriately fitted out.

Following the sounding of *The Last Post* by Sam Wright (Year 9), the TAS Singers performed a moving rendition of the song *In Flanders Fields*, before everyone shared in special Founders Day cake to commemorate the school’s 121st birthday.

Boys watch in anticipation as Mr Guest rings the Payne Bell — silent for many years — to start the inaugural Great Cloisters Run

Will Claridge, dressed as a member of the 12th Australian Light Horse for the Founders Day Assembly

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Year 12 enriched by a quartet of twins

For a number of TAS students in their final year, the prospect of ‘doing your own thing’ after leaving school has an extra special family significance.

Of the 70 boys in Year 12, there are four sets of twins, who between them make up 11.4 per cent of their student cohort. That’s around nine times greater than the 1.25 per cent that twins accounted for of all births in 1997, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

When David and Harry Williams started at TAS Year 5, they thought they were a bit of a novelty; then in Year 7 they were joined by Jack and Tom Bishop and Alex and Angus Roxborough-Batt and in Year 8, Jock and Lachie McDonald added to the tally.

“It’s not a common thing, so it has been kind of fun in a way — going from being the only twins which was a little unusual when we were younger, to having so many twins, which is even more unusual,” Harry said.

All are fraternal twins, though it’s not that easy for many to tell the Bishop boys apart.

In the classroom, it has had its advantages: “it’s provided a bit of competition to see who gets the higher marks,” said Jack; and none admitted to using their status for pranks.

Meanwhile outside school, the boys agreed that perhaps the greatest challenge was having to share a vehicle, and supervising driver, to attain the hours for their ‘Ls’.

“A lot of us are quite different to our twin brothers with different interests and subjects — for us, people know we have the same parents, but that’s about it,” Harry said.

Heredity clearly plays a part. The Roxborough-Batts have two sets of fraternal twins in their ancestry; Jock and Lachie’s grandfather Roderick and his twin brother Don were at TAS from 1947-52, while the Williams have twin younger brothers, Cassidy and Stewart, at TAS in Year 6.

Meanwhile in Year 7 are twins Marcus and William Braham — whose father Richard made history in 1967 as one-fifth of the first quintuplets to be born in Australia.
Korean visit opens borders

A VISIT to the de-militarized zone between North and South Korea showed that international borders cannot divide the human spirit, KB Fergusson believes.

“We had our own ideas about what happened across the river which is the border, but then we heard a whole new side to the story that was radically different, emphasising how important it is to gain a new perspective and understanding,” said KB, one of three Year 12 students from The Armidale School to attend the Australia and East Asia Regional Conference of Round Square, a global organisation of schools of which TAS is a member.

“Technically the countries are still at war, but it was really eye opening to learn how in many ways, the people are just the same.”

With a fitting theme Building Bridges Beyond Borders, the conference, hosted by Cheongshim International Academy, attracted delegates from countries including Russia, Belgium and Thailand.

Conference speakers spoke of the legacy of Mahatma Ghandi, Nelson Mandela, peace activist Sun Myung Moon and Round Square founder Dr Kurt Hahn, and their vision and dedication to positive change.

“The attributes of good leadership go beyond national borders, and the immersive nature of the conference only heightened this,” Hadrian Wright said.

Snow skiing and sightseeing of popular and lesser-known Korean attractions complemented the cultural understanding.

(Top) The TAS delegation at the Round Square regional conference: Mr David Slade, Liam Cooper, Hadrian Wright, KB Fergusson and Mr Allan Moore
(Right centre) The delegation was struck by incredible architecture in Seoul

(Liam Cooper involved in a team-building activity)
Round Square exchange opens opportunities

Sledding, sailing and making friends with students from all over the world were highlights for three Year 10 boys who spent most of Term 1 on exchange to schools in the northern hemisphere.

Harry Forsythe, of Scone, said it was incredible privilege being able to attend Gordonstoun School in Scotland, with which TAS has had an association since the mid-1960s.

“It’s a very large boarding school with lots of students from Europe, particularly Russia, Germany and Spain. I knew a lot about the outdoor adventure program but the multi-culturalism was a real eye-opener — countries may be in conflict, but the students from those countries were very friendly towards one another,” he said.

An original Round Square member-school (the association is named after a uniquely-shaped building there), Gordonstoun is renowned for its outdoor education programs.

“There’s a lot of bushland with walking tracks and we had an activity every day. We also went sailing in the ocean, which was a great experience.”

The Rothesay Netherwood School in Rothesay, New Brunswick, Canada may be considerably smaller with less than 300 students, but Oscar Alcorn enjoyed similar a similar experience.

“There are a lot of international students from Mexico, China and Germany, but its incredible facilities for ice-hockey also make it a big drawcard,” he said.

Oscar himself played ice hockey four to six times a week; another highlight was a three-day dogsledding trip ‘mushing’ a team of six Yukon huskies, in the US state of Maine.

“Our group of eight students, a teacher and four guides stayed out in tents in minus 30 degrees, and we went sledding two at a time, and the next day, cross-country skiing.”

Elsewhere in Canada, at Lakefield College Ontario, Tom Southwell saw snow for the first time in his life — but that was clearly no impediment to learning how to snowboard, cross country ski, and dog-sled.

“We were out for four days with an adventure company and it was one of the most incredible things I have done,” Tom said.

“I made friends with people from the Dominican Republic, France and Switzerland, learnt a few words of foreign languages and tasted new cuisines. I’ve come back more socially confident and resilient, with a network of friends from all over the world.”

While the rest of the TAS community has spent the last term discussing co-education, Harry, Oscar and Tom were living it, and shared similar views on their return.

“It was a bit difficult to get used to at the start, but then it just seemed so normal, and it’s great to have friends that are boys and girls,” Harry said.
Students win engineering challenge three years in a row

Strategically placed rubber bands not only helped a team of Year 10 science students lob a tennis ball from a catapult made of sticks into a net 16 metres away, they also helped propel TAS to a win in the annual Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England for the third year in a row.

“We were given sticks, rubber bands, sticky tape and string to build it — but instead of lashing the A-frame with string, we used rubber bands which gripped better for increased stability and also made the catapult more like a shock absorber,” said Thomas Goodfellow, whose team won the catapult challenge after successfully netting a ball at both eight and 16 metre distances.

Pitting their skills against other bright young people from the region, the 32 TAS boys came away with the highest marks at the annual challenge, held at UNE on 18 March.

For the Challenge, each of the participating schools fielded eight teams of three to four members, which all competed in different competitive activities involving science and engineering concepts presented to the judges at the end of the day. Activities included making a model hovercraft that must be fast and manoeuvrable, building a ‘bionic’ hand that can use sign language, a tower from straws and paper and a vehicle that could roam on Mars.

“It was a really fun day. It wasn’t just about science, but learning how to work as a group, and talking about the challenges with students from a number of other schools,” Liam Treavors said.

Apart from the challenges, the day also gave a snapshot of possible career paths students might otherwise not consider.

The Highlands Challenge is supported by the University of Newcastle, the University of New England, Rotary Clubs, Engineers Australia and retired engineers, scientists and others.

The TAS team will now compete at one of the State finals in August.

Music essay tops the State

An analysis challenging a conventional view that composer Rachmaninoff remained a rigid Romantic composer during his life was the highest-marked essay in the State in Music Extension in last year’s HSC for TAS Dux Patrick Williamson.

Patrick’s 5000 word essay made up 100 per cent of the subject’s course work. In March he was presented with a certificate from Encore, the HSC Music showcase, acknowledging his achievement.

“People tend to call him a soppy romantic composer, but there were subtle changes as he went into the twentieth century,” Patrick said.

“I was playing his Prelude in G Sharp Minor which is a very grandiose, emotional piece for Music 2 anyway, and thought the conventional wisdom that he did not progress his style, warranted a closer look.”

Patrick is spending this year working at TAS assisting with ministry as the ‘Chapel Gap’ student, before commencing a Bachelor of Philosophy at Australian National University next year.

Royal fowl competition not just fowl play

For Year 10 Agriculture students, the answer to the age old question ‘which comes first, the chicken or the egg’ became a little clearer at this year’s Sydney Royal Easter Show.

In the school egg laying competition, TAS Sussex-breed hens won both the team presentation class (based on their looks and constitution), and the egg laying competition (the quantity, quality and consistency of eggs laid during the competition period).

Meanwhile in the school poultry classes, it was two third places, for a Sussex rooster and a hen in the standard soft feather — heavy breed classes.

Students also raised and fed chicks for the schools meat bird pairs competition, but were unplaced. Show preparation required plenty of attention to detail.

“For the laying hens, we had to be looking out for consistency of egg size and colour — which means the boys needed to work out the hen who is responsible for the double yolkers,” teacher Mr Mike Ball said.

(Top right) Liam Treavors, Lachlan Knowles, Thomas Goodfellow and Mike Nyathi with their catapult that accrued more than double the score of the second place team, helping TAS win the Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England on 18 March

**A great season for cricketers**

Competition premierships, a visit from a world champion cricketer and some outstanding individual performances topped off a successful season for TAS cricketers.

For the First XI, the term was bookended by joint-victories, albeit under different circumstances. In January at the Independent Schools Cricket Festival — this year hosted by St Ignatius College Riverview — TAS had wins over the hosts and Downlands College, but a tight bowling performance from Shore delivered them the match by six runs. TAS is now custodian of the highly coveted bat signed by the Western Australian team that won the 1991-92 Sheffield Shield competition, and looks forward to hosting the festival in 2016.

In March, TAS hosted a visit from NSW Breakers Captain and Australian Southern Stars world champion cricketer Lisa Sthalekar, who conducted playing and coaching workshops at the school. Sthalekar is a right-handed all rounder who bowls off spin, and was rated as the leading all rounder in the world when rankings were introduced.

In this year’s Douglas Shield — for those independent schools not part of a regular inter-school competition — TAS went down to Rouse Hill Anglican College in the semi-final, having defeated Lakes Anglican Grammar School on the Central Coast and Calrossy Anglican School last year. However just days later, TAS and Hillgrove were named Armidale and District Cricket Association second Grade joint-premiers after bad light forced the grand final to be called off early.

Along the way, individual highlights included Nick Day’s opening for TAS against Armidale City Maroon, making his first ever century and carrying all the way through to 120 not out and victory for TAS.

Victories were also snared in junior divisions, with TAS under 16 Yellow achieving a great victory in the grand final against Hillgrove.

The TOAD Cup which has been competed at First XI level between TAS, O’Connor, Armidale High and Duval for some years was extended to include a junior competition for students up to Year 9, and TAS enjoyed a good victory in the final against Duval, under lights at the Armidale Sports Ground. Two days later, four TAS boys were recipients of Armidale and District Junior Cricket Association awards, including Henry Smith (Armidale Junior Cricket of the Year), Cotter Litchfield (Armidale player of the Under 12 Lismore Carnival) and Nick Farrar (Under 16 Armidale Representative Player of the Year). Another TAS player, Wally Davidson was awarded Armidale player of the Under 15 Walter Taylor Shield.

Kieran Dennis and Sam Wright also secured that most elusive of prizes, hat tricks, during the season.

Seven from TAS team make NCIS squads

Seven footballers from TAS will go on to play for the North Coast Independent Schools squad after their performance at the NCIS championships played at TAS in March.

Alex Boulus, Jarrod Bourke, Michael Klepzig, Angus Lloyd, Cal Spiers, Euan Spiers were selected for the Opens team, while John McGregor-Thew made the junior boys team. They were amongst around 200 primary and secondary boys and girls from schools from the Tweed to Kempsey who competed in the tournament, hosted by TAS for the third consecutive year.

Whilst having the most reps in the NCIS side, the top TAS team was beaten by one point for the senior boys champion by Lindesfarne Anglican Grammar School. TAS’ Richard Newton will manage the NCIS side.
Kayakers place well at North Coast All Schools

Dais finishes in several events helped TAS to third place at the North Coast All Schools regional kayaking championships held at Nymboida from 20-22 March.

Over the three days of competition, the five kayakers competed in three different paddling disciplines: slalom, whitewater sprints and downriver racing.

David Williams achieved four second places and two thirds in his events, Nicholas Bohlsen was first in the Junior Mens K1 Sprints and placed in other events, Heath Chandler was first in the 13-14 Mens K1 Slalom and placed in other events, Remy Taylor was first in his Sub-Junior Mens SK1 Sprints and Downriver Run, while Harry Graham received three thirds and a second place in his events.

MIC Kayaking Mr Tim Wheaton said the team were pleased with its results, against competitors from eight other schools.

“For David Williams to be placed just behind a paddler who will represent Australia at championships in Brazil, is a very good effort,” he said.

Records fall three times at Athletics Championships

Records fell three times in track events at The Armidale School’s 121st Athletics Championships, held at the school on the last day of term.

An 18 year record was broken when Jason O’Keefe of Walcha jumped 11.47m in the 14 year boys triple jump, adding 18cm to the distance jumped by Rob Donoghue in 1987.

Meanwhile in the javelin triangle, two records were broken in quick succession, also in the 14 years division. Duncan Chalmers threw 32.11 metres, further than the 31.97 recorded by David Rice in 2004. However within minutes, fellow competitor Nicholas Ward smashed both distances, propelling the javelin 38.20 metres.

Abbott House won the overall points trophy, while Tyrrell House had a narrow victory for the House trophy per member basis.

Records fall three times at Athletics Championships

Records fell three times in track events at The Armidale School’s 121st Athletics Championships, held at the school on the last day of term.

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TAS defends inter-school chess title

The Armidale School’s senior chess team check-mated the regional round of the Sydney Academy of Chess’ Interschool Chess Challenge at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School on Monday 16 March.

Sixty six secondary students from 11 schools played seven games, a total of 231 boards in the competition.

Individually, Year 12 TAS student Ali Ahsan successfully defended his title from last year, accruing six wins and a draw. By the fifth round, Ali and TAS teammates Charlie Wyatt (Year 11) and Harry Pollard (Year 10) were all in the top four, with Charlie finishing in equal fourth place, and Harry Pollard, Harry Gwynn-Jones and Joshua Stevenson, equal sixth.

“The ‘Swiss’ competition meant the more games players won the further they gathered towards the top tables, which did mean we had a situation where a few TAS boys were playing one another in their last games, and I ended up playing Charlie Wyatt and Harry Pollard, with a challenging game against Charlie ending in a draw,” Ali said.

He said the larger number of competitors this year, which prompted the competition to be split over two days, added to the atmosphere.

“It gave it a more competitive air as all the players involved were in senior years.”

A team from TAS Junior School also did well, coming fourth from nine schools, and student Stewart Cassidy placing seventh.
Celebrations in the water, and out

It may have been a Broughton House victory in the water, but this year’s Swimming Championships will be remembered just as much for the discipline, teamwork and practice of another house — Abbott — in winning the warcry competition.

Just as the swimmers performed outstandingly in the water, boys from all six sporting houses swayed, chanted and sang in various degrees of harmony, and the win by Abbott was a clear manifestation of hours of practice and time spent working together. Their version of ‘Eagle Rock’ outpipped a very engaging rendition of ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ from Tyrrell — and then after the announcement was made, all six houses spontaneously embraced and belted out the school warcry ‘To the Old Boys’, their pride in the school being palpable.

Individual success goes a long way

During the term two Year 11 boys achieved success that was characterised by the humility and determination so highly valued at TAS.

Jack Parker was crowned the Open Men’s Champion in the Armidale Triathlon series whilst Michael Harris came sixth in the National U/19 Mountain Biking Championships — an outstanding effort for a 16 year old. (Michael’s efforts are no doubt responsible for the popularity of Mountain Biking, the newest sport at TAS, and which will be showcased in a future edition of Binghi.)

Meanwhile from Junior School, Tom Ball deserves a special mention for making the final of the under 9s Freestyle at the NSW CIS Championships.

New rowing standard set at Head of the River

The Armidale School’s three rowing crews all set new benchmarks at the AAGPS Head of the River regatta in Sydney on 7 March, clocking their fastest times of the season over 2000m and setting a new standard for the school.

The First IV crossed the line in seventh place in a time of 7.03:43, 13 seconds faster than their time at State championships. The crew had a strong start and at the 1000m mark were coming fifth in front of St Ignatius College, The King’s School and Sydney Grammar. Similarly in the Second Fours race, TAS pulled away earlier and were fifth at the 500m mark, before coming seventh in a time of 7:16:03.

The Third IV had a tremendous race, shaving 25 seconds off their previous best time, crossing the line in fifth place in 7:19:43.

“As a coach you hope that everything goes to plan and that crews row to their best. This year’s Head of the River was one of those magical occasions when everything falls into place,” Rowing MIC Mr Will Caldwell said.

The three crews started training in November on Malpas Dam near Black Mountain, often staying overnight to allow the boys to be on the water at dusk and dawn. They also took part in camps and regattas at Grafton and Taree during the summer holidays. This was the fourth year TAS competed at Head of the River.
Fairy-tale with a twist takes to the stage

A comedic musical version of an age-old fairytale came to life when TAS, joined by girls from NEGS and PLC, performed Once Upon A Mattress in March.

The musical, which has been performed on Broadway, London’s West End and revived in 1996, is a Tony Award nominee, and has been widely acclaimed for its interpretation of the fable Princess and the Pea.

Set in a dreamy fairytale land, the kingdom of mute King Sextimus has been taken over by his wife Queen Aggravian, who is determined to keep her son Prince Dauntless single. Not only has she decreed that only a true princess who can pass her test may marry her son, no-one else in the kingdom may marry, until he does.

Thanks to the intervention of a chief courtier Sir Harry, an amazing princess Winnifred the Woebegone appears on the scene… but does she have what it takes to restore peace and happiness to the kingdom and its citizens?

Director Mr Andrew O’Connell and Musical Director Ms Leanne Roobol, said although the musical is from the 1950s, the way it inverts gender stereotypes and features a strong woman saving a ‘prince-in-distress’, was an enlightening message for those in the cast.

“While it is widely performed in schools around the world, the fact it hadn’t been seen in this region before and was unfamiliar made it a refreshing and exciting opportunity for the students both on the stage and those involved in set construction, choreography and the technical crew,” Mr O’Connell said.
Dozens complete five-day leadership camp

Once again the TAS Cadet Unit’s senior and junior leadership course attracted more than 50 young men keen to take on key roles in the second oldest cadet unit in Australia. Held at New England University Company Depot (Army Reserve) and in the field at the property ‘Danehurst’ 10km south of Kingstown, the course ran for five days.

Both the junior leaders course (for those interested in leading a section of nine cadets) and the senior course (cadets wanting to lead at platoon level as a sergeant) involved introductory and advanced levels of training in leadership, navigation, communication and team-building.

The CUOs course, for senior boys wanting appointments as platoon commanders and company commanders, revised leadership and navigation training and then focussed primarily on communications skills, including grounding in prepared and impromptu public speaking, briefing others, and emergency situation training.

Scenarios were designed to be realistic in order to test their logic, leadership and resourcefulness.

“The style of training is designed to promote and develop initiative, teamwork, responsibility and decision making skills, as well as taking them out of their comfort zones by providing them with challenges in a field environment by day and night,” the cadet unit’s Commanding Officer MAJ (AAC) Trevor Thatcher said.

Middle School Monitors appointed

Congratulations to this semester’s Middle School Monitors who make up the student leadership team.

Joe’s strong win in Campus to City Canter

TAS had a strong presence in this year’s Campus to City Canter, with the school entering a team of 41 boys and three staff. This annual fixture on the Armidale Autumn Festival program takes runners on a 5km circuit from the UNE sports ground, across Elm Avenue and along the bicycle track into the creeklands park.

For the fifth successive year Joe Makeham won the event, setting a new record in a time of 16:34. KB Fergusson crossed the line in third place and Joshua Stevenson finished fifth, but perhaps one of the mightiest efforts of the day was from Jonathon Harris of Year 4, who had a stunning run to finish in ninth place. Several boys later that morning then marched with TAS cadets in the Autumn Festival parade.
The third annual Inverell Toughen Up Challenge certainly lived up to its name, but was plenty of fun for the 34 keen young TAS triathletes up for something a little different.

Commencing with a 500m stationary row, athletes then moved onto a 100m tractor tyre flip, 200m 40kg weighted pole run with 20 push-ups and 20 burpees, monkey bars, a hay bale crossing and a crawl through mud pits! It was then onto a 3km run, tyre carry, 1 km run, sandbag carry, 1km run, 100m swim, 20 burpees, 1km run, mud pit, more hay bales, the 100m ‘prowler’, a 100m truck tyre pull and 100m water carry.

The boys displayed their enthusiasm, perseverance and fitness with the combined Year 11/12 team (KB Fergusson, Callum Bourke, Lachlan Mills, Brent Rees, Jarrod Bourke) finishing second overall and the second TAS Team (Sam Finlayson, Hamish Moore, Hamish Cannington, Joshua Jones) fourth overall. It was wonderful to see so many students enjoying the experience, and their enthusiasm reflected the popularity of this event.

Boys swell ocean swim

The largest TAS team for many years headed down the range in March for the annual 2km Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim.

Some boys were competing as a requirement of the school’s Surf Lifesaving program, others for Triathlon, but all were aiming for their Triple Crown award, for those who complete the swim, the City to Surf footrace in Sydney and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic during their time at TAS.

Harry Wright was in the leaders bunch from the start, and powered the last 300m to finish in 17th place overall. He was closely followed by Jack Parker, Brent Rees and Saxon Hughes, all boys finishing within the top 50 outright. Harry’s younger brother Sam had an outstanding swim to finish 59th overall and first in the 13-15 years age group.

It was also a family affair; Liam Donaldson just managed to hold off his mother Jenny, whilst Rowan Rodgers was able to reverse the order and beat son George home. Oliver Broun and his father Steven (TAS 78-81) completed their Triple Crown together, having already finished the City to Surf and the Hawkesbury Paddle, as too did Angus Roxburgh-Batt who may have been last out of the water but finished with a standing ovation from the crowd in attendance.

**The team before hitting the water, or one of everyone swimming**
Sustainability is the key

Sustainability was the theme of the first Activities Day of the year in Junior School. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to work together to increase their understanding of many of the concepts relating to making the environment healthier and what they can do to help.

Working across age groups in their Houses in rotation provided a great vehicle for mentoring and exchanging ideas and this was clearly evident throughout the day.

The day concluded with a short contribution to the Clean Up Australia campaign again reinforcing our commitment to making this world a better place to live.

A pool of talent

Some outstanding efforts in the pool propelled swimmers from Transition to Year 5 to great achievements at the Junior School Swimming Championships and for some, ultimately the Combined Independent Schools titles.

There was some wonderful cheering and great enthusiasm as our students supported each other in the water; Ross House won the day.

Twenty students qualified for the PSSA Carnival, 14 of whom progressed to the North Coast Independent Schools championships and from there, five swimmers competed at the CIS Primary Swimming and Diving championships at the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre. Ruby Straker swam well in her first appearance at this meet, Joseph Anderson qualified for the third year, and Sam Ball and Abbott White swam personal best times in a 50m pool. Special congratulations to Tom Ball for making the final of the under 9s Freestyle.

House Leaders

Junior School’s elected House Leaders have settled into their roles admirably. As the year progresses, each House leader will be encouraged through this structure and the SRC to propose ideas for discussion and begin to learn about the nature of contributing to their community.

The House leaders have attended a Leadership Forum in Armidale and this was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn more about the challenges of leadership, both within their school community and beyond.
Records set at championships

The Junior School Athletics Championships was a day of enthusiastic participation — and two new records.

Emily Buntine set a new benchmark for the 800m Intermediate Girl in a time of 3.20.21, shaving more than four seconds off the 3.24.90 set by Daisy Meehan in 2011. A second record set in that same year also fell; Tom Costello’s 19.03m for the Intermediate discus was bettered by a 20.04m by Harrison Price.

The highest point scores were achieved by Scarlett Buntine (girls) and Iles Baker (boys); the champion House was Broughton.

Practical Science Studies

Year 3 visited Thalgarrah Educational Centre last month as part of their investigative unit in Science, called Sharing the Planet.

Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School

Back in 1997 a group of students from a Japanese primary school visited TAS – and so began an exchange program that continued late last year when nine TAS students from Junior School and Year 6 learnt about Japanese hospitality first hand.

With around 700 students, Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School (TEZ) is much larger than Junior School, its size only heightening the differences between the two cultures.

While at TEZ the students took part in maths, music, origami and sports lessons, including Judo.

“Two things that I thought were special during my excursion was a ride on the bullet train and visiting the golden temple. My favourite thing was touching the lions at Osaka Zoo,” Isaac Gerdes said.

Ben Rowe recounted family life: “I stayed with the Kiriyama Family, who had three children. My bedroom was very small and my bed consisted of 12 square milk crates, a mattress, a couple of sheets and a dooner. On the way to school I had to catch the train which stopped at three different stations before I got to school. My favourite class was calligraphy (a Japanese writing style) because it was an amazing and delicate form of writing.

“At Kyoto we went to the majestic golden temple and came across a lot of wishing shrines… we went to a samurai film set which was really wacky. In the morning we went to a bamboo forest that was really spectacular; the bamboo stood about 10 metres high…”

TAS looks forward to hosting the next delegation from TEZ in August this year, and trust that Junior School families will again offer to billet students — a wonderful opportunity to engage with some wonderful children from another country and an excellent way to reciprocate the generosity we continually experience when we travel to Japan.

(Above right) Ready to board the bullet train were (left row, front to back) Ben Rowe, Hugo Catterall, Cassidy Williams, Lochlan Nicoll, (middle row) Isaac Gerdes, Archie Chick, Dominic Ferguson, (right row) Joseph Anderson, Harry Williams
Congratulations

In this year’s Australia Day Honours List, David Williams (54-57) was named as a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for service to the Singleton community. A life member of the Northern Agricultural Association (NAA) of which he joined in 1965 and was president twice, David has also supported a long list of other local organisations since his arrival in Singleton in the late 1950s, including Hedben Rural Fire Service, Singleton Chamber of Commerce, Singleton Rugby Club, the Anglican Parish of Singleton, Rotary Club of Singleton as well as serving as a councillor on the Singleton Council in the mid-1980s. In an article in the Singleton Argus, David cited TAS Headmaster Gordon Fisher and his father, a former rector at All Saints Anglican Church Singleton, for inspiring a sense of service.

Speaking of awards, Professor Edward ‘Snow’ Barlow (58-62) was given the top ‘gong’ in writer Jeni Port’s Sydney Morning Herald 2015 Wine Honours List, published the day after Australia Day to acknowledge those who have contributed in a significant way to the Australian wine industry. Snow was bestowed with the mock title Companion of the Order of Australian Wine, for services to the climate change and wine debate. “He might raise an eyebrow but never his voice… never too busy to talk and never too shy to stand up when something needs to be said. Professor Snow Barlow – plant physiologist, agricultural scientist, Melbourne University lecturer (retired), winemaker – has spent decades gathering and dispersing information about the effect of climate change on Australian vineyards. He is the first – and last – word on the subject.” We propose a toast to you Snow – Cheers!

Australian historian Alan Atkinson (58-63) was, in late January, awarded the $100,000 Victorian Prize for Literature for his third volume of The Europeans in Australia. The award is Australia’s most valuable single literary award. Twenty years in the making, the final installment of the trilogy covers the period from the 1870s to the aftermath of the First World War. He told The Age newspaper he started work on the project more than 20 years ago, never thinking it would take so long. The judges said the “magisterial” third volume was “destined to be a landmark work in Australian historiography, as significant in its way as Manning Clark’s A History of Australia.”

Rev Chris Brennan (82-87) was officially installed as Vicar of Armidale and Dean of the Cathedral Church of St Peter on 2 March. The cathedral was filled to capacity for the happy occasion, with dozens of members of the broader TAS family present. Among those with formal roles in welcoming Chris were Cameron Moore (83-88), Dean’s Warden of St Mary’s West Armidale, and Cr Rob Richardson (69-74) representing Armidale Dumaresq Council. Chris had previously been Vicar of Holy Trinity in Glen Innes. Chris and his wife Samantha (ex PLC) have moved into the historic Deanery, also home to their eldest son Patrick (TAS, Year 7), daughter Natalie (PLC) and Andrew (Armidale City Public School).

Ian Croft (93-98) and his wife Del, of Taroom, Qld, welcomed into the world Owen Tomas Croft on 17 January. Ian is a vet in Taroom, enjoying country practice. Thanks to his mother Janet for passing on the happy news. Best wishes to Sam Treloar (95-00) and his wife Alison (nee Laing, ex PLC) on the birth of twins Thomas and Georgina on 28 November, 2014. Arriving five weeks early, they are doing very well and keeping their parents on their toes, according to proud grandmother Janet. Sam and Alison, who were married in the TAS chapel in 2010, returned to Tamworth three years ago. Sam leads the finance team at Joblink Plus, a not-for-profit employment services business operating throughout north-west NSW and the Hunter.

Lovely to hear news of the wedding of Ben Eveleigh (98-03) to Megan Lee Norris on 13 December 2014. The wedding ceremony was held at Megan’s old school Loreto Kirribilli, followed by a reception at Café Sydney, on the roof of Customs House. Ben’s parents Chris and Maria Eveleigh continue to be busy at ‘Dandloo’ Kentucky, growing hardy trees for farms, while older brother Peter (95-00) is a proud father of two.

Obituaries

The School extends its sympathies to the relatives and friends of the deceased. Longer versions of these obituaries can be found on the TAS OBU website www.tasobu.com.au

Dr Stephen Richardson (32-40) passed away in Tamworth on 26 February, aged 92 years. At TAS he led the TAS shooting team to GPS victory and captained the First XV, just as he did at St Andrews College at the University of Sydney, where he studied medicine, graduating in 1946. Disappointed at being deemed medically unfit to go to war, he nevertheless joined the University Regiment as a gunner. On completing his obstetrics training in 1948, he was approached to join a practice in Tamworth where he would continue working for more than three decades. Life as a country GP was varied, including treating diseases, ailments and performing surgery. With his training in obstetrics, he went on to deliver hundreds of babies – including, at 68, a child whose mother and grandmother he had also delivered. He was an active Rotarian and Freemason, and at the time of his death was one of the longest serving Freemasons in New England. Our thoughts are with his widow Margaret (whom he met at university whilst she was studying physiotherapist) and children Roderick (61-65), Rosemary, Andrew (64-67) and Diana.
Peter Croft (44-50) advised us of the death of George Clift (44-46) on 10 February from oesophageal cancer, after only five days in hospital and relative minor suffering. His wife Margaret (also known as Tommy) said just a week before his death he was out in the paddocks in his Toyota with his dog Jed doing what he had done all his life, caring for the land he loved so dearly, the stock, the crops and everything connected with farming and country life. “George had the greatest respect for his Headmaster Mr Gordon Fisher, who used to say something along the lines of ‘I may not be able to make you all good scholars but I will turn you out to be gentlemen’.

For the last 10 years George had been one of the guiding forces behind a tremendous resistance against plans by mining companies BHP Billiton and Shenhua (owned by the Chinese government) underground and open cut vast areas of the Liverpool Plains. “This resistance was best reflected by a blockade against BHP near Caroona which was maned by the community and ended successfully after 613 days,” Margaret wrote. George also loved fishing and enjoyed spending time on his beautiful 34’ Riviera cruiser. Our condolences to Margaret and their extended family.

Theo Hill (43-50) died in December after a protracted illness. Thanks to John Short (44-50) for passing on the sad news; we hope to have a tribute to Theo in the next edition.

We were very saddened to hear of the death, on 31 December, of Ian Michael Seale (38-43), after a long illness. During his time at TAS Ian was Captain (Dux) of the School in 1942 and 1943, Abbott House Captain in 1942 and Senior Prefect in his final year. Within months of leaving TAS he had enlisted, and at the age of 19 was accepted into the Commandos and served in New Guinea. “This resistance was best reflected by a blockade against BHP near Caroona which was maned by the community and ended successfully after 613 days,” Margaret wrote. George also loved fishing and enjoyed spending time on his beautiful 34’ Riviera cruiser. Our condolences to Margaret and their extended family.

We were saddened to hear from Namon (Harry) Mawson (67-72) of Lae, Papua New Guinea, of the sudden death of Neil Stewart (71-72) on 2 March. Neil was getting ready to go to work when he had fall at his home and died. Neil worked for NKW Logistics supporting the Morobe Mining JV in the Wau/Bulolo gold fields. A funeral service was held on 5 March at All Souls Anglican Church. Neil’s sons James and Dave accompanied his body from Lae to Cairns, where his wife and children live. Our condolences to the family.

We were saddened to hear from Alan Hall Smith (42-44) for passing on the news. Ian Braund (43-48) emailed to advise of the death of Dr Thompson (Tom) Leckie (43-48) at Bathurst on 17 January, after a long battle with prostate cancer. Born in Ingham Far North Queensland, the threat of bombing by the Japanese in 1941 led to Tom and his two older sisters being sent to Armidale to complete their schooling. In those days it was a three-day train trip from Ingham to Armidale. Whilst attending Martins Gully, Tom lived at Saumarez station, where a lifelong friend of his mother lived with the Misses Mary and Elizabeth White. At TAS Tom was Senior Prefect and Tyrell House captain in 1948, was a member of the First XV and shooting teams and a cadet leader. After school Tom completed first year Medicine at UNE before moving to Sydney University and St Paul’s College where he spent the next five years.

After three years in practice he changed from gynecology to ophthalmics and started with a one-year residency at St Vincents followed by some training in the UK. On his return to Australia he worked in several practices at Maitland, Tamworth and Wollongong before settling at Bathurst, where he served the community for 35 years, being involved in many organisations including Scouts and the school council of All Saints College. Following the diagnosis of prostate cancer he became aware of the lack of information and community awareness of the disease, and with several others established a prostate awareness and support group in Bathurst that soon spread statewide. Our condolences to his wife Beverley, three sons and a daughter, and 10 grand children.

Here and There
We’d love to hear what some of our Old Boys from the 1940s are up to. Drop us a line about your family, travels or interests, to binghi@as.edu.au or to Binghi, c/ The Armidale School, Locked Bag 3003 Armidale 2350.

1950s
Nice to hear from Don McDonagh (46-51), who said he is piecing life back together after his house burnt down in August last year. While recently contemplating his time at TAS, Don was wondering if anyone knew what came of Henry Hoe (46), who was aged 17 when in Don’s year in Remove (the equivalent of First Form). “Henry, who was a Filipino I think, was years older than us, and rumour was he was a highly decorated child resistance fighter against the Japanese during World War Two,” Don said. “He was very modest and never skited about his experiences, but when he did open up, he had us just enthralled with his stories.” Don wondered if Henry came to TAS at the instigation of either staff members and ex-servicemen Brian Mattingley or Des Harrison, or indeed the Church?

We’d love to know more.

Bob Wilson (54-57) known at TAS as Robert, Bob or by his nickname Audrey – came across a photo of Rick Gough (54-58) and Stephen Booth (54-58) leaning out of what Bob thinks was the sick bay window. The photo was most probably taken in 1955 or 56. “I haven’t seen Rick for around 15 years when he was in real estate in Dubbo. I keep in touch with Stephen by email and can report that while he has had some serious health issues is coping OK, playing the occasional game of golf, and has retired at Meringandan (near Toowoomba).” Bob says he is enjoying retirement at Merewether and playing plenty of lawn bowls and golf.” I also keep in touch with Peter McGlynn (54-57) who was my Best
Man in 1966. Peter has also had some serious health issues but is all clear, and retired and living at Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast.” The photo, along with others he sent, will be added to the TAS Archives.

More photos of the school were sent by Bruce Moffatt (51-58). As well as a few of the front of the school when it was covered in wisteria (but not blooming), is a shot of Graham Willis (49-58), Ian Kiernan (52-58) and Graeme Hartigan (54-59) munching on some tomatoes growing in an ag plot on the southern side of Brown St. We wonder how many actually made it to the kitchen?

1970s
Two years ago Paddy Dwyer (64-70) and his wife quit their jobs, travelled the Caribbean, bought a yacht and sailed it back to Sydney, where they operate a yacht charter business, OzCat. Paddy writes that along with driving many of the biggest charter boats, a 12 hour day is quite the norm. “When I have time off driving my own or a few other boats I teach people scuba diving and underwater photography. Then if I really have any time off we have our portable home to travel around in! So it’s definitely no retirement, although many of my guests say I have the best job in the world – sailing on Sydney Harbour and getting paid for it.”

Peter Sanders (66-73, Staff 90-98) has moved to Mitchell’s Island, the largest of several islands at the mouth of the Manning River near Taree.

1980s
Great to hear from Les Witts (78-84), who combines contract farming in the Burren Junction and Rowena districts, with ownership of Country Style Lawnmowing in Port Macquarie. Les and his wife Fiona (daughter of ex-Australian cricketer Peter Philpott) have two daughters Eliza (18) and Monique (16), both talented hockey players. “I still play cricket and rugby when I get a chance, and enjoy a few beers with fellow Old Boys,” Les writes.

1990s
After beginning his teaching career in 2009, Nick Aggs (86-91) was the following year employed by the Shanghai United International School, where he is now the Director of Performing Arts and Head of Pastoral. Nick loves the hustle and bustle of Shanghai and lives in the former French Concession with his wife Toni. Back in 1997 he and his brother Anthony (89-91) formed jazz fusion band Afro Dizzi Act, releasing a handful of critically acclaimed albums, touring internationally (including being the first western band to tour North East India) and nationally, and was voted JJJ top 10 World Music albums for 2008.

James Brown (92-95), now a London-based film producer, has had a stellar year, with actress Julianne Moore winning the Best Actress Academy Award for her role in the critically-acclaimed film Still Alice. The film tells the story of a middle-aged linguistics professor who receives the shock diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimers disease. James, with producing partner Lex Lutzus, bought the rights to the novel after his sister Caroline gave him the book to read in 2011, telling him she thought it would make a great movie. In her acceptance speech Julianne Moore acknowledged the vision and passion of James, who was in the audience to hear it.

2000s
Haldane Begg (97-07) has completed his degree in Medicine and has been accepted by St Vincent’s Hospital for his first internship. Meanwhile brother Angus (98-11) has completed a degree in Science (Electrical Engineering) at Melbourne University and has been accepted for post graduate honours. Thanks to their mother Sandra for this information.

James Bondfield (96-02) has moved from Bondi Junction to Lennox Head, where he works as a helicopter pilot. In the same day’s mail was a note from his former Warwick primary school and TAS classmate Tom Jubb (01-02), now a project engineer for Scentre Group Construction in Newcastle. Tom and his team managed the redevelopment of several shopping centres and other Westfield assets. Prior to that he had been with John Holland Constructions since graduating in Construction Management from Newcastle University in 2008. “I actually have Ben Perkins (96-02) to thank; he graduated in the same degree a year prior to me (I took a year off after school) and managed to get me an interview with the right person. Sometimes that’s all you need to be on your way.” Tom and his wife Jacqui have a daughter Annabelle, born in 2013. As to James Bondfield: “He’ll have to ditch his RM Williams for board wax and surfboard, living up there!!”

Lewis Crothers (03-08) has been posted to Townsend with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment which has moved from Darwin to help modernise the Army and move towards the plan to create three like combat Brigades, each with an Armoured Cavalry Regiment. Lewis writes: “It’s an exciting time in the Army at the moment – there’s lots of change happening and some great capabilities coming online.”

2010s
Joss Guyer (06-12) dropped us a line from his native England to advise he is now studying Outdoor Education at the University of Cumbria, and has developed a passion for mountaineering. “I have been in a documentary about the first ascent of the Matterhorn, which should be airing on BBC 2 shortly! During the 2014 summer I worked at a Swiss summer school as an activity leader and also a successful summit of Mont Blanc, amongst others.” Joss is using his attempt at the Matterhorn this September to raise £1,000 for the mental health charity Student Minds; visit https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jossguyer1.
John Myrtle (55-62) was most interested to read Ross Fulloon's (54-59) communication in Binghi 166 concerning the fate of his under 17 mile record—“This has set me wondering about the fate of other old records. Old Boys of my generation will recall Ross Lane’s outstanding performance at the GPS carnival of 1962, winning the Open Mile in 4:22. This has set me wondering whether (when converted) this is the TAS open 1500m record or whether someone in the intervening 52 years has run faster? My calculation is the equivalent for the 1500m of a 4:22 mile time would be 4:04.2.”

John adds that in his final year at TAS, the new headmaster Alan Cash – himself a talented athlete – was determined that the quality of the TAS GPS Athletics team improved.

“The squad that we took to Sydney in 1962 for the GPS carnival was quite outstanding. Ross Lane won the open mile in near-record time and came second in the 880. Richard How was second in the 220; third in the 100 and was second in the broad jump. The senior relay was third – a rare occurrence for a TAS team. Overall we came sixth out of the nine GPS schools, in the senior team competition.”

Well John, indeed the current record for the Open 1500m is still Ross’ converted mile, and you are spot on with your calculation: 4min 4.2 seconds. While the Open Mile was officially retired in accordance with GPS and the International Amateur Athletics Federation guidelines, the converted time for the 1500m still stands as clearly no-one has run a 1500m faster.—Ed

Apologies to John for overlooking this in the last Binghi.

Old Boys’ Weekend – 14-16 August

The OBU welcomes all Old Boys of any vintage, and their partners, to this year’s Old Boys’ Weekend. A feature of the weekend will be several reunions; if your cohort year at TAS ends in a 5, then there’s sure to be one for you! A list of reunion organisers is below, along with a draft program (please note, subject to change). For more details about sports organisers, events and bookings, visit www.tasobu.com.au

**Friday, 14 August**

- OBU Golf Day at the Armidale Golf Club — 12 midday lunch; tee-off 1.30. $40pp (tbc)
- 5.00pm TAS vs Old Boys Debate — Hoskins Theatre
- 6.00pm Official opening of OBU Weekend — Hoskins Centre Drinks ‘n nibbles, all welcome

**Saturday 15 August**

- 8.30am-12.00pm Various sporting events, OBU vs TAS in Shooting, Tennis, Chess, Hockey, Football (Soccer), Touch Football, please visit website for more information.
- 9.00am 20 Year reunion breakfast — TAS Dining Room  (cost $20)
- 11.00am NE Branch of Bell Tower Society; Morning Tea Lower Maxwell (cost $30)
- 11.30am Tours of the School depart from the McConville Centre
- 2.00pm Rugby — TAS 1st XV v St Joseph’s 3rd XV
- 2.00-5.00pm Hoskins Bar open for drinks
- 3.30pm Tug-o-War — Presentation of Croft Cup on Backfield
- 6.00pm Pre Dinner Drinks in Big School for 20 year reunion group and above
- 7.30pm TAS OBU Official Dinner in the TAS Dining Hall including reunions of 40, 50, 60+ year groups. Old Boys from other year groups and partners are most welcome. Cost tbc

**Sunday, 16 August**

- 9.30am OBU Chapel Service — TAS Chapel — Guest Preacher Very Rev Chris Brennan (82-87)
- 10.30am Morning Tea — Chapel lawn
- 11.30am TAS OBU AGM, Venue — Lower Maxwell Room
- TAS will be playing St Joseph’s College in rugby across all ages on Saturday 15 August.
- To book OBU events contact Mrs Donna Jackson on (02) 6776 5800 or visit our website www.as.edu.au

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**GPSOBU Golf Day**

Attention all Sydney golfers — the GPS OBU Golf Day will be held on Thursday 20 August at Manly Golf Club. Tee off: 8am; lunch to follow. For more details and bookings, contact John Steuart (johnsteu@bigpond.net.au) or 0422 860 606.

**Sydney Long Lunch**

By popular demand the Sydney Branch is planning another Long Lunch — on Friday 21 August. This is the day after the GPS OBU Golf Day and the day before the rugby fixtures v Sydney Grammar, in Sydney. Entertainment, guest speaker, luncheon, drinks. For more details contact Paddy Flower pflower@bigpond.net.au

**50 Year Reunion**

John Steuart
M: 0422 860 606
johnsteu@bigpond.net.au

Robert Mackenzie
M: 0427 791 514
rimackenzie47@gmail.com

**40 Year Reunion**

Pat Bradley
M: 0408 662 542
pbradley@as.edu.au

**30 Year Reunion**

Andrew McConville
andrew.mcconville@syngenta.com

Jock Hudson
P: 07 3395 6994
lara.jock@bigpond.com

**20 Year Reunion**

Angus Wylie
M: 0447 654 576
P: (h) 07 3848 2316

*Angus has set up a closed facebook group called ‘TAS 1995 20 year reunion’

**10 Year Reunion**

Andrew Coulton
M: 0407 657 881
a_coulton@hotmail.com

**5 Year Reunion**

TBA