Cross Country

I offer congratulations to all 11 members of the TAS cross country team that competed in the North Coast Independent Schools Championships in Ballina last week. As you will read in the report from Master in Charge Jim Pennington in this edition of TAS Talks, all our runners finished with top 10 places in big fields of athletes and eight have qualified to represent NCIS at the Combined Independent Schools Championships in Sydney next month. This is an exceptional result for the School and deserves our acclamation.

Debating Begins

Assembly this week was replaced by the inaugural Day Boys v Boarders debate to launch the 2015 debating season. This is a new tradition that we plan to continue as the opening event for debating each year and it was very well received. Each house was represented by a nominated champion to argue the topic ‘that boarders are more successful than day boys’, with the Day Houses, of course, arguing the affirmative. The audience of over 450 students was a highly partisan one, but with all speakers being well prepared, lucid and entertaining I think that all went away happy with the show. After arguments that included a description of boarders as ‘the pinnacle of humanity’, quotes from Plato, reference to ‘quality time with Mr Jones’ and an appropriate amount of sledging, the debate was awarded to the Day Houses.

The season continues today with TAS hosting the second round of the Middle School Tri-Schools Shield and I wish all the participants well in their arguments.

Rugby Season Kicks Off

The 2015 rugby season began in earnest last weekend as teams from TAS and Kinross Wolaroi School travelled to the half way point between our schools, Coonabarabran, for what has become a much anticipated annual fixture. Beginning the season with a full set of matches against a school that shares the same values of sportsmanship and healthy competitive spirit that we hold in high regard was important and the day lived up to expectations. I offer congratulations to our opponents on taking home the newly established Coonabarabran Cup for the First XV game and wish them well for the season ahead.

Armidale Eisteddfod

Choirs Night, held last night at UNE’s Lazenby Hall, is the first of the feature events in the month long marathon that is the Armidale Eisteddfod and TAS was well represented with both TAS Singers and the Chapel Choir taking part. Through the course of his adjudications last night, the high profile choral composer Gordon Hamilton made sure that he emphasised the exceptional quality of choral music he was hearing and what a special place Armidale is for music. This was no surprise to anyone in the audience, but it did give cause for reflection on how fortunate our young musicians are to be in such an environment.

While our Chapel Choir participated in the non-competitive Community Choirs section, TAS Singers competed for the Open New England Choral Championship and were successful in sharing first place with the very talented New England Singers from NECOM. TAS Singers’ rendition of the very funny Thoroughly Modern Men, complete with an impressive choreography, was something quite special and may well have been the audience favourite on the night. I hope that the School will be able to see it in assembly in the near future.

In congratulating the TAS Singers I also offer special congratulations to our Director of Music, Leanne Roobol, who conducted the New England Singers as well.
## Calendar of Events, Term 2

### Week 5
- **19 May-14 June**: Armidale Eisteddfod
- **Wednesday 20 May**: Tri-Schools Debating - Middle School
- **Thursday 21 May**: Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews 6.15pm Year 11 Parent Info Session
- **Friday 22 May**: 11.45am Year 11 Parent Info Session Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews Board Meeting 5.30pm Foundation Board Meeting
- **Saturday 23 May**: 10.00am TAS Company Members AGM
- **23-24 May**: Rugby Trial v Riverview in Sydney (1sts/2nds/16As) Warwick Prize Shoot Country Rugby Championships in Armidale (U12, 13, 14)

### Week 6
- **19 May-14 June**: Armidale Eisteddfod
- **25-29 May**: Years 6, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams
d - **27 - 28 May**: da Vinci Decathlon at Knox, Sydney
- **27-29 May**: Sydney Careers Expo Year 12
- **29 May - 2 June**: Coonabarabran Horse Expo
- **Friday 29 May**: TAS v Farrer (at Farrer) - Dick Hodgson Shield NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Goondiwindi)

### Week 7
- **19 May-14 June**: Armidale Eisteddfod
- **1- 4 June**: Years 7 and 9 Half Yearly exams
- **Thursday 4 June**: Classes conclude
- **Friday 5 June**: Staff PD Day
- **6-8 June**: Queens Birthday Holiday (boarding houses closed)

### Week 8
- **Monday 8 June**: Boarders’ charter coaches return pm
- **9 - 11 June**: Inter-House Debating - Years 6-12 (Hoskins Centre)
- **10-13 June**: ‘Treasure Island’ performances
- **Thursday 11 June**: Year 7, 11 and 12 Vaccinations
- **Friday 12 June**: NSW Boarding Schools Expo (Newcastle)
- **12/13 June**: TAS vs Sydney High School at TAS (various sports)
- **Sunday 14 June**: Eisteddfod Gala Concert

### Week 9
- **Wednesday 17 June**: Activities Day No. 4 NAIIDOC Dinner
- **Thursday 18 June**: Confirmation Service NAIIDOC Assembly Classes conclude for holidays
- **Friday 19 June**: Staff PD Day

### June/July Holiday Activities
- **27 Jun - 5 July**: Forensic Science Camp (TAS)
- **30 Jun - 9 July**: New Zealand Rugby Development Tour
- **5-13 July**: GPS Shooting Camp (Sydney)

## Senior Casual Boarding

Currently our Senior Boarding Houses are extremely full and therefore space is limited.

If you require Casual Boarding, please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate in the Senior Boarding Houses.

You will be advised by email from Mrs Veronica Lucas in Reception when your request has been approved.
Student Absence

Attendance is recorded each period of every school day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sport and activities days unless your child:

• has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
• is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
• is sick, or has an infectious illness.

Daily Absence

If your child is to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please advise the appropriate Administration Assistant, explaining the reason for absence by phone, email, or written note before 10.00 am that day. In addition a written note confirming the circumstances of the absence is required within 7 days.

Sickness in excess of 4 school days requires a doctor’s certificate detailing the nature of sickness and duration of sickness.

Late Arrival and Early Leave

If your child arrives late or is to leave early they must report to the appropriate Administration Assistant and register their arrival or departure. A late slip will be issued to the student to take to their teacher.

Parents/caregivers who know in advance if their child is to be absent during term time need to apply for leave by completing either an:

1. Application for Exemption from Attendance at School
   (other leave)

   OR

2. Application for Extended Leave – Travel/Holiday (travel leave greater than 5 days)

If the leave is granted, an appropriate Certificate of Exemption will be issued.

Contacts for Absentees

Junior School  Mrs Alison Evans
E: junior@as.edu.au
or 6776 5817

Middle School  Mrs Susi Redhead
E: middle@as.edu.au
or 6776 5819

Senior School  Mrs Veronica Lucas
E: absentees@as.edu.au
or 6776 5800

PLEASE NOTE: Parents/Carers are NOT to send notice of absences to teaching staff or Advisors – this advice must go to one of the contacts above.
Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

According to the Sydney Writers’ Festival, “it’s thinking season” - never a bad idea. It is with that in mind that Sydney-siders have had the words of one of the featured writers forming the backdrop of their world as a 70m billboard erected in the Pitt Street Mall, Australia’s busiest shopping strip, with the words:

‘How to stop time: kiss.

How to travel in time: read.

How to escape time: music.

How to feel time: write.

How to release time: breathe.’

As the Herald columnist puts it, “The 26 words of wisdom, born from mental illness, began life as a tweet and found their way to the closing pages of Haig’s memoir about depression. (Matt Haig author of ‘Reasons To Stay Alive’). This writing would easily find itself as described as ‘life wisdom’. In the reading from the Old Testament Wisdom literature we see another great piece of advice for our mental, and subsequently our Spiritual well being. It too concerns itself with time; on first reading it may seem to be advocating some things that we find distasteful, such as war. On the contrary, it is suggesting that whatever time we find ourselves in, we need to be able to be in that moment. We need to live in the moment as much as we can. In other words, there comes great anxiety, when we try to force ourselves to be in a different moment to what the present moment presents. Such as the sadness that comes with loss, it’s not always a good idea to just cheer up, rather, to acknowledge the moment you are in, and be there, maybe provide the greatest comfort.

We must read this part of scripture, as with all scripture with the broadest degree of context available to us. In this case, reading an ancient Old Testament text in the light of a post Jesus world may help us to know which moment we are in theologially. The moment is of course between Jesus coming as the man from Galilee, living, dying and rising again; and his subsequent return to restore all things.

So how do we read the time we are in, whether welcomed or difficult? We take the advice of Ecclesiastes and resolve to be in the moment; and we listen to the promise of God, that he will restore everything to his purposes, and we hold on to certain hope, made sure by the resurrection of Jesus.
Term 2 Wednesday 6 May

Thank you to all who attended the recent meeting of the TAS P&F to determine just how funds raised are to be distributed this year. It is without question that the hard work put in by parents, friends, staff and students is well appreciated by the various beneficiaries of the funds raised. This year we distributed approximately $48,000 across the school and I would like to again thank all the bakers, shoppers, sales people and general hard workers who made this possible.

Your P&F is proud to be able to support the school in the following ways this year:

- Hockey Goals
- New rubbish bins for the Quad
- Refurbishment of donated mountain bike trailer (including a donation to Westpac Helicopter)
- Helmets for Canoe Polo
- One new and two second hand C1 Kayaks
- Extension (concreting of floor) of Kayaking and Rowing shed at Malpas Dam
- Laser cutter for Trade Training Centre - 50% share
- And contributions to the cost of school excursions for Year 8 and Year 10

And at this meeting it was also discussed whether or not to increase the number of meetings to two per term, just to provide additional opportunities for planning. It was decided to trial this option, and it was further considered that we should mix it up a little to provide a chance for those of you who are not in Armidale to attend – so one meeting on a Wednesday night and another will be on a Saturday afternoon (TBC). At this stage it is looking like the next meeting will be held on Saturday 12 June, but this will be confirmed in next week’s TAS Talks.

Fate of the fete….

Last Saturday Rachael Nicoll chaired a meeting to discuss the fate of our fete as many feel that it is time to rev it up a little and provide something new and exciting. While there were not too many in attendance, it was certainly encouraging to hear of the enthusiasm for a new project, and also to have in attendance parents from further afield.

Thank you to those that did make time to be a part of this process and for your ideas. I won’t share them here just yet, as they are still in their infancy, but stay tuned!
Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews

A reminder that Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held this week - Thursday 21 May 3.30pm — 6pm and Friday 22 May 1.30pm - 5.30pm.

If you have not yet booked times for your child you should do so as soon as possible. If you lost your username and password please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien.

Two Parent Information sessions will also be held on Thursday 21 May beginning at 6.15pm and a repeat session on Friday 22 May beginning at 11.45m. Both these sessions will be held in Big School. Students may attend one of these sessions with their parents if they wish, but students will have an opportunity to hear this information at later date with the whole year group.

If you have any questions regarding parent teacher interviews please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien - 6776 5806 or email vobrien@as.edu.au

CAREERS

Sydney Careers Expo

Due to travel and accommodation issues the school has had to downsize the planned excursion to the Sydney Careers Expo.

It will now be a voluntary excursion on a first come first serve basis with priority given to Year 12 as the HSC seminars and information gathering, on the day, are more suited to their particular needs at this stage of the year. Year 11 will given the same opportunity to attend the Expo at this time of the year in 2016.

Students will be able to put their names down on the list outside the PDHPE office or email me on mtaylor@as.edu.au. The list should be finalised by the end of this week.

For more details of the Tertiary Institutions in attendance as well as the industry based representatives and HSC seminars please see the post on the Careers page of the school websites.

Mr Mark Taylor
Careers Advisor

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Gardens

Saturday 23 May is the Grand Opening of the Community Gardens at Doody Park (East of Doody Park playing fields, TAS Trade Training Centre) will take place. Volunteers are invited to assist with helping the organisers set up tents, chairs, tables from 9am until 11am and then again helping to pack up from 4.30pm until 5.30pm. You may assist in both activities or just one. If you would like to assist please email Ms Boydell on cboydell@as.edu.au

Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal

Sunday May 31 is the Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal. It would entail being available from 9am until midday on Sunday. You will be paired with another TAS student, who you will work with collecting money. A volunteer driver will take you to a specific area of Armidale. If any parents are available to act as drivers, the Salvation Army would be very glad to have you volunteer. This is about 3-4 hours of Community Service. If you would like to volunteer for this event please email Ms Boydell on cboydell@as.edu.au
**Honour before Honours**

In last week’s Assembly, the School recognised the significant achievements of boys over the course of the summer sporting season. This prompts the question “What does a sportsman have to achieve in order to receive Colours or Honours?”

The first criterion for eligibility is attitude (to the sport and School). Any candidate for Colours must have brought credit to the School and shown himself worthy of representation. The second criterion for eligibility is ability.

Colours are recognised at various levels:

- Silver Colours are awarded for School representation in a Firsts team.
- Gold Colours are awarded for exceptional performances in a first team that are clearly recognised beyond the School.
- An Honours Award may be awarded in singular circumstances for a nationally recognised and exceptional achievement.

It is appropriate that we recognise significant achievements so that others may aspire to accomplish great things. However, Honours should not be the driving force. The strongest motivation comes from within; fulfilling your own goals; conquering your own mountain. What is more, to achieve this with honour; to act with integrity selflessly and honestly.

The individual will view their award as a symbol of their accomplishment. The honour that they feel is dependent not only on what they have achieved but how they achieved it. Whilst not everyone will receive a badge or a medal or a colour on their blazer, it is possible for all to act with honour.

**Trials**

In these early stages of the season the focus is on trialling. The Northern Inland Football draw is almost settled as TAS continues to add more teams due to the unprecedented four teams in our Open division. Our Rugby players were able to develop their patterns of play in their trial against Kinross Wolaroi School at Coonabarabran on Saturday. The First XV, second XV and 16A’s will travel to Sydney this weekend; providing an opportunity for players to be seen by GPS Selectors prior to the announcement of combined teams on 13 June.

Ben Moffatt and Will Brissett are in Sydney today trialling for the NSWCIS Hockey team. Will is sure to approach the trials with confidence after being selected in the U18 NSW Boys Hockey Squad last week.

Congratulations also to the 11 Cross Country runners, who competed at NCIS last Friday, eight of whom have been selected to compete at NSWCIS Championships on 11 June.

**Farrer Fixture**

TAS will travel to Farrer on Friday 29 May to play fixtures in: Basketball, Chess, Clay Target Shooting, Football, Rugby and Tennis. More details will be available next week.
TAS TALKS

NCIS Cross Country Ballina

The TAS Athletics team ventured to Ballina last week in order to contest the NCIS Cross Country Championships. Under clear skies and the perfect distance running temperature, the boys acquitted themselves with aplomb.

KB Fergusson was first away in the 18 years over 6km. He raced with a calm confidence, controlling his pace and crossed the line in second place, cementing his spot for CIS next month. In the 17 years, TAS boasted four outstanding athletes and they did not disappoint. Following the same 6km course, Michael Harris showed the benefit of his National Mountain Biking by coming in second, closely followed by Lewis Taylor third, Angus Webber fourth and Sam Finlayson sixth. A sensational achievement, which clearly highlights the depth of talent held by our Year 11 students.

The 15 years were represented by Sam Marshall and Nick Taylor. Over a testing 4km course, with the largest field on the day, the boys raced hard, with Sam finishing a very solid sixth and Nick tenth. In the 14 years, Hunter Hine sat near the front in the early stages of the race, before splitting the group and racing to a robust second place. The 13 years saw Sam Jones time his run perfectly. Holding himself back at the start, he simply moved through the field after the first kilometre, racing to a sensational second place.

In the 10 years, Jonathon Harris was without peer. He set his pace at the first step, never waivered from that point and finished a clear winner by over 300m. Teammate Jasper Russ displayed a maturity, which belies his years, racing tactically to finish a resounding fifth.

The results really speak for themselves, with all 11 athletes making the top 10 in their age group and eight qualifying for the Combined Independent Schools titles to be held in Sydney next month.

Mr James Pennington

Football

Please see either the ‘Schedules’ in TeamApp or the ‘Fixtures’ section of the TAS Football website (http://wordpress.as.edu.au/football/fixtures/) for this and future week’s draws. Please note, this week is Round 4 for all teams except the U9s and U10s, for which it is Round 3. The draw links from both locations mentioned above should default to the current round for that division.

Please check all draws closely, as there have been some changes.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC Football
Twilight Concert last Thursday

What a fabulous evening of music! Headmaster, Mr Guest was in attendance at the Term 2 Twilight concert last Thursday evening to see TAS soloists and the TAS Singers, TAS Camerata and TAS Guitar Band perform some of their repertoire for the upcoming Eisteddfod. One of the highlights of the evening was listening to Mr Jackson’s string ensemble being accompanied by Mr Dunham on the wonderful new Memorial Hall Organ!

Thank you to all members of the TAS Ensembles that performed. You sounded fantastic and we wish you the best of luck in the Eisteddfod. Thank you also to the following individuals who performed: Ruby Straker, Alex Webber, Wilkie Davison, Clancy Roberts, Owen Chandler, William Nash, Jim Orr, Frank Perrottet, Mike Nyathi, Liam Smith, Sam Thatcher and Music Vice-Captain and Compere - Rob Butcher. We appreciate the hard work and time you spent to prepare your pieces and also your generosity in letting us hear you perform. Many thanks to the Directors of the ensembles - Mr Rob Jackson and Mrs Rachel Butcher, and of course, to our talented Accompanist Mr Dunham.

Armidale Eisteddfod has Commenced!

Yesterday the TAS K-2 and 3-5 Choirs, TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble, TAS Singers and TAS Chapel Choir competed in the Eisteddfod at Lazenby Hall. Well done to Directors of each ensemble and to the students who participated in those groups. Thank you to TAS Junior School staff for assisting with the organisation of our groups in the Eisteddfod. Results from the events will be published in the TASTalks next week.

Eisteddfod Dates and Times for Remaining TAS Ensemble Events

EISTEDDFOD STRINGS

Tuesday June 2 - 1.30pm AFTERNOON session
Old Teachers College (OTC), Auditorium

TAS Minibus will transport students to the OTC - departing TAS at 1pm and returning them to school after the event. Students will need to wear formal uniform on the day.

ST66: Guitar Duet or Group K-6
1. C. Dugdale & E. Boland
2. G. Boys
3. TAS Jnr Guitar Ensemble
4. St Mary’s Pluckers

Wednesday June 3 - 1.30pm AFTERNOON session at OTC
TAS Minibus will transport students to the OTC - departing TAS at 1.30pm and returning them to school after the event.

EN16: Chamber Ensemble (Open)
1. UNE College Flute Ensembles
2. TAS Senior Sax Quartet
3. PLC Recorder Ensemble
4. UNE Colleges String Ensemble
5. Ribatutta

Thursday June 4 - 1.00pm AFTERNOON session at OTC
TAS Minibus will transport students to the OTC - departing TAS at 12.45pm and returning them to school after the event.

ST71: Ensemble on any Bowed Instrument 7-12
1. TAS Camerata
2. O’Connor String Ensemble
3. NECOM Viola Power
4. PLC Snr Cello Choir
5. Flying Scales
EISTEDDFOD BANDS & ENSEMBLES

Tuesday 9 June - 9.30am MORNING session at OTC

TAS Minibus will transport students to the OTC - departing TAS late morning and returning them to school after the event. Students will need to wear formal uniform on the day.

8th Section

EN28: Large Instrumental Group
1. St Mary's Orchestra
2. Armidale City Public School
3. The FanTAStics (TAS Jnr Band)
4. Ben Venue Public School Orchestra

Tuesday 9th June - 6.00pm BAND NIGHT at OTC

TAS Minibus will transport boarder students to the OTC - departing TAS at 5.45pm and returning them to school after the event.

2nd Section

EN22: Band, concert, stage or brass 24 Yrs & Under
1. TAS Big Band
2. Bellingen High School Jazz Band

3rd Section

EN26: Jazz Ensemble 7-12
1. TAS Senior Jazz Combo

5th Section

EN19: Any Instrumental Group OPEN
1. Armidale Youth Orchestra
2. O'Connor Band
3. Armidale Youth Wind Ensemble
4. PLC Baroque Ensemble
5. TAS Big Band

Thursday 11 June - 1.30pm AFTERNOON session at OTC

TAS Minibus will transport students to the OTC - departing TAS at 1.00pm and returning them to school after the event.

2nd Section

EN24: Folk or Popular Ensemble 7-12
1. Flying Scales
2. Duval High School Band 3
3. TAS Year 12 Group
4. Duval High School Band 4

3rd Section

EN26: Jazz Ensemble 7-12
1. TAS Senior Jazz Combo

5th Section

EN27: Jazz Ensemble (Open)
1. TAS Senior Jazz Combo

Busy times ahead!........

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent
For many reasons the Hoskins Centre is an amazing place to work and be involved with. It not only provides TAS students with unique experiences and professional opportunities but allows the same for the wider Armidale community as well. To create theatre and perform in a professional space is a rare opportunity for student and amateur performers alike. The other great reward the venue provides is the opportunity for people to see professional touring productions locally and experience theatre and performers who have been enjoyed in major metropolitan areas. This week I thought I’d give an update on the many shows that are either currently in action or about to visit us to ensure that no member of the TAS community misses out.

First up, Legally Blonde enters its second week of production and has been received with great enthusiasm by audiences. With a stunning cast of performers and a wonderful effort by the production team, the great depth of local talent we enjoy is on show in a very pink way. The Armidale District Musical Society (ADMS) is a valued and significant partner of the Hoskins Centre and it is great to see members of the TAS community involved in many different aspects of this production. If you are thinking about seeing the musical don’t leave it any longer to get a ticket - most shows are just about sold out and it is not a performance you want to miss.

Currently in development is the TAS community production of Treasure Island, a new musical. Among the chaos of everything else happening at the moment students, parents, staff and Old Boys have been busily preparing for the world amateur premiere that opens in a few weeks time. With a host of wonderful songs and powerful theatrical moments (and an amazingly talented cast led by two young stars) it is a TAS event not to be missed. The show runs over just one week, opening Wednesday 10 June, and tickets are now on sale on the Hoskins website so get in quickly.

We are very lucky to have a touring production of Australia Day, a wacky satire by accomplished playwright Jonathan Biggins, visiting the Hoskins Centre in a couple of weeks. There are bound to be a number of recognisable faces in the story that follows the dysfunctional Australia Day Organising Committee as they battle everyone from the Greens to the local mayor to the CWA in their efforts to host a celebration that defines life in their small country town of Coriole. The show has visited such illustrious venues as the Melbourne Arts Centre and the Drama Theatre at the Opera House and so it is with great excitement that it is coming here. With the show on Monday 15 June at 7:30pm it should make for a thoroughly entertaining way to start the last week of term. Again, tickets can be purchased on the Hoskins Centre website.

Another approaching touring highlight is the Gregorian Brothers who are performing on Thursday 18 June. The internationally-acclaimed guitar virtuosos have toured extensively throughout Europe, the United States, Britain, Asia, South Africa and the Middle East. The brothers have also performed with symphony orchestras and at international festivals in Australia and Europe. Very rarely is a regional city able to secure musicians of this calibre and their names should be instantly recognisable in the music community. For students learning any instrument, but particularly guitar, it will a great experience and there will also be the opportunity for a master class with these performers that should be seized as a fantastic learning experience.

And lastly, the mammoth effort that is the Eisteddfod is in full swing with students and staff displaying their musical and dramatic prowess. Students, staff and peripatetic tutors have been working tirelessly in preparation for the annual event and the amazing talent of our young musicians and actors will be on show for all to see. I encourage everyone to look at the schedule come along to show their support for the effort and commitment of so many members of the TAS community.

As you can see, the last month of the term sees the Hoskins Centre buzzing with activity and shows of great variation. For anyone curious about what is going on or after tickets the place to go is the Hoskins website or call the office on 02 6776 5878.
Grigoryan Brothers
This Time
National Tour 2015

“...guitar playing of uncommon originality and authority. Musicality, expressivity and daring...”
- The New York Times

“This Time celebrates the Grigoryan Brothers heroic qualities in harmonious proportion, as they deliver powerful performances of sensuous beauty and soaring vitality.”
Carolyn McDowall
- The Culture Concept

7:30pm Thurs June 18
The Armidale School Hoskins Centre

Bookings:
Online - http://www.trybooking.com/GPKU
Phone - 6776 5878 or in person at the school
Treasure Island
a new musical

The world amateur premier performance

June 10, 11, 12 7:30pm, 13 2:00pm, 7:30pm

Tickets $25, $20 | hoskins.as.edu.au | 6776 5878

Book by Brett Smock & Carla Vitale | Music & Lyrics by Corinne Aquilina
www.TreasureIslandTheMusical.com
The weekend and this week

All boys who travelled to Coonabarabran for rugby against Kinross last Saturday enjoyed themselves and the competition was tough, so in addition to acquitting themselves well, they learnt much. The day was an excellent one in terms of weather, too. Now the boys are back, they have ‘other fish to fry’: for some, this involves preparation for the Tri-Schools Debating; for all it is preparation for the exam period, now only weeks away. I’ve written more about the latter, below.

This round of Tri-Schools Debating will be hosted by TAS and the boys involved are excited about the prospect of pitting their skills against their counterparts from NEGS and PLC. I haven’t actively assisted them because I’m going to adjudicate one of the debates and I’m looking forward to doing this. As a bonus and as a valuable means of preparation all Middle School students witnessed the seniors debating in Tuesday’s Assembly. The topic, ‘That boarders are more successful than day boys’ was an interesting one in relation to the various ‘takes’ our seniors adopted in relation to it. Of course the day boys are the affirmative side and the boarders, the negative.

‘Time stops for’ no one

We’ve reached the half term mark – already. We’ve only four weeks remaining and there’s another, longer break on the horizon. But there’s much to be done before we reach it. As well you know, there’s a battery of exams. You also know that the boys have their Study Schedules. What you need to know is that these things are little more than unappealing adornments, in the first instance, and, ultimately, millstones unless or until they are opened and used! Boarders are easy to help as boarding and teaching staff are in the habit of referring boys to their use on a daily basis. Parents of day students need to be aware that the schedules are out and I ask that you speak to your sons about them and ask also how ‘best’ they are being ‘managed’ over the next few weeks.

In this amazingly (on a good day; frighteningly, on a stressful one) competitive world, we can ill afford a situation where boys ‘run blind’ into an exam room. In a sense, no study renders an exam of little use, not to mention a waste of time. Surely, some of the major functions of an exam result are to indicate to staff and students the effectiveness of a study program as well as (being) a highlighter of areas of ‘difficulty’. Simply, we need to know how students are faring academically: boys should be given the opportunity to know what they need to do in order to fare better in the future. Success does not exclusively refer to a mark or a grade, either – this is product – only. Process, I believe, is as important and, in some situations, it can be seen to be more important. As well as pinpointing areas of expertise, of weakness, of the effectiveness of a study regime, an exam performance gives everyone a reasonably accurate measure of how someone performs under time conditions. Regardless of our line of work, we adults all have time frames to work within and deadlines to meet. A Middle School exam experience is one that allows boys to find out for themselves not only how they are managing their work, but also begins to equip them with the skills necessary to perform as well as they are able to in the future – at times when exam results can expand or limit future tertiary or job prospects.

We need your assistance here. If, in the lead up to the exam week, your sons express concern, feel uncomfortable or make comments on issues that we should be aware of, please let us know. Similarly, as implied by my comments about process, this advice applies to the post exam reactions and experience(s).

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Eisteddfod Performances

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of joining with a good number of our parents and friends to watch our Junior Vocal Ensemble and Junior School Choirs perform at Lazenby Hall at UNE. Knowing that there had been a good deal of preparation, (not necessarily an easy task) I was very impressed with many aspects of the performances. From the level of sophistication of the repertoire to the enthusiastic and smiling faces of our students, it was obvious that this is a worthwhile exercise. What a wonderful experience in all respects! Choral singing is not something that engages all our students all the time but it brings with it a deep level of satisfaction and a sense of belonging. Teamwork, discipline, cooperation and the sense of satisfaction are all worthy pursuits in themselves and today I feel our students showed the benefits of working hard en masse to produce a wonderful result. Our thanks go to Ms Leanne Roobol and Ms Rachel Butcher, for their tireless patience and inspiring leadership in music.

Children are asked to bring a plate to share with their friends, remembering that we are an Allergy Aware School and that NO NUTS should be used in any of the items provided. We would also appreciate a gold coin donation on the day. Our Year 5 leaders will be circulating through the school with collection boxes at this time.

End of Semester reports

At the end of this semester, the School will provide a written report to all parents. This is a summary of the achievements of all students in Terms 1 & 2 in both curricular and co-curricular pursuits providing information that is designed to inform parents of achievements gained this year, and suggest strategies for improvement and further development. Reports will be available from the Junior School Reception on the last day of Term at 3.30 pm. All reports not collected on the day will be mailed out during the holidays.

Australia Biggest Morning Tea – Friday 22 May

Junior School will be hosting Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea in our Junior School playground on Friday 22 May, at 10.15am. Please come along and bring something to share and join in to support the Cancer Council of Australia. The link below is a very informative look at how the Cancer Council uses the money raised from this extraordinary fund raising event. We are really please that we can do our part.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk5OT7ebhBo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk5OT7ebhBo)

Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School Visit – 18-24 August

Many thanks to all those who have responded to our recent letter asking to host the TEZ students during their stay in August. This year, we will see the biggest contingent we have hosted for sometime, and we are still short on places for a number of students. Please consider this opportunity, as we know that the benefits for all are significant. It is very important that we maintain this exchange as an important of our academic and cultural offering. All information about the visit is now available from the Junior School Reception or by contacting us at junior@as.edu.au
**da Vinci Decathlon – An academic challenge in Sydney**

Next week, two teams of academic athletes will travel to Sydney to compete in the annual Knox Grammar School da Vinci Decathlon. This is a fantastic time for our two teams from Years 5 & 6 and, along with the opportunity to be with many other schools at such a high level of competition, all our students benefit from the experience of travelling away with teachers and friends and pitting themselves against others in healthy competition. I thank Mrs Anne Hine for her organisation, and the

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**Happy Birthday Wishes**

We wish a very Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays this week: Lucy Taylor, Flynn Broadfoot and Jonathan Harris

**Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC)**

We have registered 30 students to complete the 2015 PRC – this is a fantastic effort! Congratulations to Archie Douglas-Menzies who has already completed the Challenge this year. I encourage the students participating, to bring their reading logs into the Library during their weekly library lessons, so we can register the books you have already read. If you need any help finding books that are in the challenge, please just ask Mrs Allan, Mrs Ramazani or myself and we will be able to guide you in the right direction. Students are encouraged to come to the Library during their lunch break to return books and borrow more with their teacher’s permission – you don’t have to wait until your weekly Library lesson to change your books over. As we are getting closer to the end of term, don’t forget that you have the opportunity to borrow six books from the library over the three week holiday period with your parents’ permission. We have plenty of PRC books in the library and this will be a great opportunity to get six books onto your reading logs. Don’t forget the town library also has plenty of PRC books. Just a reminder about the “series rule” in the PRC, please be aware of it as it does catch students out – this is the rule: “In an approved series, any two (2) books from the series can be read as part of official PRC reading. Up to five (5) other books from the same series can be read as personal choice books.” Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Janine Ranck
PRC Co-ordinator

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### Looking Ahead

#### Week 5 School Spirit Awards for Persistence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 May</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Combined Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22 May</td>
<td>Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea – 10.15 am in JS Covered Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Combined Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 5/6 da Vinci Teams travel to Knox Grammar School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 May</td>
<td>da Vinci at Knox Grammar School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24 July</td>
<td>PSSA Athletics at Armidale High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12 August</td>
<td>NCIS Athletics at Coffs Harbour</td>
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A Closer Look at Year 5

Year 5 students have been a buzz this term as they have been exploring scientific knowledge and the influence this knowledge has had on people’s lives.

They started by reviewing their personal knowledge of The Solar System and researched one planet in depth—looking for quirky facts.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator

The students then went on to explore an astronomer, whom they wanted to know a little more about. They are now able to hold down a conversation about Copernicus, Halley, Edwin Hubble, William Hershel, Christa McAuliffe and Ptolemy.

Students were collaboratively involved in designing a marking matrix for the research they conducted and are all looking forward to sharing presentations next week—which range from news reports to iMovies and Keynotes.

Harrison Price was able to share his knowledge of the Hubble Telescope, which closely linked to images we viewed of planets. Students then went on to paint a selected planet, which may not have been possible without this telescope, using methods used by well-known artist Hundertwasser.

Mrs Hine has supported the inquiry in French lessons as some French posters have been completed, depicting advances in scientific knowledge for display in our classroom.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator
NCIS Cross Country Results

We are so pleased to report that two of our very dedicated athletes, Jonathan Harris and Jasper Russ have qualified to run at the June CIS Cross Country Championships.

Jonathan ran an outstanding race finishing strongly in first place, well in front of the second place runner. This is an outstanding result for Jonathan.

Jasper has also qualified for CIS coming fifth after a sprint to the line in which he passed the eventual sixth place getter, another excellent result. Congratulations boys. We wish you the very best of luck for CIS and look forward to hearing all about it. This is the first time we have sent our Junior School runners to NCIS Cross Country with the senior team. We have previously only sent our children on to NCIS Athletics and Swimming. As a result of this, we are now considering taking a larger team of runners next year to this event.

Netball Report – 16 May

The Armidale and District Netball Association has restructured the Junior Netball divisions this season, implementing a foundational skills based program called NetSetGO. The grass courts on Saturday were a flurry of activity and excitement as groups of players practised some important basic skills. The fun they were having was obvious with squeals of delight pervading the chilly air. Peyton Slade was the TAS representative in the NET program on Saturday and she enjoyed her morning. Following this, the SET program commenced with more enthusiasm as the players completed warm-ups and skill-based drills. It was encouraging to watch Millie Coupland and her team, Sandon Stars, playing so well together in their game against the Ben Venue Lions. Scarlett Buntine was unavailable for the game following a week of sickness. Later in the day, in the Primary Division, the Sparklers faced ACSC Emeralds. The TAS girls playing for Sparklers include Casey Smith, Ruby Straker, Isabel Newton and Emily Buntine, who all made an impressive contribution to a successful game, creating a 9-0 win.

Mrs Trenerry

Football Reports

Please see either the ‘Schedules’ in TeamApp or the ‘Fixtures’ section of the TAS Football website (http://wordpress.as.edu.au/football/fixtures/) for this and future week’s draws. Please note, this week is Round 4 for all teams except the U9s and U10s, for which it is Round 3. The draw links from both locations mentioned above should default to the current round for that division.

Please check all draws closely, as there have been some changes.

Mr Luke Polson
MIC Football

TAS Terriers

It was great to see the Terriers in action on Saturday morning. The boys played strongly with determination. It was encouraging to see the teamwork starting to develop amongst the boys. A huge thankyou must go to Mr Lawrence and Mr Dundon who so ably run the team at training and games. Looking forward to hearing great results from this team.
U10s football

The U10s had a very topsy-turvy start to Saturday as they scrambled to get to a game in Guyra by 9:30 am instead of the predicted game at Rologas at 10:30am! It is a credit to the wonderful parents we have that the majority were able to make it and get a win in the process! And what a win! 15 - 0! The boys played really well and excitingly they started to implement some of the new skills learnt at training. The boys are very keen to develop their skills and are keen to improve and work as a team. So this week the whole team gets a mention for the amazing way they played in Guyra.

Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon

Hockey

Under 11s TAS Titaniums

The team braved the cold and winds last Friday afternoon to put in a fine performance. Our game was against a team with some very skilled players. The game was a fast moving one with all players playing the full game. Despite the score line the team were up beat and very keen to do their best. We may not have won but we all worked very well as a team and supported each other. The players are taking advice from their coach and trying to transfer the skills developed at training to the game. We will continue to focus on set skills at training this week as well as developing our positional play and leading skills further. Well-done team and fingers crossed we can put some balls in the goal this week

Ms Tabitha Dowse

12s Rugby

In conjunction with the rest of the TAS rugby community, the U12s rugby team went to Coonabarabran on the weekend and participated in the gala rugby day. The boys as a team played extremely well and had a great time playing against a mixed club team from the Coonabarabran area. Sam Osborne led the team around the field as captain for the first time. All members of the team chipped in to put in a stellar performance and they were able to walk away with their heads held high. They improved vastly as the game progressed against a very tough and skilful Coonabarabran side and showed great signs of continued skill development. We had some boys from the U13s step in and it was a great experience playing with them as well.

Mr Kennewell - team manager and assistant coach
COMMUNITY NOTICES

TAS SPORTS CENTRE

**Fitness Boxing**
Wednesday 5.15pm

**Reduced Mobility Circuit**
Tuesday 10.15am

**Circuit Classes**
Monday - 6.15pm
Tuesday - 5.15pm
Thursday - 5.15pm
Saturday - 4.15pm

All classes are held in the TAS Sports Centre. If you have any questions please contact Chris Doherty on 0414 984 378 or visit the [TAS website](#).
CONCERT FOR Anya

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015
5.15PM TO 7PM
ASTRA ARTS CENTRE • PLC ARMIDALE

Entry by donation
Supper will be served following the concert

Proceeds in support of PLC Armidale
Year 8 student, Anya Zuber and Ronald McDonald House, Westmead

Babysitting available for non-school age children in the Senior Library

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING PURPOSES

To book:
www.trybooking.com/HUGM

Educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment.

Flyer design by:
Year 8 student Holly Butler & graphic designer Bronwyn Grills.
Printing by: Ascent Group
'Cultural pride, self esteem, and community confidence are just a few of the aspects that a community garden will bring', says Armidale Aboriginal leader Steve Widders.

In acknowledging his Aboriginal ancestry, Mr Widders reflected on the symbolism of the Aboriginal flag – the way it portrays the people and their relationship with the land, and with the giver of life, the sun. He emphasised that a communal garden would nourish these connections, and bring a new sense of unity, engagement and purpose.

Dr Kate Wright, who is undertaking a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the School of Arts at UNE, agreed that such a project would have far-reaching benefits. The garden is not only about growing fresh produce, but will also promote Aboriginal environmental science and management through native medicines and foods, as well as foregrounding interactions between plants and insects, and the subterranean world of soils and soil organisms, to deepen understandings of ecology.

As they regenerate soils and vegetation, Widders and Wright hope that there will be much interest regenerated in a wide cross-section of the community, including school children, who can come to learn more about the environment, about Aboriginal Australian cultures and knowledges, and about how to grow fresh and nutritious food.

Widders and Wright are both members of a “seeding” committee who have been working to develop the garden project over the last 12 months. Members of the committee include representatives from Minimbah School, the Clontarf Academy, Jobs Australia, TAFE New England, Best Employment, UNE, the Oorala Centre, The Armidale School, Beyond Empathy, and members of the Aboriginal community. The seeding committee has arranged an Open Day with an invitation to all interested members of the public, potential sponsors and supporters, and volunteers.

The Open Day will be held from 1pm on Saturday the 23rd of May at the garden site, Mossman Street, East Armidale (near Doody Park Oval), with parking via Mann Street. The highlight of the day will be a visit from well-known celebrity gardener, Costa Georgiadis (ABC’s Gardening Australia). There will be performances by local musicians and dancers, farmers’ market stalls, speeches from local community leaders and Aboriginal Elders, a free BBQ and campfire cooking, and opportunities for guests to have their say about the future of the garden, and to sign-up to become garden members.

A public forum on community food movements and Aboriginal environmental knowledge, featuring Costa Georgiadis, UNE scholars and Aboriginal community leaders, will be held at the Oorala Aboriginal Centre, UNE at 11.30am on Friday 22nd May.

For further information on events please contact Dr Kate Wright at kwrigh33@une.edu.au. Phone: 6773 3867