



TAS
THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

binghi

TERM 3 2024 - ISSUE 206



INSIDE: PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL
Thank you,
Dr Horton

TRANS-TASMAN TUSSLE
Inaugural NZ hockey
and netball tour

BACK IN THE DAY
Hundreds return for
Reunion Weekend

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Cover: Kindergarten students Walter Webb, Harrison Peatfield, Arden Johnstone-Burt and Oliver James celebrate 100 days of Kindergarten (Photo: Josie-May Waters).

From the Principal

Farewell to a “wonderful school and a beautiful community”

As I write my final article for Binghi, it is with very mixed feelings. I am looking forward to new opportunities, and to living in a house where I don't have to evacuate with the Tyrrell House boys at all hours of the night when the fire alarm goes off, but I am incredibly sad to be leaving such a wonderful school and beautiful community.

I have loved my time here and TAS will always be in my heart. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved over the past years, following some really difficult times, and starting mid pandemic I can clearly remember the day, after just three weeks as Principal, that we sent the entire school home, with every single parent collecting their child or organising their departure within a tight four-hour window.

This can be an incredibly challenging role, but it is the absolute best job in the world; young people are amazing, smart and funny, and go on to achieve amazing things. To be just a small part of that is incredible. At the same time, it can be the worst job with the worst moments, when young people make bad decisions or even worse, experience terrible things. That is exceptionally hard.

I have been asked a few times what I will miss the most, and that is easy, the students. From my first year when two girls came to me with a well thought out request to install tampon and pad dispensers in the girls toilets, to a Year 9 student pitching his request for a scrum machine to the P&F just this week, my two years of mentoring Year 5 PYP Exhibition projects (Gender Equity and Conflict, vastly different projects!), to racing with the mountain bike team in Taree, climbing Mount Lofty with the Year 9 girls, Junior School Assemblies (a highlight every week), Friday breakfasts with the Senior Prefects, UNO with my Advisor Group, Year 9 science, games in the Hub at lunchtime, the list goes on.

I was once asked how I would like my era at TAS to be remembered. My response at the time, as all good referees should respond, was that I would like it to be remembered for the students and what they achieve rather than it be about me. That is still true, but now that my time to leave has come, I do want people to remember me in terms of what I have stood for. I want students and staff to continue to challenge themselves and to be challenged to try new things, to grow and to improve, and my last words to the students (the ones I hope they remember if nothing else!), were about courage and kindness.

I believe in setting the example for our students, showing them how to behave and giving them options and examples for what is possible.

I believe in a culture of equity, fairness and opportunity and I believe in being brave and progressive, looking to the future.

I hope that my era might be remembered that way.

I felt incredibly honoured to be appointed to lead this TAS community and I leave feeling the same. I am confident that I leave it in a great place to keep moving in a positive direction, whatever challenges might lie ahead and I look forward to following the School and its students into the future.

Curly and I leave with wonderful friends in Armidale and will no doubt be back to visit this beautiful part of the world frequently.

Dr Rachel Horton
Principal

Farewell and thank you, Dr Horton



The portrait that will hang in the Dining Hall

At various gatherings and assemblies at the end of Term 3, students, staff, parents and friends farewell Principal Dr Rachel Horton and thanked her for her service to the School.

Speaking at a community gathering in Hoskins Centre on 20 September, Board Chair Sebastian Hempel described the School's 15th Head as being "a splendid role model for both our boy and girl students" and said record enrolments, a new boarding house, the consolidation of co-education and planning for an early learning centre were amongst her major achievements, creating a positive legacy for the future. Together, the pair unveiled a stunning portrait of Dr Horton photographed by Simon Scott, which will hang in the Dining Hall alongside portraits of previous Headmasters. Not to be overlooked, Dr Horton's husband Mr Curtis 'Curly' Coulson was also thanked, with Deputy Principal Mr Ray Pearson paying tribute to his contribution to many aspects of the School including mountain biking, rifle shooting, cadets and boarding.

Junior School held a surprise assembly, with special musical performances and reflections from representatives of each year group - of her welcoming the students at the 'turning circle' most mornings; Book Week dressups; chats with TAS Bear at assemblies and her stylish dress sense being frequently quoted.

During Valedictory Week, Senior Prefects Bethan Palfreyman and Henry Kirton thanked Dr Horton for the impact she has had on students as Principal, chemistry teacher, Advisor, rugby referee, mountain biker and supporter, and wished her and Mr Coulson well for the future.

The couple will move to Brisbane while Dr Horton takes a year's sabbatical before embarking on the next chapter.



Junior School students William Minter, Lara Thavapalasundaram, Laleh Samadi and Lily Cook presented Dr Horton with gifts



Former Board Chair Libby Beasley and TAS Company Member Jack Abbott



Dr Horton and Sebastian Hempel unveil the portrait



Dr Horton and Mr Coulson at Cadet Dining In Night



Leading by example at the TAS 4 Hour bike challenge



Former Board Director Sarah Nivison, Chair Sebastian Hempel and Joanne Guest



TAS Company members Ed Wright, Pip Warrick and Rob Busby (Foundation Board)



Accepting a referee's award



Year 12 fathers and Old Boys Chris Brennan, (87), Lock Rogers (94), Angus Kirton (89), Sam White (80), Andrew Benham (85), Robert Macfarlane (94) and John Chappell (91) were on the tongs for the OA Valedictory Barbecue



OAU President David Ross presents an OAU tie to Thomas Dundon



Entrepreneur Mark Wright (OA 07) offered wisdom and advice as the Valedictory Prizegiving guest speaker



Continuing a decades-long tradition in their final weeks at school, Year 12 students enjoyed lunches at the Lodge, hosted by Dr Horton and Mr Coulson.

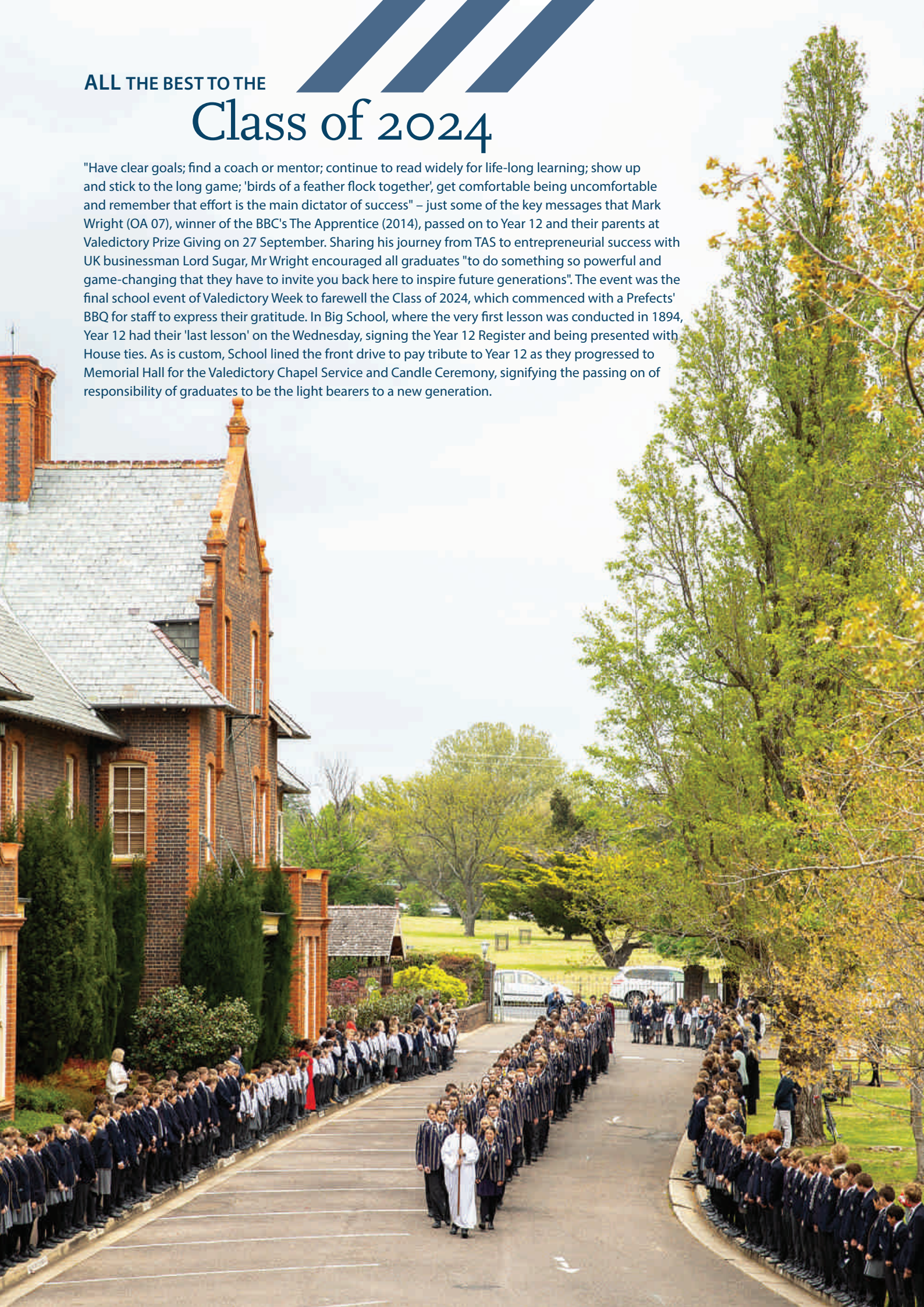


Lochlan Gerdes, Tom Ball, Blair Eichorn and Toby Ford spent their entire 14-year schooling at TAS, commencing in Transition in 2011

ALL THE BEST TO THE

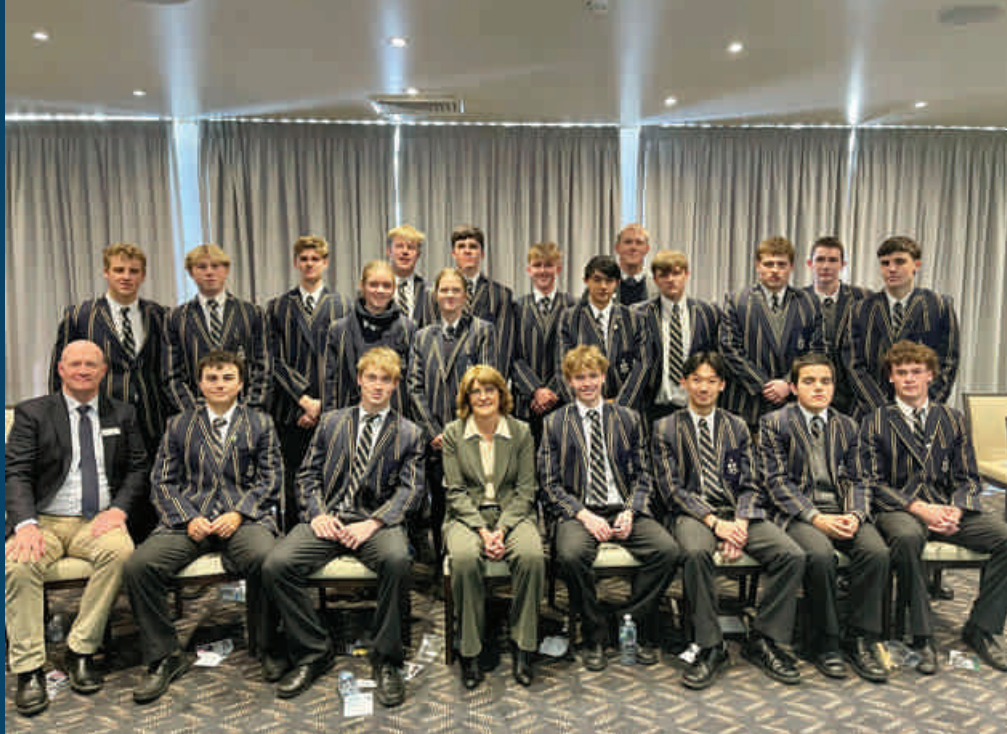
Class of 2024

"Have clear goals; find a coach or mentor; continue to read widely for life-long learning; show up and stick to the long game; 'birds of a feather flock together', get comfortable being uncomfortable and remember that effort is the main dictator of success" – just some of the key messages that Mark Wright (OA 07), winner of the BBC's *The Apprentice* (2014), passed on to Year 12 and their parents at Valedictory Prize Giving on 27 September. Sharing his journey from TAS to entrepreneurial success with UK businessman Lord Sugar, Mr Wright encouraged all graduates "to do something so powerful and game-changing that they have to invite you back here to inspire future generations". The event was the final school event of Valedictory Week to farewell the Class of 2024, which commenced with a Prefects' BBQ for staff to express their gratitude. In Big School, where the very first lesson was conducted in 1894, Year 12 had their 'last lesson' on the Wednesday, signing the Year 12 Register and being presented with House ties. As is custom, School lined the front drive to pay tribute to Year 12 as they progressed to Memorial Hall for the Valedictory Chapel Service and Candle Ceremony, signifying the passing on of responsibility of graduates to be the light bearers to a new generation.



Economists grill the Governor

TAS Year 11 and 12 Economics students showed their grasp of Monetary Policy and economic events at the Rotary Club of Armidale's annual lecture by the Reserve Bank Governor on 8 August. In the first such lecture since taking up her appointment in September 2023, RBA Governor Michele Bullock chose a highly relevant topic for her audience; 'Economic conditions in post-pandemic Australia - with a regional lens'. It was a wonderful opportunity for the class to participate in a question and answer session, with a number of students asking some fantastic questions of the Governor. It was also a particularly special event for the Governor, who was returning to her hometown, where she was educated at Armidale High School and the University of New England.



RBA Governor Michele Bullock, pictured with Year 11 and 12 Economics students and teachers Mr David Toakley (front left) and Mr Angus Murray (at rear)

Plea for less screen time shortlisted for literary award

Young people may be criticised for spending too much time on devices – but it is parents who use them as a babysitting tool that are creating the problem for the future, Vern Toakley believes.

The Year 8 student's plea to parents to realise the long-term damage of introducing screens to children almost as soon as they can sit, was short-listed by judges of the national 'What Matters' writing competition. In his piece 'More Outdoor Time than Screen Time for Kids', Vern said physical, social and mental health all come at a cost, the younger a child is introduced to a screen.

"Most parents nowadays are shoving a screen in front of their children's faces as soon as they are old enough to comprehend what is going on, on the screen. When children do nothing but look at screens all day, they do not develop any social skills and their mental and physical states decline," Vern wrote.

Vern said he was surprised but pleased to have been shortlisted, given the number of entries submitted for the competition, which is run by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University.



Vern Toakley was shortlisted in the Year 7/8 division of the national What Matters writing competition



Heidi Cannington, Juliette Gegg, Tom Rowe and Luke Gaddes discuss fossil specimens with Dr Betts

Preserved treasures bring mega-annum into the moment

Year 9/10 Paleontology elective students marked Science Week with a fascinating talk from Dr Marissa Betts, Senior Lecturer in Earth Sciences at the University of New England on 14 August. Dr Betts outlined her career's focus, working both in the 'nuts and bolts' of palaeontology and also in the application of fossils to broad, geological questions. The talk concluded with an interactive workshop on the modes of fossil preservation, taking students back to the Cambrian period, 500 million years ago. The visit was one of a number of activities held to commemorate Science Week.

Excellence nominated for State HSC showcases

In Drama, Music, Industrial Technology and Design & Technology, excellence has been rewarded for a number of HSC students who have been nominated for various State showcases.

As was the case in 2023, the entire Year 12 Drama class has been nominated for possible inclusion in OnSTAGE. Tommy Burnett, Will Gilpin, Belle Meyer and Jessie'Lei Minett's Group Performance 'The not so golden age of piracy' will now be considered for performance at the showcase at the Seymour Centre in Sydney in February. Group Performances are a mandatory part of the subject, with students working in groups to devise an original play of 8-12 minutes in length, with a topic of their choice. Also nominated was Will's Individual Performance, 'The Modern Day Prometheus', an excerpt of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'.

Samuel Guppy, a Year 11 Music 2 Accelerant, has received an ENCORE nomination for his performances of three pieces on Tenor Saxophone - Megalania: The Lizard Monster by Nick Russionello; 'Pamplona: Movement 3' of the Iberia Suite by Ed Calle and 'Nightclub 1960' from Histoire du Tango by Astor Piazzolla. If selected, Sam will perform at ENCORE at the Sydney Opera House on 24 February.

Meanwhile five Industrial Technology (Metals) students have been nominated for the state-wide HSC showcase SHAPE. Industrial work benches made by Thomas Dundon and George Allingham; truck canopies constructed by Harry Coleman and Jack McCook and Charlie Swain's rotary lamb-marking cradle will be amongst the works to be considered for final selection for SHAPE, which brings together outstanding works from HSC Design & Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles & Design students at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct in Sydney next March.



Charlie Swain and his rotary lamb-marking cradle



Sturdy industrial work bench made by George Allingham



Thomas Dundon's work bench



Harry Coleman and his ute canopy



Jack McCook with his ute canopy



Left: Sam Guppy's masterful playing of the tenor saxophone has been nominated for ENCORE

Far Left: Will Gilpin, Tommy Burnett, Belle Meyer and Jessie'Lei Minett explore the high seas with the Group Performance 'Pirates'



Sam speaks up to win Rotary competition

Tall Poppy Syndrome – the ‘cutting down’ of those who achieve profile, fame and success – is synonymous with Australia; but is it just a reflection of a natural instinct to keep others grounded, and not necessarily as bad as it’s cracked up to be? A thought-provoking and humorous analysis of the phenomenon rewarded Year 11 student Samuel Krishnan (right) as winner of the Rotary Club of Armidale’s Public Speaking competition, held on 13 August. Samuel’s prepared speech, of his own choice, was one of two components of the annual competition, the other being a two-minute impromptu speech on the topic ‘Team sports build strong individuals’. Sam was praised by judges for his presentation, delivery and content, and will now represent the Club, and TAS, at the Rotary Area Finals later in the year.

Public speaking talent was also evident at the Inter-House competition held in the last week of term, with competitors given a choice of phrases from which to choose the stimulus for their speech. Taking the honours with his re-interpretation of the phrase ‘A bird in the hand’ was Year 12 student Will Gilpin for Ross House, in what was his last appearance as an ever-enthusiastic competitor, urging everyone to just take a pause and enjoy the small moments in life.



Global issues at United Nations (UN) Youth Conference

Following selection at the State Conference in March, Year 11 student Millie Coupland (pictured) joined 80 students from across Australia and New Zealand at UN Youth Australia’s National Conference in Brisbane from 4-9 July, representing the NSW division.

The week-long conference tackled the theme; ‘Critical Technologies in a Critical Time’, exploring how we can navigate the ethical, economic and political complexity of the constantly innovating digital world.

The conference involved a series of activities, including interactive workshops, keynote speeches from figures in diplomacy and international relations, a consultation with the Australian UN Youth advocate and detailed simulations of UN committees, where participants debated and negotiated resolutions on pressing world issues.

Throughout the conference Millie assumed the mock position of the South African Representative to the United Nations, negotiating in debates with the objective of reaching an outcome that aligned with South Africa’s national interests. Debates undertook various formats, simulating the General Assembly, Security Council, and the International Court of Justice. Both the impromptu and prepared debates centered around legality in virtual reality, digital torture, and the human manipulations of biotechnology.

Millie passed the first motion for the conference proceeding to reach her intended outcomes for seven of the eight debates.



Millie Coupland voting a motion

Having their say at youth forum

Issues such as water security and the environment; renewable energy and its impact on rural communities; vaping, teacher shortages, affordable transport and community facilities were among topics initiated by 36 students from the region including Samuel Krishnan, Millie Coupland, Daniel Emmery and Jack Coddington (Year 11) at the NSW Legislative Council’s Youth Forum at University of New England on 24 July. Hosted by Legislative Council President the Hon Ben Franklin, Guyra-based MLC, the Hon Aileen MacDonald and newly elected Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan, the forum was one of six in regional NSW engaging the views of young people. Earlier in the afternoon Stella Maroulis represented TAS in a public speaking competition where 14 students spoke on the topic ‘Actions speak louder than words’. Both events were part of the Legislative Council’s bicentennial celebrations.



Legislative Council President Ben Franklin with Samuel Krishnan, Millie Coupland, Daniel Emmery and Jack Coddington

Honours recognise excellence

The highest co-curricular award at TAS is Honours, only occasionally bestowed but always greatly deserved – and this year, awarded to Year 12 students Abigail Thompson and Jack Chappell in their final week of school. Abigail, a talented cellist, was recognised for musical excellence. She achieved a Distinction Certificate for AMuSA, toured with Sydney Youth Orchestra, was part of the Australian Honours Ensemble Program (AHEP) as well as many other ensembles. Jack was King of the Range at this year's AAGPS Shooting Championship, achieving the top overall score across all three competitions and selected into the Combined AAGPS team (see story below).



Dustin to race at National Championships

Talented middle distance runner Dustin Uebergang (right) has his eye on success at the Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships in December, after knocking half a second off his heat time to take silver in the under 15 boys 400m final at the NSW All Schools Championships held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre (SOPAC) on 28 September.

The Year 10 student powered home to cross the line in 50:84, nearly a second faster than the 51:79 he clocked to win the event at the AAGPS Athletics Championships at the same venue, just a week before. Dustin comfortably won his heat in a time of 51:33, securing a spot in the final as the second fastest qualifier. He will continue to work with coach Jay Stone in the lead up to the national titles, in Brisbane 6-8 December. Dustin was one of 11 boys who represented TAS at this year's GPS championships.

In other representative fixtures, a team of six TAS athletes pulled on the singlet for North Coast Independent Schools at the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships at SOPAC on 24 September, with Emily Ussher finishing on the podium placing third in the girls 15-16 years 3000m, also earning her a spot at All Schools.



'King' shooter selected for rep side at GPS Competition

Jack Chappell credited a steady hand, a good wind coach and challenging training for a near perfect score of 197.8 out of 200 in this year's GPS Shooting Championships, earning him the title 'King of the Range' and a spot in the Combined AAGPS representative side.

Jack accrued the top overall point score of all shooters in the three-match competition, held at Hornsby Rifle Range on 22-23 July. In the 500m stage of the first match, the Rawson Cup, Jack got off to a cracking start, with two centres giving him a scoring of 35.2 from 35 whilst in the 600m stage, recording 34.2/35. Later in the day in the NRA Shield, he again found two centres, achieving 50.2 from 50. On the second and final day of competition for the Buchanan Shield, a 300m eight-shot deliberate stage followed by a snap application, Jack scored 39.2/40 and 39/40 respectively, crediting wind coach and teammate Rory Finlayson for much of his success.

Jack Chappell with the Bisley Bullet trophy, congratulated by teammates (l-r) James Leahy, Ted Kermod, George Allingham, Austin Pease, Ty Schalk-O'Brien, Rory Finlayson, Cooper Goodwin, Cooper Noble, Dion Carruthers

For the first time the team had a pre-competition training camp at Belmont Shooting Range in Brisbane where shooting in thirty-five kilometre winds helped prepare the team. Throughout the competition Jack shot the Ben McElroy Memorial Rifle, given by the families of the 2019 shooting team in honour of one of their members.



Hockey and netball

PLAYERS TRAVERSE TASMAN FOR TOUR



Fine-tuned teamwork, technique and a tonne of memories for the remainder of the season and beyond - all part of an inaugural New Zealand development tour for senior girl netball and hockey players that traversed the Tasman in July.

In the first contests, against Wakatipu High School, Queenstown, the hosts won the three netball games but TAS took out the hockey in an exciting match, 4-3, against a backdrop of snow-coloured mountains. Then it was time for some action off the courts, with Shotover Jet boat and the gondola and luge at Queenstown Skyline, and go-karting and scaling the high wire course at Adrenaline Park in Christchurch. Back to business, the visitors enjoyed games against St Margaret's College Christchurch on 7 July. The Kiwis won the hockey in a tough match played in 2 degrees Celsius, while TAS netballers had mixed results, with one win and two close losses.

A celebrity breakfast and coaching tips from New Zealand Black Sticks national Anna Willocks and netballer Erikana Pederson of the Silver Ferns invigorated the girls for their final clashes in Christchurch against Rangiora High School. TAS won two of three games of netball, losing the third to the Rangiora representative team; meanwhile TAS hockey players recovered from being 4-0 down with Mosie Wright jaggging three goals in the final quarter to a nail-biting 3-4 defeat.

A visit to Lake Tekapo Hot Springs and the International Antarctic Centre were also part of the action-packed program. The tour is expected to become a biennial event, alternating with a long-standing rugby development tour for senior boys.



Hockey and netball players relished the opportunity to build skills and friendships on the inaugural development tour of New Zealand

Netballers shoot to historic high

TAS was named Armidale and District Netball Association's (ADNA) Club of the Year and New England Netball Association (NENA) Secondary Schoolgirl Champions on 21 September. This recognised a wonderful season of achievements that included a record 11 teams in the local competition and grand final berths for four of them, in every schoolgirl division.

TAS 1 narrowly lost the Division 1 grand final 38-36 in extra time to VIP Blues, finishing runners up, the best result yet in the top league locally. TAS 8 had a strong win in Division 5 against ACSC Fever 28-18; TAS 4 suffered a heartbreaking 26-25 loss to ACSC Magpies in Division 3 whilst in Division 4, TAS 6 were runners up to Uralla Lions. Beyond Armidale, Jayda Cohen, Bella Henderson and Matilda Butcher all represented North Coast Independent Schools at the Combined Independent Schools Championships.

Four teams made the grand finals of the ADNA competition, the best result ever for TAS





Senior hockey teams take dual premierships

In an historic feat for TAS Hockey, both the Girls' and Boys' First XIs won their Hockey New England premierships on 21 September. The girls defeated Guyra 3-1 to take out Women's Second Division, whilst the boys had a hard-fought 1-0 victory over United in what is believed to be the first-ever A-Grade grand final for the senior boys' team. For Emma Henry, Jeanie Inglis and Mosie Wright it was a double gold medal day, playing for Women's First Division premiers United, backing up after their victory for TAS in Second Division. It was the first time both TAS Firsts teams had played on the same grand final day, a fitting tribute to all players, coaches and managers.

Of the boys, Henry Kirton (goal keeper), Luke Schmude and Lennox Neilson had earlier in the season represented Combined Independent Schools at the NSW All Schools State Hockey Championships in Newcastle, on 23 July. The team, captained by Lennox, came third in a gruelling-day long tournament, and Lennox and Luke were named in the NSW Opens All Schools (Merit) team as a result of their outstanding performances.

Gold, gold, gold... the Girls and Boys' First XIs which took out their respective grand finals in the Hockey New England competition

Girls wrestle rugby shield

TAS girls claimed their first competitive rugby title on 30 August, with the 16s defeating Gunnedah 41-17 in the grand final of the North West Regional Youth Rugby Competition (NWRVRC) in Tamworth. The result was the culmination of a hard-working season and reflects the growth of girls rugby at TAS in recent years. While the under 18s did not make the finals of the NWRVRC, Year 11 student Lily Grieve was called up to the inaugural NSW under 18s girls squad, following her performance at Country v City, where her team were victorious.

In boys rugby, travel commitments for GPS fixtures, including the GPS Third Grade competition for the TAS First XV, compromised our involvement in the boys NWRVRC rounds, however the 'on tour' experience for our boys, from 13s to Opens, is one they will always remember. TAS is grateful to parents for their support on the sidelines for both home and away fixtures and also to The King's School, Sydney Boys' High School, St Joseph's College and The Scots College for travelling to Armidale this season.



Girls U16s champions: (back row) Clare McDouall, Isabelle Coddington, Matilda Butcher, Izabella Michell, Ella Vidler, Georgia Henderson, Lily Macfarlane, Georgia Rose, (front) Emily Pietsch, Olivia Bolch, Lucy Sedon, Chloe Dennison, (not in photo) Jayda Cohen

Round Square International Conference - Colombia

For Year 11 students Jack Coddington and Sophie Rogers, attending this year's Round Square International Conference in Bogota, Colombia opened their eyes to global issues and perspectives. Hosted by Colegio Anglo Colombiano, Colegio Gran Bretaña, Colegio Los Nogales, Gimnasio Campestre and The English School, the conference, from 22-28 September, brought together students from around the world.

With the theme 'Blooming from the Past', delegates explored how building a better future can only start with an understanding and acceptance of the past. They participated in a reforestation activity; braced themselves on a high ropes course and zipline; enjoyed a scavenger hunt; made pottery and practiced traditional grass weaving; visited Racquira, a colourful pottery village and undertook some community service at Boyaca. Offering inspiration were keynote speakers Mariana Sanz De

Santamaria, who started Poderosas, an organisation to educate young women on their sexual and reproductive health, and Francisco de Nicolás, a spray-can vigilante who is advocating for Bogota's councils to fix footpaths and walkways to improve accessibility.

Bookending the conference, Jack, Sophie and Round Square coordinator Ms Belinda Macri joined with students and staff from Radford College, ACT and Oxley College, Bowral on organised tours. In Colombia this included a day exploring Monserrate, a mountain rising more than 3000 metres above sea level overlooking Bogota, and La Candelaria, an historic area of the city dating from the 16th century. Post-conference, it was off to Chile for a few days in Santiago and Valparaiso, before returning all the richer for the experience.

"I really enjoyed meeting so many new people and making so many friends. Being able to compare and contrast our ways of life and finding unique perspectives was eye-opening for me," Jack said.

Agreed Sophie: "The conference was not only about listening to presentations, for me it was about the life-long friendships, the unique experiences and adventures that gave me the opportunity to see a new perspective of the world in which we live. The experiences of Round Square allowed me to immerse myself in new cultures through dance, art and language, which taught me to appreciate our diverse cultures and international connections."



Cadets pass out at spectacular parade

Always a magnificent spectacle, The Armidale School Cadet Unit Passing Out Parade on 6 September was a wonderful ceremonial occasion for the young men and women who make up the third oldest cadet corps in the nation - indeed, older than the Australian Army itself. Prior to taking to the parade ground on Adamsfield, sergeants gathered their platoons in front of the honour rolls in Big School and in Memorial Hall, to reflect on the service given by hundreds of Old Armidadians in conflicts from the Boer War to Afghanistan. After inspecting the Unit, Reviewing Officer Professor CAPT (RAN) Cameron Moore (OA '88) spoke about what cadets meant to him.

"Cadets gives you the challenge of being in the outdoors and you also need to work in a team. But if you can get these experiences from outdoor activities or in sporting teams, why then, cadets? Because when you put on this uniform you are entering into a military tradition which is centuries old and in doing so take on the Australian Army Cadets values of service, courage, respect, integrity and excellence – values that will serve you well in life," he said.

The Parade concluded with the Unit and Ceremonial Flag Party saluting the outgoing Year 12 Cadets for their service as they slow-marched off the parade ground.

That night cadet leaders, their families and staff enjoyed an evening of formality at Dining In Night, where members of the TAS Ceremonial Guard were thanked for their contribution; Year 12 cadets were officially farewelled, and a range of awards were presented to recipients across the unit by CAPT Moore who gave a fascinating and often humorous account of his time in service.



Top: CUO Oscar Macfarlane and CUO Lachlan Sedon

Middle: CAPT Cameron Moore presents SUO, CUO Abbott White with the Sword of Honour

Left: cadets and flag party march onto the parade ground

Bottom left: CUO Daniel Emmerly was presented with the Mathew Dunbar Memorial Award

Bottom right: Year 12 cadets passing out: CUO Emily Benham, CUO Bethan Palfreyman, CUO Charles Hamilton, CUO Abbott White, CUO Blair Eichorn, CUO Henry Kirton, SGT George Allingham, CUO Lachlan Sedon, CUO Oscar Macfarlane





TAS Sleepout awakens service for homeless

Doing their bit to help raise awareness and support for local charities in a meaningful way, TAS students and staff again embraced the annual TAS Sleepout on 16-17 August. This year's event started with a pyjama-clad mufti day and canned food drive arranged by the Student Representative Council (SRC), which included students donating more than a tonne of packaged food. Staff and students then transported the goods to the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre and packed it away in preparation for its disbursement to community members in need. The next evening 74 students and 12 staff joined in for the TAS Sleepout and MasterChef cook-up. Throughout the night in two-hour shifts in the McConville Centre, students and staff including Dr Horton and Mr Pearson and Armidale Mayor Mr Sam Coupland, cooked and packaged delicious meals for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre. At the same time, Duke of Edinburgh Award students organised and led various activities such as dodgeball and table tennis for those not ready to sleep; prepared hot chocolate for everyone's supper; and sorted through and boxed hundreds of items of clothing for children 0-5 years of age, lovingly donated by Junior School families for the Women's Refuge.

The following week Armidale Women's Shelter CEO Penny Lamaro put it all in perspective with a powerful talk to Year 10 and 11 students about the who and why of homelessness. Her core message was that violence and abuse start with disrespect – and we can all do more to break the culture of violence.



Members of the SRC with the ute-load of donated tinned food bound for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre

Wheeling in goodwill

Four hours in a wheelchair is but a momentary glimpse into the life of Richard Tombs (Wallaby, OA '85), the inspiration behind 'Walk in another man's wheels' and special guest at this year's challenge, the third leg of the Triple Crown award. As in past years, the event started and finished on Backfield, where Richard's rugby career began as a member of the TAS First XV and Australian Schoolboys in 1985-86. He then established himself with the NSW Waratahs and later playing five tests for the Wallabies. In 2018, whilst playing as goalkeeper in a soccer game, he received a critical neck injury which confined him to a wheelchair. Twelve months later, students from his old school proudly pushed him in the 14km City to Surf in which more than 250 TAS runners raised funds and the profile of the Guns Out for Tombsy Spinal Foundation. When COVID forced the cancellation of the City to Surf in 2020, the opportunity arose to do something 'closer to home' – and the idea for the wheelchair challenge was born.

For the fourth annual event, held on 15 September, 174 students and 28 parents joined Richard in lapping TAS for between two (Junior School families) and four hours (Middle and Senior School) in glorious conditions on Sunday 15 September. Richard began proceedings with a short speech on challenge and building resilience before students, in teams of four, took turns pushing their way around the school, all the while with music blaring, colourful costumes and the energy and optimism of youth, on display.

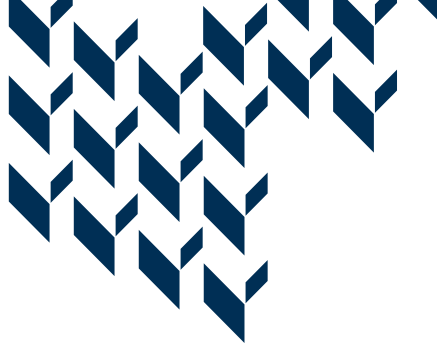


Year 6 students Alice Pearson and Violet Caufield chat with Richard Tombs during this year's wheelchair challenge

Sand, earth and water on Rock to Rock

Putting one foot in front of the other as part of their journey towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, 21 students from Years 9-10 spent the last few days of the October holidays trekking 125km along the eastern coastline. Sore legs were more than compensated for by the immense satisfaction of completing the second Rock to Rock, a four-day trek from Red Rock to South West Rocks along the beach, over headlands, through the bush and on National Park trails. Day 1 proved to be the toughest, walking for more than 10 hours, half of that time in soft sand, covering just over 43km to finish at Coffs Jetty at 8:30pm. The second day was a more moderate walk to Urunga, out along the boardwalk and then back along the beach, with stand-up paddle-boarding a diversion during lunch, before racking up 21 km onto Sawtell. Spotting whales off the coast from Scotts Head was a highlight of the third day, with the final day's push, 17km of trails from Hat Head to South West Rocks. The four-day trek was well-worthy of the Duke of Edinburgh Award's requirement for an adventurous journey and bound to be something the students will never forget.





Debaters reclaim Tri-Schools Shield

TAS teams had tremendous success at the third and final round of the Tri-Schools Shield for Debating (Years 6-8) at PLC on 30 July, winning all three of their debates and reclaiming the coveted trophy for the first time since 2018.

Topics included 'That all students should be required to study a foreign language at school', 'That "Influencers" are detrimental to society' and 'That the government should provide free internet access for everyone'. Taking the trifecta on the day meant that TAS teams won nine of their 12 debates across the competition and half of all debates held between the three schools.

The competition, between TAS, NEGS and PLC resumed this year after a three-year hiatus. Each school hosted a round in which they debated the two other schools in each year's division, offering plenty of opportunity for both new and experienced debaters the chance to represent the school and build their communication skills.



Middle School debaters who took part in this year's Tri-Schools Shield, won by TAS

Positive messages in public speaking competition

The legacy of failure, the comeback from adversity, the opportunities (and challenges) of artificial intelligence – themes that were explored at the Middle School Inter-House Public Speaking competition held on the last week of term. Given four phrases from which to choose for their inspiration, the speakers brought youthful insight, lived experience and philosophical pondering to the packed audience in the Hoskins Centre.

It was a tough assignment for Acting Head of Middle School Mr Jamie Brauer, who couldn't split his top two placings, giving equal first place to Megan Varvari (Broughton) who chose 'Barcode' to reflect on the future of artificial intelligence, and Vern Toakley (Ross) who evoked famous figures from history who overcame adversity in his interpretation of 'The Weakest Link in the Chain'.

Representing their Houses in public speaking were (front) Megan Varvari and Vern Toakley, and Lulu Caufield, James McLaren, Lachlan Alker and Zana Ross



Bright students join others at gifted and talented camp

Eight students from Year 6 attended the Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools (HICES) Gifted and Talented Camp near Winton, from 2-6 September, joining other bright students from schools across the State for a range of core and elective classes. The classes covered subjects and interests from archaeology, architectural geometry, media, poetry and art to engineering, coding and robotics, all culminating in an exhibition on the final day of camp. The students were also kept busy interacting with students from other schools and participating in various camp activities such as rope climbing and the Cataract Gorge swing, facilitated by camp staff.



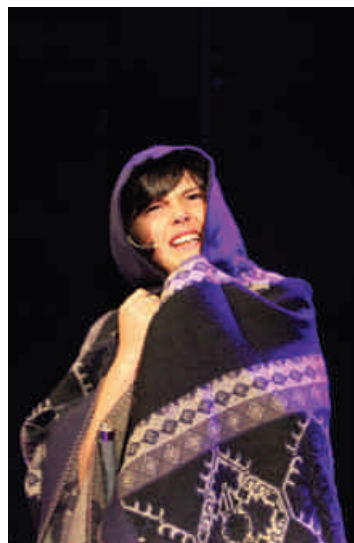
Year 6 students (back row) Athena Li, Luke Varvari, Eli Mayne, (front) Maya Slade, Darya Samadi, Matilda Polson and Sarah Chittenden enjoyed the HICES Gifted and Talented Camp



Robin Hood

STOLE THE LAUGHS

The Sheriff of Nottingham had set his sights on marrying an unlucky young woman - but was everything in Sherwood Forest all that it appeared? It was a case of mistaken identity when Middle School presented *Robin Hood and the Unnecessary Rescue* to appreciative audiences at the Hoskins Centre on 13-14 September. This not-so-classic interpretation of the legendary tale was full of humour, energy, and clever choreography that was, for many students, their first time on the stage. Directed by Mrs Clare O'Sullivan and Miss Leasa Denton the production also involved a number of senior students assisting with stage management, technical production and direction.



Passing on life skills

The regular visits by Middle School students to Newling Gardens retirement village continues and on 20 September, Year 8 students were treated to a three-course meal and etiquette lessons from some of the residents. The correct way to serve and clear a table; how to hold a knife and fork properly; elbows off tables and pulling out a chair for your guest at a restaurant were all demonstrated and discussed, as well as the importance of a firm handshake, good eye contact, personal cleanliness before eating and hats off inside. Reinforcing what they hear at school, good manners never date! Everyone had lots of fun with the genuine friendships developing between the residents and students evident in the ease of conversations between them.



JUNIOR SCHOOL news

Kindy kids become centenarians

So what's it like to turn 100?!? The boys and girls of KW and KM know, channelling their inner centenarian to celebrate 100 days of Kindergarten on 1 August. They polished their glasses, turned up their hearing aids and grabbed their walking sticks for a stack of fun activities including 100-piece jigsaw puzzles, writing 100 words, making a structure from 100 cups, threading 100 fruit-loops onto a necklace, digging out 100 pieces of buried treasure and deciding how they would spend 100 dollars!

Eddie Mitchell, Florence Reynell and Marlie Rice get into the spirit of the celebrations



What it takes to sink a boat!

How many marbles does it take to sink a boat? The inaugural Junior School Inter-house Engineering Competition investigated this very thing when judging took place on 26 July. There were lots of entries in both categories – 'aesthetic' (best looking boat) and functional (a boat designed to float while holding the highest number of marbles on board) – and plenty of fun as they were put to the test for all to see. It was a great credit to the creativity and engineering skills of the students, and no doubt many parents who helped them with the project over the previous holidays.



Patrick Dixon and his entry in the 'aesthetic' category



Casting spells for Book Week

The Hoskins Centre was packed with colourful characters jumping off the pages for Junior School Book Week Parade on 24 August. And with this year's theme being 'Reading is Magic' there was no more appropriate place for a group photo than in our 'Hogwarts' Dining Hall – complete with Hagrid (Mr Chittenden) and Professor Dumbledore (Dr Horton).



PYP Exhibition explored the impacts of technology

Six weeks of deep inquiry-based learning was showcased at Year 5 Exhibition on 25-26 September, the culmination of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). Exploring the Central Idea 'Scientific and technological advances constantly evolve and may impact people's lives and the environment', groups worked with adult mentors to delve into the impact of technology on Transportation, Social Interactions, Employment, Medicine, Education, Agriculture and Sport. The Exhibition commenced with a debate on the pros and cons of technology in primary school classrooms, with all groups then presenting their project work to parents, students and staff on Wednesday night and Thursday morning in the last week of term. Many were interactive, seeking responses from attendees about a range of issues, including social media on personal wellbeing and the likely effect of artificial intelligence; whilst others invited participation to demonstrate technology in sport and health, and innovation in agriculture.



Typewriter or laptop? Lara Thavapalasundaram, Frederick Post, Grace Crowley and Laleh Samadi explored the pros and cons of technology on employment, while Anna Trevaskis (Year 4) and Joseph Drain (Year 2) tested out alternatives

TEZ return to TAS in cultural exchange

An international school relationship that began in 1990s was strengthened in Term 3 with a cultural visit from 29 children and four staff from Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School, Osaka, Japan. An action packed week of activities included visits to Dutton's Trout Hatchery at Ebor and Wollomombi Falls; panning for gold at Woolldridge Fossicking Area at Uralla where they also went to McCrossin's Mill

Museum and learnt much about the bushranger Thunderbolt. They experienced a sheep shearing demonstration and farm tour and went to the Thalgarrah Environmental Education Centre, getting up close and personal with some native wildlife. Back on campus they joined students for a special mini-Olympics and took part in classroom activities – but perhaps what will stay with them most will be learning about Australian life with their homestay hosts.



Students from Tezukayama Gakuin School pan for gold

Books have no borders

As I continue to learn more about TAS, I am continuously inspired by the generosity that touches our community every day. One recent 'discovery' that truly moved me was the donation of books to our School library. To me, this is such a meaningful and beautiful way to give back directly to our students. Books have the power to open up entire worlds for our children - sparking their imaginations, broadening their horizons, and filling their minds with ideas that stretch far beyond the borders of New England. This, in turn, reflects our School's philosophy of having a 'regional setting with a global outlook', as books have no borders.

The gift of books led me to think about how donating to the School can be a lot like choosing a gift for someone special—you feel a deep desire to give, but sometimes you're not sure exactly what will make the most impact. You think about the person you care for, considering their age, interests, and what might create a meaningful connection between you. You want to give something that not only brings joy but also reflects your bond and the thoughtfulness behind it. And of course, there's always the practical side - budget, quality, and making sure it's something truly valuable. But at the heart of it all, the gift says, "I care about you, and our relationship matters to me."

No matter the approach or the gift, the hope is that the act of giving fills both you and the recipient with a sense of warmth and connection.

Supporting the School is much the same. Sometimes you might not know how to make the biggest difference, or you feel the desire to give but are unsure where to start. That's where I come in—to help you find the perfect way to support the School in a way that feels just as meaningful for you as it does for the community you're helping. Together, we can ensure your contribution speaks from the heart and has the impact that everyone hopes for.

If you would like to donate to our library collection, or donate to the School in any way then please get in touch by email (dod@as.edu.au), by phone (0435 190 409) or in person - I would love to help enable our School and students to continue to thrive.

Mrs Emily McOrist
Director of Development



From the OAU President



Mr David Ross, President, OAU

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new OAU President after taking over from Simon Wright at this year's AGM. Simon oversaw a busy and productive term re-invigorating the OAU post-Covid. On behalf of the OAU I thank Simon for his contribution and service.

For those who don't know me I am a '93 leaver living locally in Armidale on a beef property east of town. I am the father of a 2023 leaver and a son and daughter at the school, so have, and will continue to have plenty of interactions with the School. I look forward to continuing the efforts of the OAU over the next three years.

Reunion Weekend 2024

It was fantastic to see so many Old Armidaliens return to the School for our Reunion Weekend held in August. The weekend was a huge success with plenty of OAs competing against students in various sports for the Croft Cup. I am pleased to report that the OAs got over the students in most of the competitions. There is a fuller report of activities on the back page, but I would like to thank St Joseph's College for bringing up four teams for a good spectacle of schoolboy rugby.

AGM

The OAU AGM was also held over Reunion Weekend and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the current committee members who were up for re-election for committing to another term. With this leaving only one vacant position I am pleased to announce our first Old Girl Emily Hempel being appointed to the Committee.

Valedictory Week

It was a pleasure to welcome our newest Old Armidaliens presenting them with their ties/pendants; and earlier in the week a number of OA Year 12 dads staffed a BBQ for the Year 12s in what has become a new tradition.

Events

The GPS Gold Challenge has just been held with a solid contingent of '91 and '92 leavers enjoying competing against old foes in friendly competition. A report will be included in the next *Binghi*.

The date of the 2025 Reunion Weekend will soon be announced so keep an eye out, and if you are due for a reunion (those leaving in years ending 0 or 5), I would encourage you to start rallying the troops and nominate a few organisers to make it happen! Also on the agenda for 2025 are plans for OA events in Melbourne and Canberra, keep an eye out on TAS socials for details.

Finally, on behalf of the OAU I thank Dr Rachel Horton for her outstanding leadership of the School over the past three years and I wish her all the best for the future.

David Ross
President, OAU



OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

Congratulations

It was an historic day for TAS on 29 June 2024 when **Erin Page** (16-19) became the first TAS Old Girl in the era of full co-education, to be married in the School Chapel. Erin married Luke Mears, to whom she had become engaged in October 2021. Based in Brisbane, Erin is studying Classical Voice and Opera at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, recently performing Puccini's *Suor Angelica*; Luke is also a musician. Whilst at TAS Erin was the first girl cadet in the Ceremonial Guard and was also one of the first two girls to be a member of the GPS Shooting team, returning to the Meadowfield Range in August to compete for the Old Armidaliens at Reunion Weekend. We wish Erin and Luke all the best.



Investigating how farmers have expanded and diversified their farming enterprises to better prepare for drought will be the focus of a Nuffield Scholarship awarded to **Jock Barnett** (05-10). Jock, who completed a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Queensland then worked in the meat processing sector before returning to the family property at Delungra around nine years ago, was one of five scholarship recipients under the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. Each Nuffield Scholar receives a \$40,000 bursary to undertake travel and research over the next 18 months, before sharing their findings with their peers. "Through Nuffield, I'm hoping to look at different farm business models across the world and see what people are using to improve their resilience. So far I've been in Tasmania and Canberra with Nuffield and have a week in New Zealand next March before visiting six countries in five weeks as part of my research."

OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

Elli McRae (16-19) is back in the country having represented Australia at the 47th international World Skills competition in Lyon, France in September (as reported in *Binghi* 202 and 204.) Her father **Stewart McRae** (79-84) reports that while she didn't win a medal in her skill category she achieved a four-day competition score above the global benchmark for excellence and was thus awarded a Medallion for Excellence.

Sam Coupland (84-89) again secured the highest primary vote to Armidale Regional Council in last month's local government elections, with running mate **Todd Redwood** (86-90) not far behind – the pair being re-elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively. (Past TAS P&F President Paul Gaddes was also re-elected.) Elsewhere, **Tim Alt** (84-87) was re-elected to Glen Innes Severn Council, while **Morgan Broadbent (Wicks)** (09-14) is sure to bring some valuable youth perspectives, as a councillor onto the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

Vale

Victor Duncombe (57-62) died on 4 January, 2024.

Graham Miskell (48-41) passed away on 23 July 2024. Starting his professional life with Westpac in 1952, he retired as a Director of Hambros Merchance Bank in Sydney in 1990. He then went on to act as an Economic Development Consultant to the Esk Shire Council, Qld, until 2006. He is survived by his wife Audrey, four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jim Bailey (59-62) died on 25 July 2024. Amongst those delivering eulogies at his memorial service at Goondiwindi on 3 August were **Rick Palmer** (59-64). Rick, who came from Rockhampton, recalled the generosity of Jim's family who hosted him on their property 'Watermark' at Breeza for 15 of his 18 mid-term breaks over six years at TAS, a friendship that was rekindled later in life.

Rev **Bob Witten** (57-61) died at home in Biloela, Queensland, on 21 July, having battled Parkinson's Disease for the past two decades. In the Diocese magazine *The Link*, Bishop of Armidale Rod Chiswell paid a personal tribute

to Bob's work serving in Tamworth, Mungindi, Boggabilla, Quirindi, Baradine and Moree for two decades, citing examples of his spiritual and practical skills including bulldozing levy banks and building sheds.

Sincere condolences to his wife Sue and sons **Daniel** (88-93), **Tim** (90-95) and brothers **David** (54-58), **Geoffrey** (60-64) and **Ian** (68-73) and their families.

During his two years in Dangar House (then the Junior School) **Bill Busby** (55-61) made many lifelong friends. In later years he was to be found on the athletics field as a long-distance runner, and in the team that won the GPS Shooting Second Teams' Shield in 1961. Other extra-curricular interests included the Revues, where, on one occasion he found himself - at a lean 188cm - playing an eighth dwarf in an item derived from the *Snow White* story! Following his time at TAS he bought 'Tarandi', Currabubula where he put together a successful farming operation. Bill was noted for supporting causes in the community, such as the Currabubula Art Exhibition and as captain of the local volunteer Bushfire Brigade (later RFS). His service to fire-fighting was recognised by the award in 1997 of the National Medal. He was an exceptional father to his four sons - including **Damien** (87-92) - and in later years inspired in them - as in many neighbours - an interest in his hobby of restoring vintage oil engines to pulsating life. Bill died suddenly at home on 12 August 2024. Condolences to his family, including his brother **Rob** (63-68) who supplied the above and has thanked Bill's many TAS friends from the 1950s who sent their condolences.

Packing a lot of life into his 69 years, **Peter 'Spider' Howard** (72-73) succumbed to a 15 year battle with lymphoma on 11 September 2024, surrounded by his family. Peter, the son of a British SAS veteran, came to TAS from Sydney Grammar, bringing with him experience in GPS rifle shooting, a result of a carefree upbringing at St Ives. It was during his time at TAS that he developed a love for the land, pursuing a Bachelor of Ag Economics at UNE and various jobs including a stint as a duty master in his old Abbott House, also appearing in the TAS Music Halls for many years. After graduating he started his career in the early 1980s with Cargill and Continental Grain, before co-founding New England Agricultural Traders (NEAT) in 1987, around the time he met Kathy Harvey, whom he would marry in 1991. Building expertise in contract law, he achieved a graduate diploma in law from the University of Sydney in 1990, whilst working full-time.

His strong sense of justice, principle and grit was reflected in a legal battle with the Australian Wheat Board that went all the way to the High Court, in 1999. Dusting himself off, he went on to co-found three other grain trading businesses. The family relocated to Sydney in 2001; after the death of Kathy to cancer in 2006, he juggled bringing up three boys under the age of 10, with business that also included properties in Oberon, Tambar Springs, Merriwa and ultimately 'Cobrabald River' at Walcha. Peter is survived by his second wife Lesley (neè Hancock) whom he married in December 2023, and sons **Will** (12-13), **Edward** (11-15) and **Archer** (19-20), to whom we express our deepest sympathies.

Round 'n' about

Adrian 'Moose' Skeggs (78-82) has been in the news about his family's return to Lord Howe Island, to give his young son Clifly the same experience he had. 'Moose' had never worn shoes to school before coming to TAS in Year 8, where he was introduced to rugby by John Hipwell and later played for the Queensland Maroons and for Australia against Canada.

Having co-founded both defence veterans' support networks Soldier On and then Fortem Australia which looks after the mental health and wellbeing of first responders and their families, **John Bale** (98-01) has joined the ranks of KPMG as a Partner. John's role will be to spearhead the firm's services for Australia's Emergency Management agencies.

James Phelps (17-22) has returned to New York for his second year of a double degree in Economics and Finance at Iona University, where he is on a rugby scholarship.

More legal eagles... congratulations to **Jessie Digby** (16-17) who in October was admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of Victoria, following her graduation from the University of Newcastle with the Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Diploma of Legal Practice, earlier this year. Also embarking on a legal career is **Lucy Fenwicke** (05-11, 16-18), who is a graduate lawyer at Clayton Utz following her studies at University of Technology, Sydney. Jessie and Lucy were among the inaugural TAS girls in the first year of full co-education.



Vale Ken Langford-Smith

We were saddened to learn of the death of the School's 12th Headmaster Ken Langford-Smith, who died in Perth on Thursday 18 July, in Perth, Western Australia.

During his 11 years at TAS from 1987-1998 he transformed the school culturally, physically, academically and spiritually. Physically, he oversaw the Music Centre, the Swimming Pool which had been on the wish-list since the 1930s, the top floor of Fisher Wing and launched the Centenary Library (Hub) appeal. He was responsible for much of the beautification of the school including transforming Brown St from a gravel road, paving the Lawrance Quad, curbing and guttering everywhere, landscaping the environs, much of it in the leadup to the School's Centenary in 1994.

Culturally, he revitalised Junior School, re-opening infants classes and introducing co-education, setting in train TAS' move to full co-education some 30 years later. Traditions which he introduced include the School Hymn (which he co-authored) and Valedictory Week, including the moving Lining the Drive and Candle Ceremonies. It was not all a happy time, with the death of his wife Ruth in 1995 – her memorial fountain, a fish, is in the Chapel garden.

Ken was remembered at a private family funeral and a memorial service in Perth. We extend our sympathies to his four sons Peter, Tim, Nigel and Geoff, and their children.



OA London Dinner

The annual Old Armidaliens' London Dinner was held on Thursday 4 September, again hosted by **Bill Muirhead** AO (58-60) and his wife Jeanne, with valuable help from the OAU office. Bill and his younger brother Michael came to TAS when the family relocated from Adelaide, but a further move saw them eventually living in the UK, where both brothers completed their schooling. In last year's Australia Day honours Bill was promoted to the rank of Officer of the Order of Australia, for "distinguished service to the business sector, the community of South Australia and to international relations."

The occasion this year again attracted 12 diners, including two new faces. Tina Tseng joined husband **Brett Roberts** (88-93) for the dinner; Brett has been in London since the early 2000s, working in the mergers and acquisitions world and is now a partner in Tomorrow Partners. Another newcomer was Davinia Dodson-Wild who accompanied husband **Andrew Dodson** (88-93). Andrew started his career with PWC in Sydney, and has been in the UK for some 20 years, in banking, since 2012 with Lloyds. Regulars who returned included **Trig Robbins-Jones** ('85-'88) and partner Iulia Avramescu, both with PWC and **Ken Hunt** (91-95), now with Amazon Web Services as Head of Public Sector PR since 2020, another role that seldom sees him in his London office. It was good to see **Alistair Hickey** (91-96) return this year as he is often absent from London in his role in Risk Management with Deloitte.

Rob Busby (63-68) and Sally Inchbold-Busby, both semi-retired, though holding teaching roles at The University of Sydney, were very pleased that their students could spare them for a few weeks to explore the UK and so join the London OAs for this important event. Apologies were received from **Andrew Penfold** (90-95) and wife Kylie; from Dr **Dave Sirl** (93-98), whose new role as a Statistician in the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Nottingham kept him away this year, and from **Graeme Browning** (79-84), recently arrived in the UK to take up his senior partnership role with Ernst & Young Global. Our thanks to Bill and Jeanne for hosting a memorable night.

Rob and Sally were also very pleased to catch up with **John Cane** (51-52) and wife Rosemary, in Cheltenham. John came to TAS from Ipoh, Perak (then Malaya) a journey by sea and rail that took him some 10 days! After school he followed his father into the British Army, serving in Intelligence for many years before taking a management role with an oil company in the Middle East. (With thanks to Rob Busby for this report and support of the event).



Pictured at the London dinner (clockwise from front left): Ken Hunt, Iulia Avramescu, Sally Inchbold-Busby, Trig Robbins-Jones, Davinia Dodson-Wild, Bill Muirhead, Andrew Dodson, Alistair Hickey, Jeanne Muirhead, Rob Busby, Tina Tseng, Brett Roberts

ALUMNI RETURN FOR Reunion Weekend

Hundreds of former students spanning 60 years came from as far as Adelaide and Melbourne for Reunion Weekend, on 9-11 August. It was the youngest Old Armidaliens who set things in train on Friday afternoon at the Future Pathways Forum, where five-year leavers **Lucas Atkin, Emily Hempel, Josh Jones, Elli McRae** and **Nick Ward** shared their post-school journeys with Year 10 and 11 students in the Hoskins Centre. In sporting clashes across the weekend the OAs retained the Croft Cup outright, with wins in the rowing ergs, shooting, tennis, chess and tug-o-war while School took out the hockey (Moffatt Shield) on Friday night, and the netball. The Bell Tower Society Brunch, for our most senior Old Boys, made a welcome return after a hiatus, while on school tours, current students heard some interesting stories about TAS life 'back in the day'.

HSC musicians showcased their talent at a concert on Saturday afternoon then on Saturday evening reunion dinners were held at various locations including, for 40 year leavers and above, in Memorial Hall, with OAs **Dennis Martin** (65), **Cameron McDonald** (84) and **Sam Coupland** (89) sharing the couch as they were interviewed by **Bryn Griffiths** (88). The OA Chapel Service and AGM rounded out the weekend on Sunday morning. It was a delight to host St Joseph's College for six games of rugby, with three wins apiece, really adding to the vibe.



Hockey captain Tom Ball is presented with the Moffatt Shield by Sam Behrend (20)



Above Right: Leavers from 1979 gathered for a group photo in Big School before the Union Dinner



30 year leavers (l-r) James Darling, Liam Smyth, Andrew Roberts, Angus Wright, Bruce Dawson, Ben Brown, Tim Pollitt, Lachlan Rogers, Blake Palmer, Jonathon Heath, Glenn Tully and Andrew Coddington supported the rugby at Backfield



Panellists Sam Coupland, Dennis Martin and Cameron McDonald at the dinner



At the shooting John Robinson (59), a member of the 1959 GPS Premiership team, shares memorabilia with Ian Boyd-Law (74) from the 1974 GPS Premiership team who travelled from Swan Hill in Victoria, and brother Stuart Boyd-Law (79)



2019 leavers Nick Ward, Lucas Atkin, Emily Hempel, Josh Jones with OAU President Simon Wright at the Future Pathways Forum



2004 leavers Joe Oppenheimer and Luke Brattoni play Oscar Donoghue and Elsie Kearney in the chess