New Buildings Opened

Music Centre

Famous opera singer and entertainer, June Bronhill opened the new Music Centre on Tuesday, 10th April. The Music Centre, which has been described as a ‘state of the art’ facility, contains a recording studio, key-board laboratory and high-tech computerised music teaching and rehearsal rooms.

Designed and equipped to be a centre for musical creativity as well as for teaching and performance, the Music Centre was built at a cost of over $600,000, all of which was raised from within the School and by gifts from parents, Old Boys and friends.

Fisher Wing

After the opening of the Music Centre, Dr Robin Fisher of Tamworth opened extensive additions to the now completed Fisher Wing – a building named to commemorate the work of his father, the late Gordon Fisher, Headmaster at TAS from 1939 to 1961.

This addition to the existing Fisher building creates four specially designed classrooms for the Geography/Economics Department as well as staff offices and rooms.

Because of its location, close to the original TAS building designed by Sir John Sulman, great care has been taken to ensure that the Fisher Wing blends harmoniously with the original architecture.

The Fisher Wing extensions have involved a cost of $300,000.

Science Laboratories

Another former Headmaster, Mr Alan Cash, declared open a completely renovated Science building.

The renovation and extension of the Science area was necessary because of the increase in numbers of students and those attempting Senior Science subjects.

The new facilities have taken advantage of existing structures and have been built for maximum flexibility using modern design techniques.

These renovations ensure that TAS students have access to excellent facilities which will cater for their needs for some years to come.

Top: June Bronhill with the Headmaster after declaring the new Music Centre “well and truly opened”.
Above: The additions to the Fisher Wing were opened by Dr Robin Fisher (centre). A third floor has been added together with extensive refacing of the old building.

Photos P. Scrivener
Swimming Pool the Next Major Venture

On Tuesday, 3rd April, the School Council formally endorsed the Planning Committee’s proposal that a heated indoor swimming pool should be the School’s next fundraising project and that this campaign should start immediately.

Its place in the Master Plan

The School Council recently revised its Master Development Plan in response to enrolment pressures.

- The decision was made to build immediately three new classrooms on the Magoffin Building to make a complete Preparatory School on the present site.
- It was decided to plan extensions to Dangar and Abbott Houses to accommodate increased enrolments before planning to build a new boarding house.
- From the list of established needs the next three priorities were identified:
  - Dining Hall Extension
  - Library Extension
  - Swimming Pool

Of these, the swimming pool was accepted as the first priority and the project most suited to a fund raising appeal.

The Historical Background

There has been talk about the need for a swimming pool at TAS for nearly 100 years.

Rev. W. Fisher, in his 1898 Speech Day address listed the requirements of the School, the most important being a Chapel. However, he mentioned a “School museum and swimming baths which are naturally found in a well-equipped school”.

Canon Forster, in 1919, again referred to the importance of “a School swimming bath”.

There was some fund raising undertaken for a pool during Gordon Fisher’s time and the original plans for the gymnasium built in Alan Cash’s time included a swimming pool as part of the complex.

The Case for a Swimming Pool

A swimming pool is no longer a luxury in an educational establishment. It is a need.

It is needed for:

- Teaching. Learning to swim is a vital part of the physical education programme (especially for country boys) and a swimming pool will greatly enhance the nature and scope of this programme. All students in the School should be taught life-saving and resuscitation skills.
- Sport. We are severely handicapped at present in our training by not having our own pool. Swimming currently can only be offered to a small number of keen students on a rather casual basis for a very limited season. Moreover, swimming is often the only physical (or therapeutic) activity suitable for students with injuries or disabilities.
- Recreation. This is possibly the most significant need in a boarding school. A swimming pool will dramatically improve the quality of life for our students after school and at weekends. It will also have advantages for staff, parents and the local community.

The Concept

We are planning to build a 25 metre, heated indoor swimming pool available for year round use. It will have 8 lanes and will accommodate water polo and life saving in addition to swimming training and recreation.

It is seen as part of a larger sports and recreation centre or complex including the gymnasium, tennis courts, sports fields and future squash courts.

The Cost

Provisional estimates indicate that a pool of this kind will cost at least $750,000. The School Council has determined that we can only afford the pool if we raise the funds for it, i.e. we cannot allocate funds from elsewhere (assuming we had them). This means it is a huge undertaking and will need the full support of the whole School Community. Already this support can be sensed in the enthusiasm with which the project has been greeted but it will need to be realised in monetary terms. I urge all friends of TAS to give their support by direct giving and involvement with the fund raising activities.

For nearly one hundred years there has been talk of a swimming pool at TAS. Will you join us in making this dream a reality?

Ken Langford-Smith

Roland Support

The School has been particularly fortunate that Roland Australia, manufacturers and suppliers of electronic musical equipment, has offered its support to the Music Centre. For some time the Music Department has been using computers and electronic instruments to assist in the teaching of music.

Director of Music, Mr Tim Scott has done valuable pioneering work in this new and exciting field. Roland Australia, recognising the high standards already achieved in this field at TAS and realising the potential and the advantages of having their products tested in the classroom, has provided valuable equipment which will enable the Music Centre to function in the way that its designers originally envisaged.

Australian Theatre Takeover

Earlier this year whilst Peter Cousins was playing the lead role of Marius in “Les Misérables” in Melbourne, Christopher Morrisley was playing the principal role of Belvili in the highly acclaimed production of “The Rover” in Sydney (performed as part of the Sydney Festival at the Seymour Centre), and Jess McWilliam received high critical praise for his leading role of Tom in the Royal Queensland Theatre Company’s production of “The Glass Menagerie” in Brisbane.

When “Les Mis.” finishes in Melbourne later in the year Peter is considering touring New Zealand and Asia with the company. Chris Morsley is now in rehearsal, playing the role of Macbeth in what is heralded to be a spectacular production of the Scottish tragedy, in Sydney; and Jess is rehearsing the lead role in “Moby Dick” with the QT, scheduled to perform in Brisbane and Sydney.

A Midsummer—Night’s Dream

For the first time in many years TAS is to undertake a major production of a Shakespearean work. September will see the performance of “A Midsummer—Night’s Dream”. The director says that it will be a “new’ and ‘innovative’ production, and should be highly entertaining.

Rehearsals have commenced and there is great enthusiasm amongst those in the cast. Jim Graham believes that there is such a wealth of acting talent in the School at the moment that it would be a pity not to do something as challenging as a work of Shakespeare.

P & F Notes

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, 23rd February, 1990, at which the following office bearers were elected:

President: Mrs Elisabeth Beasley
Sr Vice President: Mrs Rosemary Johnson
Jnr Vice President: Mrs Elaine Croft
Imrn. Past President: Mrs Mary Taylor
Secretary: Mrs Vicki Sedon
Treasurer: Mrs Catherine Gordon
Patronesses: Mrs Els Coventry, Mrs Anne Croft, Mrs Sue Selby, Mrs Rosemary Campbell
Committee: Mrs R. Langford-Smith, Mrs R. Rowling, Mr D. Muller (ex-officio), Mses James R. Blanch, E. Davis, M. Dutton, E. Graham, S. Griffiths, H. Hardman, L. Nielsen, H. Rhyder-dorcher, K. Ward and Mr. A. Pilcher.

Music Hall

Our main fundraising event for 1990 will be Music Hall, to be held on June, 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th. If parents and friends would like to know more about this function please ring either Mrs Libby Beasley (067 72 2448) or Mrs Vicki Sedon (067 75 5561). Assistance in preparing and serving the meal would be welcome. If you can help please ring Mrs Sedon.

Among the organisers of the very successful Uralla P & F function, “An evening with Ned Winter” were Vicki and Rob Sedon.

TAS Poll Hereford Stud

During 1989 Mr Don Carruthers approached the Headmaster concerning the formation of a Poll Hereford stud for both educational and income generating purposes. This offer was accepted and the local branch of the Poll Hereford Society set about finding heifers that would be donated to the School. Seven studs have now become involved:

Mr and Mrs Barry Tonkin, Romani, Kingstown;
Mr and Mrs Don Carruthers, Claremont, Armidale;
Mr Geoff Quinn, Ponto Falls, Gehriv;
Mr Rob Tomlinson, Inering, Mallalay;
Mr Alan Croker, Eversham, Narrabri;
Mr David Leake, Bahreemah, Tamworth; and
Mr George Larke, Callenup, Scone has donated a steer for the School to prepare for a carcass competition.

The School is starting a stud with these top heifers and a wide genetic pool. This varies from a fully imported North American heifer through to the best of Australian bloodlines.

Most of these studs have not been involved with TAS at all before. It is a measure of their commitment to their breed and belief in education at TAS that they have given this high quality foundation stock.

The School thanks Don Carruthers and the President of the Poll Hereford Society, Mr Jeff Watson, for the organisation of these donations. We most gratefully acknowledge the generosity of these studs and trust that, in the future, they will be able to admit with pride their donation to the TAS Poll Hereford Stud.

J.W.B.

School Council News

Two long serving members of the School Council retired at the end of the last triennium. Mr Trevor Robinson served the School for twelve years and Rev. Len Trump for six years.

Trevor, as a member of both the Finance and Property Committees, was closely involved with the planning and construction of new buildings together with the more mundane routine maintenance. His experience and great commitment to the School will be missed.

Len was also a member of the Property Committee and he, too, willingly gave his time to the Council. Both men served the School with dedication and distinction.

*****

Left: The spectacular finale of “Jesus Christ Superstar” performed by the School at the end of last year.
Foundation News

Annual General Meeting

The Foundation's seventh Annual General Meeting was held on 19th March, 1990, in the McCombville Centre. It was a very pleasant affair. The formal business and elections were concluded in forty minutes and for the rest of the evening those present (forty in all) enjoyed an interesting address on Marketing Myopia by Mr David Redwood, President of the Armidale Chamber of Commerce, and an informative talk by the Headmaster on recent building progress at TAS and the next stages of the master plan requiring implementation.

The Foundation President, Dr Peter Macarthur, admitted TAS OBU as a Trustee of the Foundation by virtue of its transfer of $26,000 to the Foundation Education Trust. He added a warning that cuts (in real terms) in government funding made the Foundation much more vital for parents and for the School.

In summarizing the year's results, Dr Macarthur reported that net income, comprising donations, dividends, interest and Trustee funds for scholarships was $385,769 (1989 - $309,746). Members, in all categories, number 271 (256) and subscribers 599 (593). The Music Appeal reached a total of $236,000 in gifts and promises from 349 donors, with another $32,000 due in 1990. He recorded the Foundation's appreciation of the successful, often innovative, fund raising done by Mr Jim Graham and the support and hospitality of Mr and Mrs Langford-Smith.

The Foundation, in June, gave the School its first disbursement from general building funds of $80,000 which was 75% of the cost of the purchase of two squash courts.

Mr Graham Macdonald was appointed interim Executive Director in place of Mr Alan Cash who has retired. (A tribute to Mr Cash appeared in the last issue of "Binghi").

Headmaster's Appreciation

The Headmaster, Mr Ken Langford-Smith, thanked the Foundation for its work. The squash courts, for which the Foundation provided $80,000, were of immense value; the number of boys taking squash had quadrupled. The scholarships, bursaries and fees assistance offered to parents in 1990 was over $500,000, to which the Foundation contributed one fifth. This shows that TAS is not a privileged school and that many parents are struggling. He agreed with Dr Macarthur that Federal Government policy was open to criticism; its new Schools' Policy determined that 20 pupils in TAS Prep. were not funded at all - an iniquitous situation.

He mentioned the other needs listed in the Master Plan which was being revisited from time to time as circumstances changed. For example, a second storey will be built on top of the Magoffin building to meet the growing demand at Primary level.

Dr Macarthur thanked the Headmaster and complimented him on the wonderful progress made.

Office Bearers 1990

The following were elected to hold office for the ensuing year:

President: Dr P. C. Macarthur
Senior Vice President: Dr P. A. Wright
Junior Vice President: Mr A. F. Vivers
Hon. Auditor: Mr P. K. Aggs.
Ex Officio: The Headmaster, the Chairman of Council, the Executive Director, the Honorary Treasurer.

Rowing

Rowing as a secondary sport has been greatly enhanced in the past months due to the generosity of the community.

It was decided late last year that in order to increase the standard of rowing, some boats be purchased. Newing the scull and the eight, Master, Grant Williamson, was able to place the scull at a very reasonable cost. With the purchase of the eight, Mrs Evans, and this was purchased from Malpas Dam for coaching under Mr Graeme and John Barling, (staff). It was decided at this year and Graffon was chosen as the boat for the eight.

On Thursday afternoons and Saturdays, the eight managed third place, beating the boys. The fours (taken from the eight) also placed in the Novice fours event.

The two scullers, John Woodhill and John W. Pilling, were lacking confidence. However, both in achieving third place and John a creditable 12th place.

The boys must be congratulated on their reputation growing in stature because of their hard work and dedication. They were grateful for the help given by members.
The Armidale School

The ANZAC Remembrance Service.

The School eight on Malpas Dam: Andrew Norling (Cox), Anthony Chick, Justin Wolfgang, Greg Hebblewhite, Andrew Croft, Jim Schofield, Bea Foster, Peter Watson, Marco Mazani.

Backfield trees to be replanted

For some time it has been obvious that the venerable cypresses on the western side of Backfield have been deteriorating. It is believed they are almost as old as the School itself. After seeking expert advice, which confirmed that they are beyond help, the Council has decided to replace the trees.

This decision was not taken lightly and was made on the recommendation of the Council's Landscape Sub-committee of which the Editor of "BINGHI" is the Chairman. Any correspondence should be directed to him!

It seems appropriate, with the School's Centenary only four years away, to act now so that the new trees will, at least, be reasonably established by 1994. Work will commence on this large project as soon as most of the football matches are over for the season. The feasibility of a temporary windbreak is being investigated.
Staff News

This year there have been a number of new appointments to the staff. They are:

- Mrs J. Grivas, Dip. Teach. (Armidale) – Year 1 Teacher.

Early next term we look forward to the arrival of Dr M. A. Higgitt, B.Sc., (Bath), M.Sc. (City), Ph.D. (Southampton), LRCS, to coordinate the Science Department and Mrs Nugyen Bich Thuy, M.Sc., to teach Japanese. This term we appreciated the services of C. L. Cooper, Esq., B.Sc. (Hons) who taught Senior Chemistry and Science from Years 7 to 10.

There have been two changes in the Housemaster ranks. Mr John Barling, next term, will replace Mr David Toppin in Broughton House while Mr Martin Oates, at the beginning of the year, took over Green House from Mr John Hipwell when he moved to ‘Churchie’ in Brisbane. Mr Oates and his wife Caroline recently celebrated the arrival of a baby daughter, Emma Catherine.

Mr Chris Blood, Croft Housemaster, has won an AIS Scholarship to complete his Master of Education course at UNE. Mrs Mary Strange has been given a grant by the Japan Foundation to attend an eight-week course for foreign teachers of the Japanese Language at the Japan Foundation Institute of Language in Saitama, Japan.

Some of the dining hall staff modelling their new uniforms in the School colours with Mr Alan Wilkinson who just happened to be there at the time.

Mrs Jenny Grivas, teacher of Year One, received credit during her graduation ceremony recently. Mrs Grivas was the “most meritorious teacher, passed with distinction, and was awarded the College Medal for 1989.” She has already brought a great deal of happiness to our Preparatory School and we congratulate her on this wonderful achievement.

Mr Rod Hall left on long service leave in late March to travel through Europe with his wife Diane and their children. He will be replaced in Term 2 by Mr John Andrews.

Mr Jim Graham, recently appointed School Historian to write the School History, has been released from teaching to complete this task.

Sydney OBU News

Old Boy Notes

ROB BUSBY (68) has moved his professional training and recruitment consultancy to Berkshire and, with just 7 minutes commuting time, believes he has finally beaten Sydney’s traffic snarls.

News from St Paul’s College, University of Sydney. MICHAEL FORSYTHE (86) is in his final year of Chemical Engineering and, all going well, will next year join ROB to become the School’s second graduate in this esoteric branch of the Engineering profession. Michael’s contemporary from 1986, MALCOLM GILL continues his studies in Economics, while HAMISH WHITE and MARK RITCHARD have graduated in Economics and Science respectively. Congratulations – may we please have your new addresses?

Also at Paul’s are JAMES CONNAH (87) studying Vet. Science and BILL BAILEY (88) studying Science.

Congratulations also to ANDREW HEMPEL (85) previously a resident at Wesley College, who has graduated in Arts. Brother SEBASTIAN (83) is a solicitor with Gadens Ridgeway in the city, while Andrew has begun a career in marketing with Containers Limited at Revesby.

Over at St Andrew’s College, CAMERON YOUNG (87) is in his third year of Mechanical Engineering at Sydney. DONALD JOHNSTONE (83) has left St Andrew’s and is now a trainee actuary working in the MLC Centre.

STEVE UTHER (83) has completed his studies at the University of New England for the degree of Bachelor of Financial Administration and is working in town at Michael Page International. Unable to kick the study habit, he is now working towards his AASA. Brother JAMIE (85) is studying Hospitality at Ryde TAFE, while working as a wine merchant.

TED HILL (83) has graduated from the University of New South Wales in Law and is completing his professional studies at the College of Law, while PETER McCANN graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce last year and is now working in Insolvencies (!) with Coopers & Lybrand. Peter is another night student and expects to gain his ACA this year.

The 1984 year was strongly represented at the recent wedding of GRAEME BROWNING to Catherine Lowrie, in Wollongong. Graham is with Ernst & Young in the city. Best man was PHIL Mcgowan; guests included IAN PEARCE and MICHAEL MAIR, who has just moved to Sydney from Armidale.

“BINGHI” is published by The Armidale School to keep all members of the School community informed of the activities of the boys, the P & F, the OBU, the Foundation and developments within the School itself. The TASOBU and the P & F contribute to the cost of its production.

Articles and photographs are always welcome. Please send contributions to C. D. Connah, TAS Private Mail Bag, Armidale, NSW, 2350.
OBU President’s Report

My term has started amid a flurry of other developments within the School. It is important that the Old Boys' Union continue to contribute in thought, word, and money, when necessary. We have a number of new faces on our committee this year and several exciting projects where we can be of help to the School. These projects include our assistance, both financially and physically, with a new and enlarged small bored rifle range near the Old Meadowbank field.

We are also encouraging the formation of regional committees, often in conjunction with the P & F. The new Sydney committee has already held a number of functions and more are planned for this year. Hopefully we will have similar success with committees in other areas and these will all play a major part in the countdown to our centenary. We have our own representative on Paul Griffith’s Centenary Committee, namely David White, and he is busily collecting ideas that we can put forward to that committee. We will also be putting a major effort this year, into Peter Morse’s Bursary Augmentation Scheme and his new, enlarged committee will be chasing up assistance with the agistment of cattle or any other contributions to ensure the earnings of the Fund is sufficient to enable us to meet our commitments in this area.

All Old Boys are urged to contact either Peter Morse or David White if they can be of any help. Both members have big jobs ahead and we should all give them whatever assistance we can.

P. Flower

From The Historian

The School’s Official Birthday

There are two dates which could be considered the School's birthday. One of those dates is the 1st February, for it was on that day in 1894 that the School opened its doors and at 9.30 am 25 scholars assembled in Big School with the Headmaster Rev. W. Fisher and two masters, T.A.H. Wing Esq. B.A., and E. Marryat Esq. B.A. Also gathered were, in the words of the "Armidale Express" of the day, "a select though representative gathering" of local dignitaries.

Because of the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice President of the School Board, Archdeacon Ross presided and reminded those present that this was not a public occasion and they could all look forward to a more formal opening of the new School at a later time "... under the patronage of some distinguished person." The date chosen for the "official" opening was Tuesday, 15th May. The Board, in fact, invited Sir Frederick Darley, Chief Justice of NSW to preside, and to declare the School open, but unfortunately he was unable to make the journey.

Thus it fell to Dr A.V. Green, installed only that morning as Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, to declare the fledgling institution open. This was his first official duty as Bishop.

One hundred guests were invited to lunch, after which two hundred people (residents of Armidale and shareholders) assembled in the "main schoolroom" to hear the speeches. The ceremony, says the "Armidale Express", was followed by a rugby match and a gymnastic display using Indian clubs.

On the recommendation of the School Historian, the History Committee resolved to ask the School Council to declare 15th May to be "Commemoration Day" and that the day be observed each year in an appropriate manner. On Tuesday, 15th May, 1894 the School was officially declared open, and on Tuesday, 15th May, 1990, a Commemoration Day observance will be held.

Needless to say, 15th May, 1994, will be a special day indeed in the calendar.

A. R. H. Rupp

We regret to record the death of another very fine OB. Arthur Rupp, 23-27, Ruppsi to his friends, died recently in a Sydney nursing-home.

Son of Rev. H. M. R. Rupp, Rector of Bulahdelah, he had a distinguished School career, ending as Senior prefect with the Rawson Cup. He was a brilliant member of the Rugby, Cricket and Athletics teams, highly regarded by everyone. After graduating at Sydney University he returned to TAS where he was an excellent master and firm disciplinarian. He moved to Shore where he remained till he joined up on the outbreak of the war. After the debacle of Malaya and Singapore he escaped back to Australia and was later posted to PNG. There he contracted scrub typhus and lay at death’s door for some time. Had he not been such a fit and dedicated man he almost certainly would have died. The School is fortunate to have in the Archives Arthur Rupp’s diary of the period of his escape.

Back in Australia, he returned to teaching at Shore, then at TAS, but it soon became clear that his memory was badly affected as a result of his illness. He was awarded a TPI pension and went back to Sydney where he lived with his wife and daughter. Some months ago he broke a hip and shortly afterward fell and broke the other. He then went into the nursing-home where he died peacefully in his sleep.

He is survived by his daughter and sister, Mrs Les Cox. We express our deep sympathy to them. He was admired by all who knew him.

R.W.L.

OBU Weekend

14th – 16th September 1990

Fri. 14th

Sat. 15th
Sporting Competition v The School - golf, shooting, tennis and rugby; OBU Annual Dinner. 6.30 – 10.30 pm.

Sun. 16th
OBU AGM 8.30 am; OBU Chapel Service 10.15 am; Cadet Passing-Out Parade 11.30 am.

The OBU Committee requests that the organisers of year reunions contact James Croft (067 78 4495) or Rob Mitchell (067 75 5522) to ensure that functions do not clash.

Sydney Dinner

The Sydney Branch of the OBU is holding a Dinner Dance (black tie) on Saturday, 26th May, at 7.30 pm for 8 pm, after the GPS Athletics at Pymble Golf Club. Old Boys, Parents and Friends of the School are invited to attend. Tickets are $67.50 per head, all inclusive. For further details contact Martin Tauber (02 487 3873).

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1965 Reunion

James Poole and Robbie Mackenzie are organising a reunion for the Old Boys who left TAS in 1965 – 25 years ago. It will be held on Friday, 14th September at Old Bishop’s Court, Armidale. Further details are available from James (067 72 3310) or Robbie (067 79 1514).

Old Boy Mr John Leeuwin-Clark delivered the ANZAC service address. He is pictured here with his wife and old friends Mr & Mrs Max Taylor (left) with Major Harris in the background.
Congratulations

GRAEME BROWNING, 79-84 when he was Deputy Senior Prefect, married in Wollongong Miss Catherine Lowrey, like himself, a chartered accountant. As father Max Browning says, they should be able to balance the books. Max is President of the School Council. And PETER SWINDON, 75-83, when he was Senior Prefect, recently passed a very advanced course in the RAAF and, to celebrate the occasion, got engaged to Miss Maureen Dumper. We hear that she is Irish, as her name would indicate. We commend his good taste. TIM COWLEY, 73-78, and wife Kirsten in Canberra have a very fine daughter, Rachel Erin.

MICHAEL BURNETT, 50-55 when he was Senior Prefect, sent a Christmas card from their home in Holland saying that they were looking forward to having “a fourth member of the team” in March. We have heard no more but send our felicitations just the same.

PETER MULLEN, 78-83, has also joined the marriage stakes. He married Fiona, nee Wickenden, at West Epping Uniting Church and they live at 14 Shortland Street, Wentworth Falls. He still earns a crust with the Commonwealth Bank.

ANDREW WOOD, 76-81, son of STUART, 39-42, is one of the winners of the RAS Young Achievers Awards for, among other things, his management and development of the property near Uralla. He will have a week at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney followed by a 9 day tour of New Zealand.

Sqn Ldr PHILIP JACKSON, RAAF, 71-77, is back from England where he topped his course in Aeronautical Engineering. Lives at 24 Dalny Rd, Marrumbeena, Vic.

The CROFT family has supported the Uralla Show Society for 100 plus years. PETER, 44-50, is this year’s President and ran a remarkably successful show despite the worst that the weather could do. Brother JAMES, 59-67, and wife Elaine took a large part in running the Nod Winter visit organized by the Uralla Branch of the P & F at Uralla Show Ground with great success, financially and otherwise.

GRAHAM SPOONER, 69-74, is the proud father of twins and he told us that Michael Fayle is engaged to Miss Pauline Morey from Henty.

Letters from Afar

GRAEME, 54-59, and TINA HACKETT are in Beaufort. They have taken over the hotel of that name at 20 Brisbane Street where son STUART, 78-83, is their licensee. They find life “behind the bar” very different from Tamworth and Nundle but continue to enjoy it.

Another marvellous (of course) letter from GEORGE REHEMENT, 47-50. He has an anniversary reunion in Sydney but OBU Weekend in September is too late for him. Also inquiries about the Rehmeit/Bucknall Scholarship. He read at a Tahitian marriage in San Fran and is now back in French Polynesia. He wonders why he was the minister, to his enormous entertainment.

PETER SNAPE and BENNY WHITE note well!

Another and very different epistle from BRIAN HARRISON, 57-82, now a priest and lecturer in the R. C. University of Puerto Rico and Ponce (pron. Ponsay) seems to be admired, seems to be busy but has kept his sense of humour, especially with regard to the goings-on of the UN and “decolonization” was the title concerned by the “liberal” trends in the R.C. and indeed in all Churches, which he fears are undermining the “faith delivered to the saints”. Good on you, Brian, and God be with you.

A letter to the Editor from ROBERT AKE, 70-75, from Paris where his wife is in the PNG Diplomatic Corps. Would love to meet any OBs. Address is Institut International d’Administration Publique, 2 Rue de l’Observatoire, 75007, Paris.

And finally we were very distressed to learn that MARWOOD KINGSMILL, 43-47, has had to resign his top job in the WA Public Service through ill health. He received remarkable letters of regret and congratulations from political leaders of both main parties, a worthy tribute to his many years of devoted service to the people of the West.

R.W.L.C.

Obituaries

We express our regret and sympathy to the relations and friends of the following:

ROBERT A. THOMSON, 23-27, died in March 1985. At TAS he was in the Rugby XV, Cricket 2nd Xi, and was Welterweight Champion in Boxing. Son Collin and his wife Rosemary now live at 131 Edward Street, Gunnedah.

LLOYD DAVIES. His nephew by marriage, Comrie Bucknell, 66-71, tells us that he died recently. He left TAS in 1924 and served in the 2nd World War.

J. D. MOBB, 25-30, died recently in Sydney. Philip Vernon, 21-27, attended the funeral, as did Jack’s brother Russell, 22-24. Jack was President of the OBU for some time and later served in the RAAF during the war.


We report elsewhere the death of A. R. H. RUPP, 23-27.

When Jim Graham visited Bangkok in December, Dr Suthiporn Chirapanada, who is now Deputy Secretary-General of Agriculture, organised a dinner for Thai Old Boys who had been at TAS in the 60’s. Some of those present at the Dusit Thani Hotel Bangkok were: (1 to r) Phaisan Sirirat-udsorn, Sri Jantarach, Suthiporn Chirapanada and Banpot Hongtong.