FOUNDATION ENTERS SECOND YEAR

On 21st February the Foundation held its Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Dr. Peter Macarthur, giving his report for 1983, expressed great satisfaction with the progress made and congratulated and thanked all those involved. He said:-

"We have had a truly magnificent response. At 31st December 1983 the situation was:

Bequests, Gifts, Promises $223,082
Bequests not yet fully calculated ... est. 220,000
$443,082*

Number of donors:
Trustees 4
Fellows 7
Members 50
Contributors 88
149
Cash received to 31.12.83 $38,873

"Next year, (the continued) mainly in March and April, we have another ten regional functions. From these we expect further thrust. These constitute Stage 2 – the development and consolidation phase. Of course, the Foundation is for ever and the approach to potential donors will be continuous."

Dr. Macarthur drew attention to the concern of parents and Old Boys at the present time, while the Headmaster stressed the vital importance of the Foundation for the future of TAS. Both expressed gratitude for the enthusiasm of so many people and the generosity of the school family.

*The latest figure available (20.3.84) is $461,919

ED.

FOUNDATION ELECTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting and at the Board Meeting which followed the following were elected:-
President: Dr. P. Macarthur.
Senior Vice-President: Mr. P.L. Johnstone.
Junior Vice-President: Mr. R.A. Duncan.
Secretaries: Messrs. N.L. Roberts (Treasurer), A.H. Cash (Executive Director).
Hon. Auditor: Mr. W.R. Forsyth.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Board elected four Standing Committees as follows:-

Membership – Messrs. B.A. Wright (Chairman), J. Pidgeon, F.M. Horne, P. McCann.
Programme and Projects – Mr. R.A. Vyner (Chairman), Mrs. N. Macdonald, Messrs. D.L. Graham, A.H. Cash.

A MARVELLOUS RESPONSE

The President of the Foundation, Dr. Peter Macarthur, has described the response to FOUNDATION STAGE 2 as marvellous. Interest has been clearly generated by the film T.A.S. 2000 AND BEYOND and by the situation in which independent schools find themselves. The whole T.A.S. Family is concerned about the future of the school and is keen to give verbal and material support.

Along with the Headmaster, Mr. Geoffrey Andrews, he has expressed gratitude to all those involved in organising and hosting the Stage 2 functions and has noted the extent of the goodwill towards the school.

Mr. A.V. CANE M.A., A.Ed.

Those that knew him will be deeply saddened to learn of the death of Alan Vincent Cane. Alan died at his home, in Armidale, on Sunday 11th December. He had been ill with a distressing, but not apparently dangerous, complaint for a month but on the evening of Sunday 11th December he took a turn for the worse and by the time the doctor arrived he had suffered a heart attack and was gone.

"Killer" was born in Brisbane early in the century. After graduating from Queensland University he joined the Education Department and was posted to North Queensland where he served till 1945, when he came to T.A.S. In Cairns he met his wife, Alice, and also became deeply interested in the Presbyterian Church for which he directed Sunday Schools and Bible classes for many years.

Of his days at T.A.S. we cannot do better than to quote from "Binghi" when he retired in 1971:

"Acting Headmaster, Director of Studies, brilliant teacher of senior History and Mathematics, inspiring preacher in Chapel, senior cricket umpire, constitutional expert to the School Club, guide, philosopher and friend to countless boys and members of the Staff – he has been all of these and far more. Quiet and self-effacing but a continual influence for good and stability, T.A.S. won’t seem the same without him."

We may add that the O.B.U. recognized his services by making him an Honorary Member in 1967. The esteem with which he was held by the boys he taught is exemplified by the number of visits he received from Old Boys and their families.

His funeral Service packed St. Paul's Church and was attended by all members of his family and a strong contingent from the O.B.U. The Service included the reading of the School Lesson (1 Corinthians 13) and the School Chaplain, Rev. Bill Howarth, was one of the pall bearers.

All connected with T.A.S. will extend to Alice Cane and all the family their sincere sympathy and love in their irreparable loss, but they can be consoled by the knowledge of the man he was. Ave atque vale, Alan Cane.

R.W.L.C.

(Seated) Mr. P.L. Johnstone (Vice-President), Dr. P. Macarthur (President), Mr. R.A. Duncan (Vice-President), Mrs. N. Macdonald.
UNIFORM DECISION

After considerable discussion over several meetings and with input from all sections of the school community, the Council has now finalised its decision on the uniform.

The uniform will be:
1. The new blazer which will display the school badge and straw coloured braid across the top of the three pockets.
2. "Stamina" mid-grey colour trousers.
3. A colours tie, still to be finally designed, which may be worn by those awarded colours.
4. An optional second blazer - colours blazer (not sports blazer), the same style as 1, but with lapel braid as an addition together with colours pocket. This blazer will be worn only on certain defined school occasions and is not to be regarded as part of the formal school uniform.

The only boys allowed to wear the Colours Blazer on these occasions will be those who have been awarded colours.

It is appreciated that with all such changes as these, there has to be a change-over period. The above uniform requirements will come into full effect in February 1986. However, the uniform coat (blazer) will be available from September, 1984.

A more detailed clothing list will come to parents with my end of term letter.

G.C.S. Andrews,
Headmaster.

EXCELLENT H.S.C. RESULTS

The 1983 H.S.C. results were the best ever recorded by T.A.S. students. Five boys succeeded in being placed in the top 1% of the total state candidate. They were Ian Seppelt, Charles Choy, Rudra Rajendra, Ronald Li and Sebastian Hempel. This compares more than favourably with most of the schools in the state.

Particularly pleasing was the mean (the average score of all the candidates) of 286, which was far higher than the normal university entry requirements, with 70% of students matriculating. One extraordinary result was gained by Charles Choy who scored 200 out of 200 in 4 Unit Mathematics.

FOUNDATION

FUNCTIONS

Stage 2 has commenced with five well attended and successful functions. At all the goodwill and interest were very evident and without doubt regional groups enjoy having TAS reunions.

At Walcha over fifty people enjoyed the hospitality of Tony and Sue White at "Abercaldie"; they catered superbly for the dinner and were ably assisted by Trish Carter, Katrina Blomfield and Heather Kirton. The gathering was representative of parents, both past and present and Old Boys of many vintages, particularly those with young children. It was a great evening with excellent questions and comments.

At Kempsey about twenty people were guests of Ann and Richard Strellitz at the Lantern Inn Restaurant – a generous gesture, much appreciated by all present. Here again, the gathering was representative of all sections of the TAS family. Amongst those present was Ross Lane, OB, still running and blessed with four daughters.

At Taree Alec and Rosemary Herbert provided their home and victuals for over twenty guests – a fine gesture – and this, too, was appreciated by all attending. Amongst those present were OBs Bob Crossman and Howard Cleaver (newly wed) and ex-parents Dr. and Mrs Whittington.

The final of the three coastal functions was for the Lismore district, held at the home of Stuart and Gezzy White near Toowoomba. Once again generous hospitality was the mark of the evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by the twenty-five guests who came from as far away as Tabulam and Mallanganee.

Inverell and Glen Innes combined forces and held a luncheon for over fifty in Inverell. An equal number of apologies was received. Organised by Barbara Maiz and Tig Hughes, this function was a great success due to the enthusiasm and generosity of some local ladies and the magnificent response of the local School family.

* * * * * * * * * *

Pictured at the Inverell - Glen Innes Luncheon were Mr. Richard Black, Mrs. Robbie Burge, Mr. John Torbett and Mr. Bill Hughes. (Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Judith Lamb and The Armidale Express).
SCHOOL NOTES

DANGAR HOUSE ANNIVERSARY

On 8th February 1924 the foundation stone of Dangar House was laid to mark the commencement of construction. Mrs. Nora Dangar, the wife of Major C.C. Dangar M.C., gave, in his memory the money for the building. The furnishings were given by other members of his family.

Sixty years later the Housemaster, Mr. Ralph Hunt, invited Mrs. B.J. Wright and Mrs. W.J. Giblin, daughters of Major Dangar, and their families to join the boys, parents and staff at a ceremony to remember the occasion. A short play on the life of Major Dangar written by Mr. Jim Graham and performed by the boys was followed by afternoon tea.

Major Clive Collingwood Dangar, M.C.

LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

Members of the School community will probably be interested in hearing that there were many activities taking place during the Christmas holidays. As was announced at Speech Day, a Soccer team went to the United Kingdom with Mr. Anstook and Mr. Hunt. A most enjoyable time was had by everybody on that trip which ended with the School winning two, drawing two and losing four matches. The opposition sounded to be somewhat stronger than was anticipated. There was also a walking expedition in the Himalayas with Mr. Hardingham and a parent, Mr. Nick Kirwood. Seven boys relished that experience. Mr. Rock, Mr. Doe and Mr. Horley took a group of seven boys together with some girls from P.L.C. and Duval on a canoeing and Christian Living Camp.

Perhaps the highlight of the 1983 year however, was the fact that the H.S.C. results more than lived up to their expectation. The results in fact were the best in the history of the School and, from my discussions with several Headmasters of Sydney Schools, show that we are more than able to hold our own academically these days. Ian Seppelt was Captain of the School. Seven boys in all scored more than 428 marks out of a maximum of 500 and it is interesting to note that in any more normal year, any one of those could have expected to have been Captain of the School. The mean mark too, was appreciably higher and fewer boys were in the bottom 25% of the State. On the basis of the offers to students for tertiary places that we know of at this stage, 70% of the Year 12 class of 1983 matriculated. Great credit should go to all members of 1983 Year 12 but also, especially to all members of staff who had dealings with these boys at various stages throughout the School.

CADET CORPS.

Following my comments last year in Bingham on Cadets, I have now had a telegram from Canberra. The salient points made are:

1. The Minister of Defence has decided that the Army Cadet Corps will in future be based on Regional Units open to the community.
2. A number of schools assessed provisionally as economically disadvantaged will also receive full support pending verification of the assessment by State Education authorities.
3. All other schools wishing to retain affiliation with the Army Cadet Corps will receive only limited support in the form of training but no payment of officer cadets. No support will be provided for bivouacs or camp for schools receiving limited support. Uniforms and stores will be provided on repayment.
5. It is intended to raise eight regional cadet units in the first year. Schools will be given the opportunity of becoming co-sponsors of the new Regional Cadet units. Co-Sponsor groups may with limitations approve school based sub-units of the Regional unit. Details will be contained in the letter from Cadet Group HQ.
6. No support for camps will be provided until after 1 July 1984. Current level of support will be provided until schools have been notified of their status.

Pressure of space prevents me from explaining these points in this circular, but either Mr. McConville or I will try to answer individual queries.

As the School will be on holiday over Anzac Day, there will be a full Anzac Day Parade on the last day of term, namely, Wednesday 18th April. This will take the form of the early morning service and school march past followed by the Chapel Service. Major McConville will be getting together a small Guard of Honour which will attend the ceremonies at Dangarleigh, Wollombi and in the town on Anzac Day itself. Friends of the School are always welcome at such ceremonies.

OVERSEAS TRIPS

In recent weeks, questions have been asked of the School concerning overseas trips especially when they are of a sporting nature. The educational value of these trips is being questioned, as is the means by which money is being raised.

May I say that, while I am in favour of a limited number of such trips taking place, I am conscious of the concern expressed by many people.

The questions really are:
1. While the benefits to the students taking part are obvious, to what extent does the School benefit?
2. Following on from 1, to what extent should the School be involved in raising money for such trips.

There are many pressures on the School not only for money but also to raise money. Some of these pressures are immediate and some political. The crux of the matter is—where is the money being taken from and to whom is it being given?

It is clear, I believe, that fund raising to finance overseas trips should not take a form that may prejudice or diminish traditional fund raising activities of the Foundation, Parents and Friends’ and the School. It should be noted also that too many approaches are currently taking place to business houses and to parents for donations. This causes irritation as well as a general reluctance to give when it is really needed.

There is a major concern regarding the cost of overseas trips. There is a very real peer group pressure placed on boys to attend such trips, often on those boys whose parents cannot afford this cost or who cannot fund such a trip without considerable hardship. This is particularly so if these trips are of a sporting nature and the possible welfare of the team as a whole is at risk.

Before approval is given for any overseas trips in the future care will be taken to evaluate the educational as well as the sporting benefits, not only to the students but also to the School.

Because of the concern expressed by many people, I am taking this opportunity to seek comment from the school community and I would be grateful if you would let me know your thoughts so that guidelines may be drawn up for the organisation of future trips.

Several suggestions have been put forward so far and they may act as a basis upon which you may comment. These suggestions include:
1. Preferably there should be no printed matter using the School name involved in raising money.
2. There should be no raffles, fetes or “garage sales”.
3. Boys should be encouraged to raise the money by working i.e., work for which they are paid.
4. An essential pool should be formed at the school into which money would be fed by boys anticipating going on trips. From this pool money would be allocated for a particular trip by the Headmaster.

This is a very serious matter and I hope that you will give it your earnest consideration and get in touch with me.
HOUSE MOTHER APPOINTED

Mrs. Helen Hackney has been appointed to the position of House Mother of Dangar House. She has been at the School for nearly six months after serving in a similar capacity at both Geelong Grammar and St. Mary's College, Charters Towers.

Mrs. Hackney regards her "mothering" role as very important, particularly at the beginning of each year when new boys arrive. She encourages them to come to her with their problems which range from the inevitable homesickness to supplying pins for stretching out a piece of kangaroo skin to dry.

Of course her other role is a more practical one – she ensures that the boys, whose ages range from 10–12, have enough clean clothes, the clothes are properly marked and performs other mundane, yet important, tasks.

The Housemaster, Mr. Ralph Hunt, and Mrs. Hackney do their best to ensure that the boys are provided with a pleasant and friendly environment in which to begin their school career. They are ably assisted by three duty masters and five senior boys including the House Captain, Richard Moore.

P & F NOTES

In the absence of Mrs. Belfield, who is on a well deserved holiday in New Zealand, Mrs. Mary Taylor has kindly supplied this edition's "Notes".

Our first meeting, at which Mrs. Belfield gave her Annual Report, was well attended. The P. & F. had a very successful year and was looking forward to another. Our finances are healthy and at the last meeting we approved $6,000 to be spent on musical instruments. The Music Department is forming an orchestra and the instruments are badly needed.

The Urralla Branch of the P. & F. is having a luncheon on March 29 at Mrs. Edith Robinson's house at Gostwyck. All are welcome to attend.

On April 18 at 10.00 am there will be a committee meeting followed by a general meeting at 1.30 pm. We hope all will attend as preparations for the Music Hall will be on the way. The Music Hall dates are June 8, 9, 15 and 16. Tamworth dates are June 22 and 23. Helpers are needed for the preparation of food, setting tables and serving the meals. It does seem like a lot of work but with plenty of helpers it goes by quickly. It is also a good opportunity to meet a lot of parents. Fathers are always welcome too. Please let me know if you can help. The sessions are in the afternoon from about 2 pm to 4 pm and at night from 4.30 pm to 9 pm.

At the Annual Meeting the following officers were elected:
- Mrs. G. Belfield, President; Mrs. Sue White, Senior Vice-President; Mrs. C. Mitchell, Junior Vice-President; Mrs. M. Taylor, Secretary; Mrs. J. Johnson, Treasurer.


We are looking for representatives for Port Macquarie and Sydney. If you are interested please let me know.

We look forward to seeing you on April 18.

FOUNDATION BEQUESTS

Apart from cash gifts or promises, bequests are a growing form of support for the Foundation. At the present time there are nine bequests ranging in size from $1500 to a major share of an estate.

The School has received in the past quite a number of bequests, some for prizes, some for scholarships, some for buildings, some unspecified. Their value to the school and to parents has been inestimable. Some boys on scholarships or bursaries have had their careers enhanced by being able to board away or attend courses and a school environment which promoted their ambitions.

Some of the more recent bequests are listed below:

George Wigan, son of Dr. Wigan of Armidale, grazier, Old Boy, majority of his estate for Scholarships and Bursaries.

T.R. Forster, grazier, part of his estate for general purposes, part of his residual estate for buildings, part for scholarships and bursaries. Former parent.

RUGBY COACHES REQUIRED

The O.B.U. has offered, at various times in the past, to assist with the coaching of sport. We require some Rugby coaches for 1984 and would be grateful for the names of anyone interested. Please ring Mr. David Toppin at the School if you are able to help.

FUTURE EDITIONS

The Editors of "Binghi" are always grateful to receive copy for the magazine. Please send contributions or photographs to G.D. Connah, C/-TAS, Douglas Street, Armidale. 2350.
THE WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

The Work Experience Programme at T.A.S. has been in operation for six years and has proved helpful to students in making career choices.

In 1984 Year 10 boys will complete their Work Experience Programme between Monday 13th and Friday 17th August 1984. Those in Year 11 will complete their Programme during the Easter or August-September vacations.

Assistance in providing work experience is always appreciated by the School. If you are in a position to help please complete and return the slip below or write to Bill Ward, C/ T.A.S.

It should be noted that the programme dates have been chosen to enable boys to complete their work experience in their home regions if suitable positions can be arranged. The period for Year 10 students lies between the O.B.U. weekend and the end of term.

W.A. Ward.

CAREERS' APPEAL

I would be willing to help the School in the following ways:

1. I could offer short periods of Work Experience to Year 10 or 11 during the School holidays or 13 - 17th August, 1984.

2. I would be willing to offer advice on work and career prospects if people would care to write to me.

3. I will endeavour to send you details of job opportunities at the beginning of February each year.

4. I would be willing to come to the School and talk about my career field.

Soccer Tour to England

Ten boys from T.A.S. and four from Cranbrook flew to England on 30th November last year to play a series of eight matches against English schoolboy sides. They were accompanied by T.A.S. staff Jon Anstock (wife Belinda and son Patrick) and Ralph Hunt, together with Graeme Phillips from Cranbrook.

Games were played in London, Winchester, Torquay, Chipping Sodbury (Bristol), Ipswich, Ely, Brentwood and Nottingham. We travelled the country in two self-drive mini buses which proved to be very convenient.

Amidst the soccer matches we managed a tour of London, a trip to Bath, a visit to Wembley, watched two first division teams train, had lunch at Nottingham Forest Football Club and played a friendly game against the apprentices. We also saw two first division matches, met England players and some people inspected the decor on the inside of a few local hostelines.

It must be said that we encountered some extremely strong competition in England, but it was a very valuable experience for all concerned. The soccer schools Winchester, Torquay and Brentwood inflicted memorable defeats and it would be fair to say that these schools would comprehensively defeat any first division team in Armidale. Winchester, would be one of the strongest public schools; Brentwood has players who go direct to Arsenal and Torquay made the final four in English schoolboys in 1982.

Even with our fittest and strongest side available we would not have beaten these teams.

There is no doubt that more successful results may have been pleasing for those concerned, but the advantages of such a tour far outweigh the results achieved.

Final results:

v Malory School (London) won
v Kings College (London) won
v Winchester College lost
v Torquay Grammar lost
v Chipping Sodbury lost
v Kings Ely drew
v Brentwood School lost
v Ipswich drew

Won two, drew two, lost four.

It certainly needs mentioning that all the boys behaved exceptionally well on and off the field, and their spirit of play was admired by all their opponents.

On our arrival home we received a letter from Westerfield House Hotel, Ipswich where we stayed for 10 nights, which complimented the boys for their behaviour.

"You can be truly proud of all the boys who acted as true ambassadors of Australia." - Jon Anstock

Rugby Tour

At the end of November a group of 29 boys and 3 masters will leave Australia for a rugby tour of six countries. Returning on Christmas Day, the boys will have visited Japan, France, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales as well as various stops en route.

Ken McConville, John Hipwell and Grant Harris will be in charge of what promises to be an exciting and exhausting trip. It is pleasing to note that participation was not limited to those boys in the 1st or 2nd XV, but was open to all senior rugby players who could make themselves available.

The costs of the tour will be met entirely by the boys and their parents, the accompanying masters, and through various fundraising activities.

Haroldston, the home of Ted and Helen Perrott, was the recent venue for a lunch and associated activities. Over 200 people from far and wide attended with the profit at the end of the day exceeding $3000.

It is functions such as this where the enthusiasm and generosity of all those connected with the School is apparent. Parents, O.B.A, masters and boys unite to form a solid community when help is needed and nobody could be unimpressed by the strength of the support. Not only does support manifest itself at this level but is always available for building appeals, the T.A.S. Foundation and similar necessary fundraising activities.

Mr. Dennis Ritchard, who is in charge of the unenviable task of raising money in the Armidale area, was delighted with the success of the day and thanked Helen and Ted and all those who attended. He pointed out that groups in other areas were also engaged in fundraising and he was sure that equal support for these would be forthcoming.

New Zealand Cross Country Tour

Twenty-three boys with two masters, Messrs. Anderson and Homer, will be travelling to New Zealand between 16th April and 9th May. Of the party twenty boys come from TAS and two from Duval High School and one is an old boy of TAS.

They will be visiting Christchurch, Picton, Wellington, Wanganui and Auckland and running races in each place except in Picton. The boys will be billeted by boys of the opposing teams and travelling mainly by coach with one internal plane trip from Wanganui to Auckland.

Jon Anstock
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The December issue of ‘Binghi’, actually published after Speech Day, provided a complete coverage for the year 1983 and, although we are reporting to you again before any major 1984 Old Boys’ activities, your executive has not been idle during the period since school re-opened.

It was reported at our first committee meeting on 11th February that donations amounting to $1014 had been received for the “Concerned Parents of Non-Government Schools”, $1000 of which has been forwarded to the N.S.W. Parents’ Council. The bank account remains open for further donations as we anticipate a continuing demand for fighting funds from this organisation: the only one of its kind which we could support.

In a letter dated 6th March, signed by the Treasurer of the N.S.W. Parents’ Council, our donation was acknowledged and I quote from his letter:

“There seems to be no end in sight to the campaign which we must continually wage to preserve the rights of parents to choose schools which best suit their children’s needs. Your donation will help towards making this campaign effective.”

All those who forwarded donations to this fund should have received our letter of appreciation on the back of the N.S.W. Parents’ Council, to whom all contributions should be sent C/- T.A.S.

Your committee decided to appoint a sub-committee for the purpose of compiling a list with appropriate details of all Old Boys from 1894 to the present day, thus enabling the production of a T.A.S. Register.

There was an almost maximum attendance at our last committee meeting when a letter from the Uniform Sub-committee appointed by Council offered two options regarding a sports blazer. My mission as your representative to the Uniform Sub-committee was made quite clear viz: to advise Council that the O.B.U. wishes to retain the sports blazer, showing all colours as hibberti.

Further discussions and research have taken place concerning the erection of tables and benches at the Memorial Barbecue. After consultation with the Bursar and Mr. Hipwell, final plans will soon enable completion of this project by means of a working bee which will involve boys with members of the O.B.E.

Approximately 25 new members were accepted at our last meeting. Also, some 75 letters were recently sent to parents of eligible Old Boys with the aim of recruiting more young members. These letters were signed by myself and we enclosed an application form with each.

The alternative Old Boys’ tie is still under research and careful consideration is being given to all suggestions with the hope of ensuring a product which will be both attractive and popular for unofficial occasions.

Preliminary steps have been taken towards the writing of a long-awaited school history. Old photographs for reproduction in the proposed book would create interest and further details, with a probable request for items of interest, will be forthcoming at a later date.

Foundation Functions 1984, Stage 2, are currently under way and may I, on behalf of all Old Boys, express sincere appreciation to those most actively involved in these dinners and luncheons, namely, the Headmaster, Dr. Macarthur and Mr. Cash. Active Old Boy support for the school, both financial and non financial, is of paramount importance as we enter a period when attacks upon independent schools gather momentum.

A discussion paper on school funding prepared by the Australian Schools Commission proposes that all independent schools be categorised as either - self-supporting, maintained, or assisted. In the case of schools defined as assisted the recommendation is for support on a needs basis, with an increase in the number of categories from 3 to 12. Also, it has been reported that more stringent accountability procedures should be employed to determine levels of State aid for that particular group. That statement provides us with food for deep thought.

We have an excellent committee and I urge you all to add strength to the O.B.U. by maintaining contact with us. Any suggestion or constructive criticism will always be welcome for consideration.

Max L. Taylor

ARMIDALE RE-VISITED

Following the custom of the past few years, and on the initiative of Ted Coupland and Fred Mulligan, it was decided to hold a re-union of T.A.S. Old Boys who left the school in 1956 or 1954 (Intermediate Certificate). The venue for the evening was the Cattlemans’ Inn, and 21 old boys and most of their wives were able to attend, together with the Headmaster, Mr. Geoffrey Andrews; the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Richard Rowling and Mrs. Rowling and three of the teachers of the time, Meares, Croster, Hurstison and Graham. Pre-dinner drinks were followed by a delicious dinner with no formal speeches — however remembrance was accorded to four members of the year who have passed on since we left school — namely Keith Lawrence, David Bragg, Mark Drinkwater and Bill Cannington.

Those of us who live in the New England see something of each other from time to time, and so were delighted to see school friends from far afield, quite a few of whom had not been back to Armidale since leaving in 1956. Since most of those who travelled long distances to share in the evening were Richard Mitchell, Beryl Sowerby, Ken Atkinson, Graham Finlayson, Graham Sturt, Peter Glasson, John Ede, David Pike, Barry Keen and Dennis Magoffin. It was good to see how well these old friends have weathered the 27 years since leaving school, to reminisce with them about old times and to pick up some of the threads of their lives while lots of marvellous old photos of school days were poured over, (many drinks were polished also.)

Ian Dent keeps very fit (turned out to play football for the old boys on the night after!!!) after having walked the children to the park at 6 am!! (we must admit he left the party a little earlier than the rest.) Charles Curr, Gerry Cowan, David Green, Hugh Connock, John Manny, Cameron Carey, Bruce Finlayson (I think the only batchelor in the bunch that night) and Peter Moffatt look as if life really agrees with them. Peter, Gerry, David and Hugh all have sons at school so see each other more regularly. The party went on until the very early hours, with most of us staying at the Cattlemans’ Inn to avoid any chance encounters with randomly disposed blue lights!!!

I’m sure that this re-union, and the activities on the following days, was a great experience for each of us and our thanks go to Ted and Fred who organised us all to be together for the first time in 27 years.

Peter Moffatt (Regrettably, due to space limitations, this report could not appear in the last “Binghi!”).

DIARY DATES

April 18 – Rugby – 1st, 2nds play Grammar at T.A.S.
10.00 am – P & F Committee Meeting
1.30 pm – P & F General Meeting
3.30 pm – School Closes for Term 1

NOTICE BOARD

REMINDEERS

Paddy Flower is organising a 20th anniversary dinner for those O.B.s who were in 5th year in 1963 (or would have been if they had stayed on). The reunion will be held at the Armidale Ex-Services Club on Friday, 10th August 1984. Paddy can be contacted at P.O. Box 77, Collary 2397. (Telephone: (02) 98 6868). He would like to contact the following O.B.s: MICHAEL J. SMITH, RODNEY G. PATTERSON, JOHN W. CURTIS, W.A. (BILL) CROLL, MICHAEL WEBB and IAN G. HUTCHINSON.

Pat Coupland and Colin Dent are also organising a reunion for 1954 leavers for the same weekend. Interested O.B.s should contact Pat whose address is: Sterling, Willow Tree, 2339 (Telephone: (02) 47 1730).

Both these functions have been advertised in more detail in previous issues of “Binghi”.

April 18 – Rugby – 1st, 2nds play Grammar at T.A.S.
10.00 am – P & F Committee Meeting
1.30 pm – P & F General Meeting
3.30 pm – School Closes for Term 1
FUNDING FOR NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

In the last edition of “Binghi” an appeal was made for donations to aid the N.S.W. Parents' Council in its fight to restore adequate and equitable funding to non-government schools. They were able to report that over $1000 was received and has been forwarded to the Council. This amount, together with a subsequent donation from the O.B.U. is being used to meet the costs of the N.S.W. Parents’ Council meeting in Sydney in July. This meeting, also, is being attended by the O.B.U., means that the T.A.S. community has contributed nearly $2000 to the appeal.

The Presidents of the P. & F. and the O.B.U. are grateful for the generosity shown and wish to thank all those parents and Old Boys who were prepared to respond.

By the time this edition of “Binghi” is distributed, the N.S.W. Parents’ Council will have held its Annual General Meeting. It is to be hoped that the Parents’ Council and the Association of Independent Schools will have been able to agree upon a policy that will enable the T.A.S. community to help, in some small way, to restore the basic grant to all parents of non-government school children. Up to 1962 the N.S.W. Government provided, for every child in a non-government school, a grant calculated as a percentage of the cost of educating a child in a government school. In 1963 all children in Group 1 and 2 schools (T.A.S., N.E.G.S. and P.L.C. fall into these categories) had their grants frozen at 1982 levels. This, of course, means that funds have been cut when inflation is considered.

In 1984, on top of this, children in the 1.5 “hit list” schools in N.S.W. will have their grants slashed by a further 24%. If this trend continues, the rate of inflation, unemployment, and the cost of living will see so little left into this group, it is unlikely that the list may be lengthened in the future.

Supporters in Three Groups

Supporters of non-government schools can be divided into three groups. The first feels that no government money should go to private schools and will remove any restrictions on their activities. While this is true with the best of intentions, it is impractical. The obvious result of full private funding would be to limit attendance at the school to the children of the very wealthy. In my opinion, this is entirely undesirable if the school’s present character is to remain unaltered.

The second group consists of those who are very concerned by the present trend of governments to fund with funding on the pretext of “the more equitable distribution of the education dollars”. This group is prepared to go to considerable lengths to alter government policy. Donations are made, letters are written, pressure is applied. Any concessions gained will be as a result of the activities of these people.

Comprising the last group are those people who, while supporting the principle of reasonable government assistance to the parents of all private school children, are unprepared to take any action to ensure its restoration and continuation. They probably feel that any individual action would be insignificant, failing to understand that collectively their representations have the capability of influencing government opinion.

It is essential that those people – parents, teachers and old boys – who fit fairly and squarely into the last group, should recognize the consequences of leaving action to others. The single most damaging effect on private schools is the apathy of their supporters.

Action Necessary

While donations are important to sustain the organisations dedicated to the cause of non-government schools, the act of writing letters to both governments is simple and effective. Meetings called to discuss government funding can be attended and contact with local government representatives arranged. Do not leave it all to those prepared to act for your benefit.

G.D. Connah

LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

During the year several interesting letters have been received from O.B.S. Unfortunately restrictions of space have precluded their previous publication. Correspondence is always appreciated and the letters (either in whole or in part) are printed below.

From David Hicks, 1979, (formerly sub-lieutenant R.A.N.)

"I've just finished my latest edition of 'Binghi'. I was saddened by the state of affairs that the T.A.S. Cadet Unit is facing. I offer this letter in an effort to do my small part towards helping the Unit in any way possible. I'm sure that if all the Defence Forces as a whole, and I can therefore relate closely with the Cadet members.

"I left T.A.S. in 1979 and joined the R.A.N. Fleet Air Arm for Pilot Training. Upon completion of the Pilot's Course the Government then decided, in its 'wisdom', to scrap the Ship's and aircraft. T.A.S. Cadet Units. As you can no doubt imagine, all fixed wing flying in the Navy was then deemed to be scrapped.

"We have lost four Fixed Wing Squadrons in the last year who have been responsible for training, recruiting and postings accompanying this. Luckily, I have been accepted by the Royal Navy (with fifteen other N.O.B.S.) and am now flying in F-4E Fighting Falcons for two years. This is my final flight for a minimum of five years. Although it provides an excellent opportunity for travel and potential employment for an extraordinary amount of aviation experience it is a sad state of affairs when it is forced upon you by the Government. The R.A.A.F. will not accept the number of R.A.N. pilots now "surplus".

"Commiserations to the Cadets and I sincerely hope that things work out as well for them as they have for me.

"Anyway, enough of the military side of life, I'd also like to say hello to Fred Dore and hope he is still leading the "flying" side of T.A.S. I'd also like to say hello to no other '79 leavers that have all gone their separate ways.'"

From John Cane, 51 – 52. He wrote two letters, before and after a visit to T.A.S., to George Cruickshank who felt that they may be of general interest to O.B.S. Anticipating that approval would be forthcoming if John was able to be easily contacted (the lives in Kuwait), extracts follow:

"It really was a pleasure to receive your letter and to learn that you remember me. I remember you very well indeed and the history lessons you took. I still retain a love of history; in fact it was the one 'Ordinary' level, General Certificate of Education that I passed from the Cadet Corps. To argue that it should be maintained in order to participate in ANZAC day parades is I believe to put the horse well and truly behind the cart. However, the views of a prodigal Poonie should not, and one suspects will not, be taken very seriously.

"With best wishes to you and the O.B.U. for 1984."

From Charles Hulley, 37 – 39 in response to a letter from George Cruickshank:

"Many thanks for your letter of April 7th creating a direct link with T.A.S. for me, for the first time in many years. As you know the stimulus came from the Second World War in London. When I remembered him from school, he remembered me as the son of Canon Hulley who was well known in the Armidale Diocese during the thirties."

Mr. Young was headmaster of the school in my day – "Gandhi", as he was called because of his Indian background, and I was close friends with his son Hugh. In the school holidays we would explore the old attics above the dormitories, an enduring image, and climb up to the top of the tower. Sergeant Snape was in charge of physical instruction, and more importantly, the tuck shop. It is interesting to see the name John Snape in the O.B.U. Notes of the copy of "Binghi" you were kind enough to send me. And Peter Moyes whom I remember as the son of the Bishop.

"For myself, I went on from T.A.S. to Trinity Grammar when my father moved to Sydney. I took degrees in Arts and Law from Sydney University, was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of N.S.W., but practiced only a short time before beginning half a lifetime of travel which included some post-graduate work at London and becoming an Alumnus of the Harvard Business School. For many years I worked in the International division of The Coca-Cola Company, becoming a Senior-Vice President of the Corporation and in the years prior to my retirement President of Coca-Cola Far East Limited. My wife is Viennese, although she is the Australian of the family now. My son was educated at Rugby and is a Systems Engineer with I.B.M.

"But as time went on I began to feel increasingly like Rilke when he saw the classical torso and muttered, 'I must change my life...'. It seemed time to reaffirm my origins and to review the process of change. So I retired and returned to the edge of the old Pacific."

I look forward to staying in touch and to visiting Armidale and the School again at an appropriate time.

The new think tank recently installed

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O.B.U. NOTES

JONATHAN SPRENT (56–60) writes from Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California where he has succeeded DAVID FAYLE (63–69) who is now in Chicago. Jon and his wife, Geraldine, Ph.D. in Melbourne and then via London, Switzerland and Philadelphia to La Jolla. He’s an Immunologist and says he’s trying to work out the secrets of that science.

PADDY FLOWER (62–63) is busy organizing a trip to Ireland for those who left in his time. Can’t find IAN HUTCHISON from Narrabri, WILLIAM SMITH from Collarenebri or KEN WINTERS, former guy, from Armidale. Can anyone help him?

TIM MOFFATT, recent leaver, son of BRUCE (1967–74), writes from Longreach Pastoral College. Finds the climate very different from New England. And DUNCAN WINTER (74–76) has left Longreach and is with Elders I/Q in Brisbane.

MAX YOUNG (Staff 61–63) now in charge of Science at a Sydney Western Suburbs High School. “What the present youth needs is a Faith, an Ability in heart and hands, and a Need to be active and occupied. TAS taught me how to propagate the ability to achieve the End of these Needs.” Could one say more?

PETER HOUSDEN (63–65) he thinks has moved to Coachline Place, Belrose. Doesn’t another O.B.U. live there? Which reminds us that COL SLADE (60–65) and wife have moved to 22 Saddington Street, Turramurra, last address of Rev. PETER TAYLOR (51–58) new Rector of Lane Cove. Peter H., son of a bishop, admits to being a “dull-intellect Old Boy” of TAS.

RICHARD SKIPPER (51–52) has returned to Bateman’s Bay still working for the LGPA. Son MICHAEL (76–80) passed his Hawkesbury course for Stock and Station Agent and Auctioneer with 1 Distinction, 6 Credits and 2 Passes and is now at Murrumbidgee with Pat & Ken.

CHRIS KEMP (63–67), brother of PETER (58–62) writes cheerfully from England. Still at Ascot, where he has a ‘Swimming Cottage’, Water-splash Lane (!) to Heathfield Avenue. Reads news of TAS with great interest but “being blessed with two daughters I will never be one of those fathers who run up and down the sidelines on Back Field reliving the dramatized moments of their youth.”

TIM RADFORD (58–61) after being Head of Maths at S.I.S. for 5 years is now Head of Maths & Science at the R.A.A.F. School, Penang, Malaysia. Would love to hear from any O.B.U.s in S.E. Asia. “There will always be a place here for Andy.”

Rev. DAVID BOWDEN (Chaplain, 73–74) writes that GUY DAVIDSON was admitted an Evangelist at the Church of God of New England and was appointed to the Army Church at St. James’, Turramurra, last December.

STEPHEN BOOTH (54–59) asks us to give his address to his old mates; MILTON LEIGH, Lot 10 Church Street, Emerald, Vic. 3782. Sounds very English, – the home of his wife?

From the local press we culled the following:

DAVID WRIGHT (42–50) bought the English Champion Hereford bull for his Wallamambi stud.

DOUG HEAGNEY (49–53) has written a Presidential Minute for Uralla Shire Council showing that proclaiming the Shire a nuclear-free zone, while very worthy, is outside the powers of local government.

MAURICE WRIGHT (31–33), brother of OWEN (27–31) and father of CHRIS (52–60) and ANTHONY (63–69) has written “The Thinking Horseman”, a collection of his writing on “The Jeffery Method of Horse Handling”. Specially written for those training and handling stockhorses, campdrafters, polo and dressage horses. Available from the author or saddlers or some bookshops.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

BRUCE TAYLOR (71–77), son of WALTER (32–35) on his engagement to Louise Holthouse. He continues to run the company with himself and I.C. Cricket Club. And to ROBERT RICHARDSON (69–74), son of BEAU (50–57) on his marriage to Yvonne Hains. Rev. BILL HOWARTH, School Chaplain, tied the knot.

BRIAN COHEN, Q.C. (42–44), Master in Equity, on being sworn in as a Judge in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court. While at TAS he was a monitor, a Cadet Lieutenant and on various committees. It was he who told the Fire Brigade about the fire that burned down the Race Course grandstand. He finished with a brilliant Leaving Certificate.

JIM BAIN (42–44), Chairman of Bain & Co. and the Sydney Stock Exchange is now Chairman of the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges. In his spare time he works for the National Trust, Legoland, the Red Cross and the Securities Institute Council.

The SWINSON brothers, SIMON (78–80) graduated from the High Division in Greek, Distinction in Latin, and now working for Honours; PETER, last year’s Senior Prefect on being accepted by the R.A.A.F. to Point Cook, Victoria.

TIM COWLEY (73–78) on his marriage in St. John’s Church, Canterbury, to Kirsten England.

ROBERT KNOX (63–64) to Olympic, Q., on his marriage to Delea Davidson; Brother JOHN (64–69) we hear has moved from Balgowlah to Armidale with his wife and is a surveyor of the denezins of the deep.

KEN WILSON (65–71) on his marriage to Nikki Chirlian from Walcha.

THIES AND THATS:

STUART HAGAN (48–50) has a store in Ballina. We put him in touch with his old mate BRIAN ATTWATER.

DAVID COUNSELL (76–78) is in final year training as a survey draughtsman for the Sydney Water Board. Last seen here helping his mother with the Clothing Pool, just by way of a change.

TIM MCDONALD (77–82), a new member, is an Officer Cadet at Dunstonlook with contemptuous A.B. ALEX DANGAR. Both doing very well under the eagle eye of the other. Tim’s mother, sister of WILL and JOHN WYBORN paid Tim’s Life sub. from rebates on his final school account and donated the surplus to the Bursary Augmentation Fund. Just to say Thank you seems inadequate, doesn’t it?

News of the WHITES – RICHARD, “the best Senior Prefect in 1947” tells us that son SAM (78–89) is still in Adelaide as instructor in a gym. Came second last year in the Australian bodybuilding championship and wants another stab at it before returning to the paternal aunts. GRAHAM (41–49) tells us that son FRANK (76–80) is second in Orange Ag. College, and son ANDREW (78–82) a stint on Brutonettes Downs is with the help of the Goonoonga Gownin.

GAVIN STREITZL (75–80), son of DAVID (50–56) is also with the A.A. Coy. but in Queensland after being stationed in Echuca, Beechetoog, Beechetoog. Brother PETER (78–81) after Tocal Ag. College worked on Beecroft, near Tamworth, and now manages the irrigation farm of MIKE and KEN WILSON (62–71) outside Armidale.

TONY WOJNIARSKI (65–68) has moved from Orange to Kempsey; wants to have his son chiselled in TAS Chapel. Sends greetings to DES HARRISON and JIM GRAHAM.

DAVID (D.A.B.) WHITE (63–68) late of Tamworth is a solicitor in Gilgandra. Thrilled by a Binghi photo of his old mate KEVIN YABARA whose “Very intelligent and sincere mixture of jungle philosophy and essential Christianity” was so valuable when at TAS.

ROB PERROTT (54–58) has sold his section of Haraldston to Mr. V.J. NICHOLLS, father of ROD (64–67) who is still at Langford, Walcha. Rob has gone to the Sunshine State, as has MIKE CORNELES (63–70). Rob’s twin TED remains at Haraldston and PAUL (59–64) is still at Walgett.

R.W.L.C.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation is expressed to the Headmaster, Mrs. Mary Taylor, Messrs, Richard Rowling, Alan Case, and Mr. and Mrs. Kent McConville for their contributions and photographs.

SIR BERNARD CROFT, Bt.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Bernard H.D. Croft. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of the Armidalian, but tribute must also be paid here to the memory of such an outstanding son of T.A.S.

His was in every way an outstanding school career, and when he left T.A.S. in December 1931, he had Captained the Rugby XV, having been awarded Full Colours in 1919, 1920 and 1921; he had played for three years in the 1st XI; he had represented the school in Athletics, Shooting and Swimming. He had served as a Seigeanet in the Cadet Corps, and in 1921 led the school with distinction as his Senior Prefect.

His association with the school did not cease when he left, for he was to help guide its affairs as a member of the School Council from 1949 – 1958.

Bernard Croft was a man of diverse qualities. He was, at the same time, both strong and gentle. He was a man of dignity and reserve but also a man of great warmth and friendliness. Above all it was probably his total honesty as a man, and his openness of nature that endeared him to so many people, and enabled him to move with such ease and respect among so many diverse groups and ages.

He retained always a love for, and a passionate interest in, the School which has benefited in so many ways from his leadership, his wise counsel, and his selfless example.

The sympathy of the School and the O.B.U. is extended to Lady Croft and her family in their sad loss.

D.Graham

OBITUARIES

We regretfully record the deaths of several Old Boys and offer our sympathy to their relatives and friends.

COLIN PETER GILDER of Mosman died in Sydney on February 23rd. At TAS 1919–24, he played football and was given the School and was also on many committees.

GORDON ALEXANDER HARRIS – WALKER, (1935–38), was the son of the Rector of Walgett, Late of Killaware Street, Wingham, he is survived by a brother and sister. He died on December 4th.

CHESNEY M. COUSINS (39–41) came from Moree. He died in hospital on September 7th after living for some time at Budgewoi.

April, 1984

08/04/1984