



**TAS**  
THE ARMIDALE  
SCHOOL

# binghi

ISSUE 197 – TERM 2 2022



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**BOARDING BOOST**  
Multi-million  
Dollar investment

**SHAKESPEARE'S CROWN**  
Actors win title  
at State carnival

**PEDAL POWER**  
Challenge events  
spin into gear



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**Cover:** On and off stage, students brought to life Ionesco's absurdist play 'Rhinoceros' (Photo: Cary Bennett)

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 2 at TAS this year has been incredibly busy, full of life and absolutely joyful. While high levels of illness have impacted on staff and students, the return of war cries, singing, mass gatherings and the ability to welcome parents and visitors on-site without restriction have marked the return to business almost as usual.

As I write this article, I am marking the end of my first full year as Principal. As I reflect, I feel that in this term alone, I have been witness to so many of the things that make TAS the school that it is, one of opportunity and challenge, respect for the past and a willingness to progress and look to the future.

The term started with a beautiful and incredibly moving ANZAC service, one which I have no doubt impacted on all of our community who heard a very personal reflection on the legacy of Old Armidalian Lt Michael Fussell, killed serving his country in Afghanistan in 2008. The message that Michael's mother, Madeline, wanted the students to take away (and I could not agree more), was that not everyone can be or is outstanding at school. Not every student can top their class, captain their team or be a student leader. However, if you engage with the full life of the School and give it your all, TAS will prepare you with the skills and values to find your calling and be successful after school.

The TAS expectation is that our students commit fully to everything they are involved with. Of course that starts with academic studies but also includes co-curricular involvement, cadets, challenge and a range of other activities.

Term 2 saw winter sport in full swing, from nine TAS netball teams, to hockey, football, volleyball, shooting, our largest equestrian team ever competing at Coonabarabran, and our rugby teams travelling in a range of different directions to compete in competitions from local club to AAGPS.

We had the excitement of inter-House competition in athletics, the Cloisters Run and debating, while our prefects led an outstanding headshave fundraiser for the Ovarian Cancer Foundation that said much about their thoughtfulness for others.

TAS productions are always spectacular, but this year's Senior School offering was incredible. Eugene Ionesco's absurdist play 'Rhinoceros' provided a unique opportunity for student voice. It gave everyone who came to see it the opportunity to not only marvel at the talents of our students who were involved in every aspect of the production, but also to understand the issues that concern our young people today.

One of the wonderful things about TAS is the three distinct sub-schools, each with their own character, but with the ability for students and staff to mix and collaborate across them due to the single campus nature of the School. Music and drama in particular provide wonderful opportunities for role modelling and informal mentoring with students from Junior, Middle and Senior School performing together during the huge annual event that is the Armidale Eisteddfod and Senior School students heavily involved with both the Middle and Junior School productions coming up later this year.

Looking to the second half of the year, we are still growing as a school with the addition of a class at Year 6 taking place next term, the building of a classroom for Agriculture at 'Meadowfield' underway and plans for a further girls boarding building and significant renovations to Croft House, in the final stages.

Whilst there will still, no doubt, be challenges to deal with, that is all part of the nature of TAS, and augurs well for an exciting period ahead.

*Dr Rachel Horton*





# Multi-million dollar boost for boarding

TAS' reputation as a leader in residential education is set to get an eight million dollar boost, with new facilities and renovations.

At the heart of the investment will be the construction next year of a new senior boarding house, to be used by senior girl boarders. The 64-bed capacity boarding house will adjoin, but be distinct from, a three storey facility constructed in 2018 following the introduction of full co-education in 2016. The building will comprise share rooms for two to four students, as well as individual bedrooms, a common room and residential facilities.

Meanwhile Croft House, a senior boys' house, will be re-modified at a cost of more than \$1million, including a new entrance incorporating an atrium; refurbished bathrooms and reconfigured common spaces. The other two senior boys' houses, Abbott and Tyrrell, will also be upgraded.

Chair of the TAS Board Sebastian Hempel said the investment will further cement the school's reputation as a family education destination. The School is currently home away from home for almost 250 boarders from four states and territories as well as overseas.

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“While our heartland remains the New England North West, there has been increasing demand for boarding places from city families who want their child to have a co-educational boarding experience with programs that challenge them but without some of the social pressures of the city,” he said.

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“This investment in both girls and boys boarding reflects our commitment to making TAS a real home away from home for our many boarders.”



TAS Board Chairman Sebastian Hempel, Principal Dr Rachel Horton and Business Manager Pat Bradley inspect plans with the site of the new boarding house immediately behind and Croft House in the background.



# TAS brings new meat sheep breed east

TAS is set to be amongst the first in eastern Australia to establish a new sheep breed with similar meat eating qualities as Wagyu beef, as part of an initiative of the Agriculture department.

Late last year the school secured genetics from Hillcroft Farms near Perth for a new composite wool shedding breed, Australian Ultra White. In April, Year 12 Agriculture students helped prepare 15 ewes donated by TAS families for surrogacy, which were then successfully implanted with embryos by vet (and past TAS parent) Penelope Armstrong from Inverell.

Agriculture teacher Mike Ball said it was an exciting development for the Agriculture program.

**“While TAS has operated a Poll Hereford Stud for many years, the opportunity to be at the leading edge of sheep meat genetics was too good to miss. Ultra Whites have been found to carry a gene for intra-muscular fat that melts at a lower temperature, which is one of the keystones of Wagyu’s superior meat eating quality,” Mr Ball said.**

Apart from being able to have a greater economy of scale with sheep than cattle, the work that is being done at UNE in this area is something else that will be explored.



**Year 12 Agriculture students Gus White, Hunter Moore and Stirling Munsie needle surrogate ewes ahead of the transfer of embryos which will be the founding genetics of TAS’ Ultra White Stud.**

Mr Ball said the challenges of the 2019 drought and work and safety issues for students and livestock, led to investigating possibilities, in addition to cattle.

“We were overwhelmed by support from TAS families happy to donate surrogate ewes and assist in other ways. Apart from ticking every box on the syllabus, it will give students the opportunity for plenty of practical experience in animal husbandry and reproduction, right through to the cutting edge of meat science”, he said.

## Titration

MIX IT WITH THE BEST

Year 11 and 12 Chemistry students competed in the NSW Schools Titration Competition at UNE on 6 June, including Samuel Ball, Isabel Newton and Harry Schneider defending their national title.

Run by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the competition involves students from dozens of schools who have to carefully mix, titrate and then analyse chemical samples using traditional glassware techniques. Over a 90-minute time frame, each competitor has to determine the concentration of a base solution, then add a titrant to calculate the concentration of an acid solution. Points are awarded for the accuracy of each team’s overall measurements as well as for the lowest possible variation in results between team members.

Year 12 also attended booster lectures for their Module 8 content about applying chemical ideas, included looking at spectrometers used for analysing organic compounds and participating in practical lab activities to analyse inorganic compounds.

**Right: Sofia Paris and Lucy Crowley set up their apparatus for the NSW Schools Titration Competition**



## State title berths for da Vinci teams

Having hosted the 9th Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon in March, our winning Year 7 and 9 teams along with teams from Years 5 and 6, competed in the online State finals hosted by Knox Grammar School in May. The Finals explored the concept of ‘patterns’ within 10 different challenge areas – Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Ideation, Creative Producers, Cartography and Legacy.

The competition was intense but TAS students were among the certificate recipients with the Year 6 team coming fourth in Engineering out of 81 teams; the Year 7 team receiving a ninth placing in Science and coming 15th in English from 77 teams, while the Year 9 team achieved a tenth spot in Creative Producers (out of 76 teams). TAS is proud to host the Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon in partnership with Knox, every year.



# Thespians return with Shakespeare's crown

All the world's a stage... and at the Seymour Centre in Sydney on 4 June TAS students School excelled in the state finals of the Shakespeare Carnival returning with accolades for their dramatic and music performances.

Taking top honours were Felicity Barton and Meave Churchyard, who won the Duologue section for their excerpt from 'The Merry Wives of Windsor', with the duo also being awarded the performance of the carnival, which is run by Sport for Jove Theatre Co. The pair say they were surprised by the win, given they selected their piece just two days before the regional qualifier held at TAS a few weeks prior.

"We chose this particular comic dialogue as it gave us an opportunity to integrate modern day behaviour into Shakespearean language. The obnoxious gossiping from the two women offered a unique perspective and being fun and lighthearted we could play around with it," Meave said.

At the regional carnival the pair workshoped the scene with Carnival Director Christopher Tomkinson who encouraged the girls to explore new ways of bringing the piece to life.

Meanwhile an original music composition performed Noushi Byrne, Essie Lindeman, Jasper O'Neil, Grace Thompson and Harry Turnbull, inspired by 'The Taming of the Shrew', received a standing ovation and placed third.

The finals doubled with a Senior Drama excursion which included attending three professional productions as well as the Vivid art show.



**Meave Churchyard and Felicity Barton won the Drama Duologue crown at the NSW final of the Shakespeare Carnival**

## Year 12 get out and about

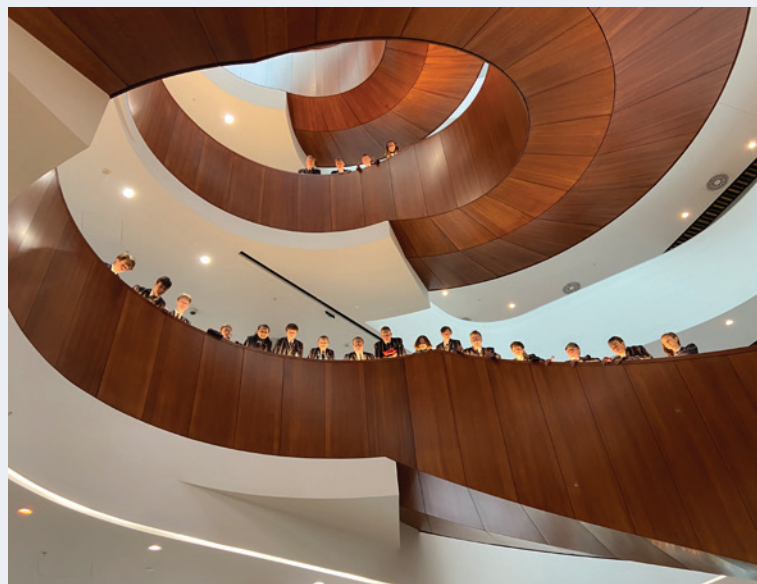
With one eye on their future and the other still focused on more immediate tasks at hand, Year 12 had opportunities to extend themselves academically during Term 2.

The majority of the cohort got a taste of tertiary life at Sydney University ahead of the Sydney Careers Expo at Moore Park on 2-3 June. After a campus tour including the Main Quad, Fisher Library and Business Faculty they were shown around St Andrew's, St Paul's and Wesley Colleges, hosted by former TAS students in residence. The Careers Expo was another opportunity for students to consider different careers and study pathways with industry specialists.

HSC Visual Arts students took part in an artists' retreat at Kwaimbal National Park near Ashford on 28-29 May. Across two days they worked intensively on their artistic practice, with workshops on drawing, watercolours, oil pastels, photography, sculpture, and wearable art. Led by their teacher Ms Fiona Xeros, it was a unique opportunity, giving the students the time and space to work on their artmaking skills and art theory in the stunning natural environment.

Year 12 Modern, Ancient and Extension History students ended their term at the History Teachers' Association HSC Study Days at the University of Sydney. The two days of lectures covered everything from the Persian Wars to the rise of dictatorships and exam technique, all presented by experts in the field. They also visited the State Library to see what resources are available to them in person and online for their HSC and university if they choose.

The excursions were all designed to help students prepare for life beyond TAS.



**Year 12 students take in the University of Sydney's Business School**





# Speakers

## STATE THEIR CASE

TAS was well represented by Hugo Catterall (pictured below) at the GPS/CAS Lawrence Campbell Oratory Competition held at Sydney Grammar School on 29 April. It's no wonder it's renowned as one of the most challenging public speaking competitions in the state; competitors select one of three phrases then have just 15 minutes to prepare an eight minute speech, without any research materials. Hugo's chosen phrase 'There's a crack, there's a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in' (from the song 'Anthem' by Leonard Cohen) explored the need for sensitive topics such as youth suicide to be openly discussed in order to improve society. The competition continues to be a wonderful opportunity for TAS students to engage in, at such a high level.

Meanwhile inter-house debating took place this term with Ross and Tyrrell meeting in the final of the Senior School competition, tackling the topic 'Do sports celebrities have more influence than politicians?' The notion that influence can be good or bad, that influence is different to power but that in a democracy the public's influence can determine the make up of those with power, were all explored to varying extent. In the end Dr Horton awarded the debate to Tyrrell House. The inter-house competition is often where students first get initiated in the sport of debating and next term five TAS teams comprising debaters from Year 7-12, compete in the Australian National Virtual Debating Competition, to be run for the first time by Masters Academy. Each team will have three impromptu debates in the pool round of the competition with the top two teams from each pool going into a knockout semi-finals round. This year TAS is up against teams from Western Australia, Tasmania, the ACT as well as NSW.



## Lifting of restrictions Music to our ears

For TAS musicians, the lifting of most restrictions from the pandemic could not come soon enough, and no time was wasted in taking up a range of opportunities.

Anouska Byrne, Essie Lindeman, Holly Dauparas and Will Mackson all successfully auditioned for the Gondwana Choirs at the end of Term 1, and will each perform in concerts in various centres around Australia later in the year. Will also received a \$1000 grant as part of the New England Young Arts Program for a special project that he will pursue during his gap year next year.

Sisters Emily and Abigail Thompson spent part of their winter holidays at the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) Academy in Melbourne, along with around 30 other secondary school aged strings players selected from across the country. At the Academy students play in a chamber orchestra with and being tutored by ACO musicians. It is the third consecutive year Emily (violin) has attended, and the fourth for Abigail (cello), who in May, was awarded her Associate of Music, Australia (AMusA) with Distinction. Emily has also been accepted into the Australian Youth Orchestra Young Symphonists Program in the next school holidays. Another string musician, Ruby Straker, has recently completed her Grade 8 violin exam in Sydney.

Meanwhile at the Armidale Eisteddfod in May and June, TAS students and ensembles also made their presence felt, taking out numerous first placings. Amongst the highlights were Emily Thompson receiving the Adjudicator's Choice Award for best overall composition (William Nash, Lilla Menzies and Clare Wilkinson also won their Year divisions) and William Mackson was named runner up in the New England Championship. At the Eisteddfod's Bands Night the TAS Senior Jazz Combo won the Armidale Jazz Club Perpetual Shield and the TAS Big Band won the Music Groups Open; vocal ensembles to win their sections included the Middle School Vocal Ensemble and the TAS 3-5 Choir, while TAS Piano Trio won Chamber Ensemble Years 9-12, the TAS Junior String Ensemble came first in their division, as did Year 11 Music and Year 9/10 Elective Music in the Class Ensembles. The Eisteddfod culminated in the Gala Concert where Annabelle Meyer, Jasper O'Neil, William Minter, James Phelps, Kevin Tighe and Patrick White all received special awards, and at which Emily Thompson, William and Edward Minter (and their sister Harriet and mother Li Ling Chen), Tom Loxley and TAS Big Band were all invited to perform.



**Will Mackson and Jayden Credazzi perform on Band Night at the Armidale Eisteddfod**



**TAS Big Band Performs at Eisteddfod Night**

**Left: Hugo Catterall represented TAS in the Lawrence Campbell Oratory Competition in Sydney in April**



**Abigail and Emily Thompson at the ACO Academy in Melbourne**





## TAS wins inaugural Tamworth Mountain Biking All Schools title

TAS Mountain Bikers performed outstandingly at the inaugural Tamworth Mountain Bikers All Schools challenge in Tamworth on 29 May, taking out the Champion School. The Secondary event was a teams event over three hours, with the team of three notching up the most number of laps completed in the shortest amount of time being the winner. Angus Goudge, Archie Pengilley and Emily Benham won the Mixed Seniors category and Year 8 boys James Palfreyman, Angus Benham and Baxter Williams came second in the highly competitive Junior Boys category. Sam Boyd and Abbott White (Senior Boys category) and Tom Dundon and Will Brett (Intermediate Boys category) were all a team-mate short and therefore had to ride 1.5 hours each at race pace, and still finished on the podium! Mountain Biking is a growing sport at TAS and it is hoped that Tamworth Mountain Bike Club will make it an annual event.

## Athletics Championships go ahead

Students jumped, ran and threw in ways they haven't been able to do for the past couple of years, when the annual Athletics Championships were held on Wakefield on 9 May. As the number of girls at TAS continues to increase, 12 girls' records were broken by 11 athletes, across every age group, including two to Captain of Athletics Karen Baker, who took 11 seconds off the 18 years 1500m in a time of 6:08:95 and shaved 0.2seconds off the previous best time for the 200m, crossing the line in 31.69. Winning both the inter-house trophies was Abbott House. The annual Cloisters Run relay throughout the campus was held the previous Friday, with students and staff cheering on runners around the course which started and finished in the Lawrance Quadrangle. Broughton House won the girls' relay and Croft House the boys'.



Karen Baker broke two records including the 200m at the Athletics



Hudson Eichorn (Ross House), Jack Hoppe (Tyrrell) and Harry Schneider (Abbott) give their all in the boys' Cloisters Run event

## Record team AT CIS CROSS COUNTRY

Twenty five students descended upon Eastern Creek Raceway on 15 June, the largest TAS contingent ever to represent NCIS (North Coast Independent Schools) at the NSW CIS Cross Country Championships.

An increasing depth of talented runners was evident at the qualifying NCIS titles held on 19 May at Tweed Heads, on a testing course that included gnarly climbs, steep descents, mud, rocks and water hazards. Zana Ross,

Tempe Macarthur-Onslow, Isabella Crawford, Karen Baker and Andrew Brennan were all age champions, and for the first time ever TAS won the overall trophy based on student numbers.





## Equestrians SET THE STANDARD AT EXPO

The TAS Equestrian Team made a strong impression at this year's North West Equestrian Expo

The TAS campaign at this year's North West Equestrian Expo at Coonabarabran (3-7 June) wrapped up in fine style, with TAS winning the coveted trophy for Best Presented School in the Grand Parade – an incredible achievement, given the 2022 event attracted more than 500 students and 700 horses from 120 different schools.

Led by Captain of Equestrian Mary Flannery and MIC Equestrian Miss Charlotte Low, the TAS team of 22 riders and 28 horses was the school's largest in recent memory, with all riders and horses staying on for the full duration of the five day Expo and beautifully turned out for the parade in which TAS was a dominant presence. Nearly every equestrian discipline is competed at the Expo and TAS had riders in all of them, from dressage, polocrosse, show jumping, eventing, show riding, team penning, team of fours, team hunt and working horse challenge.

The results were many and varied, one of the more notable being Charlotte Pease who won the last round of the Six Bar showjumping at an impressive 1metre 40cm.

Ahead of the Expo, 20 riders made the most at a training day at the Kennedy St Equestrian Centre. Equestrian Australia (EA) accredited instructor Mrs Miriam Henry coached the showjumpers; parents Lock and Liz Rogers prepared riders for the cattle events with their mechanical bull; Ms Gloria McCormack, a highly experienced campdrafter and horsewoman helped the Working Horse Challenge entrants and Mr Rob Finlayson was on the job with the polocrosse team. Apart from the riders and their horses, the team's success was also due to the time, knowledge, patience and commitment of the parents who managed Camp TAS at the Expo.



## State selection for hockey players

TAS students continue to impress as part of representatives teams through both the NSW schools pathway and Hockey New South Wales (HNSW) state championships. Lennox Neilson was named in the NSW Under 16s team after his performance for Combined Independent Schools at the NSW All Schools championships in Newcastle in mid-June, the CIS team also including classmate Tom Ball. The two boys had been chosen for the CIS team having been among five TAS boys in the North Coast Independent Schools team. Lennox and his NSW teammates will train and play in Hobart at Nationals, from 30 July – 6 August.

Meanwhile Mosie Wright and Luke Schmude have been named in, respectively, the NSW girls and boys U15 2023 squads via the club pathway, following their performances playing for Hockey New England U15s teams at the Hockey NSW state championships in Parkes in May.



**L: Lennox Neilson (right, pictured with CIS teammate Tom Ball) is off to Hobart to play for the NSW Under 16s hockey team**

**R: Stirling Munsie, Fred Kearney and Eugene Campbell all played in the Australian Schoolboy Rugby Championships in Sydney in early July**

## Rugby reps serve up for Country

Six boys swapped their TAS jerseys for NSW Country in July, with solid representation at both the NSW and Australian Schoolboy Championships in June and July. In a three match campaign at the NSW titles Stirling Munsie, Eugene Campbell (both Year 12) and Fred Kearney (Year 11) ran on for Country U18s, with Stirling captaining the team to a draw against Combined High Schools, a loss to GPS White and then a win against Association of Independent Co-educational Schools (AICES). As a result, all three boys made the cut for teams to play at the Australian Schoolboy titles at Knox Grammar on 6-9 July, Stirling was selected for the NSW Junior XV which defeated Qld 2 43-5, before going down to Qld 1 and ACT Fred and Eugene played for the NSW Barbarians who went on to win the Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Trophy as runners up Australian Schoolboy Champions, losing to NSW 1 14-24 in the grand final, having defeated Victoria 29-0 in their first match and NSW 2 22-14, in their second. The boys' Country rep season wraps up with Country v City at Bathurst on 31 July. Angus Ditchfield successfully trialled for the initial Country U16s squad while Will Hall and Archie McMaster made the Country U14s squad, with Archie making the final selection for the Country versus City clash. Rugby continues in Term 3 with matches against a number of GPS schools (including the GPS Third Grade competition) as well as the North West Regional Youth Competition.





# Memorial rifle

## HONOURS A TEAMMATE

In a special tribute at Assembly on 16 May, the 2019 Captain of Shooting Jack Waters and Vice Captain Angus Earle returned to present to TAS the Ben McElroy Memorial Rifle in honour of their former First VIII teammate, who was tragically killed in a car accident in July 2020, aged just 18. Given by the families of the 2019 Shooting Team, the .308 Winchester Barnard rifle, fitted with an LRP Solutions barrel and Macinstosh stock, honours the life of Ben, who not only loved shooting but flying, gaining his private pilots licence as part of Aviation Studies at TAS. Shooting MIC Mr David Lawrence spoke about Ben's contribution to the sport while his father Malcolm gave a moving tribute to how much Ben loved TAS, his mates, boarding life, his shooting and his aviation, including flying to Coonabarabran for the annual rugby fixture against Kinross - and encouraged all students to never miss an opportunity. The 2022 Captain of Shooting Rowan Hey acknowledged the generous donation of what will be the premier rifle in the armoury and a permanent reminder of Ben. The School was honoured to have Mr and Mrs McElroy with us and pleased that a number of other family members from the 2019 Shooting Team were also able to attend. The Shooting Team are also indebted to Mr Andrew Sims from Sydney for his support of the project and organising the rifle components.



2022 Captain of Shooting Rowan Hey is presented with the Ben McElroy rifle by 2019 Vice Captain and Captain of Shooting Angus Earle and Jack Waters, watched on by supporters Mrs Kirsten Hey, Mr Alasdair Hey, teammate Tom Hamilton, Mrs Vanessa Waters, Mr Andrew Earle, Mr Michael Edmonds, Mrs Karen McElroy, Mr Malcom McElroy, MIC Shooting Mr David Lawrence and Mrs Rachael Edmonds

## Volleyballers take silver at UNE

The senior volleyball team achieved great success at the Frosty Balls Volleyball Tournament hosted by the UNE Volleyball Club on 18-19 June, finishing Junior Division runners up. In the pool round the team won all but one of their eight matches, finishing in second place overall ahead of third-placed Coffs Harbour, the only team to have beaten TAS. The two teams then met again in the semi-final, where an injury-depleted Coffs outfit was boosted by the addition of an adult Division 2 player in order to make up a team. Despite losing the first set, TAS regained the ascendancy to win the next two sets and take match, progressing to the grand final against a tall and well-drilled Ballina outfit. Showing their grit and spirit, the TAS team gave it their all but went down to Ballina in two close sets to take silver.



## Netballers win gala day

The sporting term wrapped up for TAS 1 Netball on 24 June at an invitational gala day at Sport UNE. The girls played outstandingly well and finished undefeated, against PLC (30-13), NEGS (23-20) and in the final match, Calrossy Anglican School (28-10). It was the first such gala day involving TAS, and organised by PLC Sportsmaster Mr Tom Gall (OA '15).



Sofia Paris seeks to get the ball away in the match against Calrossy

Left: Claiming silver at the Frosty Balls Volleyball Tournament were (back row l-r), Oliver Morse, Sam Ball, William Nash, Darby Lehman, Tom Sheedy, Stephen Griffiths, Aidan Rosberg, William Jackson



# RHINOCEROS

## rumbles into town

What do you do when everyone around you starts to transform into rhinoceroses and nobody seems to care? After six months of rehearsals the much anticipated school production of Eugene Ionesco's absurdist political satire 'Rhinoceros' stampeded its way onto the Hoskins stage in March. Exploring the themes of conformity, fascism, mob rule and morality,

the poignant European comedy was brought to life in erudite fashion. Cast, crew and families spent hundreds of hours creating the paper mache rhino heads that appeared in the show, while the lighting and video artistry, including the innovative use of multiple screen projections to create foreground and background scenery, took technical wizardry to another level.

With the ongoing pandemic making a musical an unlikely possibility for a major production, those involved in the production created something brave and exciting, at once hilarious and sobering, that again showcased the amazing talent of students and staff on stage and behind the scenes.





Clockwise from far right: Temicka Seagrave (Grocer's wife); Claude Toakley (Jean); Chelsea Bourke (Daisy), Meave Churchyard (Dudard) and Isabelle Krishnan (Pipillon); Sophie Rogers and Samuel Krishnan (Little Old Woman, Little Old Man); Felicity Barton (Housewife) and Jasper O'Neil (Old Gentleman); Pierre Morcellet (Logician); Tommy Burnett (Waiter); Chelsea Bourke (Daisy); William Nash (Berenger), Sophie Hardin; Bella Fernance (Cafe Owner)







TAS and High shooters with the Tank Shell

## TAS RECLAIMS HANNON & HARRIS CUP AGAINST SYDNEY BOYS' HIGH

Wins to TAS in all five rugby fixtures including a solid victory for the First XV in the first round of the GPS Third Grade competition helped the hosts reclaim the Hannon and Harris Cup for multi-sports fixtures against Sydney Boys' High School on 20-21 May.

Around 180 students and staff travelled to Armidale for 'High Weekend', a highlight on the sporting calendar of both schools and this year, for competition in seven sports.

At the end of Friday evening's clashes the ledger was two wins apiece, with TAS taking out the volleyball (2 sets-0) and Opens football (1-0) while on the court, High took out the junior basketball convincingly 54-19 and the seniors in a much closer match 33-28.

Competition continued on the Saturday with small bore shooting at the TAS rifle range, High retaining the Tank Shell Shield.

While the 16s football was a nil-all affair, the visitors won the 14s football and both the Junior and Senior tennis, taking the matches 9-3. However as has been the case for the past two years, TAS dominated the rugby winning the five matches from 13s to First XV as well as the rugby relay, delivering the Hannon and Harris Cup back to the hosts from the clutches of SBHS.

A record number of High's Year 7 parents continued a tradition of also making the trip.



Banjo Lawrence forges ahead for TAS with Will Ledingham in support



Claude Toakley is focussed in the basketball



Joshua Casey and Hayden Kim (SBHS) took part in the tennis



# TAS, FARRER

## SHARE SPOILS IN ANNUAL SPORTS COMPETITION

It was a case of maintaining the status quo when TAS and Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School met for the annual multi-sports fixture in Tamworth on 13 May, with the hosts keeping the Dick Hodgson Shield for the overall competition and TAS retaining the Jim Levy First XV Challenge Shield after a close 14-10 win.

While rain forced the cancellation of tennis, the two schools were able to engage in 14 contests in basketball, chess, debating, football, rugby and shooting. Farrer got off to an early lead, taking out the junior basketball and winning both the senior and junior debates and the senior chess, while TAS won the junior boards.

At the indoor Caliber Country Range at Taminda, shooters held a small bore, bench rest target competition with 10 shots at both 25m and 50m distances, with Farrer outpipping TAS by a slim margin.

Out on the fields, rain made conditions slippery and challenging but no less enjoyable for football and rugby. In the round ball game the 15/16s was a nil-all draw; TAS won the 14s 4-2, while Farrer took the Opens match in a close 2-0 encounter.

The hosts dominated the junior rugby, winning the 16As 32-0, the 16Bs (v TAS 15As) 12-0, 14As (15-5) and 14Bs (v TAS 13As). However the tables turned on Number 1 Oval, with TAS Second XV defeating Farrer Gold 17-12 before events culminated in the First XV clash, TAS holding out in a close match to take the points, 14-10



Farrer School Captain Aaron Humbert with the Dick Hodgson Shield and TAS Senior Prefect and Captain of Rugby Stirling Munsie holds the Jim Levy First XV Challenge Shield



Dax Blair-Previtt (TAS) and Darby Brown (Farrer) compete for the ball in the 14s football



Farrer's George Matthewson attempts a tackle on Ben Cox as TAS goes over the line in the 2nd XV v Farrer Gold match.



Max Guppy makes a move in a senior chess fixture against David Nassin (Farrer)



Will Glover and Ty Schalk-O'Brien give the shooting their thumbs up



# A MOTHER'S MOVING STORY MARKS Anzac Day commemoration

The moving story from Mrs Madeline Fussell of how the death of her son LT Michael Fussell (OA 01) in Afghanistan in 2008 led to the founding of Soldier On and the work it continues to do to help returned servicemen and women, resonated with all who attended the School Anzac Service on 27 April.

Mrs Fussell recounted her surprise that Michael even joined the Army, given her often-disorganised, rugby loving son shunned cadets in his final year for surf life saving instead. "Indeed, he became so proficient and organised that he was selected for training as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller who is the conduit on the ground to all military aircraft from drones and combat aircraft to rescue aircraft," she said. Michael was one of only 30 fully trained and operational JTACs in Australia when he posted to Afghanistan in 2008 and was killed 10 days after his 25th birthday.

Mrs Fussell said amongst the support from the TAS, Armidale, military and wider community after Michael's death was the positive legacy of Soldier On, a charity for veterans started by John Bale who went through TAS, ADFA and Duntroon with Michael.

"Forty two soldiers died in Afghanistan but since 2001, 773 soldiers have suicided. Soldier On has helped start conversations about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that has resulted in increased support from both government and the Defence Force for veterans.

"In 2012 TAS provided the venue and wonderful support for a fundraiser I organised for Soldier On. One of the speakers that night was a special forces soldier who had sustained permanent physical and mental injuries in the blast that killed Mike four years previously.



**William Nash and Harrison Ditchfield formed part of the ceremonial guard at Dangarsleigh**

Sadly, and incorrectly, he blamed himself for Mike's death. I didn't realise this belief gave him a huge fear of coming to Armidale, where he would have to face so many people who knew Mike and who he thought would shun him. He was overcome by the empathy and kindness that was shown to him whilst he was here."

She said it was this sort of support, as well as the ongoing work of Soldier On, that truly embraced the ANZAC spirit.

"Whether it is in your school community, the Armidale community, your hometown community, or the community you end up working and living in, I hope you will contribute to that community by caring about others. And I hope that sometimes, when you include someone who is hurting, or help someone in your community, that you might think of Mike and how thrilled he, and all the others on this roll of honour would be, that you are truly enacting the ANZAC spirit."

The service included the reading of the names of the 103 Old Boys and Staff who gave their lives in conflicts from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

Despite Anzac Day falling in the school holidays, the TAS Cadet Unit continued more than 40 years of service in providing the ceremonial guard at the Dangarsleigh Anzac Day service, and also at the Armidale service in Central Park. Boarders also wore their TAS uniform in marches in their hometowns, around the region.



**Principal Dr Rachel Horton, Guest of honour Mrs Madeline Fussell, Member for Northern Tablelands Mr Adam Marshall and Commanding Officer TAS Cadet Unit Mr Johnathon Woodbridge at the School's Anzac Service**



**Guard Commander CUO Joshua Miron and the Ceremonial Guard**



# INAUGURAL 6 HOUR HOUR KICKS OFF TRIPLE CROWN

With the lifting of (most) COVID-19 restrictions, nor drought, bushfires, floods or roadsrips at the time – the 2022 Triple Crown campaign was finally able to get off the ground with the staging of the inaugural TAS 6 Hour on Sunday 5 May. One hundred and one energetic and robust cyclists undertook six hours of riding in the Armidale Pine Forest for the event, circumnavigating multiple loops of a 5.7km course. Littered with exposed tree roots, fallen timber, rocks and plenty of mud, obstacles were aplenty, with numerous riders enjoying a winter's mud bath for their efforts.

**Below: Mud puddles were par for the course**

**Below Middle: Staff members Mrs Jo Benham, Mrs Donella Tutt and Dr Rachel Horton all rode in the event**

**Below Right: Maddy Nicholls and Isabella Crawford clock up the laps**

Participants had the choice of six hours straight ('Solo Hard Core') or in teams of two; all joined in for the first lap, with Dr Horton and Mountain Bike MIC Mrs Jo Benham leading the way. After that the Solo riders continued for the duration, only pausing briefly to eat. Keeping a steady pace, the majority of riders averaged five laps each, with the fastest Solo riders notching up to 11.

It was very much a whole school community event: 80 students (K-12), 14 parents and seven staff were all in the saddle; others as marshalls, barbecuers, cleaning and packing up or undertaking repairs (to bikes, rather than riders!) on what was a sunny winter day.

**Above Right: Stella Maroulis and Poppy Hall clock up the circuits**

**Right: James Palfreyman enjoyed the challenge of the TAS 6 Hour**



**Round Square**  
TRIANGULATES CONNECTION

Virtual Round Square experiences have continued to connect TAS students with people from around the globe during Term 2. On 31 May several senior students participated in a three hour Virtual Round Square Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Democracy. Hosted by Join Belgrano Day School in Argentina, they posed the following question: "How will AI change kids' and teenagers' ways of learning and living?".



Through different activities, guest speakers, and discussions the students reflected on, and imagined, future scenarios for life, education, and work in a society transformed by an increasing digital integration.

On 8 June a delegation of Year 5 and Year 7 students participated in a three-hour Virtual Conference hosted by Newcastle Grammar School on the theme "Our Environment: A Responsible Legacy". The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, hearing from an incredible young environmentalist from South Korea and participating in discussions about achievable actions they can take in their own lives.

To 'round' things off for the term, on 13 June senior Japanese students participated in a Language Lab on Anime, hosted by students from Linden Hall High School and Junior & Senior High School of Kogakuin University in Japan. This was an opportunity for students to have conversations completely conducted in Japanese, allowing them to practise and develop their language skills.

With the world opening up again, it is hoped that it won't be long before student exchanges, international conferences and service trips can again take place. Round Square now involves more than 200 schools around the world, with TAS being accepted for full membership in 1998, one of the first Australian schools to be part of the association.



## TAS JOINS THE JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION

In recognition of Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) TAS welcomed to Assembly Ms Rose Lovelock, a local Anaiwan woman and Director of the Armidale Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place, who spoke of her own experience with reconciliation in Australia and its importance in helping closing the gaps in employment, housing, justice, health and understanding, for First Nations People. Her optimism about the journey was echoed by Year 12 student Jordyn Melville, an AIEF scholar and proud Dharug woman, who outlined why reconciliation is important to everyone, and the changes that have occurred since the referendum of 27 May 1967 which recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as part of the Australian population and the High Court Mabo decision of 3 June 1992 which voided the notion of 'terra nullius' ('nobody's land'). The themes will be further explored next term when the School marks NAIDOC Week. TAS is in the process of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan as the School seeks to make a contribution to reconciliation that is both meaningful and sustainable.



**Above: Ms Rose Lovelock and Jordyn Melville pictured with TAS Aboriginal Students' officer Mr Clarrie Moran, Aboriginal students Brayden and Zac Levy and Heza Bird (junior blazers) and prefects Mac Orr, Hudson Eichorn, Gus White and Mary Flannery**

## The Amazing Shave cuts above expectations

A goal by TAS prefects to raise \$5,000 for the Ovarian Cancer Foundation was almost tripled thanks to the enthusiasm and support of the school community who got behind their initiative to resurrect a headshave for charity.

Launched at the end of Term 1, The Amazing Shave set to make a difference with prefects choosing a cause close to some of the most important people in their lives – their mums – knowing that Ovarian cancer is a malignant tumour of one or both ovaries with no definitive cure and that around 1400 new cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed each year in Australia.

When clippers and scissors came out at the Athletics Championships, more than a dozen male students and staff had their heads shaved (after a period of entertaining mohawks, mullets and 'Friar Tucks'), while the hair of some senior girls and staff was lopped to shoulder length or shorter – particularly gappy Molly Ambrose who first sacrificed her 60cm plaits and then had her head shaved, as did others.

Thanks to the generous support of the community, including Old Armidalians, the campaign resulted in \$12,420 being raised for the cause. "Despite the cold Armidale freeze on some very bald heads, it was very gratifying to see that the event we created to raise awareness and money for Ovarian Cancer has gained so much attention and support from our community," Deputy Senior Prefect Emma Benham said. "We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to support such a worthy cause and to be able to donate these funds to contribute towards further research into this fatal disease."



**Left: Zana Ross (Year 6) won the raffle to shave Mr Drain's head  
Far left: Gappy Molly Ambrose sacrificed her plaits – and then the rest – to Emma Benham for the cause**

## Students serve up assistance

Since the start of Term 1, TAS students have prepared more than 1140 meals for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre as part of a renewed emphasis on Service. The meals (Spaghetti Bolognese, pasta bakes, lasagne, chicken stir fry, beef stroganoff and cheesecakes for dessert) are cooked onsite at the McConville Centre and then distributed to those in need within the local community on a weekly basis. Some of the student volunteers are undertaking their Duke of

Edinburgh Award, others are committing for another service project and some have simply offered to help when they can. The School is grateful for the support of Coles Armidale and their Manager Kyle Swift with Coles willingly supplying the majority of the ingredients for these meals. The students are grateful for this kind assistance as they seek to provide the same for some of those in need.

**Chelsea Bourke, Emily Palfreyman, Sarskia Clarke, Felicity Barton and Meave Churchyard package meals for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre**





## Canberra trip was a capital excursion

The Year 6 excursion to the nation's capital is one of the highlights of Middle School students and this year's exploration is likely to prove to be no exception. A comprehensive program jammed into a week combined education about democracy, civics, military history, astronomy, science and engineering and sport – and of course, the life skills gained from 'going on tour'.

The giant indoor trampoline centre Flip Out was the first port of call after a long bus trip, ahead of a busy schedule. On the first day students explored innovation at the CSIRO, then toured the National Art Gallery before wrapping up the day at Parliament House, visiting the House of Representatives and the Senate, and 're-enacting' the opening of parliament with an explanation of proceedings and symbolism. The National Archives and Australian War Memorial were next, where many students sought out the names of family members in the Wall of Remembrance. The bright lights of the sky – as opposed to the city – were the focus of attention at Mt Stromlo Observatory. The history of Australian people and Indigenous culture captivated attention at the National Museum; then The Mint and Old Parliament House were on the agenda before the highlight for many, being Questacon. Orienteering at the National Arboretum, virtual sports challenges at the Institute of Sport, checking out the mineral and fossil collection at Geoscience Australia and the National Capital Exhibition wrapped the week up. it's no wonder the students returned exhausted!



Lucy Taylor finds a familiar name at the War Memorial



Year 6 at Parliament House



Learning parliamentary procedure at Parliament House



At the Australian Geoscience Centre Zana Ross adds a layer of sand to display vessels on behalf of TAS





## Middle School Boarders

### LET THEIR HAY DOWN

As part of the Boarders' Recreation Program, Middle School boarders enjoyed a social on the last Saturday night of term with a 'country & western' theme. Organised and run by a group of Year 11 boarders, it was a terrific way for them to have fun together at the end of a busy term.



## Mandatory blood donation – altruism or assault?

Inter-house debating wrapped up on 23 June with the Middle School final between Ross and Green House, tackling the topic 'That blood donation should be made compulsory'. In what National Blood Donors Week, the Affirmative Ross team built an argument around the benefits to both recipients and donors within safe guidelines, while Green stressed that not only are there medical implications for some people in donating but that forcing people into having needles was a breach of human rights. Head of Middle School Mr Polson had a difficult task but gave the Negative the points on the day. The competition forms part of the Clemson Cup for Debating and Public Speaking, with the public speaking component being held in Term 3.



Middle School debating finalises Cormac Downes, Pahanma Perera, Peter Thompson, Steven Hopwood (Green House), Izzy Glover, Jack Wood, Cooper Goodwin and Oliver Goudie (Ross House)

## First Activities Day engages students

Year 6, 7 and 8 students fully immersed themselves in the first Activities Day of the year on 23 May, as part of the School's outdoor challenge and adventure program. Year 8 students travelled to an Armidale property to complete fieldcraft activities and further develop their skills in navigation. Students in Year 6 and 7 completed activities both on campus at TAS, including swimming skills in the TAS Pool, an obstacle course, navigation skills, service learning and travelling to Sport UNE to complete an indoor rock climbing session. The day was enjoyed by many and the skills acquired through these activities will set students up well for bivouacs and Activities Week held in Term 4.



Learning Navigation skills





Year 5 check out the enormous glasshouses at Costa Tomato Farm at Guyra

## Sustainable food a focus for Year 5

From the way farming systems have to adapt to the seasons, to the reasons why seasons even occur in the big, galactical scheme of things – the inquiry-based learning of Year 5 went from micro to macro in their IB units this term.

Fitting in with their IB Line of Inquiry 'Sustainable food and fibre production' as part of the Transdisciplinary Theme, 'Sharing the planet', they visited two very different agricultural production systems in the region on 24 May. First up was a visit to Costa Tomato Farm in Guyra where they were amazed at the scale of the largest greenhouses in Australia and the size of the tomato plants grown hydroponically. The next visit was to the Armidale farming enterprise of TAS parents Lock and Liz Rogers, where the students learnt about a range of the Rogers' enterprises from beef cattle to carbon farming. They also enjoyed the company of various farm and domestic animals and had fun roasting marshmallows on a firepit.

Later in the term their minds were expanded during their investigation of their IB Line of Inquiry 'Earth's place in our solar system' as part of the Transdisciplinary Theme 'How the World Works'. The students engaged in a hands on inquiry working in collaboration to demonstrate how the Earth's rotation on its axis creates day and night; how the Earth's tilt and orbit around the sun creates the seasons; how light from the sun reflects the moon, allowing us to see it in the sky, and how the sun, moon and the earth interact to create a solar or lunar eclipse. They were fascinated with a talk by guest presenter Anaiwan Elder Rose Lovelock about Indigenous Astronomy and the emu in the sky and were introduced to telescopes and light by Head of Science, Mr Hey. Year 11 Science students also showed Year 5 telescopes they made. Using polystyrene balls and florists' wire for their art activity the students researched the colours associated with the planets and then had agency as to how they 'created' their universe. While some used cardboard boxes to create dioramas, others put theirs together with plasticine.

The breadth of their focus this term reflected the power of the transdisciplinary nature of the IB Primary Years Programme.



Sophie Banister, Katie Flynn and Hamish Molina explore the rotation of Earth



Bonnie Blanch with her solar system

## Biggest Morning Tea was bigger than ever

Junior School families and friends were out in force on 20 May supporting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and raising \$560 for the Cancer Council. Led by the Year 5 class and their House Leaders, all the preparation and organisation was completed by the students as part of their commitment to student service. They also ran a raffle for the cause, with young Darby Klabe winning for his mum a beautiful (if belated) Mother's Day gift! With so many donations of treats, Year 5 then set up 'shop' in the Dining Hall with senior students able to finish their lunch with a huge choice of delicacies, adding to the proceeds.



## Classrooms welcome visitors on Open Morning

From playing strings to learning about forces and motion on swinging ropes; Swim and Survive in the TAS pool to Lego robotics; French immersion to call back auditions for Shrek Jr – it was just another day for our youngest boys and girls but one shared with 80 current and prospective parents at a very successful Junior School Open Morning on 16 June. Principal Dr Horton, Head of Junior School Mr Lloyd and IB Primary Years Programme Coordinator Mrs Waters shared their thoughts on what makes TAS Junior School unique while the Year 5 leaders did a terrific job navigating a large number of adults around facilities, answering questions, giving away (more than a few) secrets and assisting where necessary. It was clear to all why Junior School is growing.



Left: Mason Booth greeting family and friends at the Junior School Biggest Morning Tea

Mr Lloyd joined Year 3 strings for a 'lesson' with Miss Low





## YOUNGSTERS RISE TO THE 6 HOUR CHALLENGE

Challenge and adventure is in the DNA of TAS, from Pre-Kindergarten upwards – and Junior School students showed their grit competing in the TAS 6 Hour cycle ride in the Armidale Pine Forest on 5 June. Riding laps of the 5.7km-long course, the youngest participants were not daunted by the task at hand but revelled in the experience of being part of something alongside students from Middle and Senior School, and definitely part of something bigger than themselves. Darby and Duncan Klabe, Felix and Finley Boyce, Patrick and Joshua Bourke and Sophie Banister and their families all relished the opportunity and are now well on their way to their TAS Tri-Star Award, the younger sibling of the TAS Triple Crown.

Patrick Bourke (Year 3) and his father Denne were among the Junior School riders in the TAS 6 Hour

## Gross animal facts inspire creativity

Did you know that the Marabou Stork eats carrion and cools down by squirting excrement down its legs? Gross facts about some of the world's weirdest and unusual animals; discovering the collective nouns of creatures and learning to draw a lob fish and a sea lamprey – Year 3 and Year 5 were riveted at a workshop in Hoskins on 25 May by author and scientific illustrator Sami Bayly. Just 26 years old, Sami used illustrations from her three books (The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals, The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals and The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature) to engage students with her incredible knowledge of natural history.

Right: Casey Tighe (Year 3) and Leo Thavapavasundaram (Year 5) with author/illustrator Sami Bayly



## National Simultaneous Storytime

Dr Horton joined teachers and students from around the country for National Simultaneous Storytime on 25 May, reading 'Family Tree' by Josh Pyke (with illustrations by Ronojoy Ghosh) to students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2 in the Hoskins Centre. The students wore headbands they had made and decorated with a phrase from the story,

"it started with a seed, and that seed was me". There were conversations about resilience and difference and the strength of families and all the good things that relatives bring to our lives. More than a million students took part in this year National Simultaneous Storytime which has been going for 22 years and promotes literacy through the reading of a designated Australian children's book



# OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

## Canberra OA get-togethers WERE CAPITAL EVENTS

Fifteen Old Armidaliens in the ACT and environs enjoyed the chance to meet Principal Dr Rachel Horton at two events in Canberra in May.

The venue Assembly in Braddon lived up to its name for drinks on 18 May, also offering the opportunity for networking between recent leavers currently studying in Canberra and those who have made their careers in the Defence Forces, the public service and associated industries. The next day a gathering enjoyed a beautiful lunch at Parlour in New Acton. It is hoped that similar sorts of gatherings can be held in Brisbane and Melbourne later in the year – to ensure you know about it, please update your contact details (including email and residential address) on the contact sheet with this edition of Binghi.



Stuart Watts (92-97) and Morgan Broadbent (09-14)



Hudson McAllister (15-21), now ANU, and Lee Reid (94-00). In addition to those pictured was John Bale (98-01)



Dr Horton with 2020 leavers Colby Hanes and Jaden Carroll



Morgan Broadbent (09-14), Georgie O'Brien (16-18), now at KPMG; Sarah Thatcher, Sam Thatcher (04-17), Olivia Fenwicke, (05-10, 16-17)



At the lunch at 'Parlour', New Acton were (l-r) Tim Hughes (OAU Hon Sec, 78-82), Ron Perry (Board Director), Poppy Martin, Cathy Robertson, Ashton Robinson (60-68), Dennis Martin (55-65), John Myrtle (55-62), Dr Horton, Morgan Broadbent and Rob Busby (63-68)



Bronte Garcia (17-20), Marcus Braham (14-20) and Georgie O'Brien (16-18)





Mr Simon Wright, OAU President



# OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

## FROM THE OAU President

Dear Old Armidaliens and other readers of Binghi – by way of introduction, my name is Simon Wright. I was at TAS from 1986-1991 and at the AGM of the Old Armidaliens Union (OAU) last December I was elected President. It's an honour and a pleasure to be part of the alumni organisation of our old school, particularly at the same time as my wife Sophie and I have three children at the school - Wylie in Year 11, Mosie in Year 8 and Mila in Year 6. I hope to provide an update on OAU activities in each edition of Binghi as we work towards making it more relevant to its members, and indeed, all former students at TAS.

### Reunion Weekend 2022

By the time you receive the print edition of Binghi, Reunion Weekend will have come and gone. At the time of writing it is hoped that the predicted next wave of COVID will not dampen attendance at what is such an important event for Old Armidaliens and re-connecting with old friends and the school. While the AGM will also have been held – with some new faces hopefully elected onto the OAU Committee – any time is a good time to put yourself forward to assist however you feel you can. Please feel free to drop me a line and we can have a chat.

### MMG Alumni Survey

Thank you so much to all former students who completed the OAU engagement survey managed by Macquarie Marketing Group. The results are in, the data is deep and rich, and over the next few months the Committee and the School will be digesting the findings sharing these results with our community. Among the priorities of the Committee will be developing an Alumni Strategic Plan based strategies for year groups, location, gender and connection covering reunions, communication, membership, engagement, networking and mentoring, business register and career opportunities, recent Alumni CV circulation aligned to study areas and future employment and events.

### GPSOBU Council events

As you will read elsewhere in Binghi, there are three upcoming events being hosted by the GPS OBU Council which I hope you will consider. The first is the 51st GPSOBU Council Ecumenical Chapel Service, to be held at TAS on 4 September; it is hoped that many GPS alumni living in New England will be in attendance. The success of the OAU Sydney Branch's long lunches, and the biennial GPS Gold Challenge, are proof that former students of GPS schools enjoy getting together for friendship and networking opportunities. Being part of a community bigger than ourselves is one of the benefits of being part of GPS – so if you are in southern Qld, please rally some friends for the GPSOBU Lunch at the Gabba on 23 September.

E [presidentoau@as.edu.au](mailto:presidentoau@as.edu.au)

## Younger OAs make their mark in the world

Our under 30's Old Armidaliens are pursuing their passions and professions at home and abroad.

**Calliden Hunter** (08-15) was awarded a University Medal at UNE's Autumn Graduation Ceremony in April for outstanding academic results during his Honours year of a BA (Theatre and Performance). Calliden's abiding interests in theatre and the environment came together in his thesis which drew its inspiration from the concepts of 'climate grief' and 'ecological anxiety' explored during the drought and bushfires of 2019-2020. UNE Theatre and Performance Lecturer Dr Richard Jordan said Calliden's thesis, *Weird theatre: Ecology and unhumanity* "demonstrated an advanced level of artistry and scholarship." To read more: <https://blog.une.edu.au/hasse/2022/04/26/from-eco-grief-to-triumph/>

**Ziggy Harris** (04-17) is currently the recipient of a scholarship to Lyric Opera Summer School in Weimar, Germany, where he is performing the role of Papageno in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The workdays are long but Weimar's summer climate is reminiscent of Armidale says Ziggy, who is in his fourth year at the NSW Conservatorium of Music and hopes to complete his Masters next year in Europe. Ziggy has also been invited to perform as a guest baritone soloist with Fiori when they perform Faure's Requiem at NECOM in Armidale in August: "it will be lovely to perform in my hometown with and for those who have supported me over the years," he said.

Also at the Conservatorium of Music, with six months remaining of his Masters of Music (Opera Performance) degree is **Andrew Taylor Knight** (10-16). Andrew, who has been the beneficiary of several scholarships since moving to Sydney, earlier this year performed his first Principal Role with Pacific Opera as part of their Young Artists Program, in this case in PO's production of *Albert Herrin*, having made his chorus debut with Pinchgut Opera in their *The Loves of Apollo & Dafne*. He recently completed a three-week internship at Opera Australia and is currently preparing for the Joan Sutherland Bel Canto Award and the Marianne Mathy Australian Singing Competition. Future engagements include Sprecher in the Conservatorium's production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Silvio in The Cooperative's take on Leoncavallos' *Pagliacci*.

**Nicholas Finney** (10-15) was admitted as a Lawyer to the ACT Supreme Court in June and is now working on the Property team at Canberra firm BAL Lawyers. Nick worked at the firm as an intern while undertaking his Bachelor of Laws (Hons)/Bachelor of International Security Studies, Law degrees at ANU; he also had a stint as a project officer with the National Disability Insurance Agency.



Chair of the NSW Young Nationals since November 2020, **Angus Webber** (15-16) has moved to Sydney and is working as a Strategy and Parliamentary Advisor to the Deputy Premier of NSW. Angus has also been selected to take part in November in the US Young Political Leadership Program, fully funded by the US Embassy. "The program involves travelling to the US for mid-term Congressional elections for campaign activities including advertising, fundraising, polling, and media relations and will be immensely interesting," Angus says.

After graduating from CSU with a Bachelor of Paramedicine **Jack Kaynes** (04-17) accepted a position as a Paramedic with Yorkshire Ambulance based in Leeds. He moved to the UK in October 2021.

**Katrina Osborne** (16-17), the first TAS girl Senior Prefect, graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science from UTS earlier this year and is now studying a Master of Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney.

Two members of the Class of 2018 have been awarded Taylor Scholarships by St Andrew's College at the University of Sydney which support initiatives of senior students to continue to engage significantly and meaningfully with College life, after graduating. **Lucy Fenwicke** (05-11, 16-18), who is studying a Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Law at the University of Technology, Sydney, is using the Scholarship to provide swimming opportunities for individuals to train and continue their passions for swimming outside the competitive college circuit, including ocean swims. The Taylor Scholar Project of Bachelor of Science student **Sam Wright** (05-18), *The Drew's Podcast*, aims to inform current students and the wider St Andrew's community about the stories, hardships and successes of current students and alumni. The podcast has transitioned from interviews with current students to a more conversational style podcast including alumni as a way that may help current students develop career pathways post university.

Marcus Oldham Agricultural College in Geelong, Victoria has always attracted Old Armidaliens but this year there's a good swag of Old Boys undertaking their Bachelor of Business (Agriculture). Pictured are: **Ben Mulligan** (09-14), **Sam Berry** (09-17), **Charlie Uren** (11-17), **Lucas Atkin** (14-19), **Angus Earle** (14-19) and **Jack Waters** (06-19).

## Condolences

We were shocked to learn of the death on 14 May 2022 of **Carl Lindgren** (82-87) from a tumour caused by brain cancer, diagnosed only months before. Hailing from PNG, Carl loved football and drama whilst at TAS and after graduating, he studied acting at Victorian College of the Arts, landing roles in various plays, commercials and TV shows, including *Neighbours* and *Blue Heelers*. Later, he studied journalism and communications and in 1999 founded 'map' magazine, an optimistic digest of contemporary culture in Brisbane, by then his home. This led to establishing his creative agency Map Creative and The Weekend Edition e-zine (from which this obit is drawn). Carl also co-founded TEDxBrisbane, held the role of guest artistic director of the Brisbane Writers Festival and sponsored the building of a charity water well in Ethiopia, amongst other ventures. Our sincere condolences to his wife Kath and sons Jasper and Milo, who have set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds for the Mark Hughes Foundation for Brain Cancer Research.

**Peter Wagner** (42) died on 15 June 2022. As World War II came closer to Australia, Peter came to TAS from Brisbane, aged 9, with his two older brothers, **Howard** (42-43) and **David** ('42), his sister Jennifer attending NEGS. Completing his schooling in Brisbane, he later completed an Arts degree at Queensland University and made his way to London, where he took his Diploma from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. A career followed that included acting, directing tours around Europe and later stage management in Sydney theatres. Peter became a regular at Bell Tower Society lunches held in Sydney and was a spirited conversationalist with many stories to tell. We offer our sympathy to his partner Stephen and to the extended Wagner family.

An erudite academic and specialist on Indonesia, **Dr Philip Thomas Kitley** (59-63) passed away peacefully on 20 June, 2022. One of three children of former TAS Chaplain Rev THD Kitley (53-69), Philip graduated from UNE in 1966, M.Ed 1979 UNSW, MA 1990 and PhD 1998 both from Murdoch University. He first visited Indonesia in 1969 at a time when the country was largely unknown to Australians. While teaching at North Sydney Boys High he co-organised one of the first student tours to Indonesia, just a few years after Asian Studies was introduced into the NSW school curriculum. Over the next three decades his academic tenure included visiting researcher Open University at Milton Keynes, lecturer in Education at University of New South Wales, Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and International Studies, University of Southern Queensland and Professor and Head of School at the University of Wollongong. From 1985-1988 Philip also held the post of Cultural Attache at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. He spoke at international conferences in Europe, Asia and the UK; wrote many academic articles and several books including 'Television, Nation and Culture in Indonesia', 'Modern Batik Art & Craft', and edited 'Australia di Mata Indonesia' (Australia in the Eyes of Indonesia). In retirement, Philip continued editing PhD student work and was a volunteer researcher/curator at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, working on the museum's South East Asian Textiles collection. A highlight in retirement was a year in France with his wife Yvonne and settling on the land in Megan near Dorrig. Our condolences to Yvonne and children Ben, Clare and their families; his brother Simon died in December 2021 (as reported in Binghi #195).

On his first day at TAS, at the annual swimming carnival **John Andrew Payne** (52-53) won the Senior Diving Cup, having come second in the Australian Junior Diving Championships during the holidays immediately prior. The following year he broke the record for the 110m freestyle in a time of 72.2 seconds and again won the Senior Diving Cup. John, who passed away at Walcha in July 2022, was a deserved winner of the JA Bell-Allen Cup for best all round sportsman; he was also vice captain of Boxing and Gymnastics, on the GPS Athletics team, and played half-back for the First XV – a position his son **Sam Payne** (84-89) also played for TAS and then NSW and in seven tests for the Wallabies. After TAS John went to Hawkesbury Ag College before a lifetime on the land at Walcha. Our condolences to Sam and his family.







## Around the traps

**Stuart P Hall** (56-58) and his wife Helena called in to TAS while travelling to Brisbane from their home in Canada Bay in Sydney, in May. Stuart, who has been retired from his landscaping business for a number of years, recollected some wonderful tales of mischief from his final year at school, including taking a ram from the Ag plot and locking it in George Crossle's office halfway up the main stairway; crawling along the top attic in order to descend outside the Lodge and steal grapes from the Headmaster's garden, and a boastful 27.5 hours of detentions in his final year – a record for 1958, he believed! Stuart can be contacted at [stuarthall888@yahoo.com](mailto:stuarthall888@yahoo.com)

Terrific to hear from **Dr David Christie** (83-88), who reports: "After assignments in Germany and Singapore (many years ago now!) with a chemical company (for me) and the Max Planck Institute (my wife Melanie), we moved back to Australia in 2004. We spent a few years in Wollongong with the university and then Melbourne, again in the higher education sector. With my current role, Managing Director at Universities Admission Centre, we've landed in Sydney (please get in touch if you'd like), where we're happily ensconced with three unruly cats and dogs." David's number is 0400 416 286.

**Matthew Knight** ('90-'91) joined the Australian Army in 2001 and transferred to the Air Force in 2019. Currently he manages Ground Training for the Royal Australian Air Force and is based in Wagga Wagga. Married with three children, Matt also owns a beef cattle farm in the Kiewa Valley in northern Victoria.

**Andrew McLennan** (77-80) moved to South Australia in February 2019, and now lives in the small town of Hamley Bridge (about an hours drive from central Adelaide). "I tried semi-retirement for a year before working in some wool sheds and then for Viterra as a harvest causal and for the past two years I've been working for Nutrien Ag Solution in Gawler." Andrew still gets back to Armidale to see family when he can.

The Kirribilli Club Lunchers continue to get together to look out for each other and tell tall tales, though with depleted numbers due to illness on 16 June: (standing) **Michael Webb** (61-63), **Paddy Flower** (62-63), visiting from Queensland **Peter Mair** (59-62), **John Childs** (59-64); (seated) **Ian Hutchison** (59-63) and **Mike Smith** (59-63).



## GPS Golf Day – new date

Golfers note! OAU Sydney Branch President **John Steuart** (61-65) has advised that the date for the annual GPSBOU Council Golf Day at Manly Gf Club has been changed from 4 August to Thursday 10 November, 2022. "I received a good response for the previous date so I hope we will get an even better rollup because it will be warmer and it's always a bit of fun with a few laughs about the good old days. So please spread the word and let's see if we can get together the largest team yet," says John. Anyone keen to be part of it is asked to contact John at [johnsteu@bigpond.net.au](mailto:johnsteu@bigpond.net.au) or 0422 860 606.

## GPSOBU Council inaugural Brisbane function

Old Armidalians in south-east Queensland – save the date for the first GPSOBU Council lunch, to be held on 23 September at the Queensland Cricketers' Club – aka The Gabba. Organisation is still in the early stages but Paddy Flower, who is flying the flag for TAS, says it is anticipated to be a wonderful networking opportunity for between 250-300 NSW GPS alumni. Old Armidalians will be sent more details in due course; in the meantime, if you're keen to get a table together, contact Paddy at [pflower@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pflower@bigpond.net.au) or 0418 468 708 or **Jock Hudson** (80-85) at [jockh@teysaust.com.au](mailto:jockh@teysaust.com.au) or 0418 449 294

## GPSOBU Council Chapel Service returns to TAS

Every year one of the nine NSW GPS schools hosts the ecumenical GPSOBU Council Chapel Service – and for sixth time since 1979, this year's 51<sup>st</sup> service will be held at TAS, also coinciding with the Council's presidency being held by **Paddy Flower** (61-62). Bishop of Armidale Rod Chiswell has agreed to be the guest speaker at the service, to be held on Sunday 4 September. TAS Chaplain Richard Newton, who leaves TAS in December after 17 years, will be officiating. For more details contact Paddy at [pflower@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pflower@bigpond.net.au) or 0418 468 708. All alumni and partners of GPS schools are most welcome; for catering purposes please email [reception@as.edu.au](mailto:reception@as.edu.au)



**TAS** THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL