



**TAS**  
THE ARMIDALE  
SCHOOL

# binghi

TERM 3 2023



**INSIDE:**

**CLASS DISMISSED**

Farewell celebrations for  
Year 12 2023

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S SERVICE**

Special connections  
on Year 8 Fiji trip

**REUNION ROUNDUP**

Alumni return for a  
wonderful weekend

Olivia Cannin  
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**Cover:** Tyrrell House Captain Olivia Cannington with the Clemson Cup for inter-house debating and public speaking, presented during Valedictory Week (Photo: Simon Scott)



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Anne of Green Gables in the novel of the same name, said I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. In the New England October has brought Spring in full swing with bluebells and trees in blossom rather than the Autumnal shades of red and orange that mark the month in the Northern hemisphere. The increasing warmth reminds us that we are at the start of the final term, the lead into the end of the academic year.

Seasons changing sit alongside times of change for students and Term 3 at TAS was a time of endings and beginnings for many. The final official days of school for our Year 12 cohort also saw the stepping up of our Year 11s as the leaders of the School. Year 10 students made their choices about patterns of study in their final years and Year 5 students nervously presented their Primary Years Programme Exhibition; the culmination of their Junior School journey, if not quite the end.

Changes, be they temporary or ongoing, bring challenges through uncertainty and nervousness, but also exciting new avenues to explore and the inevitable personal growth that accompanies the experience.

During my customary Term 3 lunches with Year 12 students, we covered many topics, but sometimes the conversation strayed to travel plans. It initially surprised me how few students had travelled overseas or even widely within their own beautiful country. Of course travel is a privilege, and there are many reasons why students may not have had the opportunity, including for current cohorts, the travel-free years of the pandemic. For those who are able, this form of temporary change, exposure to different experiences, cultures and ways of live through travel both within and outside of Australia, is incredibly powerful.

As I write this, I am grateful that we have recently been able to offer many of our students these new experiences recently. Year 8 students have recently returned from the annual Christian service trip to St Christophers Orphanage in Suva, Fiji; Year 9 and 10 students are having a truly amazing experience in Japan and a group of our Year 11 students have travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, for a Round Square conference. (Read about their adventures in this and the next edition of Binghi.) Taking students overseas for a period of time is a huge undertaking and also requires an immense amount of planning. Amazing experiences like these rely on the passion and generosity of the staff that champion and manage them and we have many truly dedicated staff at TAS.

For the School as a whole and its future, this Spring has also been an exciting one, with the start of the construction of the new boarding house. This building will support our increasing boarding enrolments and on its completion will allow us to turn our attention to expansion of our Junior School, a quickly growing area of the School.

Indeed, as Tolstoy wrote in 'Anna Karenina': "Spring is the time of plans and projects."

*Dr Rachel Horton*

# Student success

## IN NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

A reflective monologue from Year 10 student Stella Maroulis that urges readers to consider others, was awarded Year 9/10 runner up in the national 'What Matters?' writing competition, run by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University. From hundreds of entries, Stella's piece 'The Art of Observation' was hailed by judges for the way it "explored deep and difficult issues from a caring and nuanced perspective". Her entry took the form of a student's observation of a new classmate and the shocking reality of their invisibility after just a term at the school. Writer Doug Whyte from competition sponsor ReachOutAustralia and The War on Waste's Craig Reucassel presented Stella with her award at a special ceremony in Sydney. It is the third time TAS students have achieved outstanding success in this competition, following Sancia Ridgeway being the national winner in 2018 and Stirling Munsie the Year 9/10 runner up in 2020. This year there were 4991 entries from 691 schools across Australia in the competition.

"...the art of observation is such an important thing, but has been taken away from the lives of this generation simply because we are too caught up in our own lives to notice the lives of others. To observe, is to truly be at peace - with ourselves and the world."



Stella with Doug Whyte and Craig Reucassel

## Forensic Science Camp returns

Just as new evidence and technology can resurrect a cold criminal case, a unique forensic science camp for school students sprang back to life in July week after a three year, pandemic-induced hiatus.

This year's five day TAS Forensic Science Camp attracted 84 Year 8 boys and girls from 21 independent, government and Catholic schools in NSW, Queensland and the ACT where they worked in teams to solve hypothetical murders, car thefts and environmental vandalism, developing skills in laboratory techniques, logical thinking and teamwork.

"While COVID shut things down, it didn't diminish the fascination students have with forensic science. So when it came to putting it back on, everyone jumped at the chance," said Year 10 student Ty Schalk O'Brien, this year's camp director.

Part of what makes it unique is that it is student run, with recent campers usually returning the following year to write the crime scenarios. With no camp since 2019, TAS instead introduced a semester-long Forensic Science Camp elective for Year 9 and 10 students who pored over former 'cases' in class as inspiration for this year.

"Along with these 10 controllers were four students in management roles who oversaw the entire operation of the camp including recruitment, catering, accommodation, logistics and entertainment, working closely with the staff coordinators to ensure it all ran smoothly," said Ty.

Five staff members were on hand purely to supervise and offer laboratory support. On the final day teams presented their committal cases to a trained solicitor who took on the role of a magistrate to determine if the cases are strong enough to go before a court.



Forensic Science Director Ty Schalk-O'Brien with fellow camp managers Sam Guppy, Shayla Newcombe, Alice Papworth and Dion Carruthers





## An encore nomination for ENCORE

Her deft technique and superb sensitivity on the violin has earned Year 12 violinist Emily Thompson a nomination for the HSC Music Showcase ENCORE for the second consecutive year. Her nomination as a Music Extension student follows from similar honours last year as a Music 2 accelerant. She has also been nominated for the regional showcase Bravissimo, to be staged at Port Macquarie next year. Emily's final school performance was at this term's Valedictory Prizegiving where her six-minute performance from Rondo Capriccioso by Camille Saint-Saens, played from memory, was duly rewarded with a prolonged standing ovation. Emily was one of only 14 secondary violinists selected for the ACO Academy in July and she will also play with the NSW Regional Youth Orchestra as part of a joint Australian World Orchestra project at the Sydney Opera House after her HSC exams. The final lineup for ENCORE will be announced later in the year. The talent of Emily and nine fellow Year 12 Music students shone at the school's showcase Final Note on 5 September.

**Emily Thompson has been nominated for ENCORE for the second year.**

## Drama students nominated for HSC Showcase

The entire Year 12 Drama class has ended a long commitment to creative arts at TAS in style with their performances being nominated for the statewide HSC Drama Showcase, OnSTAGE!

The two Group Performances performed by the nine students, as well as five Individual Performances are now up for consideration for final selection into the showcase which will take place early in 2024. 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.

For Pierre Morcellet, Oliver Morse, Will Nash and Claude Toakley, this was 'The Black Hand' which followed the true story of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by the Serbian terrorist organisation the Black Hand.

Meanwhile Felicity Barton, Chelsea Bourke, Meave Churchyard, Jasper O'Neil and Netty Whysall created 'The Prefects', an examination into how normalised yet overlooked "toxic popularity" is in Australia inspired by the television show Ja'mie'.

Additionally, the six-eight minute long Individual Performances of Will, Pierre, Jasper, Chelsea and Claude have been nominated for final selection, which will require a video of each performance to be submitted to a selection panel in Sydney and, subject to the availability of all students, to take part. Just being nominated is a fine accolade for the whole class which includes some students who have been performing on the Hoskins stage since Kindergarten.



**Claude Toakley, Pierre Morcellet, Oliver Morse and Will Nash perform 'The Black Hand'.**



**Chelsea Bourke, Meave Churchyard, (bottom) Felicity Barton, Jasper O'Neil and Netty Whysall examine toxic popularity in 'The Prefects'.**



## Building a future at the Trade Training Centre

The Trade Training Centre has been a hive of activity over recent months for the Industrial Technology (Timber & Metals) class who spent considerable time after school and at weekends completing their HSC major works. The projects reflect the passion and interests of the students, the technical tuition of their teachers and have resulted in many outstanding works of professional design and craftsmanship. In addition, the centre's unique facilities have been enabling Year 12 students Will Friend, Ardie Curtis, Freddie Muller, Bailey Barrett and Ben Poole to build their future – literally. The boys are all doing their Certificate II in Construction, with Freddie and Will also undertaking traineeships in other vocational fields alongside HSC subjects. Meanwhile Ben is undertaking a School-Based Apprenticeship with Armidale-based construction company Uniplan Group.



Will Friend, Ardie Curtis, Freddie Muller and Bailey Barratt in the specialist construction classroom at the Trade Training Centre

## Metals projects shortlisted for Shape showcase

After endless hours of dedication after hours and at weekends, the major projects of four Industrial Technology (Metals & Engineering) students have received nominations for consideration for the statewide HSC Showcase Shape - the most nominations for TAS in many years. The nominations are due reward for the creativity of their designs, the technical skills employed, the facilities at the Trade Training Centre and the mentorship of their teacher Mr Nexø. Students of Industrial Technology (Metals & Engineering), Industrial Technology (Timber) and Design and Technology shared their works with their families and the wider TAS staff at an open afternoon at the Trade Training Centre on Sunday 6 August.



Charlie McDouall with his custom made tray top



Timber and metal skills combine in Bailey Barrett's tray



Wylie Wright and his impressive trailer



Dan Morgan and his half canopy and lock up undertray storage



# Farewell, CLASS OF 2023!

There were plenty of hugs, handshakes and high-fives as TAS farewelled Year 12 in the closing weeks of term. Over lunch in the Lodge with Dr Horton and Mr Coulson, they shared special memories of their time at TAS and their plans for the future. In the final week they signed the Graduates' Register; were presented with House ties, attended House dinners, were treated to a barbecue hosted by the Old Armidaliens' Union including several OA fathers and enjoyed inter-House sporting activities. Always a solemn occasion, the School officially paid tribute to Year 12 and thanked them for their contribution to TAS by lining the drive as they processed from the Chapel to Memorial Hall for their final chapel service which culminated in a very moving candle ceremony. At the prizegiving ceremony on Valedictory Day itself, special guest rugby coach and teacher Nick das Neves-Jones (OA 2010) shared how his TAS education had given him life skills in resilience and courage which set him up well for dealing with both opportunities and inevitable setbacks in life. After being presented with their gifts of membership to the Old Armidaliens' Union the Class of 2023 and their families then enjoyed their last meal at TAS together at a special lunch in the Dining Hall. The formal wrapped up the week-long festivities, before it was back to study. We wish them all the best for their exams and life beyond the school gates.



School lines the drive to farewell the Class of 2023



Louis Ross was presented with six academic awards including the Principal's Prize for the Best HSC Assessment



Speech Day special guest Nick das Neves-Jones with Dr Horton





Eve Muirhead and Callan Lawrence light their candles watched on by Fred Kearney and Sofia Paris



Will Morelli signs the Graduates' Register



Year 12 and their parents enjoy Valedictory Luncheon



Old Armidaliens' Union president Simon Wright and fellow OA Year 12 fathers Tom Skipper, David Paris, Nick Pearce, David Ross and Matt Carter were on the BBQ tongs



Emily Buntine, Jasper O'Neil, Peter Evans and Will Nash who started their TAS journey together 14 years ago in Transition (now Pre-Kindergarten) in 2010, under the care of Mrs Tania Ball



# Fred Kearney

## GIVES REGIONAL VOICE TO CITY TED TALK FORUM

His passion for regional communities was a hallmark of his journey to becoming this year's Lions Australia Youth of the Year and on 12 August Fred Kearney was one of six speakers who inspired those attending a TEDx Croydon Youth event at Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. Fred, along with UNICEF Australia chief operating officer Sarah Grattan, former Vogue editor Kirstie Clement, youth advocate Noah Smith, author Beck Feiner and founder of UrVoice Australia Jayden Delbridge, all spoke on the theme, 'Become'. Fred shared his journey growing up on a farm near Coonabarabran but also the message that every person's journey will be very different and the importance for every individual to feel empowered to discover what's right for them.

Starting in 2019, the TED Conferences were founded by two businessmen to share, internationally, "ideas worth spreading." Since then they have grown to include independently organised events in the spirit of the original.

Acknowledging his achievements in public speaking Fred was awarded the School's highest co-curricular award, Honours, this term. He also took out this year's senior inter-house public speaking competition during Valedictory Week with a speech that urged students to look beyond the obvious places to find opportunities that were both exciting and meaningful.



The Armidale School Year 12 student Fred Kearney gave voice to regional youth as a featured speaker at a TEDx Croydon Youth event in Sydney in August



Hugo Li and Daniel Emmery at the are final of the Rotary Public Speaking competition

## Speakers make Rotary area finals

TAS was well represented in this year's Rotary Public Speaking competition, with two students making it to the Area finals. Year 10 students Nina Deshon and Daniel Emmery competed at the Rotary Club of Armidale level on 1 August, impressing adjudicators and the audience on issues that were important to them. Daniel's prepared speech was a call for positive masculinity to be celebrated in a time of increasing mental health challenges, while in her speech, Nina reflected on the power of books and reading as drivers of creativity, imagination and positivity compared to the passive negativity of scrolling on social media. Contestants then had two minutes to prepare a two minute impromptu speech on the topic that 'real learning doesn't occur in the classroom' - Daniel citing 'leadership' as being a skill best learnt in outdoor activities, while Nina said there was no substitute for the learning of life skills from social settings. Daniel was declared the winner ahead of students from three other schools and then proceeded to the area final in Inverell on 13 August. There he competed alongside schoolmate Hugo Li, representing the Rotary Club of Walcha, whose prepared speech reflected on the dire inequality of health services in regional areas. While neither made it to the Zone level of the competition it was a terrific opportunity for competitors who were wonderful ambassadors for TAS.

## Four teams in national debating finals

Debaters have argued their way to the business end of the National Virtual Debating Competition, with four of the five TAS teams through to the finals. In the Opens Division the Year 12 team (grand finalists last year), having taken points

against Penrith Anglican College and PAL Buddhist School, have made it through to the semi-finals, but are unlikely to be able to finish the tournament. Meanwhile, having won debates against Kinross Wolaroi School and O'Connor Catholic College the Year 11 team will have their quarter final against Frensham School early in Term 4. Year 10 A have had two wins from three, including

Loreto Normanhurst.

Of particular note is the Year 8 team (Cormac Downes, Jessica Emmery, Peter Thompson and Dominic Nguyen who have won three of their four clashes including fixtures against perennial grand-finalists Scotch College Melbourne, and PLC Sydney.



## Lights, camera, action!

Students keen on film production and acting were the focus of filmmakers Clara Chong and Ben Allan from Main Course Films who facilitated a workshop at TAS on 19 September. From pre-production to shooting to working with editing software, students gained a terrific insight into the film industry. Using examples from their film *Dark Noise*, which was screened at the Belgrave Cinema the following weekend, Clara and Ben demonstrated techniques such as camera setup and how it influences creative storytelling decisions; the range of cameras typically used in feature films, and how different lenses can affect a given shot depending on the space available and the actors in the scene. They were delighted to visit TAS, with the campus on their radar as a likely location for a film currently in pre-production.



Filmmakers Clara Chong and Ben Allan with interested students and Head of Creative Arts Mr Andrew O'Connell

## Golden goal made it a trifecta

Three TAS hockey teams finished the season in grand style with grand final wins to teams that reflected the breadth of the TAS Hockey Club. The B Grade Men's Hockey team defeated Guyra 4-3 with a golden goal in extra time scored by Mr Campbell Nicol, father of Captain of Hockey Conal, in what was his last game for TAS after 11 years. Amongst the fathers and five sons in the team, Luke Schmude scored two goals while his father Paul found the net for one. Earlier in the week TAS White defeated Armidale Secondary College 4-2 in the Hockey New England Year 7-12 competition grand final - a team that played the whole season without subs and finished the pool on top of the ladder. Also winning their grand final against United U13s 1-0 was TAS U13s mixed team - a terrific achievement for a diverse team of players including two in Year 4 and the youngest, aged just 9.



Fathers and sons playing in the B Grade premiership team: Will and Andrew Morelli; Luke, Paul and Angus Schmude; Paul and Toby Ford Campbell and Conal Nicoll.

## GPS Shooting

TAS shooters in this year's AAGPS Championships on 18-19 July recorded some solid individual results against some very strong competition. TAS placed third in the 'snap' application of the Buchanan Shield shot over 300m but fell well short in the Deliberate. Sam Morris was the best individual for TAS placing 14th overall and just missing out on the Combined AAGPS team. The team's preparation included a camp at Wollomombi Rifle Range and a practice day at Hornsby Rifle Range pre-competition. Once again Old Armidalian Rob Bonfield ('72) volunteered his expertise, to the gratitude of shooters.

Jack Chappell, Will Friend, George Allingham, Ty Schalk-O'Brien, Lachlan Sedon, Cohen Wright, Ted Kermod, Sam Morris and Dion Carruthers (front) check out results







## Podium for Toby on European tour

Making his debut as a guest cyclist for the Dutch-based Zuyd Cycling Team, Year 12 student Toby Inglis pedalled his way to a podium finish in his first race on a five week European tour which he described as a "magnificent learning experience". Toby crossed the line in first place in an under 19s, 95km kermesse event near Heusden-Zolder ahead of 119 other starters. He also finished sixth in one of the other seven UCI-level races he competed in against international-level cyclists and achieved podium placings in a number of minor local competitions used for training. Many of the races were through countryside with rolling hills, lots of corners – "and plenty of unexpected potholes". Off the bike he lived with his four Australian teammates in a share house at Watersley Sports and Talentpark, an incubator for elite and developing professional athletes in Sittard, just near the border with Belgium and Germany.

The glorious scenery wasn't the only vista, with Toby also getting a view of his cycling future. On the back of his success he has already had approaches from two larger teams keen to have him on board to live and race with them next year in Europe.

**Toby Inglis tops the podium ahead of Belgian under 19 riders after winning his first event for the Zuyd Cycling Team**

## Top times at inaugural NCIS Mountain Biking

A team of 18 TAS riders had great success at the inaugural NCIS Mountain Bike championships held at Woolgoolga MTB trails on 31 August. Students enjoyed the unfamiliar timed stage-race, on two well-built flowy enduro trails with one cross country trail in the mix. Riders were electronically timed on each stage and could ride each stage up to five times, with their fastest time from each stage going toward their accumulative time for all three stages. Congratulations to Bethan Palfreyman and Emily Benham who placed first and second respectively in the Year 11/12 girls and to Toby Inglis, Abbott White and Oscar MacFarlane who placed first, second and third respectively in the Year 11/12 boys division. Toby was also the fastest rider of the 112 students competing in the event. TAS placed a commendable third in the schools ranking, behind two coastal schools with the home-trail advantage.





# Rugby reps

## TAKE TO THE FIELD

A number of TAS rugby players represented their school and region with representative honours in July. As Fred Kearney played for AAGPS 2nd XV at the NSW Schoolboy titles; Angus Ditchfield pulled on a jersey for the NSW U18s Barbarians at the Australian Schoolboy Championships; Angus and Callan Lawrence played for Country U18s who played City on 22-23 July at Maitland, where Matilda Magyar was part of the NSW Country U18 girls who defeated City 15-10. Sami Davis also played for Country 16s against NSW Schools but was injured for the Country v City clash.



Rugby reps: Fred Kearney, Angus Ditchfield, Callan Lawrence and Matilda Magyar



## Girls take out rugby premiership

Women's rugby is on the rise around the world including at TAS. This year the school fielded two teams in the North West Region Youth Rugby Competition with our 14s winning the premiership after defeating Gunnedah 34-19 at Scully Park in Tamworth on 1 September. This year Scone/Quirindi, Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth Pirates, Armidale Blues and Narrabri were also part of the competition.



## Netballers in-goal form

TAS netball teams dominated the Armidale District Netball Association grand finals on 16 September with four of five teams playing, taking home gold medals. The girls gave it their all across the courts in front of a large crowd of supporters with TAS 2, 3, 4 and 6 all securing division premierships and TAS Primary finishing as runners up in Primary Division 4. Additionally Sofia Paris, Meg Cory and Tarnia Ahoy-McMahon were recognised at the ADNA awards for outstanding achievements. During the last term holidays Opens netballers went on a tour to Queensland, which included a coaching session with former Australian Diamond player Joanne Morgan and coaches from Gold Coast Titans; watching a Titans Sapphire match and playing against Fairholme, Toowoomba Anglican School and The Glennie School.



Four netball teams took out division premierships in the Armidale competition



# STOIC DISPLAY AT Passing Out Parade

In wet and windy conditions on 8 September, the Cadet Unit Passing Out Parade truly was an outstanding and memorable display of tenacity and resilience! The 250-strong unit was inspected by Reviewing Officer LT COL Craig Delaney who praised the cadets for their turnout and discipline. As is customary, the 20 departing Year 12 cadets paraded off in slow march, saluted by the Unit in thanks for their service.

"You may not realise it now, but the skills you have picked up in Cadets will carry you through your future careers. The power of being able to delegate responsibility and empower others to achieve your goals, is invaluable. For some this life skill can take many years to develop," he said. "Further, this sense of achievement will be retained by each of you by living those values encapsulated by Defence and the Army Cadets - Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity, and Excellence; values that provide a framework of behaviour and engagement that you can draw upon now and into the future for guidance, assurance and direction."

That evening cadet leaders, their parents and staff rounded out the farewell to the Year 12 cadets at Dining In Night at the Armidale Bowling Club. A formal occasion informed by military tradition, the evening included toasts, speeches, and the presentation of various awards by LT COL Delaney.



LT COL Delaney reviews the parade in wet and windy conditions



The departing Year 12 cadets slow-march off the parade ground



SUO Callan Lawrence calls the Parade to attention







Dr Horton welcomes the Reviewing Officer LT COL Delaney



CUO Will Nash is presented with the McConville Sword



LT COL Delaney presents the Mathew Dunbar Memorial Award to CUO Abbott White



Departing Year 12 cadets (back row l-r) Angus Wallis, Harry Turnbull, William Nash, Guy Hardin, Conal Nicoll, Peter Evans, Ben Poole, Felicity Barton, Sofia Paris, Isobel Pengilly, Jonathon Phelps, Callan Lawrence, (front) Fergus Lloyd, Harrison Miller, Daniel Morgan, Archie Little



# TAS Sleepout

## WAS A WAKE UP CALL

Along with a sense of service is a greater understanding of issues such as homelessness and domestic abuse, highlighted during the annual TAS Sleepout which this year involved around 110 boys and girls 'sleeping rough' on campus on 21 August. Before setting up their digs for the night with just a piece of cardboard and a blanket, students learnt about the causes and symptoms of homelessness from Armidale Neighbourhood Centre manager Ms Robbie Passmore and Enrolments Coordinator Mrs Jo Crowley, a former board director of Armidale Women's Shelter. In rotation, groups of students cooked 162 extra meals for the Neighbourhood Centre. The Sleepout came on the back of a mufti day and canned food drive the previous week, with a truckload of non-perishable food and personal items being donated by the TAS community.



One of the groups who cooked meals during the night

## An appetite for service wins Wylie Wright Young Volunteer of the Year

When Wylie Wright and five other students started cooking meals for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre early last year the end goal was to qualify for a Duke of Edinburgh award. Long after he met the requirements Wylie has now been given another award for his student leadership of the program, being named the NSW Young Volunteer of the Year for the New England/North West region.

From six students cooking 40 meals a week early last year, the program, set up by TAS Challenge and Service Coordinator Mr Jim Pennington has now grown to around 40 students spread across four separate sessions who between them prepare up to 100 meals a week - spaghetti bolognese, butter chicken or ravioli and sauce, portioned, packaged and labelled with the ingredients and a sticker or message of hope and support for the recipients.

Wylie said that after he gained enough hours for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award he continued cooking because, well, there was no reason not to – especially as some of the other students involved weren't doing it for anything other than pure service.

"Service opportunities like this give us the chance to improve the local community and make life a little easier for those who could be in a better position," he believes.

NSW Centre for Volunteering CEO Gemma Rygate presented Wylie with his award at a ceremony at Armidale Bowling Club on 8 September. He now moves to the State Final in Sydney in December.



Wylie Wright (left) with Year 10 volunteers who each week cook meals for Armidale Neighbourhood Centre



NAIDOC was celebrated at Assembly on 5 September, led by a presentation from Indigenous Student Leaders Sarskia Clark and Harrison Miller. The highlight was a dance performed by Indigenous students and non-Indigenous friends, reflecting the bonds of friendship and understanding. Sarskia and Harrison also attended the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation graduation in Sydney on 14 August accompanied by Deputy Principal Mr Pearson and Indigenous Students Coordinator Mr Moran. Sarskia had the great honour of welcoming all the graduates and distinguished guests to the event and sharing her journey with the audience, while both students were presented with the graduation certificates by AIEF CEO Andrew Penfold AM. TAS continues to proudly partner AIEF in enabling opportunities for First Nations students.



Pictured with Anaiwan man and choreographer Bob Blair and Indigenous Students Coordinator Mr Clarrie Moran (right) are 14 of the school's Indigenous students and their friends who performed at NAIDOC Assembly

## Rock steady crew

Some were doing it for their Gold or Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards, some simply to spend time in a different physical and headspace, but all 28 students, eight parents and five staff completed the inaugural Rock to Rock challenge, a 193km walk from Red Rock to South West Rocks. Over four days/three nights from 5-8 October, the group followed the coastline where possible, crossing creeks, rivers, headlands and when the course was too inaccessible, venturing into State Forests in order to meet their goal. Year 10 students devised the program back in Term 1, then broke into logistics sub-groups for more in-depth planning into route options, meals, safety, clothing, transport, weather and medical considerations. On the first day the group walked from Red Rock to Coffs Harbour, and then on to Valla Beach via Mylestom on the second day. The toughest was day three with strong headwinds on soft sand into Nambucca Heads, closing off at Scotts Head. A reward on the final day was whale and dolphin spotting off Grassy Beach, finishing at South West Rocks. Averaging 10 hours walking per day and an elevation gain of 1766m, it was no mean feat and one worthy of a Duke of Edinburgh Award adventurous journey.



## Confirmation service

Bishop Rod Chiswell joined Acting Chaplain Mrs Jo Benham for a service of baptism and confirmation in the School Chapel on 8 September. Ten confirmees affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ, supported by family, friends, staff members and the TAS Chapel Choir. Pictured are Dr Horton, Angus Benham, Edward Pengilley, Hamish Pengilley, Archibald Pengilley, Isobel Pengilley, Prudence Black, Emily Thompson, Lucinda Newell, Emily Benham, Jenna Hattingh, Mrs Jo Benham and Bishop Chiswell.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL news

## Fiji trip instils gift of service

They painted kitchen cabinets, concreted a new basketball pad, erected a boundary fence and befriended the young residents – the Year 8 students who attended this year's service trip to St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji in September taught them much about themselves and the wider world.

"We did a lot of service work but what we all learnt most was that you don't need expensive items to be happy," said Hamish Pengilly.

Sabrina Knight agreed: "It was really hard leaving the home as we had become close to our buddies. The most rewarding part was that they all genuinely appreciated us being there to not only help with jobs but form friendships with the children."



Ryder Aberton helps students in the school



Madeleine Buntine and Tessa Jackson paint kitchen cupboards



Tom Watt with his buddy

For almost 30 years students and staff from TAS have been visiting St Christopher's and found meaning by undertaking projects ranging from weeding vegetable gardens to fundraising for and installing a solar hot water system and building personal relationships with the residents. Amongst those on one of the first trips was Stuart Watts – who as Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Fiji, shared his experience with this year's group.

"Mr Watts invited us to visit him at the High Commissioner's Residence, where he told us about his role and what that means for Fiji and Australia. It made us realise how important the trip was and how it can shape our future lives. I came home feeling much more grateful for what I have and not to take my life for granted," said Tom Watt.

For Mr Watts, it was a thrill to be able to host the delegation from his old school and hear the work they were doing.

"Making a contribution through service to others and representing not only TAS but also Australia at a place like St Christopher's is a humbling but enriching experience, and one they will always remember. We come to serve but always receive more in return – we can always be on the lookout for ways to serve," he said. "For me, this all began with my own experience at TAS and St Christopher's over 20 years ago."

**Below: TAS and St Christopher's students and staff at the opening of the basketball pad they constructed**



Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Fiji and TAS Old Boy Stuart Watts (front left) hosted TAS students and staff during their annual Christian service trip to St Christopher's Orphanage in Suva



## Year 8 ART IMMERSION DAYS

For the second consecutive year, Year 8 students were thoroughly engaged in a two-day Arts immersion program in August, participating in four workshops in slam poetry (English), printmaking (art), puppetry (Drama) or music ensembles (Music). The program, with a focus on creativity, literacy and collaborative learning, culminated in an exhibition which showcased their work. It was great to have professional 'slam poet' Rebecca Rushbrook return to TAS after the success of last year's event. The program offered an insight into some of the exciting Stage 5 Creative Arts electives on offer, which include comedy, filmmaking, music tech and stage production.



## Greener grass not always better

It is often said – perhaps most famously by comedian Jerry Seinfeld – that people fear public speaking even more than death. But 'glossophobia' was clearly not the case for the six contestants in this year's Middle School public speaking competition, whose erudite, thought provoking and confident interpretations of one of four phrases impressed students and staff alike. Choosing 'a lot of hot air', Zana Ross expressed frustration that politicians are all talk and no action on the issue of climate change, while Sophie Banister outlined work being done by researchers to reduce methane emissions – in both livestock and flatulence in humans. Vern Toakley asked his fellow students to consider if they were 'a clock or a compass', guided more by short-term goals or the bigger picture. 'The grass is always greener' was selected by three speakers, with Megan Varvari stating that often things aren't as they appear and Jack Wood accounting for the current threatening drought. It was Georgia Henderson for Tyrrell who took the day, warning against the trap of jealousy and envy and instead choosing optimism and a mindset of happiness: "the grass is greener where it is watered." The win helped deliver Tyrrell the Clemson Cup for inter-house debating and public speaking in both Middle and Senior School.



Sophie Banister, Jack Wood, Vern Toakley, Georgia Henderson, Megan Varvari and Zana Ross represented their houses in the public speaking competition

## Middle School's Monster Mash

It's Halloween Night - but there's something extra strange about the craziness as four friends watch their schoolmates being turned into zombies with a per chance for frappuccinos and a pop star named Dustin Fever! How are they going to save their friends – and each other? Middle School students brought Matthew Whittet's Fight With All Your Might The Zombies Of Tonight to 'life' on the Hoskins stage for three performances in August. The 26 Middle School cast members were ably supported by six Senior School students in various technical, production and directorial roles.

**Zombies Elsie Caulfield, Ethan Wooldridge, Scarlett Dawson and Maddie Meyer look for signs of transformation**





# JUNIOR SCHOOL news

## Brainiacs' busy term

With hundreds of bright young students in a vast auditorium at Knox Grammar School, the da Vinci Decathlon State Final on 27 July was literally an awesome experience for our Year 5 team – but as their results showed, not necessarily an overwhelming one! Of 71 teams competing, TAS placed sixth in the Art & Poetry challenge and 12th in Legacy, the best result yet at this level of competition.

Later in the term two teams made up of students from Years 3, 4 and 5 travelled to Tamworth for the regional finals of the Tournament of Minds competition, an international program aimed to develop creative problem-solving skills. The teams, comprising students across year groups elected to solve an Arts-based problem and a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) challenge respectively and worked on their solutions in the lead up to the competition. Their effort and teamwork in the preparation for the finals paid off, with the STEM team placing first and the Arts team coming second.



Proud of their achievements at the da Vinci Decathlon State final were (l-r) Daniel Bayne, Darya Samadi, Eli Mayne, Ethan Downes, Maya Slade, Sarah Chittenden, Matilda Polson and Luke Varvari

## A true exhibition of inquiry-based learning

The culmination of the IB Primary Years Programme is the Exhibition which this year took place on 6-7 September and was a tremendous celebration of the learning that each of the Year 5 students has achieved throughout their time in Junior School. This year students were tasked with investigating the assertion that 'Scientific and technological advances are constantly evolving and may influence the environment and people's lives,' with a narrower focus on their particular area of interest. These topics included defence, health, agriculture, technology, energy, transport and the environment.

Supported by staff members with expertise in the student's topics, the group spent months in research before collaborating with their group members to communicate their findings in their information report, speech and iMovie. These were then presented to their peers, parents and the wider school community in the Hoskins foyer where it was clear the students are open-minded, risk-taking, principled and knowledgeable inquirers, all of which are key aspects of the Primary Years Programme.



Lachlan Wood and Levi Watts outline their group's work on renewable energy to Year 12 student Will Nash

## National Science Week explodes

National Science Week in August was celebrated in Junior School with a range of activities that were both educational and fun. Years 3-5 were fortunate to spend some time in the newly refurbished science labs with Mr 'Beaker' McLennan who led them through several experiments focussing on the states of matter. Our young scientists were delighted to learn both how and why it is possible to light a candle without touching the wick with a flame and were especially eager to create a personal 'fire extinguisher', through the use of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, to snuff out the flame of other lit candles. The smells, challenges and wow-moments were greatly enjoyed by all.



Immy Waters and Ellen Adams make their own fire extinguisher during Science Week



## NERAM visit art of this world for Pre-K

As part of Pre-Kindergarten's IB Unit Of Inquiry (UOI) 'Creativity allows us to make connections with our world', they visited New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) on 9 August. The children were amazed at the scale, colour, design and texture of some real life artwork and were given the chance to pick some favourites from works on display from the Hinton Collection and also the University of New England School Acquisitive Art Prize (UNESAP) Let's Hang It! exhibition. Apart from learning a little about art and its practice the excursion was a fun way of engaging with the local community.



## Jumping for gold

The athletics success of Year 5 student Baxter Carruthers has been going ahead in leaps and bounds, with a gold medal performance at the CIS Athletics Championships in Sydney in September. Baxter took out the 11 years high jump with a leap of 1.46m, a 9cm personal best.



## Helping the homeless

The Junior School Office looked more like a supermarket in August, thanks to the wonderful support from Junior School students and families for the TAS Sleepout initiative (see page 14). The generous donations of so many non-perishable food and clothing items not only made a difference to the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre and its clients, but the sheer volume made for a wonderful talking point with students that helped them understand more about the plight of homelessness. For a number of Year 5 students, this was made all the more real by their participation in the TAS Sleepout itself.



Junior School leaders Ethan Downes and Darya Samadi talk about all the donations for the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre with Mr Chittenden

## Students thank their magnificent men

The second Celebrating Families event of the year was held on 1 September to coincide with Father's Day and what a hoot it was. Students and their fathers/grandfathers/ male mentors/significant adults enjoyed lots of friendly competition in hilarious games. Self-dignity was often put to one side as the adults offered themselves as human quoits; blew ping pong balls through straws; scooped up cotton balls while blindfolded or and stacked multiple die on a paddle pop stick in their mouths. It wasn't clear who had more fun – the students or the men!

Hudson and Ruby Archer enjoy playing quoits with their father Matthew





# OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

The 10 year leavers were no match for the 2nd XV in the Tug of War

## A Cracker Reunion Weekend

New events and old customs combined to refresh the format for this year's Reunion Weekend on 4-6 August, which brought back hundreds of former students and friends to the school. On Friday afternoon six five year leavers shared their post-school experience with Year 10 and 11 at the inaugural Future Pathways Forum, a joint initiative of the OAU and the School, held in the Dining Hall. Welcome drinks in the Hoskins Centre followed a close win to the OAs in the hockey in a shoot out (taking out the Moffatt Family Shield), the first of the competitions which continued on Saturday,

with the School winning the shooting, netball and tug-o-war but the OAs taking out the chess and tennis, hence retaining the Croft Cup. After the last GPS rugby game of the season, with TAS going down to Shore, rugby tragics cheered on the Wallabies against the All Blacks on a big screen in Hoskins foyer. That night, reunion dinners for 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 43, 45 and 42 year leavers were held across town while Memorial Hall was the venue for a more informal Union Dinner where former journalist and media personality Paul Griffiths ('61), internationally renowned performer Peter

Cousens ('73), ABC's 4 Corners investigative journalist Angus Grigg ('93), and moderator, actor cum lawyer Gareth Rickards ('01) entertained the gathering which traversed the generations. Rev Rod Farraway (OA '93), now the Chaplain at Cranbrook School, returned to his old school chapel on Sunday to preach at the OAU Chapel Service before the AGM rounded things out with the current executive being re-elected including President Simon Wright in his final term. It was a terrific weekend of renewed friendships and shared memories.



OA Speakers: Paul Griffiths ('61), Peter Cousens ('73), Angus Grigg ('93), Gareth Rickards ('01) entertained at the Union Dinner in Memorial Hall



Battling the boards were Ian Johnstone (55), Rob Busby (68) and David Ferris (82), against students Conal Nicol, Andi Li and James Collum





The Old Armidaliens won the Moffatt Family Shield



TAS Careers Advisor Mark Taylor and OAU President Simon Wright with 2018 leavers Lucy Fenwicke, Angus Smith, Ben Hamparsum, George Lane, Amelia Griffiths and Henry Hughes who shared their post-school experiences at the Future Pathways Forum



Andrew Tighe ('93), Duncan Warrick ('93), Angus Grigg ('93) and Anthony Hawkins ('86) were in form on the court



Left: There was a great turnout of 50 year leavers at the Union Dinner



40 year leavers



# OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

## Congratulations

**Stewart Woodhill** (92-97) and his wife Michaela have welcomed into the world their first child, Antonio Charles Macintosh Woodhill, who was born on 19 June 2023. Stewart continues to work at Toshiba, while Michaela is now a year coordinator and teaching Religious Studies at Mater Maria School at Warriewood.

**Elli McRae** (16-19) has a strong chance of representing Australia in the National WorldSkills team at the international competition in Lyon, France next year, having won the gold medal in Restaurant Service after three days of competition at the WorldSkills Australia National Championships in Melbourne in August. The win also earned her an appearance on Network 7's *Better Homes & Gardens* which covered the awards. Elli is working on the floor as waitstaff at Stranger's Restaurant at Queensland Parliament House and will find out in November if she will be part of the Australian team. Thanks to Elli's father **Stewart McRae** (79-84 and past OAU President) for passing on the news.



**Alan Atkinson** (58-63) has been named as the 2023 winner of the NSW Premier's History Award for his recent book *Elizabeth and John: The Macarthurs of Elizabeth Farm*, published in 2022. The award, also known as the Australian History Prize, comes with \$15,000 prizemoney. Alan previously won the same prize in 2015 for his monumental work *The Europeans in Australia: Volume Three, Nation* which took him 10 years to write, twice as long as the first two volumes of *The Europeans in Australia*.

He also won the Victorian Prize for Literature for Volume Three. Amongst his other works are *Hearts and Minds*, the history of St Paul's College within the University of Sydney (2017).

## Condolences

**James Richard Telfer** (54-61) passed away on 7 February 2022 after a long illness. Condolences to his family, particularly brother **Robert** (61-65).

A celebration for the life of **Stuart Waters** (73-76) late of Rathmines and formerly of Rutherford, was held at Catalina Bowls Club Rathmines on 16 June 2023.

**Barry Oswald Humphreys** (52-53) passed away on 17 June 2023.

Hundreds of friends and business associates farewelled **Russell Lander** (48-55) at his funeral service in Sydney following his death on 23 July 2023. After leaving TAS he gained an Economics degree at the University of Sydney, initially working with his father in the carpet business before joining stockbroking firm Ords. With an ability to simplify and explain complex stock charting, he wrote the chartist column for *The Bulletin* magazine for many years. The company was taken over by Dixons (part owned by **Graeme Cutler** 53-59) and later became Ord Minett. Beyond the business world his hobbies included woodworking, volunteering, handing out Gideon bibles and helping other charities. Russell is survived by his wife Margot and son Steven. With thanks to **Lloyd Hancock** (52-55) for the notice.

**Terence Mackenzie** (51-55) passed away on 22 July 2023. Terry was a long-serving Treasurer of the Old Boys' Union, of which he was made an Honorary Life Vice President. Our condolences to his wife Jeni, daughters Melissa and Annabel and their families.

A quick wit and a hearty laugh were hallmarks of **Richard Ernest Pethard** (77-78) (later known by his birth surname McConnell) who died in Beechworth, Victoria, on 5 June 2023. His diverse careers included working in banking in Sydney; as a secondary school English teacher in Queensland; implementing a QA program at the family bearings business in Melbourne; operating a post office and newsagency in regional Victoria; working in corrective services and finally in the beverage industry in Albury and Beechworth. Our sympathies to his wife Gayle and daughter Hannah from his first marriage.

## Out 'n' About

Half a dozen Old Boys attended a fundraising lunch at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel on 24 March for the Australian Schools Rugby Foundation which for more than 50 years has promoted and supported the sport through staging the Australian Schools Championships in Australia and Australian Schoolboys touring teams overseas. Pictured are **George Souris** (61-67), **Peter Williams** (62-67), TAS contingent organiser **Bruce Jacob** (65-67), **Greg Cornelsen** (63-70), **John McIntyre** (62-67), **John Steuart** (61-65) and **Ben Burney** (SGS).



**Garry Lewis** (79-84) returned to Armidale from his home in Sydney to participate in the Legacy Torch Relay which passed through the city on 2 July. Celebrating 100 years of Legacy, the relay commenced in Poitiers, France on 23 April then travelled to London before making its trip down under where it incorporated the 44 Legacy Clubs in Australia. "It was good to meet up with former TAS Masters, Old Boys and TAS Legatees, and to remember all those from the school who had died while serving," Garry writes.

**Bill Hyman** (73-78) has settled into Kangaroo Valley, between Bowral and Nowra). After completing a Master's of Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development from University of Newcastle some years ago he moved into the Disaster Resilience sector. Between 2018 – 2021 he volunteered with an American NGO, All Hands and Hearts, in Mozambique, USA, Dominica and Mexico, rebuilding schools in these disaster-struck regions. Currently Bill is doing contract work with local NGOs focused on disaster preparedness, and enjoys frequent contact with **Peter Tooth** (73-78), **Graeme Bray** (73-78), **Hugh Barnet** (77-78) and **Bruce Treloar** (72-78).

**Humfrey Whitaker** (88-93) has been appointed to the role of Project Head for Bays West Stage 1, a State Government urban renewal project surrounding Sydney Harbour between Balmain and Pyrmont, including the land of Glebe Island, Rozelle Bay, White Bay and the heritage-listed White Bay Power Station.





The project includes five hectares of new public open spaces including a new waterfront park; retail and employment zones incorporating the new Bays West Metro Station; up to 250 dwellings and the revitalisation of White Bay Power Station into a new community/ cultural hub. Most recently in his role as Program Director for Infrastructure NSW Humfrey oversaw the Blackwattle Bay urban renewal project and the award-winning new Sydney Fish Market.

**Matthew Johnson** (77-86) has 'tapped' into the growing trend for boutique beer, but also, the rising demand for non-alcoholic alternatives. He has recently started Beneficial Beer Co, based in Surry Hills, which is winning awards at major shows, and accolades with drinkers for its range of zero alcohol beverages. "We have a focus on healthy living and men's health and our hope to instil positive change of a more respectful drinking culture in Australia," he writes.

**Peter Johnstone** (62-67), **Peter Williams** (62-67), **John Steuart** (61-65), and **Peter Salter** (64-65) below represented TAS at the annual GPS OBU golf day at Manly Golf Club on 17 August 2023. There were 53 players and Shore won the best individual and team events and TAS came 4th. The tireless and ever-present **Paddy Flower** (62-63) joined the players for lunch. The next event will be played on 15 August 2024 and it would be great to see more OAs play for TAS. For more details email [johnsteu@bigpond.net.au](mailto:johnsteu@bigpond.net.au) On a related golf matter, congratulations to Peter Williams on becoming President of Elanora Country Club, the second OA following **David Uther** (51-58).

While holidaying in New Zealand **Jim Jones** (57-65) and his wife Jennie caught up with his former Dangar Housemaster Fr **Don Cowan**

(teaching staff 60-64, Chaplain 70-72). Now retired from ministry, Don is currently writing his memoirs, which includes time spent working in ministry in the developing world including with Mother Teresa, his conversion to Catholicism and later, parish work in New Zealand. "Jennie and I had a wonderful few days with Don who is in fine form for an 87 year old. He and I reminisced about our times as Dangar House Housemaster and a young student more than 60 years ago and Jennie got to know a gentle and kind man and his amazing achievements and recall," writes Jim, whom we thank for the update.

After a period in Tokyo with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, **Stuart Watts** (92-97)



was transferred to Fiji in March to cover a six-month gap as Chargé d'Affaires. As reported on page 16, with the new High Commissioner in Washington to attend the US-Pacific Islands Summit with President Biden, Stuart stayed on for a week as Acting High Commissioner – this period overlapping with the TAS Year 8 Christian service trip to St Christopher's Orphanage, which Stuart had first visited as a young man assisting Brother James in one of the first TAS trips. Stuart is back in Canberra as Assistant Secretary for Fiji and Vanuatu and will do that for a period before returning to Tokyo for a three year posting as Minister Counsellor.

Lovely to hear from 'honorary' Old Armidalian **Meg Sadler** (ex staff) with news that her police officer son **Andrew Raff** (92-97) has been transferred to the region. After landing a posting to Glen Innes Local Command, he is now on secondment to Armidale, and had the honour of officiating as Protocols Officer at the New England are Command's Police Remembrance Day service in Inverell. "He is well suited to this role due to his time as a TAS Cadet and also his service in the military. Marching in time is apparently a competency!" said Meg, who is looking forward to doing 'school pick up' next year when her grandson Orson starts at TAS in Pre-Kindergarten.

## Memberships bestowed with thanks

The OAU has officially welcomed to its ranks four 'honorary' members in recognition of their service to the Union and/or the School. After more than four decades of service to the school in various capacities, most recently as Head of Junior School, **Ian Lloyd** (staff '81-22) joins his late father **Alan** (42-43) and sons **Arthur** (99-12) and **Harry** (01-14) as a member of the Union. **Alan Jones** (staff 99-21) retired from TAS two years ago as Head of School, having managed the school community after the death of Headmaster and personal friend Murray Guest. Alan held various roles including a boarding Housemaster and Dean of Students and is the father of **Nicholas** (99-10) and **Alex** (99-12). Laboratory Assistant at TAS since 1999, **Gordon McLennan** has assisted generations of OAs in the classroom in his quiet, helpful way and been a mainstay of the annual Forensic Science Camp, now into its third decade. Gordon's son **Hayden** (97-08) and step-son **Julian Vogt** (13-18) also attended TAS. As Director of Development from 2008-2023, **Cressida Mort** has been the touchstone at TAS for hundreds of Old Armidaliens, co-founding the Bell Tower Society and working with OAs on the TAS Company and School Board and the OAU on various initiatives. She is the sister of **Sebastian Mort** (85-90) and parent to OAs **Henry** (08-19), **Nick** (08-21) and **Jasper** (10-23).

The four honorary members were presented with certificates and gifts of membership on 21 September.





# Golden memories

## MADE AT GPS GOLD CHALLENGE

Twenty one TAS leavers from the 1989 and 1990 cohorts rekindled friendships across schools at the 26th biennial GPS Gold Challenge, this year held at Newington College on 6-8 October. The day commenced with golf on the Friday, proving to be very competitive socially affecting some of the performances for the following day. While both groups combined for most sports, the 1990 leavers were determined to get their revenge on King's who had beaten them by just a point at the GPS championships 33 years earlier. While the score of the best TAS shot, **Rob Holmes** ('90), was equal to that of the worst recorded by their nemesis, TAS finished second. The 1989 leavers came eighth, no doubt thanks to your's truly shooting my neighbours target twice. Special mention to **Andrew Cameron** ('90) who wins the most committed award, having flown down to Sydney Friday morning to compete and then flew back to Armidale that evening.

At the Indoor Cricket, **Daniel Horsley** ('90) proved he was still the fastest bowler on the pitch and we won our first game with only six players. We lost **Damian Shaw** ('89) on his first run of the day with a groin strain and also lost a close second game to Joey's who won the competition. In basketball **Gus Gordon** ('89) led us around the court, but with nearly all our opposition teams over six foot, we finished last. **Simon Gurner** ('89) and **Sam Payne** ('89) put on a good show in the tennis 'A' team and **Nick Leah** ('90) and **Nick Coppock** ('89) were more in the 'B' team – TAS finishing seventh of all nine school. The Touch Rugby was one of the better results on the day, with TAS winning both pool games against High and Grammar. We came up against a red-hot Kings team in the final and even with ex-Wallabies **Sam Payne** and **James Holbeck** ('90) we lost 3-0, but were runners up. **Rob McMaster** ('90) stormed home second in the 1500m of the Athletics but we were all spent for the 3km relay race which followed. **John 'Snowy' McCauley** ('89) single-handedly swam almost

all the races with **Will Coventry** ('90) and **Rob Holmes** helping out on occasion.

After a quick shower it was off to the official dinner, where **Sam Coupland** ('89) represented us in the debate, the topic being 'That sport is the heart and soul of a GPS school'. Sam did a stellar job as first speaker for the Negative, but overall it was the Newington speaker who took the points after what was a hilarious evening of -inter-school banter. My highlight for the weekend was at the basketball when we played Kings. Gus McConnel (Kings) came on in his wheelchair and with **Mick Cusato** ('89) standing over the top of him, Gus managed to shoot a basket backwards. The entire gym erupted in a cheer – the comradery and mateship reflecting what the weekend is all about. I would highly recommend attending the event when your cohort has the opportunity- it is a fantastic weekend to catch up with old GPS friends, play some sport and have lots of laughs.

Thanks to **Jock Mitchell** ('89) for the report.  
Photos: Karen Watson



Gus Gordon on the basketball court



James Holbeck gets the ball away in the touch football



At the basketball: Rob Holmes, Jock Mitchell, Damian Shaw, Gus Gordon, Michael Becher, Daniel Horsley, James Holbeck, Steve Carter, Sam Coupland, Mick Cusato



Taking part in the shooting were Rob Holmes, Jock Mitchell, Rob Graham, Sam Payne, Nick Coppock, Rob McMaster, Andrew Cameron, John McCauley



Simon Gurner playing tennis