



TAS
THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

binghi

TERM 2 2023



INSIDE:

DA VINCI SUCCESS

Three teams to
NSW final

CLOSE SHAVE

Thousands raised
for Leukaemia

SCHOLARSHIPS LAUNCHED

TAS Foundation
hosts gala affair

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Principal	2
Founders Day	3
Academic life	
Ethics Olympiad	4
Sydney Careers Expo	4
da Vinci Decathlon	5
Co-curricular life	
Broad success at Armidale Eisteddfod	6
Musicians play with London's best	6
Inter-house competitions alive and well	7
Mountain Bikers win schools' event	8
Hockey, Rugby reps play with honours	8
TAS Rugby Carnival	9
NZ Rugby Tour	9
Farrer, Sydney Boys' High fixtures	10
Equestrians compete at NW Expo	11
Legally Blonde.....	12-13
Leadership, Service & Adventure	
Anzac services pay tribute.....	14
Greatest Shave raises funds	15
Reconciliation Week observed.....	15
Middle School News	
Year 6 on a Capital excursion.....	16
Trinity Grammar visit	16
da Vinci success	17
Debaters make their case	17
Rainforest explored on Activities Day	17
Junior School News	
Brainiacs find their form	18
Crunchtime for Anzac bikkie competition.....	18
Author inspires characters.....	18
Athletics carnival fun	19
Dance Eisteddfod.....	19
Mothers pampered for special day	19
Foundation News	
Gala event launches new scholarships	20
Farewell, Cressida Mort.....	21
Old Armidilians News	
Portraits a link to Coronation.....	21
OA Notes	22-24

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Cover: Jasper O'Neil and Grace Thompson starred in Legally Blonde The Musical (Photo: Tim Hughes)



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Round Square ethos embedded in our character

Like many things, our involvement in Round Square changed during the COVID-19 pandemic years. While meetings moved to online Zoom "postcards" and conferences became virtual, allowing continued student involvement, their effectiveness was somewhat restricted and the ability of TAS students to engage with all facets of the Round Square IDEALS was limited.

TAS has been a Round Square School association of schools since 1998, providing our students with a global lens to help prepare them as citizens of the world, regardless of their destination(s) in life. Embedding the six IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service into the life of the School through the curriculum and co-curricular activities assists us in delivering a holistic education, fostering character development, leadership skills and an understanding of international perspectives.

Adventure, building character, confidence and resilience is present in abundance at TAS, with the compulsory cadet program from Years 8 to 10 and challenge events like the Coffs Ocean Swim and Tour de Rocks at the heart of the experiences on offer. Leadership opportunities also abound, both formal; including Prefects, House Captains, the ever-active Student Representative Council and Co-curricular Captains, and informally with students leading by example and driving initiatives across the whole School.

Round Square also aims to inspire a spirit of service and social responsibility. TAS students actively contribute to the local community through service projects and initiatives, from fundraising with an emphasis on local charity initiatives such as cooking meals for the homeless to collect from Armidale Neighbourhood Centre or participation in Clean Up Australia Day, to involvement in the Rural Fire Service and Surf Lifesaving for some of our Year 11 students. Of course, these activities are intended to benefit others, but importantly for our students, they also instil a sense of empathy, gratitude, and appreciation for the different experiences of others around them. Many TAS students continue their involvement with different community organisations long after their school days.

Being a part of Round Square, our students also have the opportunity to access to a vast network of like-minded individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Student exchanges and overseas conferences (Nairobi, Kenya this September) are back on the cards this year. While these are limited to relatively few students, those who are able to participate undergo enriching experiences, broadening their outlooks and enhancing their cultural competence and bringing their new perspectives and ideas back to the TAS community.

It is hard to articulate exactly what it is that sets a TAS student, past or present, apart, but their community spirit, genuine interest and respect for others, can do attitude and leadership abilities coupled with humility are surely part of this. We are proud to be a Round Square school and to engage in activities under the IDEALS that nurture these attributes in our students.

Dr Rachel Horton

TAS THE ARMIDALE
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Founders Day

THE MANY SIDES OF ROUND SQUARE

The 25th anniversary of TAS being accepted as a full member of Round Square was commemorated at Founders Day Assembly on 6 June, offering the opportunity to reflect on and learn more about our involvement in an association involving 200 schools globally.

Student delegates to the upcoming RS International Conference in Kenya gave a presentation about the history and values of the global association; the TAS links with Round Square that go back to our first student exchanges with Gordonstoun School, Scotland in the 1960s, and a preview of the upcoming conference.

The organisation stems from the philosophy of German educator Kurt Hahn, whose belief in the role of adventure, challenge, service and international understanding led him to establish two schools, Schule Schloss Salem in Germany in 1920 and Gordonstoun, Scotland, in 1934. From this, Hahn's two schools and five others with similar values came together in 1966 to establish Round Square, named after the unique circular stable building at Gordonstoun.

Around the same time a former TAS staff member developed an association with Gordonstoun, which led to student exchanges between the two institutions, the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the formalised Activities Program that remains today, incorporating cadets, surf lifesaving and Rural Fire Service.

It was logical, then, that TAS would one day seek to become a member of Round Square, and in March 1998 TAS hosted a delegation including Round Square patron His Majesty King Constantine and His Royal Highness Prince Nikolaos of Greece, as well Round Square Executive Director Mr Terry Guest, of Canada, and his wife Sue, to assess the School's suitability. The panel witnessed a range of TAS activities that showcased the schools inclusion of the Round Square IDEALS and were joined by supporters including Old Armidalian George Souris, Deputy Leader of the National Party at the time. After meeting a plethora of TAS staff and viewing the TAS Cadets and Pioneers program out in the field from a helicopter that landed on Adamsfield, King Constantine planted a tree in a garden bed in the shape of the Round Square logo, outside Dangar House. The visit had been successful, with the panel confirming it would recommend TAS as a new member school to the Round Square Council at the annual meeting in September.

Since that time TAS students have participated in dozens of student exchanges; national, regional and international conferences (including a number at TAS) and Round Square service projects. During COVID Round Square activities were restricted to online mini-conferences and 'postcard' seminars. Post pandemic, six students will attend the Round Square International Conference hosted by Brookhouse School, Kenya in October, and interviews are underway for student exchanges in Term 4 and beyond – a wonderful development in our 25th year as a Round Square school.



King Constantine and Mr Terry Guest chat with cadets Daniel Bromley and Matt Wysel during their visit in 1998



RS Coordinators Mr Todd Currell and Miss Belinda Macri are pictured with delegates James Collum, Abbott White, Bella Farnace, Neve Elliott (absent were Henry Kirton and Bella Lucas) at the Round Square garden with a tree planted by RS Patron King Constantine of Greece, in 1998.



Across the school students enjoyed Round Square birthday cake for Founders Day

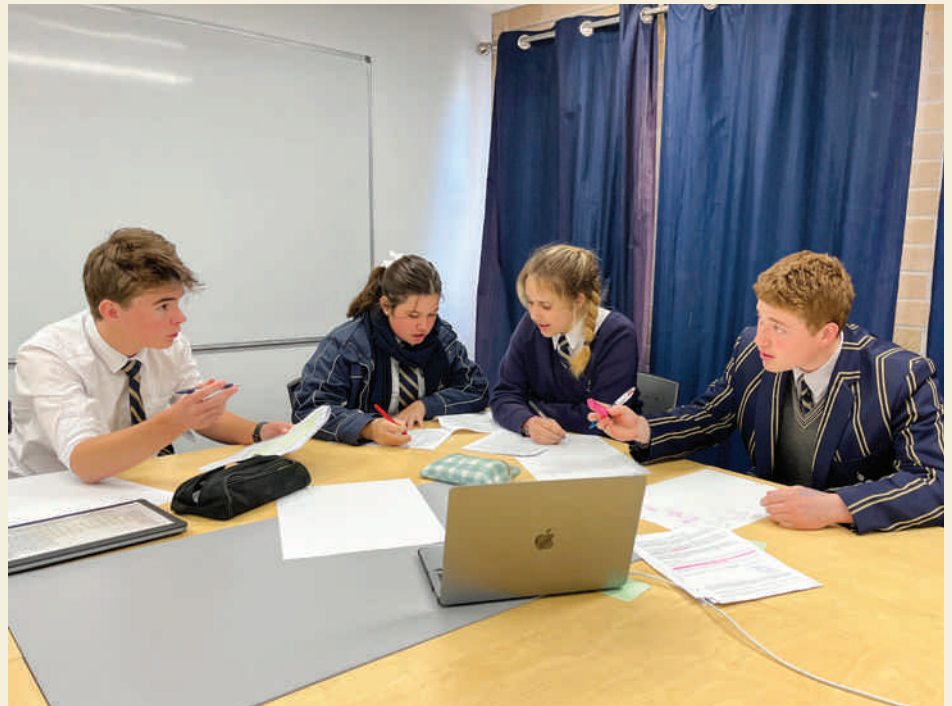


Reading the moral compass

Year 11 students William Gilpin, Bella Fernance, Abigail Thompson, Martin Shankland and Holly Dauparas spent some time this term researching various topics ahead of the State heat of the Ethics Olympiad, held online on 30 May. Working together, the 'eth-letes' competed against teams from other NSW schools to come up with the best possible answer to current, ethical questions. These included death & taxes, 'look-ism' and cosmetic surgery; bullfighting - art or not; National Service; symbolic genital mutilation, and vegetarianism v tradition. It was the first time TAS has competed in Olympiad and adds to a suite of academic extension opportunities for students that includes the da Vinci Decathlon, Forensic Science Camp and National Virtual Debating.

"It was really fun. The team worked well together, and even though we didn't win through to the state final it was a terrific opportunity," William said.

"The topics were incredibly interesting, with the other schools providing thoughtful insights and provocative comments on our perspectives that allowed all of us to consider different approaches and reference points."



William Gilpin, Bella Fernance, Abigail Thompson, Martin Shankland and Holly Dauparas (absent from photo) work through one of the ethical scenarios



Exploring sandstone opportunities

Year 12 students had a look into their possible futures in the wider world on 2 June, attending the Sydney HSC Careers Expo at Randwick and taking a tour of the University of Sydney. A highlight was a tour of St Andrew's, St Paul's and Wesley Colleges, where they learnt about the extraordinary academic, sporting, cultural and social opportunities of residential life. Old Armidaliens Henry Mitchell (Andrew's), John McGregor-Thew and Nick O'Neil (Wesley) were on hand to share their experiences at both their colleges and at Australia's oldest university.

Year 12 students enjoyed a tour of the University of Sydney



Memorial Hall was filled with bright young minds at the 11th da Vinci Decathlon

da Vinci Decathlon

BRINGS BRIGHT STUDENTS TO ARMIDALE

Chaos reigned supreme at this year's Northern NSW da Vinci Decathlon – in theory, at any rate.

Whether it be the so-called butterfly effect; ways in which communities recover from natural disasters or how civil societies avoid falling into anarchy, 'chaos' was the theme of each of ten challenges that made up the 11th Decathlon at TAS, held from 15-17 May.

"The Science and Maths modules were presented in a way they wouldn't be in the classroom, and that makes it more interesting and challenging," said Hugo Li, a member of the winning Year 10 TAS team, one of three host teams which won their divisions.

Added teammate Stella Maroulis: "Because it's a competition with a wide range of challenges across disciplines rather than a single subject, everyone on the team has their own skills, but they need to work together for the one outcome."

Around 400 boys and girls from 13 department, independent and Catholic primary and secondary schools from across the region took part over the three days. Working in teams, they tackled challenges within the subject areas of Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Ideation (identifying creative ways to solve an issue facing contemporary society), Creative Producers, Cartography and Legacy (general knowledge of notable historical people and events). There were also novelty quizzes to entertain.

The competition was developed by Knox Grammar School in Sydney in 2002. TAS has been partnering with Knox for 11 years to deliver it to students from primary and secondary schools from across the region. It was the most successful Decathlon yet for TAS, which placed first in the Year 5 division, third in Year 7, first in Year 8 and first and second, in Year 10. The winning teams from each year group have now qualified for the State final, to be held at Knox later in the year.



Sam Swain and Richard Ma (Year 8) work on one of the challenges



The winning Year 10 team – (back row) Angus Swales, Oscar Donoghue, Jack Coddington, Hugo Li, Lang Toakley, (front) Sophie Hardin, Nina Deshon and Stella Maroulis are off to the State final

Armidale Eisteddfod showcases TAS music success

The music program at TAS was showcased magnificently at the annual Armidale Eisteddfod where our students and staff dominated in a broad range of individual and ensemble categories. While individual achievements are too numerous to mention here, TAS vocal and instrumental ensembles received accolades for their musicality and repertoire.

At Choir Night the TAS Senior Choir took out two highly coveted awards, the Choir 19 Years and Under (The Paul Lamb Memorial Shield) and the prestigious New England Choral Championship Open (The Cecil Hill Memorial Shield), the latter for the first time in a number of years.

Strings and chamber ensemble success included wins by the TAS Brahms Trio (Chamber Ensemble Open), TAS String Trio (Bowed Instrument Ensemble Years 7-12) and TAS Camerata, each coming away with shields.

At Band Night TAS ensembles won more awards than any other music group. The TAS Senior Concert Band were awarded a first and second place while the TAS Senior Jazz Combo won the Jazz Ensemble Open Group event for a performance that scored the highest marks on the night and duly earned them a feature spot at the gala concert which wraps up the Eisteddfod.

Just as important as the considerable success in competitive events was the participation of so many students in non-competitive sections. Particularly for those in Junior School who sang, played and recited, the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and adjudicator was a significant achievement in itself, showing courage and developing confidence.



The Senior Jazz Combo with their trophy haul from Eisteddfod



Sam Guppy full of concentration

Musicians play with London Symphony Orchestra maestros



Siblings Abby Thompson (Year 11) and Peter Thompson (Year 8) had the experience of a lifetime in the first week of term playing alongside some of the best British musicians at the NSW Regional Youth Orchestra (RYO) London Symphony Orchestra Project in Sydney. The pair, both cellists, were amongst selected musicians from RYO NSW who joined forces with members of the London Symphony Orchestra to perform a programme of diverse repertoire featuring works by Ethel Smyth, Edward Elgar, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Ayanna Witter-Johnson and more at the Sydney Opera House. During the week they experienced being conducted by the great Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE, with Abby leading the cello section under his baton. A fortnight earlier, during the school holidays, Abby and Peter along with Holly Dauparas (bassoon), Andi Li (violin) and Olive Lockett (double bass) joined Sydney Youth Orchestras for a week-long Youth Orchestral Camp, held at TAS. The five musicians each joined one of the SYO's orchestras for the week, giving them the opportunity to stay, rehearse and perform alongside SYO musicians, conductors and instrumental tutors. A flagship of SYO's 50th-year celebrations, the Youth Orchestral Camp brought more than 250 young musicians to Armidale. At the conclusion of the camp the four different orchestras performed across the region, including concerts in Armidale, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Quirindi and Werris Creek.



London Symphony Orchestra conductor Sir Simon Rattle conducts Abby Thompon as lead cellist

Friendly house rivalry crosses disciplines

Active bodies and active minds - inter-house competition continued this term in athletics, creative arts and debating. At the Senior Athletics Championships on 26 May students ran, leapt, jumped and threw with plenty of enthusiasm and spirit. Despite cold and blistery conditions eight girls' records were broken, by Olivia Colyvas (12 years shot put), Ella Bach (12 years 100m), Narlee Bird (13 years 100m and equalled 200m), Zana Ross (13 years 800m), Ashlee Morgan (14 years 200m), Tilly Rogers (14 years 100m) and Olivia Cannington (senior 1500m). Tyrrell took out the points per house member trophy, while the winner of the Archdale Cup for overall point score was Abbott.



It had been more pleasant earlier in the week for the annual Cloisters Run, a thrilling relay throughout the heart of the school which begins and finishes in Lawrance Quadrangle. Ross House crossed the line first in the girls' event, whilst it was Abbott that won the boys'.

The highly-anticipated Lip-Sync component of the Inter-house Creative Arts competition for the Cash Cup were screened at assembly on 9 May, with Memorial Hall ringing with laughter and house spirit. The theme, 'kings and queens' was stylistically interpreted and ultimately, it was Croft House who took the Lip Sync crown as well as the Cash Cup overall.

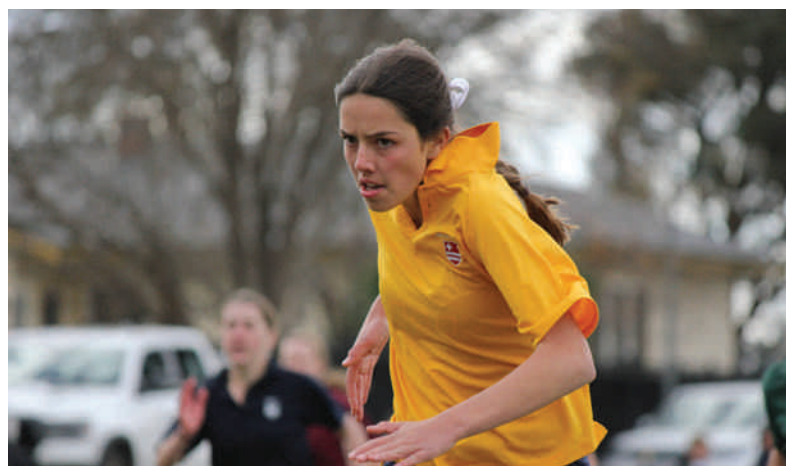


Spirit was also a highlight of inter-house debating, with animation, passion and persuasion evident as teams confronted topics on current affairs issues including the threat of artificial intelligence, the tax system in Australia, Euthanasia, and the role of policing youth in marginalised communities. Ultimately the final came down to a clash between Tyrrell and Croft, with the maroon team successfully arguing against the banning of gambling advertising in Australia, instead arguing for more education and tighter regulation.

Top Right: Oscar Saunders flies along the pavement for Croft House in the Cloisters Run

Middle Right: Tess Ford, Sarskia Clark and Bella Fernance in a scene from Croft's Cash Cup 'Lip Sync'

Right: Tilly Rogers storms home to set a new record in the 14 year girls 100m



Winning the Senior School Inter-house debating was Tyrrell team of Ali Kealey, Martin Shankland, Johnathon Phelps and Meg Kealey



Mountain Bikers take schools' titles

While Mountain Biking is out of season for TAS, an enthusiastic team of riders worked around their winter sports schedules to make their mark at two inter-school events this term. Twenty four students competed at the Tamworth All-Schools Mountain Bike Team Event on 13 May finishing with some outstanding results. Teams of three tackled a highly technical single track, completing as many laps as possible in three hours. There were several podiums on the day including first and second placings in the Year 9/10 boys; a Year 9/10 mixed team came third, while senior riders had a field day, taking top honours in both the men's Year 11-12 and the Year 11-12 mixed events. All riders gained points which contributed to TAS retaining the overall champion school trophy.

A month later they competed at the NSW MTB Schools Series Round 3 races held at Jenny Nose Mountain Bike Park, Port Macquarie on 16 June, with Opens riders gaining several podium finishes. In the U19s girls Cross Country race Bethan Palfreyman achieved first place and Emily Benham third while in the Funduro event Bethan was first and Emily finished second. It was a TAS trifecta in the boys' U19 Cross Country and Funduro races, with Abbott White first, Oscar Macfarlane second and Thomas Dundon third in the Cross Country, and in the Funduro, Thomas first, Abbott second and Oscar placing third. More broadly, TAS won the school points score for both Funduro and Cross Country and came first (from 15) in the schools' point score.



Emily Benham set a flying pace to take out, with teammates Oscar MacFarlane and Max Rogers, the mixed Year 11-12 division at the Tamworth All Schools event



More representative honours for hockey players

Several TAS students are making a name for themselves in the hockey world, representing their school and state at high levels of competition. Year 11 student Lennox Neilson played for the Opens Combined Independent Schools side which competed at the NSW All Schools championships in June and he was named in the Hockey NSW Athlete Acceleration Program for 2023-24. This program, developed in partnership with the NSW Institute of Sport and Hockey Australia, develops players on and off the field to help advance their skills to the elite level.



Meanwhile Luke Schmude played in the U16s CIS team at All Schools, with Elijah Love being named as a shadow reserve. In addition both Year 9 boys have been selected in the U16 Hockey NSW field side for 2023/24, following their performance at the U15 state championships held in Wagga Wagga on 26-28 May. Joining them in the equivalent girls field squad for 2023/24 are Ashlee Morgan and Mosie Wright who were selected following their performance at the U15 girls state championships.

Top: Elijah Love, Lennox Neilson and Luke Schmude

Left: Ashlee Morgan and Mosie Wright

Rugby rep honours for senior players

Four Opens rugby players have been donning representative jerseys through various pathways. Captain of Rugby, second rower Fred Kearney, spent the last week of term playing against and alongside some of the best talent in NSW following his selection into the Combined AAGPS Second XV. At the State Championships on the June long weekend the team had a strong 21-7 win over Combined Associated Schools (CAS) 2 at Knox Grammar on 20 June and backed it up with a 43-7 victory against Independent Schools Association (ISA) 2 at Eric Tweedale Stadium, Merrylands, on 23 June. Callan Lawrence and Angus Ditchfield also played at the State Championships for NSW Country 18s, with Angus then being named in NSW Under 18s Barbarians that played at the Australian Schoolboy Championships from 3-7 July where they defeated ACT 40-14 before losses to NSW Junior 18s and NSW 2. Meanwhile Matilda Magyar is the first TAS girl to have been selected into NSW Country U18's girls team. Callan, Angus and Matilda will all play for Country against City in Maitland on 22-23 July.

Right: Opens rugby representatives Matilda Magyar, Callan Lawrence, Fred Kearney and Angus Ditchfield



Dalby, TAS share the top honour at TAS RUGBY CARNIVAL

Club and school teams from city, coast and country shared the titles across divisions at the 17th TAS Rugby Carnival which attracted thousands to Armidale on 22-23 April.

If it was about the numbers, 125 games were played over the weekend on eight school fields by 53 teams competing in the Under 12 fifteen-a-side competition and girls' Sevens tournament in 14s and 16s age groups.

However it was sportsmanship on and off the field, rather than the scoreboard, which determined the winner of the premier award, the Canterbury Team of the Carnival, this year jointly awarded to Dalby Wheatmen under 12s and TAS White under 16s.

Of the 35 teams in the under 12s competition it was an all-school final, with Nudgee College, Brisbane, taking out the top division against Sydney's The Scots College. Newcastle-based club Merewether Carlton finished top of the table of eight teams in the under 16s girls, while Gordon JRU Club from Sydney secured the under 14s title, from ten teams taking part.

In the Spirit of Rugby team relays, watched by thousands lining TAS Backfield, a team of four runners from St Patrick's College Strathfield crossed the line first in the under 12s; Merewether Carlton had the speed to take out the 16s girls while Matthew Flinders Anglican College from the Sunshine Coast won the 14s girls.

The carnival was not just about developing junior rugby players; 24 young referees officiated across the fixtures, under the eye of referee coaches who provided feedback.



Raij Zaphar from carnival sponsor Canterbury presents the Team of the Carnival trophy to Charlotte Colquhoun and Angus Paffey from Dalby Wheatmen and Poppy Hall and Stella Maroulis from TAS.



Far left: Charles Bolch is full of determination for TAS against Moree Junior Bulls

Left: Sophia Lawrence of TAS palms off an attacker from Gordon in the under 16s competition

NZ Development tour built skills and spirit

More games were lost than won against three noted All Blacks nurseries, but the real results of this year's rugby development tour to New Zealand's South Island is best measured in the development and growth of 45 boys as individuals, players, and teams.

Held during the April school holidays, the tour of 16s and Opens players started at Christchurch Boys' High School where players spent a day training with elite Crusaders and Canterbury coaches, learning new aspects of the game and useful skills. The sessions included a breakfast with Crusaders and All Blacks player Ethan Blackadder, and Crusaders newbie, Sione Havili Talitui. The hosts proved to be too strong for the TAS teams despite their physicality.

After activities including paintball, go-karting and cultural experiences, the group headed south to Timaru to play Roncalli College, with the 16s holding their own against a much larger opposition, and the Opens closing their ledger with a loss by just three points.

Onwards to Queenstown for a few days of skiing, jet-boating and riding the skyline before heading north to Wanaka for the third and final game against Mount Aspiring College. The 16s pulled together all of the skills they had learnt over the tour and had a convincing win however the Opens were unable to match their fresher opponents. Regardless of the scoreboards, it was a tremendous experience for the players, parents and staff who took part.



Louis Ross shows determination against Mt Aspiring College





Silverware shared

IN HIGH, FARRER COMPETITIONS

TAS and Farrer met in hockey for the first time as part of the multi-fixture competition

School spirit and sportsmanship were thick on the ground but the silverware was shared at two annual inter-school, multi-fixture competitions hosted by TAS in Term 2.

Around 220 students and 15 staff from Sydney Boys' High made the annual pilgrimage to the New England tablelands for 'High Weekend' on 19-20 May. High got off to a strong start in the gym on the Friday night, winning both the Opens volleyball and Years 9/10 and Opens basketball fixtures. TAS fared better in the Opens football clash under lights at Doody Park, taking the game 2-1. High countered on Saturday with a clean sweep of the junior and senior tennis and under 14s and under 16s football clashes, while TAS won back the Tank Shell Shield in small-bore shooting, comprising both deliberate and rapid-fire formats.

Below: Mr Dick Hodgson presented the Shield bearing his name to Farrer captain Tom Maxey, who was also presented with the Jim Levy First XV Challenge Shield by TAS rugby captain Fred Kearney

The hosts had the day on the rugby paddock, winning all six divisions from 13s to Opens, culminating in the First XV clash which was the season opener of the GPS Third Grade competition, TAS taking the scoreboard 17-5. A rugby relay comprising four runners from each team also went to the hosts. While High were stronger in a majority of sports, TAS won more competitions and thus retained the Hannon Harris Cup.

However it was Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School which took home the trophies for the annual suite of competitions, this year hosted by TAS on 8 June.

In the junior and senior basketball it was a clean sweep to Farrer, while TAS won both divisions in chess. Hockey, played for the first time, was an exciting clash with the visitors claiming the goals, 2-1.

It was a score to be repeated in each of three football matches; Farrer claiming the 13s and 15s, while TAS savoured victory in the Opens.

At Meadowfield Rifle Range TAS hit their target to take the match. The senior debating also went to TAS but the junior clash went to Farrer. On the rugby field the highlanders were outdone, only winning the Second XV fixture and going down to Farrer in the 13s, 15s, 16s and Firsts (7-0) – thus also claiming, from TAS the Jim Levy First XV Challenge Shield. Former TAS Sportsmaster Dick Hodgson was on hand to present the Shield named in his honour to Farrer for taking the majority of fixtures.

In an evolution of the day, TAS also enjoyed competing against NEGS and Calrossy in seven fixtures in netball and rugby at TAS, and in hockey at NEGS. In the clashes with NEGS, TAS won both netball games and drew both hockey matches. Calrossy defeated TAS in 16Bs rugby with TAS getting the points in both the 14s and 16s girls' rugby.



TAS play Sydney Boys' High

Saddling up at Coona

A team of 21 riders and numerous supportive parents saddled up as the fourth largest team at this year's North West Equestrian Expo, held at Coonabarabran from 2-6 June. The largest and oldest inter-school equestrian event in the nation again attracted more than 500 riders on 600 horses representing around 100 schools from NSW, Queensland and the ACT.

Over five days, students competed in dressage, showjumping, cross country, polocrosse, stock horse challenges, parades and gymkhana events. Another event, the Pentathlon, required running, mountain biking and javelin throwing skills as well as showjumping and horsemanship to be competitive.

Top line team results for TAS included winning the team 6 bar, the team Hunt and the Division 1 C grade Polocrosse. Jess Emmery took out reserve champion girl (13 years) and champion 80cm showjumper; Sam Kelly was reserve champion boy (14 years); Charlotte Pease as Astro Showjumping champion and Brooke Taylor won champion Galloway. However the event offered more than just ribbons, Equestrian Co-Captain Charlotte Pease said.

"Preparing to ride horses in the wide variety of disciplines available provides something for all skill levels and requires hours of training and commitment. We all learnt to look after a live animal as well as dig deep for resilience, patience and perseverance."

Ahead of the event riders took part in five whole-team training days on weekends and had private coaching sessions in their specialist areas in addition to hours working their horses and keeping them fit and healthy.

"Riding horses over almost a week at a venue five hours away from where most of us live would not be possible without hours of planning and coordinating by our parents, our chief coach Mrs Miriam Henry and our MIC Equestrian, Ms Low who we sadly farewellled and thanked at the end of Expo," Charlotte said.

Jess Emmery clears a jump



Dr Horton with riders Jonathon Phelps, Charlie Ward and Robin Henry



Team spirit – Charlie Ward, Jonathon Phelps, Robin Henry and Charlotte Pease



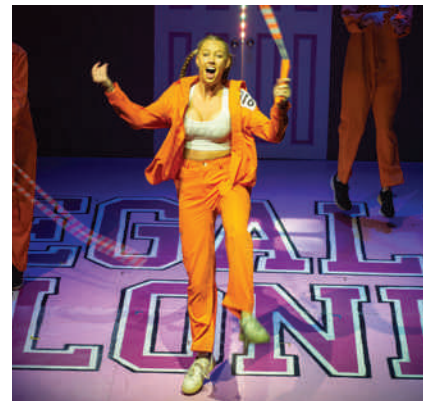
Legally Blonde

WAS A CHEER LEADER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Toe tappingly terrific and very, very pink – Legally Blonde The Musical burst onto the stage for four magnificent performances in May, delighting all who were fortunate enough to get tickets.

The musical – based on the popular 2001 movie and novel by Amanda Brown – tells the story of fashionista Elle Woods, who attempts to win back her boyfriend Warner Huntington III after he dumps her for not considering her ‘serious’ enough for his parliamentary ambitions. Determined to prove him wrong, she gains entry into Harvard Law School, triumphs in a law case, remains true to herself and instead finds love with the tutor who became her strongest advocate.

Rehearsals started in Term 4 last year with strong student agency, most notably Chelsea Bourke and Matilda Morse for their outstanding choreography of a show filled with dancing and Isabella Banister and Lucy Crowley as assistant directors. A highlight of the season was a special gala performance hosted by the TAS Foundation to launch Creative Arts scholarships (see more page 20).



Clockwise from top left: Samuel Krishnan played Nikos; In the Beauty Salon; Chelsea Bourke played Brooke Wyndham and also choreographed the show; Will Nash as Warner Huntinton III with Grace Thompson as Elle Woods



Top left: Bella Fernance permed up as Chutney Wyndham; Oliver Morse delivered the goods as Kyle B O'Boyle

Middle: Claude Toakley (Professor Callahan) with Meave Churchyard (Enid Hoops); Netty Whysall played Vivienne Kensington; Belle Meyer (Paulette Buonofonte) with Grace Thompson (Elle Woods)

Bottom: Jasper O'Neil (Emmett Forrest) and members of the 'Greek Chorus'



Anzac Day

LEST WE FORGET

TAS students were honoured to have a significant role in Anzac Day services across Armidale on 25 April. The ceremonial guard provided the catafalque party at Dangarsleigh and the main Armidale services; the TAS cadet band led more than 60 cadets who marched in the parade despite it still being officially school holidays and members of the unit performed as part of New England Singers.

The next day – the first of Term 2 – the annual TAS Anzac Service was conducted from Memorial Hall. Guest of Honour Professor Cameron Moore (OA 83-88, CDR RAN Reserve) gave a thought-provoking address on the ANZAC message in a time of global insecurity. He challenged those attending to reflect on authentic heroism and the realities of human behaviour in times of war; urged students to think about what they can do to address the flaws in society and how they can help others; be willing to make sacrifices to achieve that - but in all of it, to live in hope. The performance of the Guard and Professor Moore's address were backgrounded by 103 white timber crosses laid on Adamsfield that represent the Old Boys and staff who made the ultimate sacrifice, whose names were read out by the Senior Prefects. (TAS thanks Timberline for the construction of the crosses. (For a copy of Professor Moore's speech contact the editor.)



White crosses representing the fallen were a new addition to the School's service



Baxter Williams, Stella Maroulis and James Palfreyman at Dangarsleigh



OC Cadets Johnathon Woodbridge, CUO Callan Lawrence, Professor Cameron Moore and Principal Dr Rachel Horton

Left: Silblings Emily and Angus Benham were part of the Guard in Central Park

Losing their locks for Leukaemia

Their hair may be starting to grow back and the rough-looking trims less noticeable, but the Year 12 students who took part in this year's World's Greatest Shave have raised funds and awareness for a worthy cause that will not be disappearing anytime soon.

This year the prefects opened up the annual event which supports the Leukaemia Foundation to any Year 12 student able to raise \$250, but it was clear very early on that their initial goal of \$10,000 would be exceeded. With fundraising led by Toby Inglis (more than \$2000), Charlie McDouall and Wylie Wright (\$1,000) the final amount was \$13,500. In thanking students for their support, Senior Prefect Fred Kearney said it would have a significant impact.

"This amount of money has allowed for over 400 information packs to be distributed to families to help them understand the challenges and steps with their diagnosis, or cover 164 nights of accommodation for families who have had to relocate for life saving treatment, or provide 20 weeks of free transport for ill people who have to drive to and from hospital for chemotherapy treatment, or six months of a funded laboratory project to research better ways to treat blood cancer, or a scholarship for a PHD student working on breakthrough treatment for three months," he said.

"The effort of our students may not be recognised by all, but it is by the 53 Australians who are diagnosed with a blood related cancer each day."

Apart from the money, the hair has gone to a good cause too. The girls donated enough ponytails to create two wigs for leukemia patients suffering medically induced hair loss.



Fred Kearney, Eve Muirhead, Sofia Paris and Callan Lawrence launch this year's Greatest Shave event



Ben Hall takes the clippers to classmate Ben Poole



Polly Skipper won the right to shave the head of Pierre Morcellet

Reconciliation Week

OBSERVED



Ahead of Reconciliation Week the TAS Firsts teams in rugby, football and netball wore jerseys and bibs specially designed by Anaiwan man Nick Levy for the School's 'Indigenous Round' against Sydney Boys' High and in local competitions on 19-20 May. Gomeri man Bob Blair carried out a smoking ceremony before both the Opens Football at Doody Park and First XV matches v High on Backfield, and a player from each TAS team made an Acknowledgement of Country at all three fixtures. In Assembly the following week Year 12 students Sarskia Clarke and Harrison Miller spoke about Reconciliation Week and were presented with badges recognising their role as Indigenous Student Leaders. Representatives from Senior, Middle and Junior School also joined members of the community to help create a giant Sea of Hands at UNE on 1 June as part of National Reconciliation Week activities. Reconciliation will also be celebrated at a special NAIDOC Week assembly in Term 3 (NAIDOC Week itself falling during the winter school holidays).



Bob Blair conducts a smoking ceremony before the rugby match against Sydney Boys' High

MIDDLE SCHOOL news

Capital visit unpacks democracy

Year 6 gained an important insight into the workings of democracy – one of the Round Square IDEALS – when they visited Canberra in the second week of term. Starting with the trampoline centre FlipOut, always a good way to expend built up energy from the bus trip, their packed schedule included visits to the National Mint, Parliament House and the National Gallery. At Old Parliament House students discussed the dismissal of the Whitlam government to explain the roles concepts of the parliament and the executive, while at the Australian War Memorial a wreath was laid in memory of TAS Old Boys who died in service. Students also scoured the names of the fallen in the wall of memory and placed poppies beside relatives. The National Arboretum, CSIRO Discovery Centre, National Museum, Australian Institute of Sport and a night tour of the National Dinosaur Museum were other highlights.

At the Australian War Memorial students lay a wreath in the Hall of Memory, decorated by the artist Napier Waller who designed the three stained glass windows in Memorial Hall



Trinity Grammar touch down

Once again TAS was delighted to host Trinity Grammar Prep from Sydney in the last week of Term 2 as part of their annual Year 6 regional rugby and football tour. While the visitors won both fixtures, the TAS boys and girls had fantastic games and appreciated the opportunity to play a large city school.



da Vinci team to State finals

Working together and using the skills of each team member wisely – these were the ingredients to success for the TAS team that won the Year 8 division at the 11th Northern NSW da Vinci on 15 May. Over the course of the day they tackled challenges within the subject areas of Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Ideation (identifying creative ways to solve an issue facing contemporary society), Creative Producers, Cartography and Legacy (general knowledge of notable historical people and events) – each challenge fitting in with this year's Decathlon theme, 'Chaos'.

Of these, the Year 8 team was successful in winning Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Creative Producers – the favourite challenge of Elsie Caulfield.

"For it we had to pick a book so our team selected Oliver Twist and re-wrote a fight scene with new dialogue, making it really chaotic," she said. The Year 8 team will now head to the State Final at Knox Grammar School at the end of July. "We've been meeting up once a week for a special lesson to help us prepare," said teammate Richard Ma. "We're all looking forward to it."

The Year 7 team also won the Creative Producers challenge in their division and were placed third overall.



da Vinci Decathlon convenor Mrs Donella Tutt with the Year 8 da Vinci winning team of (back row) Richard Ma, Peter Thompson, Madeline Buntine, Sasha Macarthur-Onslow, Elsie Caulfield, (front) Cormac Downes, Sam Swain and Thomas Watt

Debaters argue their case

The Middle School Inter-house debating component for the Clemson Cup reached its climax on the last day of term, after pool rounds during lunchtimes earlier in the month. Some close and not-so-close encounters entertained adjudicators and audiences with a mix of well experienced debaters showing their form alongside a number of first-timers getting blooded in the art (or sport?) of contested ideas.

Term 2 wrapped up with the final between Abbott and Green Houses, who vied for the honours tackling the subject 'That we should ban tourists from National Parks'. While Green took the points, it was a big achievement for all debaters, some of whom were complete novices but stepped up to represent their house. The topics, chosen by the captains and vice captains of debating, offered plenty of food for thought.

Meanwhile the Year 8 school team (Cormac Downes, Jess Emmery, Peter Thompson, Dominic Nguyen, Sasha Macarthur-Onslow) have had a terrific start in the National Virtual Debating Competition. Their campaign commenced with a clear win against Scotch College Melbourne, before being defeated by St John's Lutheran School, Qld but took the points in a narrow win over Penrith Anglican College in the last week of term. It is likely that they will now proceed through to the knockout phase of the competition in Term 3.

Rainforest eco systems explored

For this term's Activities Day on 24 May Year 6 and 7 headed to Dorrigo National Park for a fabulous day of hiking, first aid, Ratel, field art, navigation and camo concealment. National Parks rangers shared insights into rainforest eco-systems, guiding Year 6 to The Glade with a focus on senses in the rainforest, and Year 7 to Cascade Waterfall. As part of the challenge, Year 6 worked in pairs with one student blindfolded and their partner guiding them into a section of the rainforest to pick a tree and identify it.



Brainiacs

CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

The Brainiacs, a new after-school academic enrichment opportunity that launched this term, has already had great success. For selected students in Years 3, 4 and 5, the weekly program operates on Thursday afternoon with sessions intended to challenge students academically and simultaneously foster important problem-solving and life skills.

Earlier in the term students took part in the Computation and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition, facilitated by Australian Maths Trust, with Luke Varvari achieving a Distinction and four other students, Credits. Year 5 students also prepared for the da Vinci Decathlon and were duly rewarded for their efforts, winning the Art & Poetry and Ideation (identifying creative ways to solve an issue facing contemporary society) disciplines, placing second or third in most of the other eight challenges, ultimately placing first overall in their age group, qualifying for the State finals in Sydney in late July.

In addition the group has been solving code-breaking challenges and learning a little about the brain.



Head of Junior School Mr Scott Chittenden celebrates da Vinci Decathlon success with the winning Year 5 team: Matilda Polson, Daniel Bayne, Ethan Downes, Sarah Chittenden, Maya Slade, (front) Darya Samadi, Luke Varvari, Eli Mayne

Tasting the Anzac spirit

It was an inter-house competition in which the taste buds had the final sway! The inaugural Anzac biscuit contest was a great success, attracting more than 100 entries and giving the Junior School House Captains plenty to chew over to identify the best biscuit in each age group and category from their House to put forward for the final tasting. All biscuits were scored on their appearance, taste, texture, flavour, inclusion of key ingredients, and consistency in size, shape and colour. Then, it was crunch time – with Mr Pearson and Dr Horton taste-testing the finalists to select the best of the ‘chewy’ and ‘crunchy’ finalists in the Infants and Primary categories, Broughton House coming out as best Anzac bikkie bakers.



Dr Horton looks to make a selection

Natural born writer

Writer and comedian Oliver Phommavanh visited Junior School on 27 April as part of the Children's Book Council of Australia's Authors in Schools program, animating Years 3-5 with a lively presentation about the joys of creating characters and storylines. Mixing his own story as a young Thai-Australian with fictitious characters that have come to life in his books such as *What About Thao*, *Natural Born Loser* and *Con-Nerd*, Oliver (below), who trained as a primary school teacher, encouraged students to use their own humour as a pathway to creating plots and characters. His energetic and entertaining presence was a hit with the students, who he challenged to read every day.

Oliver with students in the background



Program expands at Athletics Carnival

Four records were set at this year's Junior School Athletics Carnival with students spurred on by House spirit and warm sunny weather. A 400m event was added to the program with Patrick Bourke setting the pace in the Intermediate boys (1:28:81), Lexie Kay in the Intermediate girls (1.33:50), Baxter Carruthers in the Senior boys (1.18:99) and Violet Caulfield, the Senior girls (1.35:90). Broughton House won the point score on the day but it was more a celebration of participation, with students giving their all to the track and field events.



Violet Caulfield leads the pack in the final of the senior girls 100m

Shining at Eisteddfods

During the term all Junior School students took to the stage at this year's Armidale Eisteddfod which every year provides a wonderful performance experience for students. Among many group and individual successes was the Years 3 - 6 Choir winning the 'K-6 Choir: Two Part' competition in their first ever public performance. However whether it be in music, speech or drama, success may well be simply displaying the courage and fortitude to stand up and perform in front of a large, live audience for perhaps the first time ever. "Doing so, either individually or as a member of a group, provides a wonderful opportunity to practice what have been termed the Four Cs of 21st century skills – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity," Head of Junior School Mr Scott Chittenden said. The same could be said for the New England Dance Eisteddfod, at which the Junior School Dance Club performed a jazz routine with both the Kindy – Year 2 and the Year 3-6 groups, achieving 2nd place.

Left: The Year 3-6 Dance Group which performed at the New England Dance Eisteddfod



*Thank you,
Mum!*

Hand massages, painting nails, making special cards and planting flower pots were just some of the ways that Junior School students pampered their mothers, grandmothers and other special women at a Mother's Day celebration in the gym on 9 May. The Junior School Leaders welcomed more than 100 visitors helping make each one feel that extra bit special and appreciated for all they do for the boys and girls of Junior School.



Maggie and Lachlan Wood help their mother Diana plant seedlings



Alanoud and Mishkah Alrdadi pamper their mother Meaad



There was plenty of dress up fun in the photo booth

TAS Foundation

LAUNCHES NEW CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Forget the Tony Awards for Excellence in Broadway Theatre – it was our own Hoskins Centre that stole the show on 5 May with a gala performance of *Legally Blonde The Musical* for a very special cause. The penultimate performance was hosted by the TAS Foundation to launch, in spectacular fashion, new Creative Arts scholarships for drama, dance and visual arts in addition to those for music, already on offer.

There could be no more fitting venue than the outstanding creative arts centre that itself was a generous gift, from Old Armidalian Michael Hoskins.

The gala was a Hollywood-style affair with its own red carpet photographer, drinks and canapes and even sunglasses-wearing bouncers keeping excited fans and 'paparazzi' at bay – all played out by enthusiastic students.

The TAS Foundation is immensely grateful to the Belalberi Foundation for their outstanding donation of \$70,000 for a specific drama scholarship. Thanks, also, to all those who have supported the cause whether on the night or more broadly and to the cast and crew for making it such a special celebration of creative arts at TAS. To add your contribution to the Creative Arts Scholarships appeal go to as.edu.au/tas-community/tas-foundation-and-donating/ and follow the links.



Cath Wright (right) with Camilla DuBois representing the Belalberi Foundation which contributed \$70,000 to a specific drama scholarship



Armidale Drama and Music Society stalwarts (rear) David Hardman and Neil Horton and (front) Jane Horton and Lindy Hardman enjoyed the evening



Belinda Banister and Michael Considine



University of New England Interim Vice Chancellor Simon Evans and his wife Melissa Conley Tyler



Craig and Vicki Louis supported the cause



Sandy McNaughton, Vicki Howell and Mark Byrne added to the glamour of the event



Ben and Claudia MacDougall, Elizabeth Mark and Fiona and John Nash made it a family affair



Andrew and Alex Murray and Sally Rowe

Farewell, Cressida Mort

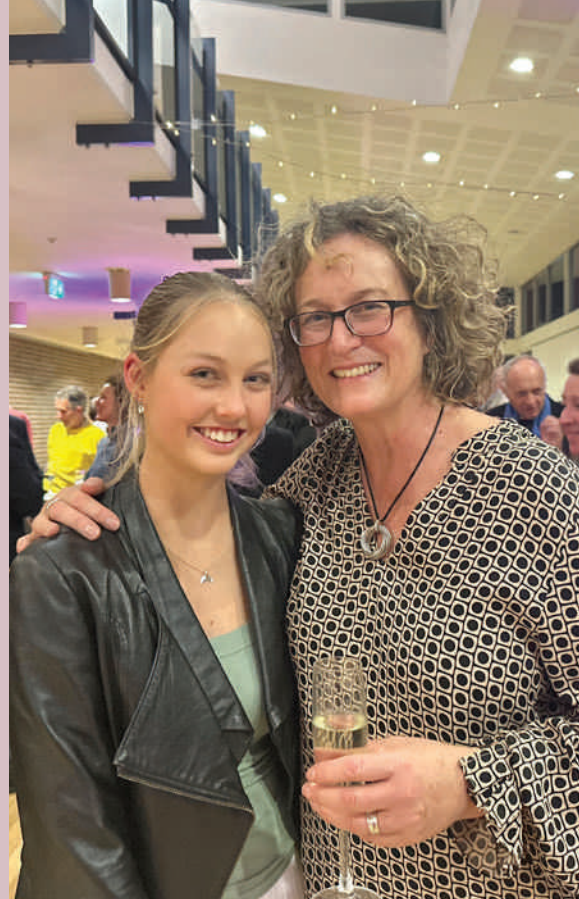
Creative, energetic, empathetic, intelligent, strategic, passionate and hilarious - just some of the many adjectives that were used to describe the School's departing Director of Development and Marketing Cressida Mort at her official TAS community farewell held at the Hoskins Centre on the last evening of term.

Cressida commenced at TAS in 2008, initially in a capacity to drive fundraising for the TAS Foundation. However her expertise in strategic planning, marketing and communications and nurturing of relationships quickly resulted in expanded responsibilities that in her time have touched all aspects of the School Community.

While her significant role in community engagement regarding the introduction of co-education is a notable stand out, over her time at TAS there have been countless others, in front, and behind, the scenes.

Various staff members paid tribute to the work of Cressida in so many areas across the school, including Principal Dr Rachel Horton, Director of Teaching and Learning Mrs Gill Downes, Head of Creative Arts Andrew O'Connell, Tim Hughes (Development Office and OAU), Pip Warrick (Foundation), Fiona Nash (P&F) and Cress' youngest son Jasper. Making a special guest appearance was former Head of School Alan Jones who travelled from the South Coast to deliver the toast and on behalf of all present, wish her well for whatever lies ahead.

Cressida's initiatives, drive and advocacy for the School in so many areas leave a tremendous legacy for TAS. We all wish her well for the future.



Year 12 student Chelsea Bourke wished Cressida Mort well at the farewell

Vyner portraits on display for Coronation exhibition

The story of a royal crown-maker who was the ancestor of three generations of TAS Old Boys has come to life at an exhibition at the University of New England in May to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III.

Richard Vyner (51-58), his wife Sally and son **Tom** (88-96) have lent the university four family portraits including one of their ancestor Sir Robert Vyner, a goldsmith commissioned in 1661 to make St Edwards Crown, worn by King Charles at his coronation on 6 May. Sir Robert was a friend and confidant of King Charles II while working as the royal family's banker.

"When King Charles II arrived back in England penniless from his exile in Europe, it was realised that every single item of the ancient royal regalia of England was either pawned by Charles I during the Civil War or broken up and sold by the Cromwell Government," said Richard, who has loaned the paintings to UNE.

"Charles II commissioned Sir Robert to make an entire new set of regalia, including the St Edward's crown in 1661."

When Sir Robert became Lord Mayor of London in 1674, he was at the peak of his fortunes and one of the richest and most powerful citizens of the time. However, according to Richard, his ancestor was owed over 400,000 guineas (the equivalent of around \$10 million today) but was never paid by the monarch, leading him to become the first person to be declared officially bankrupt in British history, according to family lore. He was created a Baronet in 1666 and died in 1688.

In 1951, Queen Elizabeth II became the second royal to wear St Edward's crown, after King Charles II. In May, King Charles III became the the third monarch to wear the significant piece of regalia.

The portraits, alongside other family artefacts, are on exhibition in the Booloominbah Foyer and can be viewed weekdays 12pm-1pm or as part of the Armidale Heritage Bus Tour, until the end of July. (with thanks to UNE)



Pictured: Richard, Sally and Tom Vyner with some of their family's portraits

Sydney OA Drinks



Around 30 Old Armidalians spanning five decades got together for casual drinks at the Bellevue Hotel, Paddington, on Saturday 3 June. The Old Armidalians Union subsidised the event, held following TAS rugby matches against The Scots College earlier in the day and before the Waratahs v Moana Pasifika Super Rugby fixture at nearby Allianz Stadium that evening. It was the first OA function attended by some former students and an initiative set to be repeated in the future.



Emily Hempel ('19) and Clancy Roberts ('20) with David Morrow ('70)



Will Forsyth ('19) and Harry Forsythe ('17)



Ian Alker ('87) caught up with Peter Strelitz ('81)



1982 leavers Tim Hughes, Duncan McDonald, Rohan Macarthur Onslow, John Ritchard and Stewart Stevens



OAU President Simon Wright ('91), David Paris ('90) and Will Crago ('97) who has recently returned to Australia



Harry Mason ('19), with Jack Nivison ('20) and Archer Howard ('20)



Saxon Hughes ('18) and Henry O'Neil ('19)



Matt Carter ('92) shares a joke with Tim Lloyd ('80)

OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

Congratulations

A terrific opportunity awaits **Jonathon (Jono) Peatfield** (97-02), CEO of Life Education NSW, who was one of two national winners of the Harvard Club of Australia/Ferris Family Fellowships, announced at a lunch on 26 May. Jono will attend the highly regarded six-day Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management course at the Harvard Business School, Boston, United States. Studies will assist winners in examining their missions, develop new strategies and improve the effectiveness of their organisations. Jono was the special guest at Speech Day last year.

He has yet to graduate in Medicine from the University of New South Wales but **Sambavan Jeyakumar** (09-18) is already receiving professional accolades. In May he received the 2023 International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) Early Career Scientist Award at the at the ISHLT Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, USA. At the conference he presented his research abstract on the effect of continuous-flow left ventricular assist devices on microvasculature, undertaken during his Honours research year at St Vincent's Hospital and for which he was awarded First Class Honours. Sambavan was a recipient of the UNSW Dami Atapattu Award in Anatomy which assisted him with his studies.

During the last COVID lockdown in Sydney, **Graeme Browning** (79-84) relocated with his wife Catherine, to live in London. Graeme is the Deputy Global Managing Partner Business Enablement and Global Operations Leader of Ernst and Young. He joined EY in 1988 in Sydney and has also worked in EY's Silicon Valley and Brisbane offices. They are enjoying living in London and plan to be there for another two years.

Round 'n' About

Three Old Armidaliens who are pursuing professional careers in opera, lent their support to the TAS Foundation launch of new creative arts scholarships on 5 May (see page 20), via video, offering testimonials as to the role TAS played in forging their love of creative arts. Soon to be seen on Seven Network's *The Voice*, **Andrew Taylor Knight**

(10-16) has just graduated with a Masters of Music Studies (Opera Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium, University of Sydney. Having played various roles for different opera companies, most recently for Pacific Opera in the title role of Mozart's Don Giovanni, Andrew is about to try his hand in musical theatre in Europe. Having studied Classical Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, **Ziggy Harris** (04-17) is currently performing the role of Don Giovanni for the Lyric Opera Studio, Weimar, Germany, before relocating to Canada to commence a Masters of Opera Performance at McGill University, Montreal. Meanwhile **Kira Dooner** (16-18) has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Classical Voice) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, having performed in many productions including with the Lisa Gasteen National Opera Program. She is also shortly leaving for Europe to pursue her dreams.

Weddings

Benedict Laurie (05-14), below and Olivia Eichorn (ex NEGS) were married on 14 January 2023 at Peterson's Winery, Armidale. Ben was supported by his brother **Maxwell** (05-13) as best man, and brother-in-law **Angus Eichorn** (11-17), groomsman. Amongst other OAs in attendance was his father **Marcus** (78-81). Veronica Lucas (staff) was their marriage celebrant. The couple honeymooned in Fiji. Ben and Olivia live in Armidale, where Ben is a primary school teacher and Olivia works as an Occupational Therapist.



The Bridge Church at Kirribilli had special relevance for the wedding of **Michael 'Mickey' O'Sullivan** (05-14), above right and Taniya Coldham on 28 January 2023, being where they met in February 2022.

After two gap years in England Mickey completed a Bachelor of Business Administration at Macquarie University then lived and worked on campus at Robert Menzies College doing Christian chaplaincy. "I worked at The Bridge Church and Tan was also on staff. We are enjoying our new endeavours - I've started a carpentry apprenticeship and Tan just started studying interior design. Very thankful to God for bringing us together!" Mickey said.



Condolences

Edward 'Ted' Croft (52-61) sadly passed away on 12 June 2023. Ted enjoyed TAS life where he loved all sports and was senior prefect in 1961. He furthered his education at Sydney and St Paul's College where he studied Veterinary Science. A serious horse accident changed the direction of his life and he returned to the family farm, 'Lugwardine', at Barraba where he spent his time with his beloved Merino sheep and Shorthorn cattle stud. A highlight was winning grand champion shorthorn bull at the Ekka show in Brisbane. Ted served on the Tamworth Rural Lands Protection Board, was an Australian Rugby U17's selector and coached the Barraba Rams U18's to the Central North title. He married Jenny and they had **James** (84-89), **Andrew** (87-92), Amanda and Lucy. His funeral in Gunnedah was attended by a large number of OAs with many stories shared.

A man who pioneered irrigation and cotton farming in Moree district and contributed greatly to his community, **Keith Alfred Coulton** MBE (39-46) died on 21 June 2023, his 94th birthday. Talented in cricket, rugby, shooting and boxing - he once won a heavyweight bout in front of 10,000 schoolboys in Sydney - Keith abandoned

OLD ARMIDALIANS' news

plans to study medicine and instead made a significant contribution to agriculture from his home base, 'Getta Getta' at North Star. Initially farming sheep and cattle and then cropping, the drought of 1957-58 sparked an interest in irrigation and he would go on to found, and chair, numerous bodies representing water users in the Border Rivers region. Similarly, he presided over marketing organisations for grains, oilseeds and later, cotton, and was appointed to serve on the overseas trade authority which represented primary producers – being awarded an MBE for his service to agriculture, in 1979. Other involvement included North Star Pony Club and Golf Club; he represented the Parish of Boggabilla on Diocesan Synod and was also a self-taught musician.

Our condolences to his children **Samuel** (65-71), **Benjamin** (67-73), Dixie (NEGS), **David** (72-77) and **Mark** (73-78) and their extended families. The OAU has also been advised of the death on 24 June, 2023 of **Brian Carter** (48-51). More details in the next edition.

From our historic 200 edition:

Thanks to those readers for their feedback on the historic wraparound supplement in Binghi 200. Amongst them, **Philip Bailey** (58-60): "Congratulations on the latest edition of Binghi - the transformation over the past 66 years of the original, amateur newsletter into what looks, feels, and reads like a professional publication is extraordinary. Bravo. "We are grateful to Philip for identifying boys in the photo 'Dance Night, with PLC, 1952' on page 20. "Although I was but a mere ten-year-old in Dangar House in 1952, I can identify a few faces.

The easiest for me is my brother **Graham** (1951-53) who is seated on the floor in the front row, second from the right. In the back row, third from left is a member of staff - perhaps a duty master detailed to keep an eye on the lads. Next to him is **Herbert James ('Jim') Cannington** (49-53). Then, back row, sixth from the left, is **John Payne** (52-53), a brilliant swimmer and springboard diver. By comparing the PLC photo with the one below it of the golfers at Elenora, it seems that **Willy Penfold** (50-53) is also a dancer - seated middle row, extreme right?" We thank Philip for his thoughts.

And while we're on the previous edition – a clarification. **David Connah** (58-59) was Binghi editor while on the OBU Committee, but was never a staff member at TAS – though his wife Barbie was, at the time he was editor. All the more reason to acknowledge David for his service to the magazine.

Reunion Weekend 4-6 August - it's nearly here

The School and OAU are looking forward to welcoming back 'decades' of former students and their partners for Reunion Weekend.

The weekend will officially kick off with OA v School Hockey on Friday at 5pm at Sport UNE, followed by welcome drinks in the Hoskins Centre from 5pm-8pm. Why not make this your meeting point – with drinks cheaper than pub prices and fantastic burgers cooked by the prefects, it's the ideal starting point. TAS will even run buses to venues downtown on the half hour from 7.15pm.

Sporting competitions between OAs and the School continue on Saturday morning, with shooting and chess from 8.30; tennis hitting off at 9 on the Park Courts and Netball in the gym, from 9.30am. TAS First XV will play Shore School on Backfield at 10.30am.

There's a fresh format for the main Reunion Dinner for 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 years and above on Saturday 5 August. Pre-Dinner Drinks in Big School will be followed by a more relaxed dinner in Memorial Hall with a panel of guest speakers.

The cost including a complimentary drink on arrival and two bottles of wine on each table, is \$80. To book, go to <https://events.humanitix.com/2023tasreunion>. For those without internet, please call TAS Reception on (02) 6776 5800. Please ensure you state which reunion year group you are with. Any past student and their partner is welcome to attend the dinner, regardless of what year you left. Please book now, bookings will close on 31 July.

Back for his 30 year reunion, Rev Rod Farraway (OA 93), Chaplain of Cranbrook School, will preach and preside at the OAU Chapel Service at 9.30am. This will be followed by morning tea before the OAU AGM at 11.00am. The Union would love to see as many OAs attend as possible.

Please gather your friends for what promises to be a terrific reunion weekend.

Notice of AGM

Notice is given that the AGM of the Old Armidaliens' Union will be held on Sunday 6 August at 11am in the Maxwell Rooms at TAS. An agenda and link to the meeting can be accessed on the OAU website and also posted on the OAU Facebook Group page.

2023

TAS REUNION WEEKEND 4-6 AUGUST

(Draft schedule as at 24 July and is subject to change).

FRIDAY, 4 AUGUST

- 2.45 - 4.00pm OAU Future Pathways forum (Years 10-11)
5.00pm School vs OA Hockey - Sport UNE
6.00 - 9.00pm Official opening of TAS Reunion Weekend - Hoskins Centre
Barbecue and cash bar - All encouraged to attend
Bus will drop patrons downtown at set times

SATURDAY, 5 AUGUST

- 8.30am Shooting - School v OAs at Meadowfield Rifle Range
8.30am Chess - School v OAs in Archdall Room
9.00am Tennis - School v OAs on Park Courts
9.30am Netball - School vs OAs - TAS Gym
10.00am Tours of the School depart from the McConville Centre
10.00am Bell Tower Society Brunch in Big School (**Cancelled**)
10.00am - 2.00pm OA Barbecue - Hoskins Centre precinct
10.30pm Rugby 1st XV vs Shore - Backfield
11.30pm Tug-o-War (10 Year Leavers vs 2nd XV on Backfield)
12.30pm Hoskins Bar open for drinks - broadcast of Wallabies v All Blacks (Closes at 4pm)
2.30pm Concert in Hoskins Centre
2.00pm Tours of the School depart from the Hoskins Centre
6.00pm OAU Official Dinner commences with pre-dinner drinks in Big School followed by dinner in Memorial Hall. Cash bar in operation. Dress - Smart casual (Jacket)
Cost \$80pp (inc pre dinner drink, glass of wine with dinner).
All Old Armidaliens and partners are encouraged to attend.
Guest Speakers, Peter Cousens ('73), Angus Grigg ('93), Gareth Rickards ('01)MC
Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/2023tasreunion>

SUNDAY, 6 AUGUST

- 9.30am OAU Chapel Service - TAS Chapel. Guest Speaker Rev Rod Farraday ('93), Chaplain Cranbrook School
10.30am Morning Tea - Lower Maxwell
11.00am OAU AGM, Venue - Upper Maxwell Room

Reunion Organisers can be found by using the following link: <https://bit.ly/3q2zg7K>

OAU SPORT ORGANISERS 2023

Chess

Rob Busby ('68) M: 0412 234 288
E: robertbuzzby@gmail.com

Shooting (Meadowfield Range)

David Rose ('74) M: 0418 660 380
E: davidrose11@mac.com

Hockey

Sam Behrend ('20) M: 0402 654 122 (tbc)
E: sambehrend10@gmail.com

Tennis

Charles Hempel ('86) M: 0425 260 135
E: eugenehempel@gmail.com

Netball

Nikki Ellis ('18) M: 0429 550 322 (tbc)
E: nikkiellis7@outlook.com