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Old Boys News 17-20

Binghi is a production of The Armidale School published at the end of each school term.

Editor: Tim Hughes

Layout: nuthico.com.au (Old Boy Greg Dorman 93-03)

Principal: Whelan

Contributions for inclusion are most welcome. The submission deadline for Binghi 165 is 6 June 2014.

Cover: Harry Wright, as Action, leads the Jets in a dynamic dance sequence in the TAS production of West Side Story. (Photo: Tim Scott)

From the Headmaster

In any school strategic planning process, the initiatives that command the most attention will be those that are most visible, expanded academic offerings, new buildings, improved sports choices and the like. It is likely that less attention will be given to the ‘soft’ elements of the strategic plan, particularly within the pastoral domain. There is irony in this gap in attention, as the developments on the ‘soft’ side of the school curriculum will invariably have the strongest impact on student experiences and outcomes. The place of our ambitions for positive psychology in the TAS Vision 2025 exemplifies this irony as the progress we have made over the past two years has attracted little attention, but been enormously important in the construction of school culture for the future.

The positive psychology movement in schools has attracted a lot of comment and activity over the past decade and grown rapidly in prominence. This is a good thing as it carries the promise of new and better cultures in schools, but it is certainly not the radical departure from traditional independent school practices that some consider it to be. The interest of schools in developing self-esteem has been with us for decades, as have social skills programs and, more recently, the call for schools to focus on the development of resilience has been widespread. Positive psychology readily identifies with these interests and programs and, importantly, provides a structure and a language to understand their place in developing positive and worthwhile character traits in students.

Our ambition at TAS is for the key principles of positive psychology to inform the building of a pastoral curriculum that focuses on strengths rather than weaknesses, continuous growth rather than fixed benchmarks, optimism over despair, gratitude over entitlement and resilience in response to disappointment.

Whilst these can be seen as discreet, abiding characters for schools to promote, positive psychology provides the structure to move them from the hidden, but deliberate curriculum.

Embedding this curriculum means more than writing and implementing a program and it takes more time. It requires the development of understanding and commitment across the community and this must start with the school staff; teachers and others who will lead work with students in the future. This is why the last two years have been focused on developing staff skills and understanding, through conferences, working groups, attention to mindfulness in our meetings, expressions of gratitude and, most recently, new material for advisor groups in Middle and Senior School and class activities in Junior School.

Whilst all of this may seem ‘soft’ and unrelated to ‘hard’ performance measures that are the focus of so many education reports, it is possible to measure the attitudes and habits that are the focus of positive psychology and it is our intention to do so and report on it as our program unfolds further.

Binghi 164 - 2

120 Years later, links live on

An engaging history lesson about a student mutiny for better food presented by descendants of some of the school’s original students, was a highlight of this year’s Founders Day assembly on 17 March.

Founders Day is a special day that connect boys with the history and spirit of the school and recognises those who have contributed to making the school what it is today.

It is surely unusual that, in our 120th year, the student population includes both the great-great-grandson of the first Headmaster Rev William Fisher (Tom Peters, a Year 10 boarder from Nevern, the great-grandson of the first boy enrolled at the school, Herbert Mackenzie (Harry Mackenzie from Armidale, in Year 9). Tom and Harry were joined on stage by several other boys with direct family links back to students of 1894. Some read memoirs from their ancestors, while others told the tale of the famous food mutiny, in which the School Sergeant, Cansdell – disappointed his request for a pay rise was declined – instigated a petition to the Board signed by 12 boys complaining about the quality of food (he lost his job as a result).

The boys descended from those in the earliest known photo of students and staff, taken in June 1894, willingly adopted their ancestor’s position and stand for a re-enactment.

Inverell Toughen Up

Middle School Monitors

Father & Son Weekend

Mother & Son Weekend

TAS Legacy

Founders Day

Academic Focus

Science & Engineering

Forensic Sci-ence

Wellbeing

Mother & Son Weekend

Father & Son Weekend

TAS Legacy

FOUNDERS DAY

TAS Legacy

TAS Legacy

Founders Day

TAS Legacy

TAS Legacy

TAS Legacy

TAS Legacy
Memorial window ‘a significant work’

A WW1 Memorial window by one of the nation’s best stained-glass artists has been described as a “little-known treasure” by a Melbourne expert researching stained glass memorials that commemorate Australian war service.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes, who is working on a book entitled Light Everlasting: ANZAC Memorials on Stained Glass, said the three windows designed by M Napier Waller in the TAS War Memorial Assembly Hall were “very important” in understanding his work.

Napier Waller is perhaps best known for the stained glass and mosaic designs in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The windows at TAS, like the hall in which they are housed, were funded by donation from the TAS Old Boy community following the Second World War and installed in 1961.

Originally, a committee called for design submissions from Old Boys, students and staff but did not proceed as funds were tight. The delay was fortuitous: by the time staff, but did not proceed as funds were tight. The delay was fortuitous: by the time they were funded by donation from the TAS Old Boy community following the Second World War and installed in 1961.

Napier Waller was “very important” in understanding his work.

OzCLO challenges students to develop strategies to solve logical and analytical puzzles related to real languages. This year OzCLO was held at seven Australian universities including UNE, where it was hosted by the Linguistics Department.

Dr Bronwyn Hughes was delighted to inspect the Napier Waller windows in the War Memorial Assembly Hall. Alissa Van Soest from Education Interactive engaged Sterling George, Sam Wright, Ben Hamparsum and Rasmussen, Angus Simmons, Michael Harris and Lachlan Tonkin, in the junior division.

This year we recorded our best results, with the senior team achieving Silver awards and the junior team achieving Gold awards. Unfortunately, the junior team narrowly missed out on continuing to represent NSW North at the National round. 2015 looks good for his team.

All boys felt very proud of their interpreting, deciphering and problem solving attempts.

Best yet results at academic Olympiad

Eight students used their problem solving skills to their best advantage in the annual Australian Computational Linguistic Olympiad (OzCLO) competition for secondary school students.

OzCLO challenges students to develop strategies to solve logical and analytical puzzles related to real languages. This year OzCLO was held at seven Australian universities including UNE, where it was hosted by the Linguistics Department.

Some of the TAS Year 12 science students who took out the Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England earlier this month.

Boys engage in forensic workshop

It was clearly murder, but less obvious was how the crime should be solved: students from Years 6-10 relished playing detectives during a forensic science workshop at TAS in March.

As part of a scenario entitled A Case of Identity, involving the death of a teenage girl after a party, students analysed evidence and used logic and reasoning to identify the culprit – and quickly realised there was more to it than television might suggest.

Budding engineers win university challenge

A few small triangles made all the difference to a TAS team of young scientists who will now head to a prestigious engineering challenge at the University of Newcastle, after winning the regional round on 19 March. Pitting their skills against other bright young people from the region, the 32 boys came away with the highest marks at the annual Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England.

For the Challenge, each of the eight participating schools fields eight teams of three to four members, which all compete in different competitive activities involving science and engineering concepts presented to the judges at the end of the day. Activities included making a model hovercraft that must be fast and manoeuvrable, an ecologically sound model house, and an accurate and powerful catapult.

Another involved the construction of a bridge that was as light as possible but could withstand as much weight as possible – and it was the success of this which took TAS from second to first place.

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

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

The TAS team will now compete at one of the State finals in September.
Sons and parents share special weekends

On two weekends during the term, boys at different stages of development spent some special time with a parent, getting to know and understand one another a little better.

The Mother & Son and Father & Son weekends, for boys in Years 11 and 9 respectively, were this year both held at the Nymboida Canoe Centre, just west of Grafton.

Held in late February, the second Mother & Son weekend was enjoyed by 15 boys, their mothers and TAS staff who competed in games, conversed over meals and learnt more about each other’s values and expectations. The journey itself was all part of the experience, with many of the boys taking the steering wheel to clock up some hours for their ‘Ls’.

On Saturday afternoon, ‘icebreaker’ games such as tunnel ball helped set a positive mood before an informal session on clarifying values and a gourmet dinner.

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Fireman Pat goes to Botswana

As if trying to balance the TAS books isn’t enough of a task, Business Manager and Old Boy Pat Bradley (70-75) spent three weeks in February and March helping the Botswana Government develop the first bushfire management plan for the 5.6 million hectare Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the second largest game reserve in the world.

Mr Bradley, a Group Captain with the Rural Fire Service in New England and, Superintendent Allyn Purkiss from Tamworth, met with dozens of stakeholders during their visit, as they gauged fire risks following the best wet season for decades.

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Co-curricular

Douglas Shield, "he said. "It augured well for our performance in the semi-finals of the prestigious Douglas Shield inter-schools competition, before we moved on to a win against Canberra Grammar in March and St Ignatius College in April."

The First IV made it through to the finals of the prestigious Douglas Shield MIC Jim Pinnington said attending regular inter-school competition.

Co-curricular Co-curricular

Richard attendance at carnivals

Great day for athletics

Moving this year’s athletics carnival forward in the term was no impediment to parents and supporters attending this year’s Middle and Senior School athletics carnival, which ran like clockwork.

All those who competed will have their own highlights of the carnival, whether they be personal bests, the enjoyment of competing alongside mates or the impressive wins by Croft House which won the champion house trophy (for points per capita) and Tyrell House who won the Archdale Cup for overall points. As always, participation is the key to the carnival’s success, with most boys entering every event they were eligible for.

Our representative athletics will continue their training in preparation for the GPS championships in May, the NGS in August and, for the most elite, state and national titles. We wish these young men well for their training ahead.

Age champions were:

- 12 years (Braud Cup) Oscar Hensell
- 13 years (AC Hall Cup) Maxim Drozanov
- 14 years (IB Sandlands Cup)
- Lachlan Knowles
- 15 years (U15 Champions Cup) Percy Duncan
- 16 years (Belfield Cup)
- Samuel Jackson-Bolton
- 17 years (RU Magnifin Cup) Jonathan Hunt
- Open (Robert Horner Fletcher Cup) Matthew Haydon
- Open-Hurdles (Warren Pengilley Cup) Matthew Haydon
- Open: 1500m (Swinton Cup) Sam Johnston
- 3000 metres (JC Bucknell Trophy) Joe Makemah

Swimming champ off the blocks

Jay Kennedy capped off 10 years as age champion at his last swimming carnival at The Armidale School on 14 February, breaking four school records in the process.

In the senior 200m individual medley, Jay, the school’s swimming captain, beat his existing record of 2:19.91 in a time of 2:17.92, while knocking nearly two seconds off his record for the 200m freestyle, hitting the wall in 2:00.15.

The two other records; he set were in the 18 and over 100m freestyle in 55.52, and the 18 and over 50m backstroke in 29.82, the previous records set in 2011 and 2009.

Jay also had podium finish in the 2012 CNS Harbour Ocean Swim (see page 12 for details.)

At last year’s school carnival Jay set new time benchmarks in five events and in 2012, in three.

In conjunction with the longer distance events held on Thursday night was the inter-house warc Lady competition, an entertaining display of songs of brotherhood, won by Tyrell House. During the war cry the boys from Croft unveiled their new House colour, black – with a sky blue crest.

Headmaster Murray Guest said the event reflects school spirit at its best.

“This is a mass participation event for our students, and the excitement, commitment and close spirit shown by the boys in and out of the pool is a reason why it is so many of our families come to be a part of it, and I believe this year’s to be the best attended ever,” he said.

Boys make NCIS football team

Congratulations to seven boys on making the North Coast Independent Schools football team after an excellent day at the NGS championships which TAS hosted on March 2. TAS First XI won the senior boys division after defeating Lismore Grammar 2-1, Emanuel Grammar 3-0, Bishop Drumm College 3-0 and Kempsey Adventist College 7-0. Our junior boys were runners up. Well done to Alex Boudou, Jackson Hardingham, Luke O’Donoghue, Michael O’Sullivan, Dylan Ruba, Rory Spers and Sam Zulli on their selection for the 15-man NCIS squad which will compete in the Combined Independent Schools championships later in the year.

Then on 5 April, The First XI had a terrific game under lights at Doody Park against St Paul’s Grammar School, Sydney, winning 6-4. It was a particularly competitive game for TAS coach Rev Richard Hewston. His brother Geoff was the coach of the St Paul’s XI.

And the day before the end of the term, the team defeated Bishop Drumm 6-4 in the first round of the CIS knockout competition.

Debaters take the floor

Should students be paid for good grades?

Gambling should be banned! And surely the carot is worse than the stick? Such were the three of six topics debated at the first round of the annual Tri-Schools Debating Challenge, hosted by The Armidale School on 2 April.

The competition, for students from Years 6-8 at TAS, PLC and NEGS, was a showcase of sharp minds, shrewd arguments and showmanship, exhibited by both seasoned debaters and absolute novices.

The adjudicators had a hard time splitting some of the teams, and offered speakers helpful feedback on the judging criteria of manner, matter and method.

At the end of the day, each school won two debates, with PLC narrowly pipping NEGS and TAS on overall points. Awards were presented for the best audience engagement, best rebuttal, best time line, best engagement, best rebuttal, best time line, best line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best time line, best tim...
When you’re a Jet …

It may be about two rival teenage gangs, but students from four Armidale schools spent almost six months working together, to bring to the Hoskins Centre stage an extraordinary production of the musical West Side Story.

Around 100 boys and girls from TAS, PLC, NEGS and O’Connor Catholic College were involved in the student cast and crew, supported by an orchestra of 19 musicians, including many well known in the New England region.

Director Emma Buzo delivered on a promise that audiences would be in for a visual and musical treat: “We have asked a lot of the boys and girls; they had to deal with some pretty serious social themes as well as complex dance routines and Leonard Bernstein’s wonderful but very sophisticated musical score with its multiple time signatures,” she said.

The risk paid off in spectacular fashion, the flair of the Puerto Rican ‘Sharks’, the gusto of the Jets and the Romeo and Juliet factor of Tony and Maria came together in an exciting and dramatic way.

It was the first time in many years students from the four schools had appeared together in a musical. Further, it was a younger cast than previously; Tony was played by Andrew Knight in Year 10 at TAS, while the two female leads Dakotah Love (PLC) who was Maria, and NEGS student Emily Sole who channelled Latin sass as Anita, were both only in Year 9. A choir of 25 students from Years 3-8 from the four schools complemented the senior performers.

Ms Buzo said the production was only possible because of the choreographic skills of Melissa Killen from O’Connor, while Amy Walsh from PLC developed some magical music talent.

A fitting farewell

West Side Story was the final production at TAS for Emma Buzo. This year’s production followed last year’s Les Misérables and before that, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, and Grease. Ms Buzo was in the unique position of teaching Norm and Ahmed, written by her father Alex (TAS 56 - 60) to HSC Drama students at his old school, and staged another of his works, Front Room Boys, in addition to other curriculum texts. As Hoskins Centre manager she brought touring productions to Armidale, including two projects of the Sydney Theatre Company.

Of her last production, the Headmaster said: “I pay special tribute to Emma as producer and director; West Side Story was her vision and she carried leadership of it from the spark of the first idea to the final curtain. It was a personal triumph for her as much as it was for the cast, crew and musicians and it was a memorable finale to her fine career as Head of TAS Drama and Hoskins Centre Manager.”

TAKING CONTROL ON THE STAGE
Leadership is more than just an honours badge or a reward. For 53 young men it also involved problem solving, public speaking, navigation, communication and learning how to take responsibility for others.

Held at New England University Company Depot (Army Reserve) and in the field at Jeogla Station east of Armidale over five days, the TAS Cadet Unit’s involved boys from Years 9-11 who wish to be junior leaders, senior leaders and cadet under officers.

Both the junior leaders course (for those interested in leading a section of nine cadets) and the senior course (cadets wanting to lead at platoon level as a Sergeant) involved introductory and advanced levels of training in leadership, navigation and communication, including navigation at day and night in different weather conditions, using map and compass.

The CUOs course, for senior boys wanting appointments as platoon commanders and company commanders, repeated leadership and navigation training and then focused primarily on communication skills, including grounding in prepared and impromptu public speaking, and briefing others.

In the words of Year 9 student Charles Uren from Woolbrook: “For the first two days we brushed up on our drills, perfected our navigation skills and learned about radio telecom procedures. Then we camped out in the bush and put it all into practice. The course built confidence in our abilities to take on leadership roles when we take charge of the junior cadets later in the year. I now am more confident to give instructions to other people which will transfer into other areas of everyday life.”

Middle School Monitors appointed

These young men will carry out various leadership responsibilities in Middle School.

Head of Middle School Mr Mark Harrison with Middle School Monitors (back row, l-r) Luke Vagg, Angus Cornall, Nicholas Makeham, Dan Leithbridge, Angus Apps. (front row) Sam Ruba, Sam Marshall (Head Monitor Boarder), Nicholas Mior (Head Monitor Day), Henry Smith, Henry Hughes.

Big team for ocean swim

Jay Kennedy capped off a stellar school swimming career with third place in the annual Coffs Harbour two kilometre ocean swim on 30 March. Jay, who came fifth last year, crossed the line in a time of 29.01.

Schoolmate Harry Wright was second behind Jay in the 16-19 men’s category and a third team member Will Raleigh was third in the same category.

Thirty six boys and three staff took part in the swim, with many using the event as part of their training for their Surf Bronze Medal, in conjunction with Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.

It was the eleventh year the school had entered a team in the event.

The swim is also the first leg for the Triple Crown, a school award created last year for boys who complete the 2km Coffs Harbour ocean swim, the Sydney City to Surf foot race, and the 111km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, during their years at TAS.

Boys thrive on a tough challenge

Fitness challenges are becoming a rage right around the globe – and it’s no surprise they are also finding appeal with boys from TAS.

In March a team of 24 boys from Years 7-12 (including Triathlon MIC Mr Jim Pennington) took part in the second Inverell Toughen Up Challenge, with TAS supplying six of the 48 teams. The 6km course included hale bale climbs, mud pits, tyre pull, tractor tyre flip, sled push, swimming, cross country running, sand bag carry and numerous push-up-style exercises. A Year 12 team came fourth, while a Year 7 team completed the adult course, impressing organisers and spectators!
Junior School - athletics & swimming carnivals

Records fall in the pool

It was wonderful to see so many Junior School girls and boys participating in the Junior School swimming carnival in February. Tom Ball set records in the 8 year boys 50m freestyle (43.04), 50m butterfly (1:03.66), and 50m backstroke (55.31). Ben Rowe set a new record in the 10 year boys 25m backstroke in 24.38, and Ross House broke the record for the Junior Mixed 4x50m relay in 3.05.15. Congratulations to all swimmers, particularly the Division champions: Banjo Lawrence (sub junior boy), Scarlett Buntine (sub junior girl), Tom Ball (junior boy), Sophia Rutledge (junior girl), Joseph Anderson (senior boy) and Casey Smith (senior girl). The winning house for 2014 was Ross House.

Following outstanding performances at the North Coast Independent Schools (NCIS) championships at Lismore, Joseph Anderson, Tom Ball, Sam Ball and Isabella Rutledge were selected to represent NCIS at the Combined Independent Schools championships in March. After placing second in the final, Tom Ball gained selection in the team for the NSW PSSA All Schools championships in 50m freestyle, to be held on 9 April.

Junior School results were as follows.

- Winning House: Broughton
- Highest Point Score: Nick O’Neil
- Senior Boy: Nick O’Neil
- Senior Girl: Casey Smith
- Intermediate Boy: Asher Game-Lopata
- Intermediate Girl: Sophia Rutledge
- Junior Boy: Thomas Ball
- Junior Girl: Ruby Broun
- Sub Junior Boy: Fletcher Connor and Charlie Ryan
- Sub Junior Girl: Peyton Slade

The Junior School Serpent is complete

It took several years, but the giant serpent now has scales! Seven years ago, the concept of a boundary between the Junior School playground and lunch area emerged and the idea of the serpent was created. Designed by landscape architect Catherine Nelson, the 40m sculpture was executed by well-known local potter Mr Rick Hatch who along with his team, created a truly wonderful addition to the playground. Closely spaced poly-pipe ribs anchored to the slab and tied together with a spine made of steel rods was the foundation for the structure. A muscle layer of shade cloth and steel mesh and skins of concrete render then enclosed the steel, making the undulating arch of the hollow form amazingly strong. After coming across a small juvenile brown snake and using its pattern of scaling as inspiration, Mr Hatch worked alongside former TAS art teacher James White and school house painters Dave Dooghan and Bernie Hine, to provide the serpent with the initial rich, brown coat. Mr Hatch and Mr White then spent 10 days adding the stenciled ‘scales’. The result is just magnificent and something the house structure is the basis for new leadership roles, which have been introduced into Junior School. In the past, when the athletic and swimming championships have been completed, these roles have largely ceased to exist. These new positions will expand opportunities to develop leadership skills and provide a vehicle which, over time, will enhance our students’ capacity to lead. The Junior School SRC is another initiative where students can volunteer to take up the challenge of leadership and discuss issues of interest.

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For more on the Junior School Serpent, go to the Junior School section of the TAS website.

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TAS Foundation

Annual Giving 2014 – Helping those in drought

Every year the TAS Foundation sends out to our whole community our TAS Annual Giving donation request, which focuses on specific projects needed by the school. This year, we are particularly mindful of the impact the current seasonal conditions are having on those living in regional Australia. The Foundation Board is very aware that our families are committed to sending their sons’ education. Our Annual Giving this year will concentrate on establishing these means-tested drought relief bursaries but we are also asking for gifts for our Building Trust, the Indigenous Student Support Fund (ISSF) and the Scholarship Fund. All gifts are tax-deductible and gratefully received. Your generosity changes lives.

Funds for our GPS Rowing Program

This is the third year TAS has participated in the GPS-Head of the River and as you can imagine, it requires total commitment over many months, from the team of boys and staff for it to happen. Not the least is the travel, including the twice weekly trips to Malpas Dam near Guyra where boys and the coaches sleep in swags on the boated hill, attending regattas and training camps at the coast, and of course, to the Head of the River at Penrith itself. This is, of course, all part of the character of a rowing program that is making a profound difference to our boys and our school.

However there are some things that can’t be achieved with just grit, perseverance and a commitment to a greater cause than oneself. We are now in real need of two important pieces of infrastructure to ensure the program can continue in a meaningful way: another second hand racing boat, and a modified trailer to carry the fleet to and from regattas.

The total cost is $5,000 and while this donation to the school cannot be tax-deductible, we would be very grateful to the donor who can support our rowing program in this meaningful way.

Contact Cressida Mort on cmort@as.edu.au if you are able to support this great cause.

New school website aims to be amongst best in country

A 12 month project to create one of the most comprehensive and useful school websites in the country, came to fruition in February when TAS flicked the switch on its new internet home. Designed for use on all devices from smartphones to computers, the 350-page site contains two distinct levels of information. Along the top section of the home page is a horizontal menu bar designed for these groups to easily access the information most relevant to them – from what is happening in classes and co-curricular activities to sport notices, student travel, school policies and much more.

“The site aims to communicate with parents and the wider world in the most useful and comprehensive way we can. Everything our current and prospective parents, students and staff need to know will be only a click away and easy to find.”

1940s

Dick Hays (41-46) wrote to say that Tom Payne (37-43) and his wife Audrey have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. “Unbelievable!” Dick wrote. “It deserves a mention in Binghi.” Happy to oblige, Dick – and congratulations from us all to Tom and Audrey. Dick also sent good wishes for a speedy recovery for Keith (Sam) Coulton (39-46) who has been ill in a hospital in Brisbane.

1950s

Grahame Brett (56-57) sent some photographs from the new war memorial for Australia’s servicemen killed in Afghanistan that was dedicated at Lake Tinana near Yungaburra on the Atherton Tableland in far north Queensland. Dedicated in June last year, the Avenue of Honour includes a sculpted memorial and plaques of those who died while serving in Afghanistan, including LT Michael Fussell (94-01).

1960s

John Myrtle (55-62) has just attended a conference at the School of History, Australian National University, Canberra, organised in honour of Alan Atkinson (58 - 63). The title of the conference was ‘History From Within: A Conference In Honour of Alan Atkinson’. Alan retired from UNE with the title of Emeritus Professor and because he had studied for his PhD at ANU, it was ANU who organised this two-day conference that attracted an impressive array of speakers on various aspects of Australian history. A number of members of Alan’s family also attended including his wife and two sisters.

In December a small gathering of Old Boys met up with Father Don Cowan (Staff – Dangar Housemaster: 60-66). The occasion marked 50 years since many of his former charges departed Dangar House. In (75-77) Don was posted back to TAS as Chaplán. Some time later he had a ‘re-tread’ (his term) and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest.

Thanks to Rob Busby (63-68) for this information.

More news from Rob Busby about the Chin brothers, Wai Lam Jim Chim (57-61), Wai Man Chim (58-60) Lam Fatt Chim (60-61) The brothers had been missing for some 30 years but were discovered (in Sydney) in 2011. This event has been celebrated annually since then. In mid January some of the 1960 Leavers enjoyed this reunion dinner in Chinatown. Those attending included Jim and Paul Barratt (56 – 60). The Barratt family have ‘adopted’ Jim Chin when he arrived from Hong Kong in 1957.

Another convivial get together of TAS Old Boys occurred, also in January, when some of the 61, 63 Leavers enjoyed lunch with Hong Kong based Kwon Lam (61-62) and his wife Panay. The Lam’s now spend a considerable time in Sydney, where their daughter lives. Pictured left to right are Doug Widdup (55-62), David Howe (61-62), Paddy Flower (62-63) and Rob Busby (63-68), Kwon Lam and Tony Braund (48-53) who was invited as he and Kwon attend the same church in Mosman. Thanks to Paddy for this information.

Another lunch event happened in Port Macquarie earlier in the year. Bob Crossman (58-64), John Childs (59-64), and Paddy Flower (62-63) met up and lunched with Jim Graham (Staff 56-99). By all account the four of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

1970s

Many thanks indeed to David Fayle (64-69), Gordonston 79 (nephew of Old Federal Hans Fayle whose obituary can be found elsewhere) for sending in this photo of himself and siblings Michael, Peter and Margaret (Jone) who has retired with his wife Pamela to the Amamoor Headland north of Woolgoolga where he is heavily involved in Rotary and volunteer work, orchestral and choral music and other pursuits. Their two sons are married, and they have five grandchildren.

Michael Fayle (69-74) is the Lending and Investment Manager of North State Finance, Coffs Harbour. He is a Past President of Sawtell Rotary and is involved with the Scouts. He and Pauline have a son and daughter. Peter (73-78) is the senior scientist and lab manager for Eastern Pathology at Angliss Hospital in Melbourne. He and Diana have two sons and a daughter, and live in Warrawong. Margaret, Peter’s twin sister, attended NGS and is a specialist group consultant with Pfizer Travel in Quanembey. She and husband Philip Jones live in Jerrabomberra with their son and daughter.

Father Roger Zohrab (72-77) moved from Maitland to Toronto, Lake Macquarie and then to Dubbo. However he has now returned to full time ministry in the Diocese of Newcastle.
Robert Mills (82-87) has been a minister of religion for nearly 10 years. He recently moved to the Inverell district and is currently running the Inverell Salvation Army church. “My kids have settled into their new school and the rain has come!!! God bless, Robert.”

In the 1980s

Angus Gordon (84-89) had a pretty busy year. His latest picture book ‘Heiman and Rose’ was sold into nine countries, chosen as the ‘Read for Australia’ book and was lucky to win the Children’s Book Council of Australia Honour Award for best picture book.

2000s

Wally Richards (Staff 98-10) has forwarded this great story and photo about Philip Halcombe (94-00).

Congratulations

We have received an excellent note from Spencer Witten (31-32). We advise that on 7 May he will celebrate his 99th birthday. We suspect that this makes him one of our oldest Old Boys – perhaps the oldest? We’d love to hear from any Old Boy who remembers him on 1 July. Robert writes, “David was a keen fisherman, lover of life and always the party animal. He always said the devil would have a good time! Robert.”

Can you help?

Dennis, Pit who is a boarder at TAS and one of 13 current students at the school, is keen to ask Old Boys if they can help him with a query about who was the first Aboriginal student at TAS. We are aware of Warren Roberts (96-03) and before him, Derek Sindon (83-86). Were there any earlier?

He would be very grateful for any assistance. Please email binghi@as.edu.au.

GSS Gold Challenge

Planning is well underway for this year’s GSS Gold Challenge on 3-4 October. These long weekend events held every two years for Old Boys aged around 50 this year’s group are the GPS Old Boys who finished Year 12 in 1981 and 1982. Teams representing each school compete in several sports, and on Saturday night a dinner and debate is held at Revee’s, with funds raised for Red Kids, which assists children and young people suffering from cancer.

At the last challenge, 21 TAS boys mainly from the 1979 leavers group competed in tennis, cricket shooting, golf, basketball, touch rugby, athletics, and debating. This year’s organiser is really hoping that both teams will compete from 1981 and 1982 cohorts to register your interest in any of the sports, or for more information, contact Nick Tutt (78-81) nick@cgklucy.com.au or David (DJ) Thompson (76-81) david@thollis.com.au or Adrian ‘Moose’ Skeggs (78-82) admisskeggs@gmail.com.

Obituaries

The School extends its sympathies to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

Brett Spokes (89-94) is now living in Musselbrook and has joined the mining industry. Brett was a former member of the successful TAS Shooting teams in 93-94.

Craig Searle (95-97) has been appointed Head of Cyber-Security Asia Pacific for BAe Systems Applied Intelligence, where he oversees the company’s cyber security business and works to help clients with the threats to their business by cyber criminals. He was recently featured as an expert in the field on an ABC TV 17.10 Report story about encrypted mobile phones – a growing field and endlessly fascinating.

Benjamin Cliff (97-02) is a business manager for United Fuels. He was based in Alice Springs where he bought a house. He has now moved to Darwin and so has had to rent out his house in Alice Springs.

Good news from Justin Collins (02-03) who is living at Earlville in Queensland. He is now in remission from lymphoma and he and his wife are thoroughly enjoying parenthood with their son Jackson.

David Liston (03-07) is now living in Dublin having been appointed CEO of the Irish office of One Big Switch. Their current campaign, the ‘Big Energy Switch’ has been very successful in Ireland with over 52,000 households re-gasping in three months. This makes it Ireland’s biggest ever consumer campaign.

David has caught up with Henry Archdale (04-09) who is living and working in his grandfather’s home of Enniskillen in Northern Ireland, and has even managed to get a run with Henry's Enniskillen rugby team.

2010s

Sam Schmidt (99-11) is in the third year of his Electrical Fitters apprenticeship working for Estrada at the Uluru West Mine in Mindjede. Sam took some time out last year to visit Europe. It was great to see a contingent of recent Old Boys supporting TAS at the Head of the River regatta recently pictured below and Harrison Grant (02-06) who rowed with the 2012 – 2013 and 2014 - 2015 seasons.

Harry Guest (99-12) and Grant (03-12) have recently purchased a small farm near Alice Springs. The family have been in Alice Springs since 2000 - 2010 and during this time found Alice Springs to be a welcoming and friendly place.

Derek Frederick Hayle (42-43) died peacefully on 13 March at the age of 90 years. He was born in Baldina in 1924, the eldest son of DOH (Dalrymple Disney Hayle).

The family moved to Armidale when Dal was three years old and he was educated at the Armidale Demonstration School, Armidale High and the Armidale School (TAS) where his schooling was interrupted for a year by an accident involving a nutty 44-gallon drum, through which he caught osteomyelitis, which resulted in the permanent shortening of one leg, and life with a built-up shoe. Despite this Dal became an A Grade table tennis player, enjoyed tennis and later took up boxing. A desire to do pharmacy saw him apprenticed to his Uncle Richard (Dick) (Dalrymple Hayle) a Pharmacy in Glen Innes before continuing his studies at the University of Sydney. He then commenced work at DOH Hayle, Your Chemist, Beady Street, Armidale until his retirement in 1984. In 1956, he married Judith O’Donnell, and they had four daughters. After his retirement, he and Judy moved to Nambucca Heads.

Neil Leslie Roberts (Staff: Bursar August 1980 – April 1984)

We thank Scotch College, Melbourne for the news that Neil Roberts passed away after a very long illness. Neil was born in Sydney in 1944 and died in Melbourne on 8 February, 2014. He came to TAS in Alan Cash’s final years and proved to be an intelligent and enthusiastic bursar. Neil’s sons, Lynden (80-84) and Cameron (82-84), attended TAS during their father’s time as bursar but when Neil was appointed to Scotch College in 1985 they finished school there. Both boys went on to graduate in Medicine from Melbourne University. Neil retained a keen interest in TAS well after leaving, and was always keen to attend gatherings of Melbourne old boys.

Robert Faulkner (59-62) advised us of the sad passing in June 2011 of his older brother David John (55-60). Robert writes, “David was a keen fisherman, lover of life and always the party animal. He always said the devil would get him and so he has gone to the place of fallen angels. We miss him very much.”

A boarder at TAS and one of a small group of Aboriginal students currently at the school, is keen to ask Old Boys if they can help him with a query about who was the first Aboriginal student at TAS. We are aware of Warren Roberts (96-03) and before him, Derek Sindon (83-86). Were there any earlier?

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2014 TAS Old Boys’ weekend 15th - 17th August

60+ Year reunion
Pat Coupland
Ph: (02) 6772 1947
E: patrobc@bigpond.net.au
or Donna Jackson Ph: (02) 6776 5865
Venue: TAS Dining Hall

50 Year reunion
Seeking Expressions of Interest
Venue: TAS Dining Hall

40 Year reunion
Alistair Fenwicke
M: 0428 697 649
E: alistairfenwicke@trinder.com.au
Venue: TAS Dining Hall

30 Year reunion
Rob Pollard
M: 0417 532 830
E: Rob_Pollard@investblue.com.au
Venue: tbc

20 Year reunion
Jonathon Heath
M: 0438 447 894
E: jonathon@jonathanheath.com
Venue: tbc

10 Year reunion
Jamie Cowell
M: 0400 430 966
Venue: tbc

5 Year reunion
Andrew Liston
M: 0477 060 525
Venue: tbc

Note: the cost of the OBU Official Dinner is $85.00 per person including drinks, all Old Boys and partners are welcome to attend.

Friday, 15 August

OBU Golf Day at the Armidale Golf Club - special guests Old Newingtonians and College parents
12 midday Barbecue lunch at Armidale Golf Club
2.00pm Tee off for golf
5.00pm TAS vs Old Boys Debate - Hoskins Theatre
6.00pm Official opening of OBU Weekend - Hoskins Centre
Jock Perkins Memorial Art Exhibition hosted by 5 year leavers and the OBU
Drinks ‘n nibbles in the Hoskins Centre, all welcome

Saturday, 16 August

Continuous Barbecue on Backfield from 8.00am
To comply with GPS requirements, no alcohol will be allowed on the school grounds until the bar opens in Hoskins at 2.30pm
8.30am Tennis on the School courts
Shooting at Meadowfield Rifle Range
9.30am Football (Soccer) on the Cricket Oval 1st XI v Old Boys
11.00am NE Branch of Bell Tower Society, Morning Tea Lower Maxwell (Old Boys over 70 years)
11.00am Touch Football - Old Boys v TAS on Cricket Oval
11.30am Tours of the School depart from the McConville Centre
12.15pm Rugby - TAS 1st XV v Newington College 3rd XV
1.30pm Tug-o-War - Presentation of Croft Cup on Backfield
1.45pm After match function with Newington, McConville Centre
2.30-5.30pm Hoskins Bar open for drinks
6.00pm Pre Dinner Drinks in Big School for 20 year reunion group and above
7.30pm TAS OBU Official Dinner in the TAS Dining Hall including reunions of 45, 50, 60+ year groups. Old Boys from other year groups and partners are most welcome

Sunday, 17 August

9.30am OBU Chapel Service - TAS Chapel
10.30am Morning Tea - Chapel lawn
11.00am TAS OBU AGM, Venue tbc

TAS will be playing Newington College in rugby across all ages on Saturday 16 August. To book OBU events visit our website www.as.edu.au

Old Boys wanting to play sport against the school should contact Donna Jackson on (02) 6776 5865 or by email to obu@as.edu.au

Please note that Passing Out Parade will not be held during Old Boys Weekend in 2014

Keep an eye out for updated information at www.as.edu.au

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the AGM will be held on
Sunday 17 August, 2014 at 11.30am.
All members are cordially invited to this important meeting. Agenda items include: President’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Headmaster’s Report, Election of Office Bearers, General Business