‘Igniting the Spark’
The Jim Graham Tribute Concert

TAS Hoskins Centre
Saturday 26 November, 2016
Born in the Nambucca Valley – where he would return to spend his final decades – Jim Graham’s first contact with TAS was in 1954 when, as a student at the University of New England, he was appointed to a part-time teaching position, before being offered a full-time role after graduating with a BA (in history and philosophy) in 1956.

At the time he could not have imagined he would become the longest-serving staff member in the history of The Armidale School, working under five Headmasters during his 43 years at TAS.

Over this time Jim was involved with almost every facet of school life. Classroom teacher, coach of rugby and tennis, master in charge of expeditions and surf lifesaving and, at various times, Housemaster of the original Middle School, Broughton, White and Tyrrell boarding houses.
However it was in the creative arts that Jim would become best known, lighting the spark of creativity in generations of TAS students. During his time he produced 133 plays, musicals and melodramas, including 35 Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and 35 Music Halls.

His plays and musicals did not just delight Armidale audiences but those across the region and as far as Sydney and Melbourne, often with the proceeds going to charity. The famed Queen Victoria Music Hall was for more than a decade performed at Tamworth Town Hall in conjunction with the Black and White Society which raised for the Royal Blind Society.

In addition to TAS, Jim taught at King’s School Worcester and in 1966 he spent a term teaching at Gordonstoun School in Scotland which had been established by educationalist and Outward Bound founder Kurt Hahn. His first visit inspired him to lobby for the introduction of similar outdoor education programs at TAS such as Surf Life Saving and bush fire fighting, and later, TAS’ membership of Round Square, named after a uniquely shaped building at Gordonstoun. During his four stints at Gordonstoun he also taught and directed Princes Charles and Edward in theatrical productions, and was honoured to host Prince Edward during a personal visit to TAS in 1983.

In 1990 The New England chapter of the Australian College of Education awarded him the prestigious Alan Sutherland Award for his contribution to education, recognising especially his achievements in drama. Five years later in the Australia Day Honours List, Jim was named a recipient of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), “in recognition of service to education, particularly in The Armidale School and to the arts”.

Following his retirement in 1999 Jim retired to Macksville, remaining there until finally succumbing in July 2016 to Parkinson’s disease, which he had valiantly lived with for 20 years. His legacy continues in the strong focus of creative arts at the school he served so well and in the lives of former students whom he loved so much.
Unveiling ‘The Spark’

The newly installed bronze statue located now in its intended home outside the Hoskins Centre takes its name from an analogy used by Socrates in Plato’s Republic. Socrates held the belief that true education and the imparting of knowledge was not a matter of the teacher pouring his knowledge into the mind of the student, but rather, it was the teacher’s task to awaken in the student a spirit of inquiry and a love of learning. In other words the teacher should be a spark, igniting the student tinder, and fanning the flames of learning. The student, like the fire, will continue to grow, with a passion for education and a motivation to further inquiry.

When Mike Hoskins was visiting Macksville in 2001 he and Jim fell into discussion about the importance of creativity, the role of drama in education, and the need of a ‘home’ for drama at TAS. Associated with this, the conversation drifted to Plato’s theories of education. Sensitive to the important role the teacher plays in the development of the young, and impressed with Plato’s philosophy, Mike decided to commission a work of art, which he hoped would encapsulate the Platonic ideals. This, he thought, could be achieved in a statue and to create the work secured the services of the highly regarded Tanya Bartlett, a Newcastle sculptor. She was charged with creating in bronze a statue of a teacher and a student in a situation consistent with Plato’s vision.

Though the commission was a challenge it was handled with passion and consummate professionalism by Tanya. The result is a triumph. Physically the work has been cleverly and skilfully executed. The structure flows and the figures are beautifully balanced. Visually they convey life - they are not a copy of it. The texture gives them a familiar and everyday appearance - they are realistic but in more than a physical way.

The beauty and spirit of the piece reside as much in what the viewer cannot see as in what he can. It reveals the hopes and aims of the teacher, and the wonderment and expectation of the student. Tanya has caught in bronze an extraordinary moment in time. A rare moment, but for those who have experienced it, either as teacher or student, a moment which is precious.

The bronze depicts a play rehearsal with the teacher directing the boy actor. In the hand of the teacher is a play script of The Yeomen of the Guard open at Jack Point’s song ‘I’ve Jibe and Joke.’ The boy is holding the ‘Fools-head’ used by Point throughout the play. The astute observer may recognise in the figures a younger Jim Graham rehearsing a play circa 1973. With him is Peter Cousens who is representative of the many students taught by Jim over 43 years.
From Mike Hoskins

In a letter to Jim Graham explaining his motivation, Mike says, “This whole notion of teachers igniting a ‘spark’ in students is central to my beliefs (even more so as the son of a lifelong teacher). We invest in our teachers an almost sacred trust - we count on them to discover and light in succeeding generations that magic ‘spark’ of learning and personal growth that we know resides in each child, and then feed and nurture the resulting flame via the ongoing school experience. It is incumbent upon all of us in the TAS community to help in that noble endeavour. My highest hope for the Hoskins Centre is to help ignite that ‘spark’ in every boy and girl and secure the resulting flame more firmly than would otherwise have been possible.”

Sculptor

I aim to create sculptures that are realistic rather than abstract. I place much importance on being closely anatomically correct without losing the expressive style and freedom I have developed. Movement, life and energy are equally consequential when working on a piece even if a subject is captured at rest. Similarly the character of the subject should stand out. For every portrait, time must be spent studying their particular features and expressions, conformation, habits, ways of moving, etc all of which help in capturing their personality be it an animal or person.

Tanya Bartlett
Act One

God Save the Queen
Introduction and Welcome
‘When I Grow Up’ - Matilda
‘Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes’ - G&S The Gondoliers
‘Camelot’ from Camelot
‘Practically Perfect’ - Mary Poppins
Reflections from my father and me
Scene from Ginger Meggs - Ginger Meggs
‘Tiger hits the Jackpot’ - Ginger Meggs
‘Captain I’ve Important Information’ - G&S HMS Pinafore
‘The Vagabond’ and ‘Bright is the Ring of Words’
‘Piano Man’ by Billy Joel

Act Two

‘On a Tree by a River’ (Tit Willow) - G&S The Mikado
‘Oh! A Private Buffoon’ - G&S The Yeoman of the Guard
Jim Graham’s Speech - ‘The Seven Ages of Old Boys’
‘Oh You Beautiful Doll’ - Music Hall
‘The Policeman’s Song’ - G&S The Pirates of Penzance
‘Waltzing Matilda’ - The politically correct version - Music Hall
‘The Song That Goes Like This’ - Spamatlot by Monty Python
‘Prepare Ye’ and ‘Day by Day’ - Godspell
‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’ - Music Hall
‘Tonight’ - West Side Story
Land of Hope and Glory
Supper will be served in the Hoskins Foyer

Drinks available for purchase from the bar - all profits to the Jim Graham Scholarship Fund

Book sales - *Song to Singo!* by Jim Graham  $40

*A School of their Own* by Jim Graham  $45

*Games to Play out...*  $45

A history of the AAGPS by Bob Grant
(released November 2016)

---

**Jim Graham Scholarship Fund**

Launched in 2010, the Jim Graham Scholarship is awarded to a student with all round potential in the creative arts and humanities.

Your tax deductible donation is greatly appreciated!

---

**God Save the Queen**

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the Queen!

**Land of Hope and Glory**

Land of hope and glory, mother of the free
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet

Land of hope and glory, mother of the free
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet
Creative Team

Executive Producer: Peter Cousens
Producer: Cressida Mort
Director: Andrew O’Connell
Technical Supervisor: Michael Cornford
Musical Director: Leanne Roobol & Warwick Dunham
Master of Ceremonies: Paul Griffiths
Production Team: Pat Bradley, Joanne Guest, Tim Hughes, Donna Jackson, Mindy McDouall, Fiona Nash, Pip Warrick
Program Design: Donna Jackson

Sincere Thanks to the Band

Piano: Warwick Dunham
Drums: David van Tongeren
Bass: Rachel Butcher

Sincere Thanks to TAS Foundation Directors

John Grant, Pat Bradley, Wally Broun, Rob Busby, David Fenwicke, Dick Hodgson, Andrew Murray, Duncan McDonald, Mindy McDouall, Fiona Nash, Pip Warrick
Special Thanks for Performing

**Speakers, Soloists and Singers**
David Allen, Phil Bailey, Amanda Bishop, Emma Buzo, Peter Cousens, Kira Dooner, Dai Griffiths, Paul Griffiths, Tim Hughes, Andrew Knight, Ben Mingay, Geoff Perry, David Wright

**Ginger Meggs Performers**
Colby Hanes, George Lane, John Moore, Hannah Neilson, Hamish Parsons, Clancy Roberts, Eliza Ward

**Staff Choir**
Murray Guest, Anna Barnier, Pat Bradley, Colette Brus, Rachel Butcher, Anna Gayner, Joanne Guest, Tim Hughes, Hannah Lo, Veronica Lucas, Cressida Mort, Alex Pollitt, Fiona Robb, Leanne Roobol, Tim Scott, Pip Warrick, Susannah Warrick, Phoebe Wood

**1884 Chorus**
Pat Bradley, Aline Christenson, Grant Harris, Geoff Perry, Helen Toppin, Alan Wilkinson

**TAS Trebles**

**The Grand Dames**
Poppy Abbott, Aline Christenson, Kim Harris, Claire Keogh, Trish Keogh, Barbie McConville, Pearl Moffatt, Helen Toppin, Pip Warrick, Alison Wright

**Old Boys Chorus**
Ben Sutton, Pat Bradley, Rob Busby, Andrew Erratt, Sebastian Hempel, Tim Hughes, Graham MacDougall, Alex Thomas, Alan Wilkinson, Will Winter, David White, David Wright