da Vinci Decathlon

This morning sees the opening of 3 days of frenetic intellectual activity at TAS as we host the 3rd Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon. Fitting the name da Vinci, the decathlon covers a wide spectrum of human creativity and thinking, with tasks in Science, Maths, Philosophy, English, Drama, Engineering, Art and Poetry, Cartography, general knowledge and code breaking.

More schools have joined us this year and we will have over 600 students from Years 6 to 10 here over the 3 days, making the 2015 event the biggest thus far. That the event continues to grow is hugely encouraging and represents the hunger for intellectual challenge that is all around us. I congratulate our organiser, Ms Catherine Boydell, and her team for their organisation of this high profile and significant event.

HSC Major Works

For a good number of our Year 12 students, the past week has been exciting, hectic and there will be great relief that it is over. The HSC Drama markers have come and gone and Visual Arts, Extension 2 English and D&T major works have now been submitted. Only Music, to be performed on September 8, remains amongst the major works subjects. This period is inevitably an emotionally charged one as very personal expressions of creativity that have been in train for many months are put on show. It is a special experience and, as stressful as it might be, a memorable and important one. All that I have seen from that work has been impressive and I congratulate students and teachers alike on the production of some wonderful work.

Rugby Season

The 2015 rugby season finishes with the away fixtures against Sydney Grammar last weekend and the Scots on Saturday. There is no doubt that the travel demanded by our involvement in the GPS competition is considerable, but I am equally convinced that it is a burden worth carrying. Last weekend’s games at Rushcutter’s Bay reinforced this once again with a show of all that is good about schoolboy rugby. The games were played with fine sportsmanship throughout the day and the play that I saw was open, positive and optimistic, just as school rugby should be. Once again our boys were hosted in generous fashion and this was appreciated too. The experience at Scots is sure to be just as good, but it is not something that should be taken for granted. The opportunity to compete in sport with schools that carry similar values and present with the same spirit is something to be thankful for. This is the reason that so many TAS families travel to be a part of it and I look forward to seeing all those who will be at Scots for our final games.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 3**

**Week 7**

26 – 28 August  
da Vinci Decathlon at TAS

Thursday 27 August  
6.30pm TAS at Twilight Ensemble  
Hoskins Centre

Saturday 29 August  
TAS v Scots in Sydney

**Week 8**

Monday 31 August  
**Girls Day In at TAS**

Wednesday 2 September  
NCIS Tennis at Grafton  
Combined Chapel Service and Dinner at NEGS

Thursday 3 September  
NECOM ‘Walk through the Orchestra’

Friday 4 September  
Year 6-8 Social at PLC  
Year 9/10 Social at NEGS

Sunday 6 September  
TAS Service at St Peters

3 – 9 September  
Year 11 End of Course Exams

**Week 9**

Thursday 10 September  
4.00 pm Junior Hockey  
Presentation & Afternoon Tea  
6pm TAS Hockey Club  
Presentation and Senior Dinner - Hoskins Centre Foyer

Friday 11 September  
2.00 pm Passing out Parade  
Cadet Dining In Night

Sunday 13 September  
Opens Rugby Dinner (Armidale Bowling Club)

**Week 9**

14 - 18 September  
Year 11 Primary Industries Work Placement

16 - 27 September  
Kokoda Trek

Monday 14 September  
6.30pm Opens Football Dinner  
Senior School Tri-Schools Debating

Tuesday 15 September  
TAS Board Meeting

Wednesday 16 September  
CIS Athletics

Thursday 17 September  
Year 12 Procession, Final Assembly and House Dinners

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**Valedictory 2015**

**Please RSVP**

**Thursday 17 September**

12.30 pm  
Light lunch for Year 12 students and parents, Chapel Lawn

1.35 pm  
Year 12 Process to Memorial Hall through school Guard of Honour front drive

1.40 pm  
Final Year 12 Assembly (staff and students only)

**Evening**  
Day and Boarding House dinner (as advised by Housemasters)

**Friday 18 September**

10.15 am  
Morning Tea with staff, students and parents, Chapel Lawn

11.15 am  
Parents & Year 12 move to the Hall

11.30 am  
Valedictory Service, Memorial Hall

12.30-3.00 pm  
Formal lunch & prize giving

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Year 12 students and their parents in the School Dining Hall. Guest speaker is Robbie Oppenheimer, Old Boy 2008. Formalities will conclude with presentation of Old Boys ties.

As the Dining Hall has limited seating we are only able to seat three per family. Extended family are very welcome to attend other Valedictory gatherings. **Any further queries should be directed to the Executive Assistant to the Headmaster, Mrs Anna Barnier on 6776 5811 or abarnier@as.edu.au.**
UNIFORM AND BOOK SHOP

Due to alterations to the Uniform and Book Shop it will not be open during the holiday period. Please make sure any Summer Uniform purchases are made prior to the end of term if possible. Summer Uniform will be available to purchase from Monday 7 September.

Opening hours at the beginning of Term 4 - Summer Uniform should be worn from the beginning of the term for Middle and Senior School children.

Monday 5 October - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Tuesday 6 October - 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Wednesday 7 October - 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm
Thursday 8 October 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Friday 9 October 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm

MIDDLE AND SENIOR SCHOOL SOCIALS

PLC Social Year 6, 7 and 8

PLC has kindly invited us to a Year 6, 7 and 8 social to be held on Friday 4 September (7.30pm - 9.30pm). All students must be neatly dressed; no thongs, no singlets. Collared shirts please.

All socials cost $5 which will be charged to the student’s school account. This money will go to the PLC SRC and their fund raising projects for 2015. Boys need to be at TAS for a roll call by 7.20pm. Boys can be collected from TAS at 9.40pm. It is expected that all boys must travel to and from the social by bus. Those boys who would like to attend can register their names with their homeroom teacher.

NEGS Social Year 9 and 10

NEGS has kindly invited us to a Year 9 and 10 social to be held on Friday 4 September (7.30pm - 9.30pm). All students must be neatly dressed; no thongs, no singlets. Collared shirts please.

All socials cost $5 which will be charged to the student’s school account. This money will go to the NEGS SRC and their fund raising projects for 2015. Boys need to be at TAS for roll call by 7.20pm. Boys can be collected from TAS at 9.40pm. It is expected that all boys must travel to and from the social by bus. Those boys who would like to attend can register their name after Assembly on Tuesday 1 September.
Year 12

Year 12 students have now finished their Trial HSC exams and will now be getting their results back. It is important for them to remember that substantial improvements can still be made if they choose to apply themselves. All students should be listening to feedback on their exam performance and speaking with their teachers about where to focus their attention in the upcoming weeks.

We are currently beginning to organise the HSC Study Camp that will run at TAS between 3 and 5 October. This is deliberately placed at the end of the school holidays with a week to go before the HSC Exams so that students can get a usually much-needed boost. More information will be sent out directly to students and parents of Year 12 students in the coming weeks.

Year 8,9,10 subject choices for 2016

All students should now have entered their subject preferences for 2016 into the online system. Any student who has not done so should email Mrs Wark as soon as possible.

Year 11 exams

Year 11 exams begin in Week 8 beginning on Thursday 3 September and will conclude on Wednesday 9 September.

Students have been sent the exam timetable.

Formal school uniform is to be worn when attending all exams. Student should ensure they arrive at the exam venue at least 20 minutes prior to the start of their exam.

Day students are able to go home and study for their next exam if they wish or study in the school Library. Boarding students are able to return to their Boarding House only if approved and organised by their Housemaster or alternatively they can also study in the library. More information regarding expectations for the week of exams will be sent out via email in the coming week.

HSC Supervisors required

HSC supervisors are employed by the BOSTES to assist in the supervision of students during the the HSC examinations. The employment is on a casual basis. Supervisors can be employed (as per section 2.4.2) for one shift or as many as required as determined by the Presiding Officer. The exams for this year are held between 12 October and 6 November between 9 and 5:30pm.

Eligibility of supervisors

The following should be taken into account when considering eligibility for appointment to the position of supervisor.

* Current teachers, clerical staff, including tutors whether employed as a casual, relief or part-time basis, CANNOT be appointed as supervisors

* a supervisor cannot be appointed at a centre if they have a child or near relative sitting the 2015 HSC examinations at the same centre

* supervisors must be over 18 years of age

* it is not appropriate to appoint as a supervisor anyone who recently attended the school

If you are interested in assisting in this area please contact Mrs Vickey O’Brien for further details. Phone - 6776 5806 or email vobrien@as.edu.au

STEM Careers Seminar & Q&A Forum (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)

This will be held on Thursday 3 September 2015 at 5.30pm in the Arts Lecture Theatre 1 at UNE.

This Careers Seminar and Q&A Forum is designed to inspire and excite UNE and high school students about STEM-based careers. Five guest speakers will present short talks to showcase a range of diverse, creative and flexible careers that have been built on a STEM background.

The event aims to build awareness of the impact that STEM-based work has on society as a whole. Additionally, as people are often intimidated by STEM subjects, we aim to present STEM skills and careers as something that anyone can participate in if they are interested, creative and motivated. Students, parents, teachers, careers advisors, UNE staff and local business members are invited to this event and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions during the forum and at the light supper served after the forum.
MTB CAMP 2015

“Scotts Head Christian Youth Centre”, SCOTTS HEAD

Rides include:
Telegraph Point/Port Macquarie Urban Track/Cows With Guns/Kempsey Single Track/Jacks Ridge.
We will also spend afternoons at the beach and engage each evening in Bible discussion and so much more.

PLEASE EMAIL REV OR MRS BENHAM FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO EXPRESS INTEREST BY THE END OF THIS TERM.

rnewton@as.edu.au
jbenham@as.edu.au
TAS @ DUSK

The inaugural TAS @ Dusk will be held on Saturday 7 November, and there will be a special planning meeting TONIGHT 26 August at 7pm in Lower Maxwell - so that we can get things really moving along for this exciting new event. Please come along with your enthusiasm and commitment to seeing this new event be something special for our school and the wider community. Rest assured it will be an extravaganza of music and fun – stay tuned for more information on just what we have happening here in TAStalks from next week.

TAS @ DUSK – prize donations

Although at this stage I'm still not revealing details, I would like to send a big thank you to those who have come forward with offers of prizes for a giant raffle to be drawn at TAS @ Dusk. Your generosity is welcomed and your P&F Executive look forward to working with you on this!

We are still looking for imaginative and interesting prizes to offer. If anyone else in our wider school community has ideas or contacts for some super prizes to be included, please do contact me via email as soon as possible – suecart@uow.edu.au

And don't forget our House Christmas Hampers which will form part of the prize pool. Please bring in your Christmas themed donations during the last week of Term 3 and the first week of Term 4 – anything with a Christmas theme – food, decorations, books, decorator items or tree lights and decorations. Mr Guest will be announcing the best House Spirit early in Term 4.

TAS Christmas Puddings 2015

It's time to cook up a storm at TAS. Please hold the dates Saturday 17 October for the cooking of the amazing TAS Christmas Pudding and/or Sunday 18 October for wrapping them. This is a fun time and a great way to meet other parents, and I encourage people to come and help. All cooks, sous chefs, general dogs bodies and anybody else who wishes to help is welcome. A thank you for all the help through the year regarding the rugby weekends.

FOR SALE

We have excess stock of PowerAde that we would like to sell. Boxes of 12 bottles are available for just $25! We are open to negotiation, so please phone Rachael Nicoll on 0418 980 662 or email nicollfamily1@gmail.com

Great for sports teams' end of season parties!
HSIE – National Geographic Australian Geography Competition and the Australian History Competition – 2015

Geography and History students at The Armidale School achieved some outstanding results in this year’s state and national competitions.

Of the 93 students who sat this year’s Geography test, 28 achieved a High Distinction. This is the best result the school has received in a number of years, and speaks very positively about the strength of the school’s Geography program.

Fifty boys from Years 8 and 10 sat this year’s Australian History test, and of those boys, 7 received a High Distinction. Again, this result is very pleasing when compared to results from previous years.

The names of the boys who achieved High Distinctions in this year’s Geography competition include:

- David Wu
- Lewis Taylor
- Callum Sellar
- Matthew Rankmore
- Jack Radford
- Hugh Morton
- Caton Lupica
- Jacob Hunt
- Liam Donaldson
- Lachlan Collison
- Alex Chambers
- Mitchell Cartwright
- Bradley Doak
- Sam Thatcher
- Mike Nyathi
- Sinclair Moore
- Jack Kaynes
- Nicholas Jackson
- James Doyle
- Owen Chandler
- Nicholas Bohlsen
- Oscar Alcorn
- Thomas Price
- Tom Nivison
- Harry Mason
- Liam Kennedy
- Ben Friend

Boys who received High Distinctions in this year’s Australian History Competition include:

- David Wu
- Sam Kealey
- Flynn Charley-Briggs
- Thomas Price
- Caton Lupica
- Mitchell Cartwright
- Harry Mason

My congratulations to the abovementioned boys, particularly those who achieved a top result in both competitions.

Hundred here for da Vinci Decathlon

TAS will be a very busy place this week with more than 600 boys and girls from a large area of the state compete in the Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon.

The students, from a mix of state and independent schools, large and small, primary and secondary, will be challenged by a range of stimulating and engaging activities in Memorial Hall.

Devised by Knox Grammar School in Sydney, the competition is run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon. Students working collaboratively in teams of eight are required to compete in tasks that encompass engineering, mathematics, code breaking, games of strategy, art and poetry, Science, English and philosophy.

Year 7 and 8 teams will take part on Wednesday 26 August, followed by Years 9 and 10 on 27 August, and Years 5 and 6 on Friday 28 August. Schools from Armidale, Bellingen, Inverell, Tamworth, Scone, Coffs Harbour, Narrabri, Moree, Dubbo, and Glen Innes will be taking part in this year’s Decathlon, which has the theme Light.

TAS is honoured to host the northern NSW championships for the third time, having regularly attended the state championships at Knox including this year when our Year 5 team won the Creative Producers challenge. The event is a wonderful extension and enrichment opportunity that strengthens students’ skills in logic, team building and multi-tasking, and is an empowering opportunity for all who attend.

Ms Catherine Boydell

Mr David Toakley
Development Office

The Development Office works very closely with the Enrolments Office and at the moment much of our mutual attention is devoted to communicating and planning for a co-ed TAS from 2016.

Girls’ Day In – Monday 31 August

Next Monday we welcome in those families and girls interested in a TAS education from 2016 to a lunch at the school and an opportunity to meet each other and key staff. This will give them a chance to have further discussions about the programs on offer – either in the classroom, the great outdoors or our rich co-curricular life – and have a closer look around the school. It will be a very important day for these girls and we are all thrilled to be able to introduce them further to the school.

Girls’ Experience Day – Wednesday 9 September

Like all boys here at TAS, their enrolment journey included a whole experience day (and night for boarders) at the school with a buddy helping take them from class, to dining hall, to sport and all through a busy TAS day. Well, we are offering that same pathway for any girls wanting to come to TAS, whether next year or beyond, just so they can get a feel of what a co-ed education would be like.

We have had such keen interest for this from girls and their families so instead of having a series of separate days, we have planned for one whole day where any girl who is here and can make it, can have the opportunity to experience TAS for the day.

We will have another experience day next term for those who cannot make this one because of other commitments.

Anyone interested in ‘Girls Day In’ or ‘Girls Experience Day’ should contact Pip Warrick on 0428 414 995 or email on info@as.edu.au

White House Extension

While there has been much action and excitement in most parts of the school, we have been asked about the next steps in the plans for White House extension. The realignment of the road past White House is completed, and the Foundation work for the extension can has begun. Once the bricks arrive in the next day or so, the work on the building itself can commence.

We are all very grateful to the Middle School boarders and the wonderful staff who work there and must endure living around a building site! Your patience and good attitude to this are very welcome indeed. Growth is so positive, but sometimes getting there can be a little inconvenient!

Year 12 Senior Common Room

The plan to convert one of the original TAS buildings in the Lawrance Quadrangle, which is now a woodwork room, into a senior study and common room for Year 12 from 2016 will gather pace during the next school holidays when the Trade Training Centre will be adapted to take on wood work as well. Obviously, this is one of those tasks that can only happen during the holidays when the facilities are unused and a new arrangement can be set up over at the TTC - the heart of industry at TAS!

Once the woodwork benches have moved over, the complete overhaul can begin on what will be a great addition to senior life at TAS. The room will be a wonderful, airy, bright study and common room with a kitchen and a mezzanine level for additional study areas. Expect to hear more of this soon!

Ms Cressida Mort
Director of Development
Who do You Respect?

“A school is not measured by the way it reveres its heroes but rather the respect afforded all members of the community”. It is appropriate to recognise those that achieve the highest level in their chosen field; to aspire to be the best. However, all schools would claim to do this.

The times I feel most encouraged is not when our students celebrate the efforts of our First XI but rather when they recognise and value the accomplishments of those who would otherwise go unnoticed. Every person has a contribution to make and every contribution is deserving of respect.

Chess

Congratulations to our Chess Team, made up of Ali Ahsan, Charlie Wyatt, Josh Stevenson and Harry Pollard, who were victorious in the Regional Final of the Junior Chess League, defeating St Mary’s Gunnedah three boards to one. We wish them well as they now progress to the next stage of competition in Sydney.

TAS@Twilight

The performances at “Final Note” last Tuesday evening left audiences asking for more. Fortunately they do not have long to wait, as the TAS music department put the finishing touches on TAS@Twilight; an extravaganza of Ensembles, old and new, along with a selection of HSC performances. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Senior Public Speaking

Middle and Senior School students were treated to an engaging and entertaining selection of speeches during Assembly on Tuesday. One student from each House delivered a 4-5 minute speech on a topic of their choice. Undaunted by an audience of over 400 boys and the Headmaster adjudicating proceedings, the boys spoke with confidence and poise. Will Davis promoted the virtues of procrastination to ensure that Croft House claimed first place. However, all speakers should be commended for their courage and quality of their speeches.
Football

This week marks the end of competition rounds for all teams 14s - opens, with semi-finals starting next weekend (5 September). Best of luck to all teams taking the field this weekend and particularly to both our 12As and 12B sides who will be playing in elimination finals this weekend. Details are below.

Times for 12s Games this Week

12 Div 1 TAS v DK Merlins @ TAS Adamsfield @ 11.15am (Elimination Final)

Div 2 TAS 12B's to play East Armidale Green @ Doody #2 @11.15am (Elimination Final)

Bus to Guyra - First and Second XI Football

There will be a mini-bus available for First and Second XI football players to transport boarders and other students who need transport to Guyra on Saturday. The bus will depart from Q Stores at 12pm and arrive back approximately 5pm, following the completion of the First XI fixture. Ms Colette Brus will be accompanying the bus. If you have not yet advised Mr Luke Polson that you require a seat on this bus, can you please do so as soon as possible.

This Week’s Fixtures

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 ensure you are checking regularly each week. This is particularly important now as there have been changes made.

My thanks to all players and families for their patience and flexibility whilst we coordinated a number of catch up games and played at a number of different terms so far this term. TAS is very appreciative of all other clubs in our local association who allow us to defer games played within our school holidays in July. All catch up games have now been played.

Best wishes for the weekend of sport.

Mr Luke Polson

Chess success - now off to Sydney!

Our First IV Chess team have made the State finals of the NSW Junior Chess League after winning their final round of the New England North West regional competition at TAS on Monday.

The final result of 3 boards to 1 does not reflect how tight the competition was, with our opponents St Mary’s of Gunnedah notching the first win, on Board 2, against Charlie Wyatt. Although TAS then won Boards winning Board 3 (Harry Pollard) and Board 4 (Joshua Stevenson), the Board rankings meant it was hanging in the balance and all up to Ali Ahsan… who after a nerve wracking game lasting 90 minutes, won Board 1 and the day for TAS!

It was the sixth consecutive win for the team, following fixtures against O’Connor Catholic College, Oxley High School (Tamworth), Farrer MAHS, Holy Trinity School Inverell and Inverell High School.

The State finals will be in Sydney sometime in November - hopefully after Ali and Joshua have finished their exams! Congratulations to the boys on their efforts.

Ms Catherine Boydell

Nail biting… Harry Pollard and Charlie Wyatt support teammate Ali Ahsan in the crucial decider!

Joshua Stevenson contemplates the move made by his St Mary’s opponent
Travel: by Oxley & Edwards Coaches.
Departure times from TAS front of school Friday 28th August:
- BUS 5 (Oxley) - 13s: 1.30pm
- BUS 4 (Edwards) - 14s: 1.45pm
- BUS 3 (Edwards) - 15s: 2.00pm
- BUS 2 (Oxley) - 16s: 2.15pm
- BUS 1 (Oxley) - Opens: 2.15pm
Return – TAS front of school approx. 10pm Saturday 29th August.
(Actual departure time will be published on Team APP).

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Accommodation: (nb. a swag/sleeping bag and pillow will be required at all venues)
- 13’s: SHORE / Grammar Boatshed
- 14s: St. Joseph’s College Gym
- 15’s: Grammar Boatshed
- 16’s: SHORE Boatshed
- OPENS: Sydney High Boat Shed

Meals: Dinners on route, breakfast at venue, lunch at Scots.

Dress: 13s – 15s TAS tracksuit; 16s & Opens TAS formals to be worn for all travel and on game day.

Cost: All students $100 charged to school accounts.
TAS @ Twilight this Thursday 27 August 6.30pm

We are looking forward to the TAS @ Twilight ensembles concert coming up this Thursday at 6.30pm in the Hoskins Theatre! With extra rehearsals this week for each ensemble the concert is going to be a wonderful showcase of all the bands and vocal ensembles at TAS. Performers will include students from Kindergarten, all the way through to Year 12, who are preparing for HSC performances over the next few weeks. The following groups will be performing:

TAS Singers
TAS Junior Vocal Ensemble
TAS Chapel Choir
TAS Camerata
The FanTAStics
TAS Big Band
TAS Senior Jazz Combo
TAS Drums and Pipes
TAS Guitar Band

Don’t forget that this event is FREE and open to all.

Plans: Students are to wear formal uniform and need to meet at the Hoskins Theatre by 6pm this Thursday. Students who will be rehearsing this Thursday afternoon prior to the concert may remain at school and have dinner at TAS at 5.30pm. If you are a day boy and would like to have dinner at TAS please let Mrs Broadbent know on sbroadbe@as.edu.au

More Outstanding AMEB Results for 2015!

Congratulations again to the students below who received the following results in their recent AMEB examinations

Reuben Charley-Briggs  8th Grade Voice & Communication  B Credit
Flynn Charley-Briggs  4th Grade Trombone A Honours

‘Walk Through the Orchestra’ - a Schools’ Concert with the Armidale Youth Orchestra

‘Walk Through the Orchestra’ concerts are designed to introduce students to orchestral music and instruments and are an excellent learning opportunity. Students will interact with the musicians and conductor and experience musical elements of tone colour, texture, melody, harmony and rhythm through an exciting and dynamic repertoire.

The concerts are offered Free of Charge by the Armidale Youth Orchestra (AYO). The AYO comprises of talented musicians from 12 - 25 years of age and is conducted by Warwick Dunham, who has a vast experience as a professional musician, music educator and conductor.

Two sessions will be held next week at the Old Teachers College in Mossman Street, Armidale.

Concert A: Thursday 3 September from 11:00am – 12.00pm. Years K-5 will be attending this session.
Concert B: Thursday 3 September from 1:30pm – 2:30pm. Students in Year 7 will attend Concert B as part of their music curriculum unit - Instruments of the Orchestra.

All students will travel by Edwards Coaches to and from the concerts.

Yours in Music

Ms Roobol, Mrs Butcher, Mr Dunham and Mrs Broadbent

HSC Music Final Note Concert - Public Performance by our Year 12 Music Students

Congratulations to HSC music students Robert Butcher, Calliden Hunter, Harry Williams and Harry Wright who performed in front of an appreciative crowd at last week’s Final Note concert. Each student performed two pieces from their HSC repertoire and were assessed by markers as part of their internal assessment. With a diverse repertoire and instrumentation, the students, including Isabella Watson (NEGS Music student), performed confidently and received excellent feedback from the examiners. Their performances were a tribute to many years of hard work and commitment, culminating in the Final Note concert.
A Showcase of TAS Ensembles & HSC Music Students

TAS @ TWILIGHT

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST

6.30pm

THE MICHAEL HOSKINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

Entry to this concert is free.
CREATIVE ARTS
Masterstroke - HSC Visual Arts Exhibition

Frazer Moore - Adventures of Bygone Days
Calliden Hunter - Ebb and Flow
Michael Slobodetsky - A Gamble of Paint
Tom Bishop - Prismatic Comparisons
Willis Yung - Damn Nature, You Scary
David Baker - Eventure
‘Waterbirds Return as the Gwydir Floods’

The Gwydir Wetlands are located on the Gwydir River floodplain, approximately 80 kilometres west of Moree. These works showcase and celebrate the large scale Colonial Waterbird breeding event that occurred in these wetlands during the summer of 2011/2012.

This exhibition of large format photos has travelled the North West region during 2014/15, seen by more than 12,000 people. This is its final showing before being launched as a short internet based video, for the wider world audience.

In addition, a short video titled IBIS, created and performed by members of the Armidale High School, Clontarf Academy, Aboriginal Dance Troupe, will be launched in the main theatre.

You are therefore invited to attend the official opening & launch on Friday 28th August 2015 (6/6:30 pm), @ TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale

Traditional lands of the Kamilaroi Nation.
General matters

We've travelled beyond the half term mark – again. We've only four weeks remaining and there's another good break on the horizon. But there's much to be done before we reach it. As well you know, there's a battery of assessment tasks for all Year groups and I know the boys have been working on these during prep and also during their normal classes. Some are feeling the pressure at the moment, but we've sorted some issues and are keeping an eye on matters. You also know that the boys have their class study plans. 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 utilized! Boarders are easy to assist as boarding and teaching staff are in the habit of keeping boys on track on a daily basis. Parents of day students need to be aware that the assessment tasks are 'out there' and I ask that you speak to your sons about them and ask also how 'best' they can be 'managed' over the next few weeks. On the whole the boys are improving in relation to these tasks and many are working on them for longer. This, of itself, is a very good thing because at the beginning of the year so many just did their work as it fell due. Working towards something is a very good sign that expectations of high school life (even for the Year 6 students) are manageable.

NAPLAN results for our Year 7 boys will be 'out' to you soon. Whatever else we think about them they're 'yardsticks' and they're instructive in that they allow us to measure individual performance in the school and how we 'fare' in relation to other schools. But these things don't rule our lives – they can't. It's madness to subscribe to the 'testing more than teaching model'. Learning is pretty important: learning how to learn, more so; enjoyment of learning is the most important aspect of school life – especially at this Middle School level.

I've been out in the grounds more – speaking to the boys. They're good value, you know. What am I saying? Of course you know! The good thing for me is that they are prepared to talk - normally too, thank goodness. You may be heartened to know that they all take the opportunity to talk about home, animals, friends. Most love talking about their sport and, whilst on this subject, they're looking forward to travelling to Sydney to the Scots games this coming Saturday. I'm pretty sure that I'll be there too.

I hope you can go to this final Rugby away game of the season. As well you know, the boys really enjoy and appreciate the fact that you can be with them. I'm looking forward to seeing you there as well. It's always good to 'catch up' with people, especially at times when their sons are with teammates and friends and, more importantly, are enjoying themselves. This kind of situation is the ideal for relaxed open and frank discussion.

Time to revisit the 'Friend’ issue

I've been doing a lot of enrolment interviews lately and I've been thinking about the 'friend' situation and what I say to parents and new students about this matter. I want to reinforce this issue with you, today. It's important that we impress upon the boys the fact that gives TAS one of its essential strengths: be friendly as possible to all, but it's very difficult to be everyone's friend. Arguably, one of the main reasons why people like us is attributable to our ability to be ourselves – unashamedly. As such, there will be times when our 'style' is unappealing to others in terms of our being their 'friend'. However, on the proviso that others respect us for our strength (and for young adolescents in particular, it is a matter of strength of character) life can be really enjoyable.

TAS is good in its provision of an environment that enables, indeed encourages, individual purpose and development. Our job, daily, is to reinforce this message. It's vital to our function as educators, as opposed to being just teachers. It is our job to reinforce the idea that others should be respected for who they are.
Thus far I’ve indicated, very politely I might add, that my tolerance level for those who actively attempt to make others’ lives awkward because they are different, is low – very low, actually. If your sons call or come home and, for whatever reason, they make complaint about others, listen carefully to them and assist them in that way that only a parent can do. If they tell you something that concerns you about their welfare, tell us / me. If they tell you something about how they take exception to others, again, for whatever reason, tell them how life works for you as an adult. It’s time these boys realized that life for us has its difficult and awkward times and that we, above all else, must not deal with the situation by employing procrustean method to change that other person, especially if that other person does nothing to make our lives difficult. We have to deal with things as best we can – and that’s the way relationships work. People, we have to work together on this one.

It’s threatening to rain again this week – so let’s hope. The ground is damp – it needs to remain so…

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School
Tezukayama Visit – Our heartfelt thanks to all involved

As we farewelled Tezukayama early on Sunday morning, many would have seen the evidence that this visit provides a valuable experience for many and from many perspectives. There are challenging moments no doubt and the extent to which our children benefit may be hard to calculate, but there is no doubting the enriching experiencing for all students involved. Many of the stories I have heard indicate how important this visit is for us. Accommodating this meeting of cultures in our homes and classrooms impacts upon our learning and the exercise certainly broadens our horizons. There are so many people to thank for the success of such a visit, organisers, teachers, support staff and parents. Without a huge team effort, this experience simply would not occur. So, on behalf of everyone involved, please accept the School’s thanks.

Much will come from such an experience, and my hope is that its positive impact will continue for some time as we look towards future visits. As a staff, we will be reviewing the visit soon and I would ask that if you to contact me directly if you have observations and suggestions for this exchange. It is also a good opportunity to mention that we will be undertaking our own trip to Osaka in December 2016, and suggest that you plan ahead if you felt you would like your child to be involved.

ICAS Spelling Success

Congratulations to the following students who have gained special certificates in the recent ICAS Spelling competition. For Merit: Henry Kirton; Credit: William Gilpin, Joshua Pongrass Frank Perrotet and Casey Smith; and Distinction: Harry Pennington, Alex Webber and Harrison Ditchfield.

Summer Sports

You will find information about the summer sport choices that will be available next term in this edition. Please read this carefully, discuss options with your children and forward any questions or comments to either Mrs Wright or myself.

Daffodil Day – Tuesday 1 September

Junior School will be supporting this fantastic fundraiser and you will find details below. I encourage everyone to support this initiative and in so doing, we will come together to support one of Australia’s best-known and most popular fundraising events. It is also a great way for us to come together as a School with a common purpose so please note this in your diary.

Digital Technologies in our Classrooms – Friday 4 September

I am pleased to announce that TAS will be conducting a Google initiative for teachers in northern NSW on the above date, This is the result of funding that enables to work with students to develop units of work incorporating computer science and computational thinking skills inherent in the new Digital Technologies Australian Curriculum.

These programs bring educators together who share a common interest in computer science and computational thinking and their application in the curriculum. The aim is to provide tools and networking opportunities to help teachers in the classroom and I thank Mr Martin Levins for supporting and organising this event.
**Looking Ahead**

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Wednesday 26 August</td>
<td>Year 3 Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday 27 August</td>
<td>TAS @ Twilight 6:30pm Hoskins Centre (TAS Ensembles to perform)</td>
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<td>Friday 28 August</td>
<td>da Vinci Decathlon at TAS Year 5/6</td>
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<td>Monday 31 August</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2 September</td>
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<td>Thursday 3 September</td>
<td>JS attending the Armidale Youth Orchestra at NECOM 11am-12pm</td>
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<td>Friday 4 September</td>
<td>Digital Technologies Course at TAS (Yr 4 &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 6 September</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
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**Happy Birthday**

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Lucas Hu, Henry Kirton and Alex Webber, who celebrate their birthdays this week.

**Absentees & Leave Request**

It is a Board of Studies requirement that all absentees are explained. An email or a phone call from parents explaining the absence of their child is required on the day of their illness. If illness extends four consecutive days, a medical certificate should be sent to the school.

We now require you as parents to complete leave requests if you need to take your child out of school for an upcoming planned absence. (Medical/Dental appointments do not need leave request forms, although we do need notification)

Application forms for exemption from attendance are on the school website and must be emailed to junior@as.edu.au or handed in to the Junior School Office for approval by the Head of Junior School.

**Daffodil Day - Tuesday 1 September**

The TAS Junior School will celebrate Daffodil Day on Tuesday 1 September.

Daffodil Day is one of Australia’s best-known and most popular fundraising events.

It is run by the Cancer Council, the daffodil represents hope for a cancer-free future. You too, can help in the fight against cancer by participating in our Junior School Daffodil Day Celebration on Tuesday 1 September. Daffodil Day merchandise will be available for purchase on that day so bring in a gold coin donation and select something to buy to support the Cancer Council.

How will our money help?

Daffodil Day raises funds for cancer research, prevention and support services. We are encouraging you all to take part to support the Cancer Council’s vitally needed work.

What will we be doing special on Tuesday 1 September to support Daffodil Day?

Please come dressed in your school uniform but please wear something yellow i.e. a scarf, hair ribbon, hat, socks etc. NO hair dye, hair paint or face paint please.

Also on the day we will be having a Coin Line. What is a Coin Line I hear you ask? Well we are asking all students to bring in coins and we are going to make a long coin line. We will lay the coins out side by side and see just how long we can make our coin line. I will give you a big hint… 20 and 50-cent pieces are the biggest and therefore will take up the most space and help make our coin line longer.
General Information about Summer Sports (available to Junior School students for Summer 2015/2016)

Junior School students will be choosing their summer sport this week. With this in mind, a description of the various options appears below.

Junior School Policy re Participation in Sport

All students in Year 3 and above will participate in sport, unless special exemption for exceptional circumstances is granted in writing, by Mrs Christine Wright (JS Sports Co-ordinator) and Mr lan Lloyd. Students in Year 2 and below do not have to participate but are encouraged to do so. If students in Year 2 or below do participate they will commit to the sport (including training sessions) for the duration of that season. Training times and sessions vary depending on the chosen sport.

Description of Sports available:

Cricket: To make cricket enjoyable and fun, different age groups play according to different rules. All games are played on Saturday mornings. Registration and insurance fees apply. See separate cricket groups for costings.

The different competitions are:

Milo In 2 Cricket/’Kanga’ for U6s: ‘Milo In 2 Cricket’ (skills development) will be conducted up until Christmas. This will be played on TAS Cricket Oval between 9:15am and 10:15am. It will mainly be for 5 and 6 year olds with the option of 7 year olds playing if they wish. Term 4 is usually working on skills and Term 1, 2016 will be starting games. Kanga Cricket is played between two teams on two adjacent fields’ (still on TAS Cricket Oval) so that both innings go on at the same time. Games start at 9:00am and finish around 10:30am. Teams consist of 12 players (24 over game). At any one time there should be two batting on Field 1, eight fielding on Field 2 and two preparing to bat. Players bat in pairs for four overs. Children turning 7 and 8 years of age are encouraged to play U9s cricket, rather than Kanga, if they have the desire and ability. Cost will be approximately $86 for the season.

‘Average Cricket’ for U9s: (players must be under 9 on 1 September 2015) Teams consist of eight players per side. Games start at 9:00am and finish by 11:10am (two hour games). Each team faces 16 overs. The team’s score is determined by dividing the number of runs scored by the number of wickets lost, plus one. The higher average score wins the match. Each player must bowl two overs. Cost will be approximately $86 for the season.

‘One-day matches’ for U11s: (players must be under 10 or under 11 on 1 September 2015) Teams consist of 11 players per side. Games start at 9:00am and finish by 12:10pm. The first innings is limited to 25 six-ball overs per team. No more than 50 overs shall be bowled in a match. Each player must bowl a minimum of two overs with a maximum of three overs. A batsman must retire when his score reaches 20. Cost will be approximately $97 for the season.

‘Two-day matches’ for 12s: (players must be under 12 on 1 September 2015) Teams consist of 11 players per side. Games start at 9:00am and finish by 12:10pm. A team’s innings consists of 50 overs, with each team batting and bowling for 25 overs on each of the two days. Each player must bowl a minimum of 1 over with a maximum of four overs. A batsman must retire when his score reaches 50. Trainings will be Monday and Wednesdays. Cost will be approximately $97 for the season.

Swimming: This is not for beginners. In choosing this sport, children should be able to competently swim at least two laps of the TAS pool (preferably in all four strokes). (Parents wanting ‘Learn to Swim’ lessons for their children are encouraged to contact the TAS Sports Centre on 6776 5866, to arrange lessons). All swimmers will train in the TAS pool on Thursdays from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. The instructor concentrates on stroke correction and improving fitness. Additionally, students are expected to join the TAS based Alligators Swim Club (approximately $75 for the season) which holds Club nights every Friday night at the TAS pool from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. These are not only good opportunities to improve fitness and speed but are good social occasions as well. Costs will be $10 per week and the Alligators membership.

Basketball: Years 3-5 It is anticipated that Armidale Basketball Association will run two competitions: one for combined Yr 5/6 teams and one for combined Yr 3/4 teams. Games will be held at the Armidale High School Den from 4:00pm for Years 3/4 and from 5pm for Years 5/6 on Mondays. (Times yet to be confirmed) Trainings will be on Wednesdays at TAS. Registration fees are approx $110 per season.

Gymnastics: K-3 Held at the Armidale Gymnasium. There will be sessions on Mondays from 3:50 – 4:50pm run by qualified Level 1 coaches provided by Armidale Gymnastics Club. The cost is approximately $190 for the season (Term 4 and Term 1, 2016). Children will travel by TAS minibus to and from the gym with staff members supervising all sessions and travel.

Tennis: Years K-5 Hot Shots Tennis program.

Students will participate in the MLC Tennis Hot Shots, led by Justin Sheriff. There will be 2 levels of the program offered. ‘Hot Shots Red Ball’ will be for beginners, and suited to students aged 5-8. (T-Yr 2).
This will be held on Monday afternoons from 3.45pm - 4.45pm. Students in the Red stage play on a smaller court, use a larger ball, which doesn’t bounce as high.

Students in Years 3 and above will participate in ‘3-5 Red and Orange Ball’. Training will also be held on Monday afternoons from 3.45 - 4.45pm. The Orange stage of the program is also on a reduced court size and the ball has less compression.

Depending on numbers we can either offer small group lessons for 4 players @ $128 for 8 weeks, or larger group lessons with 6 players for $88 for 8 weeks. Group sizes will be determined once children have selected their summer sports choice.


**Indoor Hockey (Extra)**

Indoor Hockey will be offered this year under TAS ‘Additional Sports’. This is an extra sport and therefore can only be played if you are already committed to one of the Summer Sports choices above first. Hockey games will occur on Friday afternoons between the hours of 4-7pm. There are no training sessions for this additional sport.

Note that boys who move into Year 6 at TAS in 2016 will continue to play the above sports for Term 1, 2016.

**Netball**

The conditions on Saturday were ideal for netball and all our girls had a successful day. In the NET program, Sophia White had fun practicing her skills in a game setting, and made several good attempts at goal.

The SET competition followed with Millie Coupland and Scarlett Buntine playing extremely well for the Sandon Stars. The Stars had a great game against their PLC friends. This coming Saturday sees the end of the NET SET program as it culminates with a Round Robin event. This event starts at 10 am and concludes with a presentation for all players.

In the Primary Two division, the Sparkles faced the ACSC Emeralds in a hotly contested game in the final round of the competition. In a match emulating the pressure of a semi-final, it gave the girls a taste of what is to come. Emeralds dominated in the first quarter, which led the Sparkles to settle a little in the second quarter and claw their way back. However, it wasn’t until the final quarter that Sparkles, through some good passing and positioning combined with accurate shooting, evened the score and finally took the lead, winning the match 18-15. Casey Smith’s game was outstanding, her skills improving from week to week. She was well supported by Emily Buntine, who always plays with tenacity and Isabel Newton who passed the ball well to give Sparkles the advantage. It was an excellent effort by the team who now advance to the semi-finals.

Mrs Anne Trenerry

**Football**

**TAS Tigers v Uralla Warriors**

On a lovely winters day the TAS Tigers were eager to play against the Uralla Warriors, with their TEZ billets and TAS parents watching on.

We were down a player so we decided to put two players in mid-field and two players at the back, ready to defend their team. By half time the score was 1 all.

It was an exciting goal that was achieved by Tom Rowe from the sideline in the second half of the game that put us in the lead. Mitchell Evans, Felix Winslett and Lochlan Schumacher held their positions well. It is exciting to see that the boys are now starting to call out to each other and are looking for passes. This team approach led us to the final score for the game 2/1.

I would like to thank Mr Rowe who ran with the children on field.

Mrs Lana Hawksford
Swimmers retain Shield

It may be the middle of winter and but swimmers from The Armidale School's co-educational Junior School hit the University of New England pool with enthusiasm on 18 August, retaining honours at the Hanna Shield Swimming Carnival.

Six primary schools compete in the carnival, a team event with swimmers competing in boys and girls divisions in 50metre freestyle and 50metre medley relays.

The event has been running since the UNE pool opened in 1979 and this year TAS students Tom Ball, Oliver Smart, Hugh Taylor and Abbott White and senior primary boys Joseph Anderson (swimming in his fourth Hanna Shield), Sam Ball, John McGregor-Thew and Sam Skipper swam great races to take home the boys category trophy for another year.

The Hanna family have sponsored the trophy since the carnival’s inception and this year Gerard Hanna and his mother Jenny presented the trophy to all winners. TAS thanks the Hanna family for their contribution to the community and wishes them well for their future endeavours.
PYP - Year 4

Communication is constantly evolving and the need to share our feelings and ideas has shaped the way people interconnect locally and globally.

Year 4 has been actively engaged in their current UOI focussed on communication. Their understanding of interacting globally was highlighted with our guests from TEZ last week when they overcame language barriers and managed to communicate very efficiently and make new friendships.

As Year 4 embarked on their inquiry into 'How We Express Ourselves' students questions and wonderings allowed them to explore many forms of communication. Upon gaining insight into the various ways we communicate, students developed curiosity and went on to research the history of braille and semaphore.

Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator

Dimity Chalmers experiments with communicating in braille

Lachlan Thomas creating his Semaphore (flag signaling)
Show your colours for the region’s Rescue Helicopter!

The colours of the rainbow will come alive during the spectacular Show your Colours for the Chopper event to be held at Armidale’s University of New England on Sunday 6th September 2015.

Come along and be covered in a range of powdered colours during the five kilometer fun run and help raise much needed funds for the region’s Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, with 100 per cent of registration fees and proceeds from the day staying in the region.

Sign up your friends and family to run, jog, walk or crawl to show your support for the Rescue Helicopter - especially on Fathers’ Day!

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Since operations began from the Tamworth base 15 years ago in partnership with NSW Health and the business community, 2,500 people from across the New England and North West regions have received urgent medical treatment.


Boys seeking to volunteer can contact Ms Cressida Mort by email cmort@as.edu.au for more information.