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CO-ED
Successful start to full co-education

STATE-TOPPER
Wood smoke study wins Geography competition

MUSICAL TRIUMPH
Hoskins says hello to Bye Bye Birdie
Binghi is a production of The Armidale School published at the end of each school term.

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Contributions for inclusion are most welcome.
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Cover: For this year’s Founders Day students and staff alike gathered together for a whole school photo to mark the school’s first year of co-education. Boys and girls from Transition to Year 12 were joined by academic, administration, grounds, housekeeping and kitchen staff in front of Fisher Wing on 3 March for the historic photo which was taken by Simon Scott from the Cash Block balcony. It was the first whole-of-school photo since one to mark the school’s centenary, in 1994. Eight massive cakes, decorated with the school colours, were then cut up and enjoyed by 750 students and staff for morning tea.

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Old Boys News 18-20

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The first term of 2016 has drawn unusual attention from within and without the School as many have been carrying a watching brief on the beginnings of co-education and the anticipation and trepidation about change has been palpable. The reports now being heard from all quarters make it clear that our transition has been as smooth and successful as any could have imagined, creating positive outcomes for our students and our school on very many fronts that will carry us into the future. What has been most interesting though is not the change itself, but rather what has remained the same.

In times of significant change in any organisation it will be those things that remain steadfastly in place that reveal most about what is valued. Quite rightly many feel deeply connected to those characteristics of our school that are held most dear, particularly the activities and traditions that have become so important to our unique sense of community. The academic program, our Christian purpose and our creative activities were not in question, but what of the outdoors program, house competitions and the value we place on school sport that define our holistic and experiential approach to the TAS experience? Would the girls embrace those things in the same way that generations of boys have?

The experience of the past term has shown that those who were sceptical should have been more optimistic, simply on the basis that there is nothing in the TAS program that girls cannot do and so much that will naturally appeal to girls as much as boys. As so many co-educational schools around the world know and routinely experience, boys and girls alike value genuine challenge and will take it on when it is obviously something that is valued by their community.

The spirit of participation and the willingness to take up serious challenges are features of the TAS psyche that are commented on often and the manner in which our new girls have joined this spirit has been as impressive as it has been encouraging. This has been seen this term in the enthusiasm and determination shown by all our students through the first three days of the cadet program, the huge levels of participation in the swimming and athletics carnivals and war cries and the big TAS contingents in endurance challenges around the north of the State. It is very encouraging to see that these features of our Term 1 calendar are just as appealing in a co-educational environment as they have been for boys over recent decades.

The success of our introduction of co-education is not just measured by the number of our new enrolments or the thorough and happy way that our new girls have engaged with their new school. Just as important has been our focus on the spirit and values that have been the proud cornerstones of our school for more than 120 years and it is our intention to continue in this way.
The Term in pictures

The First XI celebrate their tie with Shore in the Independent Schools Cricket Festival

Three Activities Days were held this term, with surf life savers at Coffs Harbour and Sawtell

The first Assembly of the year

Junior School students joined the senior school in wearing red and white in support of the Red Cross’ Fiji cyclone appeal

Rowers had many dawn and dusk training sessions on Malpas Dam

Rachel and Michael Edmonds were two of many parents who worked tirelessly during the TAS Rugby Carnival

The annual war cry competition attracted a huge crowd of families and friends

Tom Cannington finds some air during mountain bike training
History was made at TAS on 28 January when full co-education officially became a reality, with girls making up almost half of all new enrolments. Of the 98 new students starting at the school on the first day of the year, 45 were girls, coming from as far as Sydney as well as across the New England and North West. Eight are daughters or granddaughters of Old Boys, whilst five were returning to the school where they spent their primary years. Fourteen of the 45 are boarders.

Six more girls (including four boarders) will start in Term 2.

Old Boy Scott Bremner of Inverell had always hoped his son Wally would one day come to TAS – never thinking that his daughter Bonnie would also have that opportunity. The pair, just a year apart, are the first brother-sister combination to start in TAS senior school on the same day.

“They have always been at school together and kept an eye out for each other, and we didn’t want to split them. Now that can happen here where they both have so many opportunities, both separately and together,” he said. “It also means we don’t have to split our commitments to different school communities – so as a family, it’s a win-win for us.”

Overseeing the pastoral care of all girl students including the boarders is Girls’ Education Director Miss Alexandra Pollitt, who lives on campus as Head of Dangar House.

“Prefectship is not a prize for what has already been done already, but is a call to serve the school community by supporting students and inspiring pride in the school through good example,” Mr Guest said.

“Whilst the process of their appointment is unique for this year, it reflects what happened in the very first year at TAS when the inaugural prefects were appointed to lead the student body of a school that none of them had been part of for very long. It is only right that in the first year of full co-education our many girl students have leaders they can look up to and who will be positive role models for them and represent their interests.”

Holly Tearle and Emily Blackbourne were inducted as school prefects, providing mentoring for younger girl students enrolled at the School.

Girl prefects appointed
At a brief ceremony on 17 February, Emily Blackbourne and Holly Tearle pledged to serve the student body and uphold the honour of the school when they became the first girl student leaders inducted at the school.

Back row: Kaylia Alldridge (Tamworth), Jessica Digby (Sydney, grandfather Gerry 43-45), Chlo Morgan (Tamworth, father Scott 79-82), Olivia Fenwicke (Armidale), Katie Miller (Glen Innes), Madison Alldridge (Tamworth)
Fourth row: Holly Tearle (Armidale), Katrina Osborne (Tamworth), Chlo Lawson (Moree, father David 90-93), Kira Dooner (Armidale), Hannah van Roy (Armidale), Emily Blackbourne (Armidale), Eliza Cunningham (Armidale)
Third row: Renee Collins (Armidale), Elyssa Rogers-Ellis (Armidale), Charlotte George (Hogarth Range), Eliza Ward (Armidale), Holly Billinghurst (stepfather Bruce Taylor 71-77), Amelia Landes (Armidale), Elliana McRae (Armidale, father Stewart 77-83), Isobel Robertson (Wongwibinda, father Jamie 75-79), Madeline Dennis (Armidale)
Second row: Dimitry Tearle (Armidale), Sophia Rosberg (Inverell), Jacqueline Barrett (Armidale), Sophie Tongue (Nundle), Dea Smart (Armidale), Ruby Wright (Armidale), Bonnie Bremner (Inverell, father Scott 80-84), Matilda Waterson (Armidale), Imogen Gifford (Armidale), Emily Hempel (Armidale, father Sebastian 77-83)
Front row: Isabel Newton (Armidale), Ruby Stoker (Armidale), Casey Smith (Armidale), Dominique Holley (Armidale), Mrs Pip Warrick (Director of Enrolments), Mr Murray Guest (Headmaster), Miss Alexandra Pollitt (Girls’ Education Director), Hannah Neilson (Armidale), Miah Lupica (Armidale), Ellen Coote (Moree), Karen Baker (Armidale)
Absent: Georgiana O’Brien (Gunnedah)
Dangar gets a makeover

It is fitting that the first building at TAS to be endowed by a woman has become, decades later, the first girls’ boarding house at TAS. The CC Dangar Memorial House (as it was officially called) has been stylishly refurbished in 2016 to become a 30-bed capacity home to girls from Years 6-12.

This historic building is also the home of the Girls’ Education Director and a female residential duty staff member.

The building’s history dates from 1919 when the then Headmaster, Rev H K Archdall, persuaded the Board to establish a Junior School. The following year Mrs Nora Dangar, widow of Old Boy Clive Collingwood Dangar of ‘Gostwyck’ Uralla, who had been killed in the First World War, offered to pay for the building and equipping of a Junior House to be named in honour of her late husband, who had been one of the original students at TAS. Awarded the Military Cross for outstanding war service, he died soon after returning to Australia to recuperate from war injuries.

The plans for ‘The CC Dangar Memorial House’ were drafted by Sydney architects, Power and Adams. On 9 February, 1924, Mrs Dangar laid the foundation stone of the new building, which was officially opened later that year by the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair. Apart from a brief period in the early 1990s when it was used for senior boarding, it was a home for junior boys at TAS until 2015.

With the introduction of co-education in 2016, new life has been being breathed into Dangar by interior architect Alexandra McRae of local firm Edwards McRae, and the young women who inhabit. One thing that won’t change is that it will continue to be a place where life-long friendships are forged and memories made.

Photos: Jeff Mackay
Ideas festival focuses on the creative world

Breathing life into characters, arcing a storyline and creating illustrations for text – these skills and more were the subject of workshops at a day-long creative writing festival at The Armidale School on 31 March.

Students from Years 6-8 moved through six different sessions in mixed groups, four run by visiting experts and focusing on a unique aspect of creative endeavour.

Prolific Australian author Sophie Masson gave students a suite of characters and encourage them to develop a storyline; author and editor Beattie Alvarez gave tips on effectively adding – or cutting – words to convey more depth and meaning; illustrator Esther Watt spoke about picture journals and designer Fiona McDonald led sessions on storyboarding. As well, TAS teachers Ms Collete Brus had students creating dramatic tableaux and Mark Harrison demonstrated expressive speech.

All students submitted a composition for an anthology that will be produced from the day.

The day was run jointly by Head of Middle School Mark Harrison, Middle School staff and TAS extension and enrichment coordinator Catherine Boydell.

“It was wonderful to be offer students the chance for something a bit out of the box that will hopefully give them insight into many skills that they will take with them through senior school,” Mr Harrison said.

Ms Boydell said it was hoped to stage a similar day later in the year.

“We are looking forward to hosting another Festival of Ideas later in the year with a focus on Peace which should be equally as inspiring,” she said.

Boys and their toys

The Year 12 Automotives students are having a great time in the Trades Training Centre with a big toy – conducting a 1000 hour service (including changing all the fluids, filters and valve lash adjustments) on a Caterpillar 12H grader. Mainly working on light autos, this has been a great opportunity for the students to get experience in earth-moving equipment.

Thanks to Mr Duncan de Jong for the use of the grader.

Pictured are (clockwise from left) Luke Bray, Oliver White, Ethan Monk, Joshua McCormick, Harry McDouall, Jacob Faint and Rob Hann with instructor David Lawrence.
Students win engineering challenge four years running

It may not have looked strong to its builders, but a bridge constructed from balsa wood, masking tape, tacks and a metal plate not only held more weight than its competitors, but helped carry Year 10 Science students from TAS to overall victory in the annual Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge at the University of New England for the fourth consecutive year.

“We remembered that triangles are the strongest shape – and learnt that looks can be deceiving in what a bridge can support,” said Dimity Tearle, a member of the bridge-building team in the multi-challenge event.

Pitting their skills against other bright young people from the region, the 30 Year 10 TAS students came away with the highest marks at the annual challenge, held at UNE on 16 March.

For the Challenge, each of the participating eight schools fields eight teams of three to four members, which all compete in eight different competitive activities involving science and engineering concepts presented to the judges at the end of the day. Activities included making a model hovercraft that must be fast and manoeuvrable, building a catapult for accuracy and distance, building a tower from drinking straws and designing a Mars Rover to carry a precariously balanced load over a rough surface.

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

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

Ellen Coote, Florian Hoch, Sam Wright and Sam Marshall build a ‘Mars Rover’

Sam tops the State in Geography competition

A Geography assignment about the challenges of wood smoke in Armidale by Sambavan Jeyakumar not only impressed his teacher who gave him full marks, it has topped a statewide competition.

As part of a Year 9 unit last year, Sam chose to explore the environmental and economic factors affecting Armidale’s wood smoke problem for a research action plan. Describing his work as ‘university standard’, his teacher Ms Fiona Taber then entered it in the 2015 Geography Fieldwork competition run by the Geography Teachers’ Association, who in Term 1 notified Sam it was awarded first prize for Global Education Fieldwork and Research – Stage 5.

As part of his assignment, Sam spoke with Armidale Dumaresq Council staff about planning issues, two doctors regarding respiratory health, a UNE environmental psychologist who has worked with the council to implement and evaluate strategies to change behaviours to reduce wood smoke emissions, and conducted a community survey to gauge the level of impact and appetite for change.

“It’s a really big issue that affects the health of many residents, but wood fires are a cheap form of heating,” Sam said. “In the plan I recommended that there are changes to some of the chimneys to more efficiently disperse smoke, but also for the council to introduce a five hundred dollar rebate so people can buy electrical heaters instead.”

Sam was presented with his prize at the Governor Arthur Phillip Awards ceremony held in conjunction with the association’s annual conference in Sydney on 8 April.

Sambavan Jeyakumar has been awarded first prize in a statewide Geography competition

TAS makes list of NAPLAN achievers

The 2015 NAPLAN results were released on the MySchool website in early March and TAS Junior School was named in the Sydney Morning Herald as one of 79 schools in NSW to have excelled in outcomes for students, particularly in reading. “Whilst I am reluctant to give too much weight to them, it is good recognition for the work of our Junior School teachers and I congratulate them on it, the Headmaster said.
TAS and Shore were joint winners of the Independent Schools Cricket Festival, held at TAS at the end of January.

It is the second consecutive year the two schools shared the trophy, a cricket bat signed by the Western Australian team that won the 1991-92 Sheffield Shield competition and decorated with the plaques of winners since the inaugural tournament in 1993.

On the first day of competition, TAS bettered St Ignatius College Riverview’s 105, making 2/107 in the 19th over. The hosts then played Scots PGC Warwick, racking up 8/197 in 25 overs with Scots 4/138 at the close. Shore also won both its first day matches against the Queensland schools.

Having tied with Shore, TAS then defeated Downlands College, making 8/148 to Downlands’ 9/125. Meanwhile Shore went on to take its game against Riverview, delivering Shore and TAS joint honours.

For the juniors, the season highlight was the under 14s TAS Yellow winning the local premiership. A number of players won Armidale Junior Cricket awards in their age groups and representative teams, including Nick Farrar (Year 10), who won the major trophy of Armidale Junior Cricketer of the Year.

NCIS Football championships deliver strong rep side

The TAS First XI football side has had a solid start to the season, with seven players selected for the North Coast Independent Schools team following TAS hosting the NCIS championships on 9 March.

The strong outfit did not concede one goal in their four games against six school teams from across the North Coast region, and won the senior boys division. Around 280 players from eight independent schools attended the championships, which TAS hosted for the fourth consecutive year. Bishop Druitt College from Coffs Harbour won the senior girls and junior boys division, whilst Emmanuel Anglican College of Ballina took out the junior girls.

Captain Alex Boulus will be joined by teammates Jarrod Bourke, Angus Lloyd, Jim Orr, Cai Spiers, Euan Spiers and Angus Webber in the NCIS team to compete at the Combined Independent Schools championships in Sydney on 24 May.

Rowers still on the rise at season’s end

The three TAS rowing crews gave it their all at the 119th AAGPS Head of the River regatta in Sydney on 12 March, recording their fastest times of the season over 2000m.

The school’s Third IV crossed the line in 7:37:35, a considerable improvement on the 7:50:74 they rowed at the Sydney Rowing Club regatta held in February, on the same course.

The Second IV finished in 7:26:41, knocking almost 16 seconds off, whilst the Firsts recorded 7:18:03, 17 seconds better than their Sydney Rowing Club regatta time.

“All the boys felt we were still on a rise and that if we did it again, we wouldn’t do anything different. We left it all out there on the course and it was an amazing experience,” said Captain of Boats George Rodgers.

TAS Rowing coordinator Will Caldwell said the boys had set themselves high expectations and should be proud of their efforts.

“To have improved their times since their last regatta so significantly to cross the line in personal bests for each crew, is a testament to their commitment and teamwork. During the course of the season they have developed in skills and in character and were wonderful ambassadors for the school.”

While the team was defeated in the FFA Cup competition earlier in the year and also went down in the first round of the CIS knockout, it won the local Mann Cup in April, after an absence from the competition for some years. Armidale City Westside FC, Demon Knights, Guyra Caspers and TAS played in the round robin fixture at UNE.

Alex said the Mann Cup was a great opportunity to play other teams from the Armidale District Football Association first grade competition, of which TAS have been premiers for the past two years.

“It’s certainly different to playing schoolboy football. It’s more physical, you have to be more resilient, not make rash decisions and focus on the ball rather than be distracted by opposing players,” he said.

Before the ADFA season starts, the team will play Sydney schools Cranbrook, Scots College and Trinity Grammar during a holiday tour.
Debutantes take honours at 12th TAS Rugby Carnival

It was their first time participating, but the Noosa Dolphins took home the most prestigious award at the 12th TAS Rugby Carnival on 9-10 April, winning the BLK Team of the Carnival that recognises good sportsmanship on and off the field. This year more than 950 boys and girls from 45 schools and clubs from Dalby, Qld to the NSW Southern Highlands played 107 matches on eight school ovals over the two days of competition.

In the top division newcomers Southern Districts defeated Gordon Highlanders 39-0. St Ignatius College Riverview Blue won the second division and Cranbrook School triumphed in third division. In fourth division, the TAS team had victories over Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Pacific Lutheran College, Scone Grammar and St Mary’s Saints to progress into the finals but were defeated by Gordon Tartans 12-10 at the hooter.

Special guest at the carnival, former Waratahs player and current CEO of the Country Eagles NRC team Peter Playford told players to aim high. “You’ve got teams from the country as well as the big rugby schools from the cities, many of whom have travelled seven or eight hours to get to. The kids are all just loving it, every game is a contest and it works really well for the levels of the competition. I’m so impressed with how it is all put together, it just runs like clockwork. It’s a great carnival for rugby,” he said.

Kayakers return with medals

Four students took to the wildwater at this year’s regional kayaking championships at the Nymboida Canoe Centre in mid-March, returning with numerous medals. The best results for TAS was in the whitewater sprint, with Harry Graham winning the junior men’s C1 division, Remy Taylor the sub-junior C1, and the duo, joined by Nick Bohlsen, winning silver in the Open K1 teams slalom. Paddlers also competed in wildwater events.

Earlier in the year, Remy Taylor competed in the National Schools Championships in Tasmania, picking up a bronze in the K1 rapid sprint and a third place in the Mixed C2 Slalom. Remy was one of six paddlers from NSW and 70 from around the country who attended the titles.

Remy Taylor at the national schools’ championships in Tasmania

Michael’s a national champion

TAS mountain bike rider Michael Harris wore the green and gold for Australia when he competed in the Oceania championships in New Zealand, a week after winning the junior men’s cross country mantle at the Mountain Bike Australia national championships in Bright, Victoria on 18 March.

Michael, in Year 12, carved up the course at the championships, completing the three, 5.2km laps in a time of one hour, three minutes, 52 seconds and six one-hundredths of a second (1:03:52:6).

Going into the event ranked third, Michael sat on the wheels of Kian Lerch-Mackinnon for the first two laps, tailing the Victorian by barely a second at the line. He then made his move in the third lap, overtaking his rival and clocking 20:26:29, his cumulative time being 24 seconds faster than Kian Lerch-Mackinnon, who had been ranked second going into the championships.

“My race managed to go exactly to plan and I managed to hold onto Kian throughout the race, which was paramount. On the last lap I dug really deep and attacked at the last moment possible and managed to pull a small gap which opened on the last downhill before the finish,” Michael said.

“It was very exciting to be race for Australia especially being in the champs jersey.” Michael went into the tournament on the back of his second place in the U19 men’s category in the final round of the National Mountain Bike Series at Toowoomba, ultimately finishing third overall in the series results. Four other TAS boys competed in Toowoomba, with Angus Apps placing second, Duncan Chalmers third and Joe Sewell fourth in a short course cross country criterion.
Mass participation at Athletics

The Athletics season officially began on 16 March with the second Cloisters Run that starts and finishes in the Lawrance Quadrangle. A new tradition that is already drawing great interest and fierce competition between the houses, this year’s event including an all girls team and a number of mixed house teams. It was an extremely exciting finish, with Croft House ahead by a nose in front of Tyrrell.

At the athletics carnival itself, Nicholas Ward set a new record in the 15 years boys discus, throwing 42.23m, just shy of two metres longer than the 40.23m hurled by John Herdegen in 2003. Perhaps the true highlight was the mass participation of students, with many of our new boys and girls competing in a carnival for the first time. The introduction of co-education meant there was a much fuller program, with many events run after school in days leading up to the carnival.

The best athletes will return to competition later in the year, for the NCIS Championships on 17 August and GPS titles on 10 September, and higher level representation for those who are successful at those championships.

Swimmers right on the pace

House spirit and good sportsmanship flooded the TAS Swim Centre at this year’s senior swimming carnival, with a level of participation both in and out of the water at levels surely unmatched at most other schools.

The hallmark traditions of the event are both the war cries competition on the Thursday night, and the way swimmers cheer home the strugglers as much as the champions, and this year did not disappoint. In the war cries, watched by a large crowd of families and friends, a tie between Tyrrell and Croft resulted in house leaders coming up with something new at short notice for a ‘cry-off’ the next day – which Croft ultimately won.

In the water there were numerous strong performances, including the setting of records by the school’s first senior girl swimmers.

A few weeks later, 25 boys and girls were on the pace at the North Coast Independent Schools Sporting Association’s titles in Lismore. Year 11 student Olivia Fenwicke (above left) was 17 years girl reserve champion, having a solid day in the pool including first in the 50m backstroke in which she touched the wall in 34.82 seconds, breaking the former record of 35.06 set in 2009. Olivia also swam faster than the previous record of 32.53 in the 50m freestyle, clocking 31.17 but placing second. She also scored silver in four other events. Year 11 classmate Jessie Digby was the 16 year girls reserve champion, while Tom Ball was named joint 10 year boys champion. Olivia will compete at the Combined Independent School’s championships in late April.

Sam 9th in state at All Schools Triathlon

The 2016 NSW All Schools Triathlon championships on 2-3 March provided a magnificent platform for TAS triathletes to display their talents. Under a blazing sun with temperatures reaching 36 degrees, the team competed with vigour and passion.

The junior mens’ race featured the most outstanding performance of the day, with Sam Jones (Year 8) monstering the bike and run, to finish ninth outright in the State, having moved from eleventh position in the last 200m of the run. This performance now opens the door for Sam to be considered for elite-level junior development camps.

For the first time in the event’s history, the Opens championship race was a draft legal race, following the ITU rules for professional racing. TAS triathlon captain Brent Rees (bottom left) was positioned well after a solid swim, but conceded placings in the cycle leg, nevertheless finishing 17th overall. In the Opens no-drafting race Sam Finlayson came ninth from more than 60 competitors. In the Intermediate division (15/16years), Georgie O’Brien became the first female to compete for TAS, and finished well. Overall the team of nine boys and two girls put in commendable performances in tough conditions. TAS triathletes also featured heavily in the local Armidale series. The future of the sport at TAS looks strong for both boys and girls.
One of the most popular high school musicals hit the stage of the Hoskins Centre in March when Bye Bye Birdie was brought to life by 64 students from TAS, New England Girls’ School and PLC Armidale.

Inspired by the hype surrounding the conscription of entertainer singer Elvis Presley into the US Army in 1957, the musical is a satire on American life at the time, particularly its teenage obsession with celebrity and small-town gossip.

Much-adored rock-and-roll singer Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the US Army. Concerned about the implications on their business, his songwriter and agent Albert Peterson and his faithful secretary and companion Rosie come up with a farewell performance on television during which he will perform a new song that will sell like hot cakes and save the recording label from ruin. However the involvement of a devoted fan, her jealous boyfriend and Albert’s domineering mother sets the plan on an altogether different path, resulting in an entertaining comedy of errors.

“It’s a Broadway classic and a widely popular high school musical also well known to many for the film starring Dick van Dyke. It has all the brightness and fun of the nineteen fifties but is also a good story of empowerment particularly for the character Rosie,” said director Andrew O’Connell.

“The students really enjoyed the music and several great dance numbers, which include songs which are familiar to many including ‘Telephone Hour’, ‘Put on a Happy Face’ and ‘Lot of Livin’’.

Rehearsals started for the show last year, and included a drama camp during the summer school holidays.

Photos credit: Terry Cooke

TAS SAYS HELLO TO
Bye Bye Birdie
Dozens complete five-day leadership camp

Solo navigation, communications skills and learning how to motivate others were all part of the package for 58 students who completed the cadet unit’s annual leadership course in February.

Held at New England University Company Depot (Army Reserve) and in the field at the property ‘Danehurst’ 10km south of Kingstown, the five-day course was run for those cadets who volunteered to take on leadership positions in the second oldest cadet unit in Australia.

Operating concurrently, the courses – for junior leaders, senior leaders and cadet under officers (CUOs) – were conducted by seven instructors from TAS and the Australian Army and involved boys from Years 9-11.

Both the junior leaders course (for those interested in leading a section of nine cadets) and the senior course (cadets wanting to lead at platoon level as a sergeant) involved introductory and advanced levels of training in leadership, navigation, communication and team-building. The CUOs course, for senior boys wanting appointments as platoon commanders and company commanders, revised leadership and navigation training and then focussed primarily on communications skills, including grounding in prepared and impromptu public speaking, briefing others, and emergency situation training.

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

Meanwhile all girls in Years 9 and 10, and those who have selected cadets in Year 11, have spent three Activities Days this term undertaking their training as part of 7 Platoon, under the command of teacher LT Jayne Heagney. It is expected that a number of them will undertake the cadet leaders course in 2017.

TAS swimmers make a wave in Coffs swim

A wave of swimmers from TAS went down the mountain and made a solid impression at the 19th annual 2000m Coffs Harbour Ocean Swim on 3 April, making up the largest team competing in the event.

Comprising more than a fifth of entrants in the field of more than 300 competitors, the TAS team of 65 was lead by Brent Rees, who placed 25th overall in a time of 29:08 and was third in the Men’s 16-19 category.

“I swam thirty one minutes last year and had really hoped to crack under thirty this year, so was stoked with my swim. The conditions were a bit rougher than last year but I paced myself better so I didn’t go out as hard at the start, and was able to finish strongly,” he said.

Second TAS swimmer out of the water and first girl for TAS was Olivia Fenwicke in a time of 31.04, closely followed by teammate Saxon Hughes (31:17), both of whom were fifth in their respective age groups (female and male 15-19 years).

Year 8 student Lucas Cotterell will be one to watch in the future, out of the water in 32:24.

Some undertook the swim because it is part of the school’s Triple Crown award (for those who achieve the swim, the City to Surf and the 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic during their time at the school); others did it as part of triathlon training. The swim is also a requisite component of the school’s surf life saving program.

Toughen Up Challenge
no obstacle to fun

They hurled themselves over walls, flipped stacks of tyres, and swam through a pool of mud – but the smiles proved the various stages of the Inverell Toughen Up Challenge were no obstacle to fun for 37 TAS students on 12 March.

Based at Inverell Rugby Park, the event consisted of a dozen gruelling challenges along a course throughout the town’s CBD. Competitors carried logs, stacked hay bales, climbed on monkey bars and carried water in their exhausting, self-imposed quest for glory.

TAS fielded nine teams of students including a girls team, who each tackled the course with enthusiasm and humour.
Australia Day award for Joshua

Joshua McCormick (Year 12) received a standing ovation at the first Assembly of the year after the Headmaster re-presented him with his Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year award. The award, made to Joshua at the Walgett Shire Australia Day festivities, reflects his community service when at home at Lightning Ridge on holidays, as a volunteer mentor/leader at Walgett PCYC, Youth Council and Youth Week organiser, volunteer supervisor of evening patrols, Harmony Day volunteer, and didgeridoo teacher and player at various civic events.

TAS students read and play at Minimbah School

Vice regal praise for TAS Minimbah program

Minimbah Primary School hosted a reception for the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove during their visit to Armidale in February and TAS was honoured to be part of the event, recognising the relationship between the two schools – something His Excellency commented upon, in his address.

The ceremony included dancing and singing from the Minimbah children and a Q&A session with personal questions from Minimbah children about their Excellencies’ grandchildren and on constitutional challenges from the senior TAS students there.

Continuing a program started some years ago, a group of up to 20 TAS boys and girls have, every Tuesday lunchtime this term, been visiting Minimbah to read with the Year 2-3 students, who enthusiastically have their books out ready in anticipation. The action then moves to the playground for games including handball, chasies, bullrush, touch football or sandpit play. The visits are as meaningful to the TAS students as it is to those at Minimbah.

Surf bronze for country students

TAS may be 200km inland but 20 Year 12 students are now qualified for beach patrol after being presented with their surf bronze medallions recognising their completion of a year-long Year 11 Activities program.

In order to attain their qualifications, the students learn rescue techniques, complete a fitness test and be competent in resuscitation and defibrillation techniques. They hit the beach on several days in Terms 1 and 3 each year and spend the winter months preparing for the theoretical component of the course and revising in the TAS indoor pool, before spending all of Activities Week in November at Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club, which has partnered TAS in the program for the past 19 years. Special recognition was given to Inverell boy Brent Rees, named the TAS Iron Man for his performance and efforts in and out of the water in 2015.

“Not only do they gain an understanding of the ocean, but also learn new skills and appreciate and develop a sense of service – which last year, was sandbagging to support the dunes in front of the clubhouse,” Surf Life saving coordinator Mr Jim Pennington said.

Surf life saving commenced at TAS in 1967, as the service component for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme introduced at the school earlier that year. Originally based at Nambucca and then Yamba, for the past 19 years the program has been in run in conjunction with the Sawtell Surf Life Saving Club.
Friendships forged at Coast Weekend

From putt-putt golf to movies, trampolining to foot races – boarding and students from The Armidale School forged friendships new and old, at the annual Coast Weekend.

Held on the second weekend of Term 1, the annual long-held event is much-anticipated by those attending and part of the school’s pastoral care program.

As a way of building positive relationships between students who live, work and play together, each boarding house is based at a different location, coming together at times through the weekend for special activities. Abbott House were at Darlington Beach, Croft House at Woolgoolga, Tyrrell House were in familiar surrounds at Sawtell, Middle School boy boarders got to know one another at Park Beach, senior day boys were at Sapphire Beach, and 40 of our inaugural senior girls, both boarders and day girls, stayed at Nambucca.

Various staff members accompanied the students, including the school’s Director of Boarding Mr Michael Holland and Girls’ Education Director Miss Alex Pollitt.

Activities included a movie outing, putt-putt golf, visit to the indoor trampoline arena Flip Out and beach relays. The highlight for many was the coming together of our boy and girl boarders for the traditional leap from the Coffs Harbour jetty into the clear water below.

Head shaves support charity

Starting at the swimming carnival, our prefects have been having their heads shaved to raise funds for this year’s prefects’ charity, the Steve Waugh Foundation for rare diseases in young people. While the boys were clipped to the scalp, prefect Holly Tearle sacrificed almost 30 cm of her hair – representing years of growth – for the effort. Holly also donated her locks to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths Program, which makes wigs for women who have lost their hair while battling cancer – real and practical support that brought a new connection and meaning to the prefects’ initiative.

Headmaster’s Lunch

Each year in early Term 1, the Headmaster and Mrs Guest host Year students to lunch. Attending in groups of 10, it doesn’t take long for some engaging conversation to flow, and everyone goes away knowing a bit more about each other!
Science and art collide at Activities Day

Younger TAS students are being extended, challenged and inspired as part of a more formalised Junior School Activities Day program. These developments align the Junior School more closely with the Senior School program, which runs five Activities Days across Terms 1, 2 and 3, culminating in Activities Week in Term 4.

During these activities, the teaching and learning process is now more informed by both the International Baccalaureate Primary Years’ Program, as well as the school’s membership of the global organisation Round Square, which has set IDEALS - Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service.

Recently, a prefects’ initiative to raise funds for the Red Cross’ Fiji appeal was taken into the Junior School classroom as well, with units of inquiry addressing the concepts behind the fundraising activity itself.

“Down the track we will establish classroom relationships with different IB PYP schools around the world. Other activities will be designed to deepen understanding through responsible action, like developing a school vegetable garden which grows food that can be distributed to others,” Head of Junior School Ian Lloyd said.

On the most recent Activities Day, students were divided into their sporting houses and rotated through a range of activities. In one, students made butter, curds and whey. Throughout the process, they learnt first hand how physical action (whipping) can change the properties of a substance from one state to another.

Tom Gellie, of Year 5, really enjoyed being in the senior science labs with lab manager Mr Gordon McLennan, and “solving a crime”.

“We had a jumper from the crime scene that we looked at under the microscope to see what it was made out of. We tried wool, cotton, and synthetics. The jumper matched to being made of wool. Then we rotated to the skull group and made up the muscles of the skull using different coloured play dough. The colour blue was for the eyes, the pink was for the inside muscles and the red for the outside muscle. It was really interesting and a lot of fun.”

Jasper Russ also liked this activity: “The three main things you have to do are observe, measure and record. We were put into three groups, my group firstly had to do the burning soil activity; we had to weigh soil before and after heating it over a Bunsen burner.”

Classmate Toby Inglis was taken with a trip to the Museum of Printing.

“You would have thought that it was just old paper, old tube tyres and writing ink. But no! There was way more to it. First, the guide showed us an old handle press printer made in 1927. I got to keep a cat made with letters that he printed for me. Another printer I admired was the oldest one there. It was made in 1820’s and was made of silver. All the printers were very old and extremely unique.”

Mr Lloyd said it was all part of exciting students, staff and parents alike.
Athletes shine at carnival

Having completed Long distance events and two field events with students from Minimbah School, the main Junior School athletics carnival comprised of the sprints, two more field events per division and the relays.

The sportsmanship between the children was wonderful to witness as they cheered and encouraged their fellow participants.

The highest point scores were achieved by Sophia White (girls) and Blake Whitehill (boys), with the champion House for 2016 being Ross.

Smart moves

The TAS primary chess team, comprising 11 players from Years 1-6, came third overall in the primary-aged round of the Inter-school Chess Challenge at Farrer MAHS on 17 March. The students each played seven games and recorded 41 wins, 23 losses and 9 draws.

Five new records in the pool

Five records were broken at Junior School’s swimming carnival, with terrific performances in the pool.

Tom Ball set new benchmarks in three events in the 10 year boys division, in the 50m freestyle (48.12 sec), the 50m backstroke (46.79) and the 50m butterfly (48.53). Tom, the junior boys champion, also won the Macready Cup for the highest point score.

Also in the 10 years boys, Toby Inglis set a new record for the 25m butterfly, hitting the wall in 25.47 sec.

Mitchell Evans, only in Year 2, set a record for the 8 years boys 25m butterfly in a time of 31.38.

There was plenty of colour and noise as participants cheers for their House and their friends! A number of swimmers then went on to compete at both PSSA and NCIS, with Tom Ball and Abbott White (above) competing at the CIS titles in Sydney.
Bill’s gift of learning continues

In 1994, Old Boy Bill Roberts (59-61) generously donated to the school a number of reference books and subscriptions to The Economist and The Far Eastern Economic Review. At the time, he had no active link with the school, and was looking for a grateful recipient of a number of books he no longer wanted, most notably the full set of Manning Clark’s History of Australia.

Unbeknown to many is that he has continued to bestow the gift of knowledge to the library almost every year since then, including board games, comics and a wide range of publications to suit all ages. (What’s more, he has actively encouraged others to do the same).

This year, Bill’s crop of 14 books include recent fiction and non-fiction titles, including Leon Gardfield’s Shakespeare Stories, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone: the illustrated edition, The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins and Historium, a lavish pictorial collection of antiquities.

His generosity has not been limited to resources for the school’s most recent two library buildings. In 2008 he donated a magnificent red cedar display cabinet in the Lower Maxwell Library which now houses precious artefacts from the Archives, a gesture which prompted others to follow suit and help enable a special place for school history.

“The school is incredibly grateful to Bill’s ongoing generosity which benefits our current and future students in such a meaningful way,” Director of Development Cressida Mort said. “Bill is never one to seek acknowledgement for his giving, and his thoughtfulness is such a magnificent example to others.”

Right: Year 9 students Ellie McRae and Emerson Browning with some of this year’s donation from Bill Roberts

Lisa Cameron (1926-2016) – a life spent giving

Lisa Cameron was a woman of enormous kindness, grace and dignity who passed away in February leaving behind her a legacy of benefaction to TAS and to many of our students who have been recipients of her great generosity over the past 17 years.

Lisa was the sister of Old Boy Neyle Kingsmill Cameron (1936-39), a boarder from Grafton who loved his time at TAS both on the sports fields and in the classroom. After serving in World War Two, he returned to Grafton and became a successful businessman known for his generosity to the community. Lisa was very close to her brother, a bond forged from a very young age when Lisa contracted polio, which meant years of difficult and painful treatment and left its cruel legacy on her mobility for the rest of her life.

When Neyle passed away in 1999, Lisa established bursaries in his name at TAS for students who need financial assistance in order to come to the school. These bursaries have helped 32 boys complete their education at TAS and they will continue to assist families for years to come.

Lisa has left a significant bequest to TAS to continue her support of providing access to a TAS education for those in need. Lisa’s love and compassion for others was a driving force throughout her life and her generosity extended to a number of causes with whom she felt a strong bond. She lived a quiet life of dignity and generosity, and leaves our school and our community a much better place for her compassion and commitment towards it. She will be greatly missed.

If you are interested in donating or leaving a bequest to the School, please contact Cressida Mort on cmort@as.edu.au or 0417 271 835.
Congratulations

Good things seem to be in store for David Cotterill (92-97). “After serving in Afghanistan, I have just finished a degree in Construction Management and Property at UNSW. Completing a gruelling thesis which is to be published, I finished on a high with honours. Following that I am now engaged to Victoria Cook (of Leeds England) and working as a Construction Project Manager in Sydney,” he writes. David works for construction project management organisation APP Corporation, and is involved with commercial fit outs and program-managing new ferry wharves within Sydney Harbour for Transport for New South Wales. He would love to hear from any old TAS friends: email David.cotterill79@gmail.com

Andrew Chapman (80-83) married Margaret Castleden (sister of James 87-92 and daughter of John 48-51) of Inverell in September. Amongst those attending the riverside wedding were his old school friends Andrew Crawford (78-83), Simon Tooth (77-83) and Barry Wanford (77-83). The couple spent their honeymoon at the Rugby World Cup and honeymoon at the Drip, a property near Mudgee where, before the general awareness of the concept, they developed a sustainable primary production operation and he indulged his passion for landscaping, also becoming prominent in the growing gourmand community.

He was diagnosed in 2010 with an aggressive form of multiple myeloma and died in Sydney two years later. Those of us who knew Michael were enriched by the experience, and we offer our sympathy, belatedly, to his partner, sons and grandchildren.

We have recently learned of the death in 2013 of Ray Walker (1934-38), aged 91. He came to TAS on one of the few scholarships offered in the Depression years, and in later life frequently expressed his gratitude for the start it gave him. Gaining his Leaving Certificate, he joined the CSR Company as a junior sugar chemist, remaining with the company for his entire career, except for his period of service in WWII, where he finished as a sapper with the 2/3 Tank Attack Regiment. His career with CSR saw him posted to its various refineries, in particular Yarraville (Vic) and Glanville (SA), from where he and Philippa retired to Victor Harbor. We offer our sympathy to Philippa and the family.

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Obituaries

In recent months the School has belatedly learnt of the passing of a number of Old Boys. The OBU passes on its condolences to their families.

The School community has only recently learned of the death in 2012 of JMW (Michael) Creighton (1964-67). Michael completed his HSC at Armidale High School, gaining a fine pass, and deferring his university entrance, promptly departed for Europe to pursue his keen interest in the performing arts. There he developed his passion for puppetry; other experiences included being on the island of Ibeza while, down the road, Pink Floyd were recording The Dark Side of The Moon. In the USA he was in LA while the great battle between the Jim Henson style of puppetry and the new computer-generated animation was waged. Encouraged by the election of the Whitlam government, he returned to take up studies in Arts at Sydney University, in his first year winning the Anthropology prize and high places in his other subjects. Deciding that a teaching career was not for him, he then took the Production course at NIDA and soon afterwards was appointed Artistic Director of the Marionette Theatre of Australia whose shows had found a new performance space the former Sailors’ Home, in Sydney’s Rocks area. For one of his shows there, Aussie Rules, he featured a large puppet blow fly! His career then took him to the world of film, where his works included the acclaimed documentary, A Puppet Pudding, and the fantasy, Rubbish.

In the early 1990s, the re-formed Sydney Branch of the OBU caught up with Michael, and with his customary enthusiasm, he joined the Committee and helped with the networking initiatives then being pursued. (He was fond of reflecting, cheekily, on how many of the New England ‘squattocracy’ families he counted among his cousins.) Michael and his partner later relocated to ‘The Drip’, a property near Mudgee where, before the general awareness of the concept, they developed a sustainable primary production operation and he indulged his passion for landscaping, also becoming prominent in the growing gourmand community.

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Also belatedly reported is the passing of Sydney Brandson Snowsill MBE (44-47) on 14 June, 2014. Syd and later his younger brother William (51-52) were dispatched from Fiji to TAS, returning hom to Fiji only once in four years. Syd spent most holidays with relatives of lifelong friend Peter Hobbs (42-45), another Fiji family. At TAS Syd made the school’s Firsts teams in tennis and cricket, the latter a sport he excelled at; after returning to Fiji in 1950 with CSR, he later captain the Fiji cricket team. He also represented Fiji in lawn bowls, captaining his country’s team at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand. Along with his role in CSR came many community responsibilities, and in 1976 he was awarded an MBE for services to Fiji, the Fiji Sugar Corporation (which took over from CSR) and cricket. Following his retirement from CSR he and wife Dulcie retired to Caloundra in Queensland. Despite ailing health, the couple attended an OB lunch on the Sunshine Coast.

Richard Conrad Aitken (55-59) sadly passed away on 10 November 2014. Richard Conrad Aitken (55-59) sadly passed away on 10 November 2014. Before Richard became too unwell to work he was semi-retired and involved with a charter vessel on the Swan River in Perth. He was also a marriage celebrant and combined the two, allowing couples to get married by ‘Captain Richard’. All this plus looking after acreage on the outskirts of Perth where he lived with his partner Judy, generally kept him out of trouble. Our condolences to Judy, his four children and six grandchildren, and brother David (55-60). Thanks to Tim Radford (58-61) for this information.

It is with much regret that we record the passing in November 2014 of Christopher George Tomlinson (64-67), late of Mount Gravatt East. Chris remembered his days at TAS with pride, and after leaving school, lived and worked in Queensland, his family having moved there after the family property near Moree was sold. Chris was an industrial relations/employee relations specialist, working at one time for the Metal Trades Industry Association and later, Thiess Pty Ltd, with whom he was employed at the time of his death from cancer. He last visited TAS for his 40 year reunion in 2009. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Marlene Warrick-Tomlinson on her loss, and to whom we also apologise for the belated publication of his obituary.

Ian Aborphett Wansley (44-47) passed away on 10 October in Newcastle, after some years of illness. After leaving school Ian returned to the family property at Dunog, and was later on the land at Harden, before retiring to Merewether Beach. Our condolences to his wife of more than 60 years Margaret, and children Tim and Sybella.

Thanks to Rob Busby for these obituaries.
News of the death of Andrew John Seaton Wass (44-49) at the age of 85 has reached the School. Andrew, whose family came from the Warren district, was a keen cricketer for the Second XI and earned Colours as a representative of the GPS athletics team in 1949. Taking after his father who was a noted sheep-classer, Andrew excelled in the classing of both sheep and of wool at the Armidale Technical College at a time when classing was done by touch and sight rather than by computer analysis of fibres. After taking the Leaving Certificate, Andrew returned to Warren and jackarooved on ‘Haddon Rig’ before embarking on a career as a classer, sheep breeder, and property manager for grazing interests including Congi Station at Woolbrook and ‘Standbye’ near Uralla, for TA Field Estates. Whilst at ‘Standbye’ Andrew bought a rough virgin block of land outside Uralla, and named it ‘Tara’. Leaving ‘Standbye’ in 1989 they lived in Uralla and Armidale but the call of the land saw him taking up management of ‘Range Park’, Mittagong. In 1994 at the age of 63 he returned to ‘Womboin’ Warren to class wool until 2015, with the rightful titles of the ‘world’s oldest jackeroo’. He loved his sport and whilst in the Southern Highlands was a keen cricketer and golfer for Lake Conjola Golf Club. Andrew, whose family came from the Warren district, was a keen cricketer for the Second XI and earned Colours as a representative of the GPS athletics team in 1949. Taking after his father who was a noted sheep-classer, Andrew excelled in the classing of both sheep and of wool at the Armidale Technical College at a time when classing was done by touch and sight rather than by computer analysis of fibres. After taking the Leaving Certificate, Andrew returned to Warren and jackarooved on ‘Haddon Rig’ before embarking on a career as a classer, sheep breeder, and property manager for grazing interests including Congi Station at Woolbrook and ‘Standbye’ near Uralla, for TA Field Estates. Whilst at ‘Standbye’ Andrew bought a rough virgin block of land outside Uralla, and named it ‘Tara’. Leaving ‘Standbye’ in 1989 they lived in Uralla and Armidale but the call of the land saw him taking up management of ‘Range Park’, Mittagong. In 1994 at the age of 63 he returned to ‘Womboin’ Warren to class wool until 2015, with the rightful titles of the ‘world’s oldest jackeroo’. He loved his sport and whilst in the Southern Highlands was a keen cricketer and golfer for Lake Conjola Golf Club.

1960s
Lovely to hear from Peter Housden (63-65) in response to recollections from Alan Smith (42-44) about himself and Michael Ewing (60-65) in the previous issue of Binghi. “As Alan commented, I did Commerce and left AWI after a number of years. I continued to peruse commercial roles in resources, manufacturing, chemicals and health services until I retired from full time executive duties in 2003. Since then I have followed a career as a consultant and Non-Executive Director. It may be of interest to some of Binghi’s rural readers that I am on the board of GrainCorp,” Peter writes. He is also on the boards of “a couple” of other listed companies and is Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee of Sydney Trains.

2010s
Sixth-generation farmers and Horton Valley Premium Pork operators Daniel McDouall (06-11), brother Will (08-13) and their father Baden were in the news before Christmas about trials in feeding macadamia nut meal to their pigs and, as an added sweeter, smoking the pork in pecan wood. It’s the latest innovation in the family pig business which began in the 1970s. The product was sold into half a dozen butcheries in the North West, New England and North Coast.

Save the date
The annual GPS Old Boys Golf Tournament will be at Manly Golf Club on Thursday 29 September. Please contact John Steuart johnstheu@bigpond.net.au or mobile 0422 860 606.

Name change for OBU
With the school’s move to full co-education from this year, the OBU committee has proposed that the name of the Union be changed to reflect its changing membership. With a view to its inclusive future but also with an eye on the past, the committee has proposed the name Old Armidalians’ Union. It is of relevance that the term ‘OAs’ was frequently used by the OBU and the school at the turn of the last century, as evident in several editions of The Armidalian from the period. It also follows the form of all fellow GPS alumni associations to be Old Unions, particularly, Old Sydneians’ Union (Grammar), and Old Ignatians’ Union (Riverview). A special resolution will be put at the Union’s AGM to change the name and modify the Constitution – see details inside.

The Resolution can be found inside the Binghi cover sheet, and will also be posted onto www.tasoubu.com.au.

This ’n’ That

The extraordinary story of pioneer fighter pilot, aviator and hero Sir Patrick Gordon ‘Bill’ Taylor MC GC (1912-15) has been brought to life in a comprehensive biography called The Man Who Saved Smithy by Rick Searle. Published last year by Allen & Unwin, the book includes reflection on his influential years at TAS. Broadcaster Richard Fidler interviewed Searle on his ABC Radio program Conversations, the episode being easy to search for on the internet.

The Man Who Saved Smithy

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TAS THE ARmidale SCHOOL

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Old Boys’ Weekend – 22-24 July
Plans are well underway for this year’s Old Boys’ Weekend, to be held on 22-24 July. This is three weeks earlier than in the past few years due to the earlier start to the GPS rugby season, and once again the weekend has been scheduled to coincide with the last GPS home game, versus Shore. Old Boys of any vintage are warmly invited to TAS for an action packed weekend of sporting fixtures, reunions and other highlights, including the official dinner in the dining hall. A draft program can be found on the back of the Binghi cover sheet and will be updated on the obu website (www.tasobu.com.au) – so mark the date in your diaries now!

GPS Gold Challenge update
The team captains have been selected and the excitement is building for the 2016 GPS Gold Challenge in Sydney on 30 September-1 October. As mentioned previously, this fantastic sporting and social event is held every two years for Old Boys aged around 50, the 2016 event being for those GPS Old Boys who finished Year 12 in 1983 and 1984. The organisers of the TAS contingent are hoping for a record participation rate – so contact ‘83 leavers Barry Wanford (bwanford@spinifexcapital.com or 0404 877 847) or Graham MacDougall (graham@macdougall.com.au 0412 220 302) or, from ‘84, Greig Stier (greig.stier@gmail.com 0418 911 168) if you’d like to attend.

Glory days of Music Halls now on YouTube
Music Hall was part of the fabric of TAS for almost 30 years – and now some of the past glories, as well as other creative gems from the period, can be re-discovered or enjoyed for the first time, having been loaded onto a special channel on the internet video site YouTube.

Old Boy Michael Hoskins (71-72) has uploaded just a small portion of the magic created by Jim Graham (staff 56-99) over his four decades at TAS, to Jim’s YouTube channel. Among the gems that have been shared to the small screen are the entire TAS Music Halls ‘For the Turn of His Natural Wife’ (1984), ‘The Empire Thrusts Forward’ (1989), Everybody’s Favourite Loo (1990), The Daring Young Man’ (1995) and a compilation of highlights from various Music Halls from 1969-1996. There are school productions of HMS Pinafore (1986), The Mikado (1997), Amadeus (1992), Pirates of Penzance (1998), and Jim’s last TAS shows, Here Comes Ginger Meggs and ‘Ginger Meggs and the Missing Link’ (both 1999). Also viewable are Jim’s production of Aunty (for Robb College 1986), a TAS promotional video narrated with the dulcet tones of Paul Griffiths (53-61). Of course the full history of Jim’s contribution to TAS creative life is outlined in his book A Song to Sing O, copies of which can still be purchased from TAS Reception on 6776 5800.

This is a wonderful legacy of not only the creative arts but a rich time in our community life, when Old Boys, staff, parents and staff came together for the benefit of the school in a unique and entertaining way. During their time, Music Halls generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for the P&F which assisted special projects across the school. The full link is www.youtube.com/channel/UCnyvhk3LHaEBQf0aq1J4g but a YouTube search for ‘Channel Jim Graham TAS’ should also find it.

In the words of a duet often reprised on stage by Alan and Maris Cash: “Ah yes, I remember it well.”

Sydney Branch hosts event for Wallabies Test
Planning to see the Wallabies play England on 25 June at Allianz Stadium? Why not have pre-game supper at the Woollahra Hotel from 4pm-7pm, hosted by the OBU’s Sydney Branch. Tickets are $25 (not including drinks), Good company guaranteed. Book online at www.trybooking.com/LGPO