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from the Headmaster
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

The tendency to deride the values, lifestyles and actions of teenagers seems to be locked into the psyche of older generations. The focus seen regularly on the perceived shortcomings of youth may be explained to some extent by the profound desire of parents and other older adults to see our teenagers grow and prosper in the traditional structures of society. I am quite sure though that it is an unfair focus and it warrants challenge.

As I write for this edition of Binghi, I am with a delegation of TAS and PLC senior students who have chosen to spend their school holidays in the north of Thailand working with HIV positive children at the Agape Home and supporting the elderly and infirmed at the McKean leprosy centre.

This is not work that will gain them acclaim on Facebook and there will be none of the instant gratification that their generation is purported to value so much. Indeed, there will be no reward and few thanks for their work. Instead, their holiday break involves working hard for long hours in menial tasks with the Thai heat to remind them that life is not always comfortable and helping in any meaningful way demands real effort. It is quite inspiring and a real privilege to be with them.

The reaching out to others with friendship and tangible support expresses our values in a real sense and the practicality of that is something that I value highly.

I am pleased to say that while these are certainly fine young people, they are not at odds with the mainstream of our students. While we are in Thailand, another even larger group is in Fiji working for the full holiday period at St Christopher’s Home to add in some positive way to the lives of the orphans and Sisters there. Many of them, with others, will go on to contribute locally too, through the weekly lunchtime visits led by Barney Buntine to support the children at nearby Minimbah Aboriginal Primary School through reading and play activities. Others will join the annual ‘Service in Sydney’ trip to work supporting the homeless in what can be confronting circumstances. All of these projects are tied closely to our purpose as a Christian school. The reaching out to others with friendship and tangible support expresses our values in a real sense and the practicality of that is something that I value highly.

In return for some sacrifice, what these experiences offer our students is a challenge to their world view and an opportunity to assess and shape the values that they will carry with them from School. At schools like ours, education must go beyond classroom learning and sports and I am very grateful to be a part of a school that embraces this philosophy in the most meaningful of ways.

TASIBALD ART PRIZE

This annual exhibition features Year 8 representations, mostly painted and generally flattering, of ‘significant people’ in their TAS lives. There were a number of puzzled faces as parents attempted to decipher whose image the portraits contained. The announcement of the TASibald winners saw Jim Orr come out on top with his image of Dennis Dempster burnt into wood (above left with Mr White and the winning entry). Congratulations also to Liam Donaldson (above right, image at top) for taking out the Packer’s Prize with his portrait of teacher, Ralph Hunt.
"As you stand on the brink of what some like to call real life - liberating to some, utterly daunting to others - know that TAS has equipped you all very well." - John Nash
A keen understanding of Economics concepts has seen Year 11 student, John Dennis, achieve a High Distinction and a $50 Prize in the UNSW Australian Economics Competition.

“The test covered a number of areas we had yet to learn in our Economics class so it was particularly challenging,” John said.

Academic Focus - effort and engagement

2013 ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

The signs for a successful HSC result can be partially gauged from the Valedictory Prize List and this year it is looking particularly good. Well done to Senior Prefect, Darcy James (above right) on receiving the Rawson Cup, the Caltex All Round Achiever’s Award, plus prizes for History Extension, English Advanced and Ancient History. William Howard (above left) was awarded the prizes for Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics and Physics. Success in Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2 earned Aidan Hammerschmid (centre) the Headmaster’s Prize for Academic Excellence for the Top HSC Assessment. Congratulations to these boys and all who made it through to the end of their schooling. Well done boys.

AUSTRALIAN ECONOMICS COMPETITION SUCCESS

A passion for science has rewarded Ali Ahsan with fourth place in the NSW final of the prestigious Australian Brain Bee competition with the 14 year-old just one mark off a $20,000 university scholarship. Out of more than two thousand students from across the state that entered the competition by completing an online test, Ali and classmate Tom Mailler were amongst only 140 selected in the state finals in Sydney.

The Australian competition, for Year 10 students, is a division of International Brain Bee, a world-wide neuroscience competition that aims to encourage students to learn about the brain and inspire them to pursue neuroscience careers. The event started with a quiz of 15 questions with many equivalent to first year university level, followed by keynote speakers presenting information of new discoveries and research into neuroscience. Ali was one of 10 students selected for the next session where he placed fourth.

“The second round questions were much harder and concerned new technologies, various neurological conditions and diseases, and other bodily systems relating to them,” Ali said.

“It was a thrilling and also a humbling experience to have done so well in the competition and it was an honour representing TAS at the state level.”

BRAIN BEE FINALISTS

Tom Mailler and Ali Ahsan were state finalists in the Australian Brain Bee competition.

A keen understanding of Economics concepts has seen Year 11 student, John Dennis, achieve a High Distinction and a $50 Prize in the UNSW Australian Economics Competition. “The test covered a number of areas we had yet to learn in our Economics class so it was particularly challenging,” John said.
A hovercraft made from balsa wood, a styrofoam tray, garbage bag and tape propelled TAS students into a winning position in the state final of the University of Newcastle’s Science & Engineering Challenge. Daniel Allen, Lewis Erskine-Smith, Sebastian Gibson and David Williams were given three hours to put together a fan-propelled vehicle as one of five challenges undertaken in the finals.

“We were given the materials, two propellers and a computer fan and had three hours to make it happen,” Daniel said. The vehicle was constructed and refined before undergoing tests for speed, its resilience over bumps, and for its navigation through an obstacle course.

“All the challenges were interesting to see. It was a good day and a lot of fun,” Lewis Erskine-Smith said.

TAS won the hovercraft challenge, and came third overall.

Jack van Roy loves his maths – and for him it has just added up to outstanding success, being placed in the top one per cent of his candidature in the nationwide Australian Mathematics competition.

For his efforts, Jack, in Year 4 at TAS, received a competition prize – something he said he wasn’t expecting.

“The last questions were hard, but the rest of it was okay. I got a high distinction last year but was surprised to do better this time,” Jack said.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Jack does “a bit extra” of his favourite subject for fun, on top of his set homework.

“I like how maths is challenging and different. You don’t have to write many words and is either right or wrong.”

Most Australian schools participate in the competition. Ali Ahsan in Year 10 received a high distinction in the competition and was in the top two per cent of his candidature.

Head of Mathematics at TAS Peter Hall said with more than half of participating students receiving credit result or better it reflected the strength of extension programs at TAS. This included extension classes in Junior School, maths extension sets in Years 8 to 10 and special elective subject in Years 9-10, Maths/Science Extension.
The Armidale School was privileged to enjoy three days of intellectual contest as we hosted the inaugural northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon. Students from across our region came together to tackle challenges drawn from the spirit of da Vinci’s own diverse interests. The teams from each school were selected with the complexity of the tasks in English, Science, the Arts, engineering and creative invention in mind and it was obvious that there was some real intellectual competition.

The da Vinci Decathlon is the invention of Knox College, Sydney and it has developed an excellent reputation since its inception in 2005. Knox licensed TAS to host the northern NSW event as part of an expansion of the competition. Four former Knox students oversaw the TAS event, which was run over three days for different year groups. While most schools won different challenges, the trophies were collected by TAS and PLC Armidale-equal winners Year 5; Armidale City Public-Year 6; Bishop Druitt College Coffs Harbour-Years 7 and 9; Carinya Christian College Tamworth-Year 8; and Duval High School-Year 10. Congratulations to all students who exercised their mental metal in this interschool challenge.
TAS TAKES OUT GPS THIRDS RUGBY PREMIERSHIP

The Armidale School’s 1st XV rugby team has taken out the GPS third grade premiership following a convincing win in Sydney. Playing against Newington College in front of thousands of people on ‘Back to Newington Day’ to celebrate that school’s 150th anniversary, a spirited TAS outfit came home 52-10, delivering TAS its first GPS rugby premiership since joining the association in 1897.

Coach Jamie Moore said TAS took a while to settle into the game and this was reflected in the 17-10 half time score, but every player used their skill to their highest level.

“The boys played their best rugby of the season – they went forward before they went wide, and our support play was as good as it has been all year. Being a special day for Newington provided so much atmosphere, and the leadership of the Year 12 boys in what was their final game was inspiring to all the boys on the ground,” he said.

TAS went into the game sitting second on the competition table with five wins, a draw and a loss. TAS Headmaster Murray Guest said the game was a fine finish to what has been an historic season for TAS and was a tribute to the players, staff and parents who had committed hours of time and thousands of kilometres to making it happen.

“What matters most to us is playing games with other schools that share our values and set great store by the way the game is played. On the field, the sportsmanship has been excellent and the open and optimistic play that makes schoolboy rugby so attractive has been on show everywhere,” he said.

As part of the revised GPS structure for rugby this season the GPS thirds competition comprised the firsts teams from TAS, Sydney Grammar and Sydney High School, with the thirds teams from the remaining GPS schools: King’s, Scots, Newington College, St Joseph’s College Hunters Hill, St Ignatius College Riverview and Shore School.

FOOTBALL THRIVING AT TAS

Football is enjoying a growth spurt at TAS with 26 teams and around 220 registered players from six year olds to fathers in their late 40s playing for the TAS Third XI - the ‘TAS Dads’.

Master in charge and coach, Luke Polson said, “Football is a growing sport at TAS and there is particularly renewed interest in the junior secondary years, with three divisions in the 14s and a very strong 16s. We had four teams in the grand finals this year which is excellent.”

Congratulations to the 16As (seen below with coach Christian Nexo) on winning both the minor premiership and the grand final. The grand final against South Armidale Sea Eagles was the toughest game of the year but the TAS team was able to rise to the occasion winning 2-0. This completed an amazing year for the 16As who have remained undefeated.
TAS DEVELOPMENT SQUAD TOURS NEW ZEALAND

The NZ Development Tour was another outstanding success, both on and off the field. Forty-two players travelled to the Land of the Long White Cloud to experience all that New Zealand has to offer.

Six tough games, coaching with the Canterbury High Performances coaches and plenty of training opportunities were interspersed with numerous activities such as jet boating on the Shotover River, skiing on Coronet Peak, sampling the Tekapo hot springs and facing a full haka from the Mt Aspiring College 1st XV. This combined to create a wonderful opportunity for the boys to get to know NZ rugby while on tour. With other games against Ashburton College and Christchurch Boys High, the boys had the best preparation for the following term of rugby in the GPS competition, where they ultimately won the 3rd grade competition in stunning fashion.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION

Both Jayden Harradine of Narrabri and Wayne ‘Buddy’ Mumbulla from Moree, have been selected into the national Indigenous under 16s team following outstanding performances with the Northern NSW side at the Lloyd McDermott Indigenous rugby championships held at Tallebudgera, Queensland in late August.

In their first two matches the Northern NSW side defeated Northern Territory and Southern Queensland under 16s, before being defeated by Far North Queensland in their third game.

“It was great rugby and it is an honour to be recognised with this selection,” Buddy said.

The team will compete against state and schoolboy representative teams at the national titles to be held at St Ignatius College, Riverview, at the end of September.

PADDLERS TAKE HONOURS

The tides were tough, but TAS kayakers put in outstanding efforts at the annual Myall Classic near Tea Gardens on 14 September. The Myall Classic is one of the ‘Big Three’ flatwater marathon races in Australia along with the Hawkesbury Classic and the Murray Marathon.

Four teams from the TAS kayaking club came first in their divisions.

Harry Wright and David Williams partnered up to take out the junior men’s double over 47km; Lachlan McDonald and his father Duncan were across the line ahead of the pack in the mixed open/junior division over 47km, while in the 27 km distance, Felix Gifford was first home in the junior men’s single division, and Georgie Haire and Nicola Heagney, of PLC, won the ladies junior double.

The event was used as one of two lead-up paddle to the 111km overnight Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, to be held at the end of October.
KING OF THE RANGE

Sam Johnston (seen below) was named 'King of the Range' at the annual Athletic Association of Great Public Schools of New South Wales (GPS) after taking out the top overall individual point score over the two days of competition.

Over three matches in the two days of competition he scored 195 including 14 bullseyes (of a possible 200).

Sam, a Year 11 student has been a member of the school’s shooting team since the age of 14. Last year he was named King of the Range at the All Schools match which is held the weekend prior to GPS.

As a result of his performance Sam was selected into the Combined GPS team. Unfortunately this year TAS was unable to retain the GPS premiership title, fielding a young and relatively inexperienced team with four of the eight boys coming from Year 9. Despite their lack of experience the boys shot extremely well.

Overall TAS was placed equal fourth with Shore School, behind Scots College, Sydney Boys’ High and The King’s School. The TAS Second VIII were placed fifth after competing in deliberate events over 500m and 300m.

TRIPLE SILVER FOR TAS GYMNAST

At the Australian Gymnastics championships in July, TAS Year 12 student, Michael Taylor turned one night of spills, into another, of triple-silver medal-winning thrills.

Co-captaining the NSW gymnastics team to a terrific result at the championships, Michael brought home individual silver medals in two apparatus, and a third as part of the teams event.

“The first night of competition was a really bad one for me and I fell about three times. But the second night was one of the best competitions I’ve ever had,” said Michael, a level 9 gymnast who has been a member of the Armidale Gymnastics Club since the age of 7.

Michael has qualified for the national team to tour New Zealand in October, but it’s an honour he will have to pass up in favour of his HSC. Next year, he will be taking a ‘gap’ year at a school in Winchester, England.

CITY TO SURF TEAM

The MS Society will be thousands of dollars better of thanks to the efforts of a team of 35 students and staff from TAS, who ran for the cause in the City to Surf run in Sydney in August.

Between them the team tallied up almost 500km in distance, and just over $8000 in donations. Despite having to make a 16 hour return trip, TAS had the largest school team registered in the event. Running with staff member Chris Pittman, Guyra’s Huw Knox was the fastest man home for the TAS team, finishing in 1:01:55.

TAS students have taken part in the event on several previous occasions, and staff member Jim Pennington said it reflected the school’s philosophy that challenge and charity should come together.
A brilliant array of individual and group projects showcased the work of HSC drama students. They are seen in character clockwise from top left: Tom Archer, brilliant as Humpty Dumpty; Reilly Pickering who crashed into a wheat field creating a journey of self-awareness; Patrick Spillane’s evocative performance as a soldier in the jungle; Edward Inchbold and Fiona Rose were part of a group performance to create the greatest story ever told that also included Reilly Pickering, Anthony Carlon, Tom Archer and Patrick Spillane; Rebecca Hansford, Tom Henderson and Jess Wright produced a terrific performance pondering what would you do if you had 24 hours to live.
Congratulations to the Visual Arts class of 2013 on producing an outstanding Body of Works. The boys have worked incredibly hard displaying imagination and creativity to showcase a variety of art styles and media.


Design & Technology Works

David Henderson designed a motor bike lift primarily for his grader back home in Louth, but with application for all users who need a simple and efficient method to transport their bike.

Above: Sam Hutton designed a gardening solution for people confined to wheelchairs. Sam was fortunate to have his sister Lucy involved though out the project where her ongoing evaluation and horticultural skills ensured an excellent product.

Left: Nick Allen designed an organiser for his study notes that hangs from the back of a door. Nick was able to work with master saddler old boy Jason Simmons and his wife who taught Nick the necessary skills and allowed him to use their professional sewing machines.
Leadership and Service

The knowledge and skills that you have learnt here will form part of the foundational attributes required in whatever path you take and will form the basis of an ethos that will remain with you for life.

These prophetic words formed the basis of Colonel Scotty Palmer’s address to the young men passing out of the TAS Cadet Unit in 2013.

He went on to say, “I spent five years in the cadets in the United Kingdom and honestly believe that those years provided me with some very solid foundations in life. It’s the little things like having a sense of urgency, being punctual and being proud of who you are and what you represent – they are important attributes that will stand you head and shoulders above others one day...

The training here is an outstanding introduction to the types of skill sets we expect our servicemen within the Australian Defence Force to master so that fact that you have been exposed to basic but crucial life skills will serve you well far into the future. I have noted in my career that the better leaders were generally those with a team orientated background, people who knew what it meant to work as a unit, to help one another and who didn’t mind rolling up their sleeves to get the hard work done.

Most of you will have heard the saying “when the going gets tough the tough get going” - well in my experience it takes a special person to commit to the hard yards and having served in Bosnia Herzegovina, two tours of East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan I can tell you Australia can be proud of her efforts in committing quality personnel to do some amazing work around the globe and it is cadet units like this one where those skills and the ethos are initially forged.

While I have focused upon the acquisition of certain skills you have acquired this is only one element of your training. You have also started to develop important qualities that will make you an asset to your country throughout your life. These qualities are the very ones that underpin Army’s success in over a hundred years of service to the nation. Qualities that develop through exposure to challenge and adversity - that get that little bit stronger every time your courage, initiative, teamwork and will to win are tested. Trust in this training as it has been well tested over the years and will serve you well....

The TAS Cadet Unit has an enviable reputation for professionalism and for producing men of high calibre who serve our country in Defence, in business, in their families and in their communities. You need look no further than the Roll of Honour in Big School, or see the names of Old Boys who have served and continue to serve in every major campaign to which our nation has been committed. Your demonstration today, and the achievements you have made in getting here, is something of which you should be very proud.

Colonel Palmer’s speech may be found in full in the 2013 Armidalian or by contacting binghi@as.edu.au
Wellbeing - forging bonds

Sam and Jenny Bailey with TAS Middle School boys

TAS welcomed back Old Boy Sam Bailey who shared with students his incredible story of tragedy, adversary and hope. Sam is a C6/C7 quadriplegic who has conquered his disability to become a successful farmer, ultralight pilot, public speaker and best-selling author. The story of how a car accident changed his life forever and forced him on a new journey has touched thousands of Australians since his appearance on ABCTV’s Australian Story in 2000 and subsequent best selling book *Head Over Heels*, co-authored with his wife Jenny.

While TAS Junior School students were inspired by Sam’s dream to fly a helicopter, senior students were also instilled with the sobering reality about seatbelts, speed, and driver safety. But all took home the encouragement to follow their dreams, no matter what obstacles they encounter in life.

“If I’ve got four messages they are this: always wear a seatbelt, and don’t speed – think of the consequences. Secondly, try everything, even if you don’t think you can do it,” he said.

“People who say you can’t do something are actually helping you, because it’s up to you to prove them wrong. And finally, value your family, friends and the community you live in, because they are the ones who will support you the most.”

Sam is a great example to students - if he can fly a plane or a helicopter as a quadriplegic then they can do anything if they put their mind to it.

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

At the North West Film Festival at Bingara’s Roxy Theatre TAS students Jacob Hunt, Jock Campbell and Tom Wright were presented with the award for the ‘social’ category of Community Mutual’s MAD at Heart Community Challenge, which features films from schools, individuals and groups that are making a difference in the local community.

Their film, *Minimbah Project*, documents the growing friendship between TAS, and Minimbah Aboriginal Primary School, which share a neighbourhood. The win came with $2,500 prize money for TAS, with an equal amount for Minimbah.

BOOTS FOR FIJI

Brayden Hadfield loves his football – but his biggest goal for the year was to get enough pre-loved boots for one bare-footed Fijian soccer team.

“I had heard about how boys just like me who love to play soccer, play barefoot on rocky ground with soccer balls that were just plastic bags tied up with string,” he said.

“It just didn’t seem right. So I thought, ‘if we have so much why not share some of what we have so they can have some too’.”

His appeal garnered 67 pairs of boots which were delivered happily to the children at St Christopher’s Orphanage, Fiji, in October.
TEZ VISITS TAS

The Tezukayama Gakuin Elementary School visited TAS in late August, again celebrating this wonderful program by participating in a wide range of activities. Students from both schools enjoyed sporting and classroom activities, horse riding and visiting local sites including the eastern escarpment and trout hatchery, McCrossins’s Mill, NERAM and the Aboriginal Keeping Place.

Learning to ride, throw boomerangs and participating in numerous indoor and outdoor activities laid the foundation for a very successful visit. However, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of our TAS families while being billeting and the numerous social engagements, really cemented the friendships between the two schools and reinforced the value of this exchange which has now been taking place for almost 20 years.

UNE SCHOOLS’ ART PRIZE

Congratulations to Calin Simmonds in Year 2 who won the Infants Section of the ‘Let’s Hang It’ Art Prize with his stunning reflective artwork Pure Rock Reflection. Out of some 600 entries the TAS Junior School scooped the pool twice with Olivia Strelitz in Year 4 winning the Primary Category with her extremely colourful Sunrising. Both works showed great technical skill as well as creativity.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY

Another very popular and successful Junior School Grandparents’ event was held this term. On a beautiful day our young students hosted well over 100 grandparents in their classrooms where they collaborated on numerous activities, showcasing currents educational trends, practices and developments in classroom learning and IT.

This was followed by morning tea in the Sports Centre foyer, while watching gymnastics displays and the new ‘Inflatable’ operating in the swimming pool.

The day concluded with a great concert in the Hoskins Theatre showcasing Junior School drama and music.

NIGHT OF SONG

This has become a significant event in the school’s musical calendar over the past few years. Showcasing many of the school ensembles, with a focus on the Junior School, this year saw a night of fantastic choral entertainment.

The junior choirs combined with each other in various forms under the watchful eye of their teachers and directors: Mrs Rachel Butcher, Mr Al Finco, Mr Phil Oxley and Mr Nik Glass. Quality performances throughout the evening were enhanced by soloists Albie Woodhouse, HSC student Tom Henderson and the massed choir combination of the 3-5 choir, TAS Singers, Chapel Choir and TAS Staff singing Adiemus by Karl Jenkins.
TAS FOUNDATION EVENTS

FOUNDATION HOSTS
NEW ENGLAND BELTOWER
GATHERING

THE DICK HAYS CABINET

Both the School, and White House in particular, are indebted to Old Boy Dick Hays (41-46) for his gift of a magnificent cabinet to house his uncle Norman’s blazer.

Norman Hays, better known as Bill, was a boarder at TAS from 1903-1905. He was one of three brothers who attended TAS in the school’s earliest years.

At TAS, Norman played tennis, but his great talent was as a rifleman. He was a keen member of the school Cadet Corps shooting team, which competed in various competitions. These included the Rawson Cup and the Schools’ Shield which made up the GPS shooting competition at that time. In 1905, he scored the highest average for TAS at the Rawson Cup, winning the Shooting Captain’s Medal. He also played rugby for the school’s 2nd XV.

Although Norman never married he still has strong connections to TAS to this day, with two great-great nephews, George Sedgewick and Jonathon Chamberlain being current students.

In what proved to be the largest Bell Tower gathering to date, some 55 Old Boys and their partners enjoyed a special brunch at TAS on the Saturday of Old Boys’ Weekend this year.

The Lower Maxwell room was filled to capacity and there was much catching up to be done by all.

The brunch was followed by the TAS 1st XV playing The King’s School 3rd XV at rugby on Backfield.

The Bell Tower gathering was such an outstanding success that it looks like becoming a permanent fixture on the Old Boys Weekend calendar.
Old Boys' Notes

Obituaries

The School extends its sympathies to the family and friends of those deceased.

Philip Swinton (43-45) died on 6 June. He was one of five brothers to attend TAS: Campbell (32), Norman (32-35) Stuart (38-43, Phillip (43-45) and Bob (44-51). Thanks to Stuart for this information.

James Oliver Croaker Perrottet (42-47) died on 9 September. James and wife Jill were great supporters of the school and his son Hugh (84-85) attended TAS also. A service to celebrate James' life was held at St Matthews Anglican Church at Windsor on 16 September, 2013.

Sadly David Eric Lloyd (42-43) died on 24 August aged 85 years. A Thanksgiving Service was held at St Swithun's, Pymble, Sydney following a private cremation on August 29, 2013.

Norman Kensell (45-46) passed away on 9 May. Thank you to his wife Elizabeth who passed on that he loved his time at school, enjoyed receiving Binghi, and that his illness was short before he passed away at the age of 84.

Stuart Graeme White (53-54) of Wollongbar formerly of Lindfield, Sydney passed away peacefully after a long illness on 19 July aged 76 years. Stuart completed the final two years of school at The Armidale School in 1953 and 1954. He spoke highly of his time at TAS and distinguished himself with his running and other non-academic escapades. One of the more notable being when on his final year speech day he decided to test the strength of the tarpaulin roof of one of the crowd canopies by jumping onto it from the balcony above only to find himself lying unhurt on top of a pile of broken chairs while looking up through a gaping hole in the canopy. Needless to say, his father had to do some quick talking to pacify the Headmaster.

After school he went on to gain a qualification in accountancy at the North Sydney Technical College and worked in this capacity within the family business for the rest of his working life.

Thanks to his wife, Gerri, for this information and photo of Stuart in Norfolk jacket taken around 1954.

Sad to note that William Eykamp (82-86) died on 25 April in tragic circumstances. Thank you to Simon Jeffery-Bilich (83-88) for this information.

Lachlan Thomas (09) tragically died as the result of a single car accident on 20 September near Uralla.

Jock William Perkins (04-09) 26/01/1992 to 21/07/2013

Jock's early education was at Hernani Public School then in 2004 he began his secondary education at TAS. He loved the camaraderie of TAS particularly the Croft House spirit. Tennis, squash, football, Fiji Orphanage visit, Round Square exchange in Canada, lifesaving, Pioneers, these are some of the activities he enjoyed as a boader. Jock was a vice captain of Croft House in Year 12.

In February 2009, Jock was diagnosed with a rare brain tumour. He had successful surgery and was in Sydney for six months for follow up treatment. He was determined to finish his HSC and walk out the gates with his mates. Jock's dedication to his academic work led to admission into university. His friends admired him for his resilience and courage in dealing with cancer, however, he was inspired to be so positive by his friends. The large numbers of 2009 leavers who came to his memorial service was testament to the school spirit and mateship of his peer group.

Jock was fortunate to enjoy two years of good health after he left school. In 2010 Jock moved to Wollongong University to start his Visual Art and Graphic Design degree. He resided in International House before moving into a share house. He shared his artistic talents with backdrops to college balls and other activities. While at TAS, James White taught Jock how to make a paper bow tie. He wore one of these creations to a function and was awarded “best dressed”. His university friends all arrived at his memorial service wearing Jock’s badge of honour, the paper bow tie.

In 2011 Jock entered the National Student Art Show and was fortunate to win the competition.

Jock loved and valued his family and friends – he will be remembered for his quiet determination, courage, sense of fairness and friendships, joy of travel and food, quirky sense of humour and love of art.

On 27 July 2013 a large crowd assembled at the Hoskins centre to celebrate the “Life of Jock – what a beautiful difference a single life has made”.

Here and There

Michael Taylor (89-94) began his love of kayaking at TAS and is still enjoying it. He met up with Thomas Bedford (96-05) at an extreme kayak race in Tasmania last October on the Leah River.

He writes, “of interest may also be a first descent I lead down the local Gara Gorge where many a TAS boy has been swimming or exploring on the weekends during summer. In March last year after a few years in the planning two other paddlers and myself paddled down through the first couple of kilometres of gorge finishing below a descent down
the seven metre waterfall near a rock buttress known as The Fortress, about 200m upstream from where the old hydro scheme ended in the base of the gorge. There are plans to do the rest but we may have to wait a while again for the right conditions. We posted a short video on Vimeo which probably describes the trip better: http://vimeo.com/51519709. Might be of interest to those adventurous TAS boys who remember rock hopping around in the gorge. I often bump into TAS old boys around the country and overseas that got their start in kayaking at TAS."

Another incredible kayaking story belongs to Will Forsythe (94-04). Will was down-and-out with a shoulder injury and missed his chance at AIS funding to compete in Europe. But as soon as he got the OK from his doctor he whipped up an awesome campaign to support his mission, he reached his funding target and was able to travel to Europe to compete. Will finished 16th in the world, his best ever World Championship result and after everything that this year has entailed he couldn’t be happier.

Robert Patterson (72-79), Nick Tooth (72-79), John Steuart (61-65), David Pilcher (57-63), Charles Comino (46-50), Mark Rodger (TSS) Peter Williams (62-67) and Bob Adams (55-61) represented TAS in the GPS Old Boys Golf Day at Manly on 15 August 2013. Shore won the team event and TAS came seventh. This is an annual event played since 1932 and we need more players on the GPS Old Boys Golf Day at Manly on 15 August 2013. Shore won the team event and TAS came seventh.

Great to catch up with Nicholas Hutton (96-01) who is working in the Engineering Services Department of Gwydir Shire Council whilst studying a second Arts degree at UNE majoring in Archaeology and Paleontology. His twin Lexie (PLC) is performing at Deutsch Oper Berlin and will soon star in ‘Hoffmann’. Younger brother Benjamin (01-07) studied Arts/Business at UNE and has secured a position with an investment banking organisation.

Sebastian Petralia (96-98, 05-06) and Alicia Toigo from Ingham have announced their engagement. They are both living in Townsville and plan to marry in June 2014 in Cairns.

Andrew Dodson (88-93) checked in with us recently to let us know how his life has panned out. “After UTS and a stint at Pricewaterhouse Coopers I quit and set off on a world tour. This ended with a year working in Whistler where I shared a flat with Jonathan Keating (86-91 Croft). I met an English girl on the mountain and fast forward 13 years and am now married, living south of London and working for Lloyds Retail Bank. Over those years, there was a theme of travelling, working in Retail banks and captaining a London hockey team. Have been occupied this last couple of years with two boys (4 and 3) and a little girl (2) to keep Dabs and I busy. Life is grand.”

Congratulations

Congratulations to Paul Barratt (56-60) who has been elected to the Board of the University of New England Foundation for a third term.

Congratulations to Matthew Carter (87-92) of Myall Springs, Rangari, NSW on being recognised as the Livestock Producer of the Year in the 2013 ABC Rural and Kondinin Group Australian Farmer of the Year competition. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the innovation and leadership of individual farmers and family farm businesses around Australia.

TAS OBU AGM

At the OBU annual general meeting on 24 September, Ian Johnstone (51-55) was made an Honorary Life Vice President of the OBU for his rich service to the school and the OBU.

The current executive were returned, with Mark Berry (77-79), Tim Hughes (78-82) and Alistair Fenwicke (69-74) all commencing their second terms as, respectively, President, Secretary and Treasurer. New members of the committee are Ben Ryan (84-89), Greig Stier (79-84) and Rob Pollard (77-84).

Meanwhile at the AGM of the OBU’s Sydney Branch, held at the Willoughby Hotel on 13 August, Andrew Erratt (74-79) was elected the new President with Adrian Skegg (78-82) as Vice President and Paddy Flower (62-63) Secretary/Treasurer.

GPSOBU Dubbo Reunion

The GPSOBU Council is planning a combined GPS reunion in Dubbo on Monday 16 November at 7.00pm. Guest speaker will be the former Headmaster of Shore, Mr Bob Grant (staff 64-67). For more information, or to book a table (of eight) please contact Ric Gough (53-57) on 02 6882 4264 or rgou7595@westnet.com.au

TAS OBU Long Lunch

The Sydney Old Boys are planning a Long Lunch on Friday 29 November in the Sporter’s Bar at the Menzies Sydney, Carrington Street at 12.30pm. David Morrow will interview Friends of TAS. Contact Andrew Erratt for further information: andrew.erratt@bigpond.com

Apologies to all who sent in information for the OBU Notes but with Old Boys Weekend taking up space I am unable to run them till next edition. - Ed.
The Old Boys Weekend, August 23-25 was one of the biggest and best for many years, with hundreds of old boys re-acquainting themselves, swapping stories, embellishing memories and enjoying the camaraderie the weekend is famous for.

Above from the left are Ric Hall (60-63), John Childs (59-64), Lynne and Dick Atkinson (58-63) appreciating one of John’s many stories of life at TAS in the early 60s - that will be the one about Phil Francis’ (59-63) ginger beer exploding at Meadowfield.

Festivities ‘teed-off’ on Friday with lunch and an ambrose golf event attended by 36 golfers, including two teams of special guests from King’s OBU.

On Friday evening the official opening of the Old Boys weekend was held at the Hoskins Centre at TAS. Mark Berry (77-79) President of the OBU welcomed a large crowd of old boys to what promised to be an event filled time for them.

Old Boy James White (58-63) verified that “this is a good read” when he introduced Richard Wright (56-64) and his book Hold Fast: the history, heritage and the challenges of life for a primary producer heading into the 21st century. Ric explained, “the purpose of this book is not to expose villains or heroes necessarily, but to highlight the optimism that can abound with a strong base of good livestock and land in Australia”.

Richard presented a copy of his book to the Headmaster Murray Guest who responded with thanks. ‘Hold Fast’ is available at www.hold-fast.com.au
THE DEBATE

2013 will also be remembered for the revival of the debating competition (last held some 20 years ago), Old Boys versus the School. A very entertaining debate saw the school pitted against old boys Angus Grigg, Sebastian Hempel and Tim Hughes - the topic "The older you are the better you get?" In a closely fought contest the school took out the debate by just two points!

Saturday morning saw more laughs as the 20 year reunion group enjoyed breakfast in the Dining Hall – complete with cornballs. No longer a feature of TAS breakfast’s the cornballs were resurrected and placed on the current menu to much acclaim.

Throughout Saturday the old boys competed against the school in various sports for the Croft Cup. The school won the shooting and debating, and the old boys the tennis, touch football, tug-of-war and football (soccer) - thus retaining possession of the Croft Cup.

THE STORY OF THE ROPE

A number of years ago the rope used for the tug-of-war died. The Old Boys agreed to provide a new one! Not such an easy task as it seemed. The rope could not be synthetic because it would burn hands, it also needed to be the right thickness and length. Buck passing ensued and the task eventually fell to John Steuart (61-65) seen left, whose father “Skipper” John Steuart (34-38) passed away in 2005 and had been a Master Mariner in the merchant navy and would have ‘connections’. Amazingly John was able to make the right contacts and after ‘negotiations’, mysteriously, a length of beautiful hemp rope appeared. However the plot thickens – the rope was too long. To cut it to the required 20 metres would require it being spliced, did splicers still exist?

Undeterred John, in Sydney, found a splicer in Brisbane, his dad’s old seafaring mate Eric Carter (34-38). So he bundled the rope into the car and drove to Robbie Mackenzie’s (57-65) at Llangothlin and met Eric the splicer halfway from Brisbane. The job done the rope was presented to TAS in memory of “Skipper” at the Old Boys weekend in 2006 with the required length and to the best of my knowledge the rest of the rope is still in Robbie Mackenzie’s shearing shed.

Forty year leavers from the left: Peter Cousens (69-73), David Hartog (68-71), Rob Perkins (68-73), Peter Sanders (66-73) and Guy Davidson (72-73) enjoyed catching up before the reunion dinner got underway.

THE 40 YEAR REUNION GROUP
On Saturday evening the five, 10, 20 and 30 year leavers enjoyed dinners at various venues around Armidale. Meanwhile predinner drinks were on offer in Big School for the 40, 45, 50 and 60 plus reunion groups.

REUNION DRINKS

The reunion dinner in the School Dining Hall was a big success with some 200 guests in attendance. Alan Bell addressed the guests with a humorous and fascinating talk on his days at TAS and subsequent time in the AJC.

Twenty year leaver Rod Farraway (87-93), now Assistant Chaplain at Cranbrook School, delivered the sermon at Chapel on Sunday, before the annual Passing Out Parade was held in magnificent sunny weather.

The weekend again showcased the enduring links across the generations: Paddy Flower (62-63) and son Alistair (88-93) organised, respectively, their 50 and 20 year reunions; Bill Hays’ links continue with two great-great nephews currently at the school, while the oldest Old Boy at the dinner, 70-year leaver Bill Hughes (41-43), had the pleasure of being waited upon at table by a grandson who was one of 10 boys who volunteered their time to help at the dinner. It was truly a wonderful combined OBU and School event.