



TAS
THE ARMIDALE
SCHOOL

EXPLORE
EXPERIENCE
EXCEL

TAS TALKS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

Wednesday 15 February, 2017 Term 1 Week 3

HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

NSW Rowing Championships

I found myself full of admiration for our rowing crews last weekend as they showcased their commitment to their sport at the NSW Rowing Championships. The personal best times recorded by the three crews that raced were outshone by their exhibition of resilience and positive mindsets in challenging circumstances. After a late night of driving from Armidale and waiting for swags to arrive at Riverview the Sydney heat wave caused the first race to be brought forward to 7:00am and the TAS crews to be up at 4:00am to travel across to Penrith. For our girls' crew the disappointment continued as their race scheduled for later in the day was cancelled and they had to settle for an early practice row on the course before the start of the races. I doubt that any other crews faced similar conditions leading up to this major event, yet there was not a word of complaint from our rowers. Instead, they simply got on with the job and openly appreciated the opportunity to be there. It was a lesson in positivity that deserves to be applauded and I recognise them for it.



Cadet Leadership

Last weekend 67 boys and girls attended the first weekend of the 2017 cadet leaders course for aspiring CUOs, sergeants and corporals. This is the highest number volunteering for this leadership training that I can remember and, of course, it included the first intake of girls as cadet leaders. The weekend covered the theory component of the course, including navigation, fieldcraft, communication, leadership, public speaking and drill techniques, as well as the customs and traditions of the Australian Army Cadets and The Armidale School Cadet Unit. This coming weekend will see the same group put those theoretical skills into play in the bush with day and night navigation, fieldcraft, teamwork and initiative, whilst also building individual resilience. All reports are that the group is performing very well thus far and I wish them well for the remainder of the course.

National Polo Representation

Congratulations to Treenie Osborne who has been selected in the Australian mixed school age polo team to play in Christchurch New Zealand next month. This elite team is selected by the Australian Polo Federation and is a pathway to senior representation. I am sure that all will join in wishing Treenie every success in the school matches and the test match against the New Zealand Team.

Information Evening, Swimming, War Cries and Charity Fundraising

I look forward to welcoming the many parents who will join us this Thursday and Friday for the swimming carnivals, the Middle School information sessions and barbecue and the war cry competition. As mentioned in TAS Talks last week, this will also be an opportunity for our senior students to launch their fundraising for the Leukaemia Foundation in special recognition of TAS Year 3 student Lucy Holland who was diagnosed with leukaemia last year. This will include raffles for the privilege of shaving or cutting the hair of one of our prefects and the seeking of donations and I encourage all families to give as generously as possible to this fine cause.

Mr Murray Guest



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week 3

Thursday 16 February	Junior School Swimming Carnival Middle School Parent Information session and barbecue War Cry Competition followed by MS/SS 200m F/S events
Friday 17 February	Middle and Senior School Swimming Championships
Saturday 18 February	Kings/PLC Rowing Regatta (Sydney) Cadet Leaders Course continues

Week 4

Monday 20 February	Cadet Leaders Course continues Junior School Excursion Week
Tuesday 21 February	Junior School Excursion Week NCIS Hockey (Grafton)
Wednesday 22 February	Cricket - Douglas Shield (TAS Oval)
Friday 24 February	Junior School Excursion Week

Week 5

Monday 27 February	TAS Scholarship and Expo Day
Wednesday 1 March	Headmaster's Country Tour (HMCT) Tamworth
Thursday 2 March	HMCT - Scone
Friday 3 March	Activities Day 1

Week 6

Wednesday 8 March	Year 9/10 Music Workshop Science and Engineering Challenge
Thursday 9 March	Year 11/12 Music Workshop Summer Photos Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 10 March	Year 11/12 Music Workshop Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews Senior Social

Student Services

School Drive Subsidy has replaced the former Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy for eligible students enrolling from 2017 onwards. Further information can be sourced by logging onto this website using the link provided below

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schoolDriveSubsidy>

or by contacting Meg Sadler on 6776 5805 or email travel@as.edu.au

Parents / Carers who are visiting the school this week to support the Swimming Championships events are most welcome to call in at the office, main building, to receive information about what public transport options are available relevant to their geographical situation.


Mrs Meg Sadler



Medical Centre

Could parents/Carers of Year 7 students please return the vaccination consent forms to Mrs Evans at Middle School, Reception or Health Centre please. The first vaccinations will occur on Thursday 2 March at TAS Health Centre. Parents/Carers of Year 11-12 Students will receive information and consent forms soon for Meningococcal vaccination. This is a new vaccination being offered this year to all students in Years 11 & 12. This vaccination will occur on Thursday 1 June.

Sister Jenny Murray



P&F PRESIDENT, MRS SUE CARTWRIGHT



Well, we have all made it through to Week three and this is a big week in the school calendar for the P&F and our Liaison Parents as it is the first week of fundraising and in doing so provides us with the opportunity to have a bit of fun as we reacquaint with other parents and friends, both old and new.

In last week's TAS Talks, we asked for your assistance and/or your participation at the following events:

- Junior School Swimming Championships – Thursday 16 February
- Middle/Senior School War Cries P&F Welcome BBQ – Thursday 16 February
- Middle/Senior Swimming Championships – Friday 17 February

Perhaps you have received an email from your year group Liaison Parents (LP), perhaps you have spied our call out on Facebook? But here is a quick run-down on the next two days:

Junior and Senior Swim Carnivals Cake Stall - the P&F will be holding our traditional cake stall at both events and would appreciate any, and all, donations of yummy snacks for the students, teachers and parents to buy and boost their energy! Home-made or store bought – we welcome all donations!! Please send your donation to the P&F stall just near the pool.

For new parents – while we welcome all customers, this cake stall is mainly for the kids to buy things to munch on (so don't forget to give yours some pocket money). Cakes, biscuits, jelly cups, bought goods etc - generally in single portion sizes. Also, some gluten free, dairy free etc, items are handy. However, please remember all items should be nut free.

And if you have an hour or two to spare, we would love a little assistance too.

Junior School Carnival Thursday 16 February – check with your LP for timing

Middle/Senior School Carnival Friday 17 February each year we allocate a year group to help at certain times – please consider coming along as per the following:

8.30- 9.30 Year 8 (Set up) and anyone who can help

9.30-10.30 Year 7

10.30-11.30 Year 9

11.30-12.30 Year 10

12.30- 1.30 Year 11

1.30-2.30 Year 12

2.30-3.30 Year 6 (pack up)

Don't forget, all proceeds go back into the school to help provide those items that are 'nice to have'. Just drop Rachael Nicoll a line to confirm your attendance on nicollfamily1@gmail.com

War Cries BBQ

5-7pm Thursday 16 February

On the night of the Middle/Senior School War Cries the P&F will be hosting a BBQ under the Junior School Covered Area from 5-7pm for all families that are not involved in the Middle School Introductory Evening. For a small cost you can have a sausage sandwich and a drink, so that you don't starve during War Cries. We would love to meet you so please come and join us, have a chat over a sausage sandwich, and prepare yourselves for the competition that is TAS War Cries!!

How to keep up with what the P&F is doing

If you wish to know what the P&F are up to the main ways to find out are:

- Your Year Group Liaison Parents – they are here to help. For each student year group, volunteer liaison parents help co-ordinate the P&F efforts throughout the year as well as arranging social events and get-togethers for families. This network provides parents with the opportunity to contribute to the life of the school in a meaningful way. They send out emails from time to time telling what the P&F is up to, and they are also the key method for helping new families 'learn the ropes'. If you would like to become a Liaison Parent, or even if you would like to know a little more about what is involved, please email me your contact details at suecart@uow.edu.au and I will give you a call.
- Contact one of the P&F Executive – Sue Cartwright (P&F President), Rachael Nicoll (Vice President), Melissa Jubb (Treasurer) or Sal Molesworth (Secretary).
- Read TAS Talks – we will regularly update you on what is happening
- Sign up to our Facebook page – We've entered the age of social media and can be found at Facebook – search TAS Parents & Friends. Just 'Like' us and you'll be kept abreast of what's going on.

Mrs Sue Cartwright



DIRECTOR OF STUDIES , SEONIA WARK

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 9 March (3.30pm - 5.45pm) and Friday 10 March 2pm - 5.30pm). Parents will receive an email early next week asking for an indication of the day and time most suitable. Once times have been allocated you will then receive a second email confirming your interview times.

Two Information sessions will also be held - Thursday 9 March beginning at 6pm and Friday 10 March beginning at 11.45am. These session will be held in Big School (just outside Reception).

Tutoring

A reminder that tutoring is available for all Year 11 and Year 12 students. Tutoring is currently available in English and Maths. Students wishing to attend just need to arrive on the night of their choice.

Year 11

Tuesday	2U Maths 7 - 8pm - (Cash Block)
Wednesday	Maths Ext 7 - 8pm - (Cash Block) English - 8 - 9pm (Fisher classrooms)
Thursday	General Maths 7 - 8pm - (Cash Block)

Year 12

Tuesday	2U Maths 8 - 9pm - (Cash Block)
Wednesday	Maths Ext 8 - 9pm - (Cash Block) English 7 - 8pm (Fisher Classrooms)
Thursday	General Maths 8-9pm - (Cash Block)



Rymarine, Coffs Harbour

For any student in Years 9-11 who might be considering a career in marine studies or marine related careers, there will be a seminar held in Coffs Harbour from the 16-19 of March. Please go to the website listed below for more details.

<http://www.coffsharbourdaybreak.org/project/rymarine-2017>

Short Courses for School Students in 2017 from TAFE New England

Secondary school students wanting extra skills may benefit from TAFE courses that can help them gain part-time work while studying or give them insight into a future career path.

These include:

- General Construction WHS Induction NSW (Whitecard)
- Work Safely at Heights
- Enter and Work in Confined Space
- Elevated Work Platform (Yellowcard)
- Introduction to Wool Handling
- Caring for Animals
- Basic Welding
- Make Up and Beauty
- Bar Skills
- Introduction to Bread Making
- Coffee Making
- Make Up and Beauty
- Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)
- Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG)
- Provide First Aid and CPR

See website for details and please discuss with Mr Taylor.

<http://www.tne.edu.au/courses/coursesearch.aspx?ShortCourses=on#Object%20HTMLHeadingElement1>

Stephen Foley Head of St Leo's College, University of Queensland.

Mr Stephen Foley will be in Armidale on Thursday 16 March and will be available to speak with any Year 11 & 12 students, both male and female who are interested in relocating to one of Brisbane's universities in 2018.

He would like to give some insights into the courses available at UQ and the other Brisbane universities and explain something of the collegial life they would enjoy if they elected to reside at a UQ residential College.

He will be in the Lower Maxwell Room at 1.25pm for his presentation. If you were considering a University course in any of the Queensland universities, I would recommend you attend.





University of Newcastle
Department of Rural Health



KICK-START A CAREER IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS !!

Health Careers Forum

YEARS 10, 11 & 12 STUDENTS

AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FORUM

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2017

2 SESSIONS: 9.15AM – 11.30AM
12.30PM – 2.45PM

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH

TAMWORTH EDUCATION CENTRE
114-148 JOHNSTON STREET
TAMWORTH

CONTACT: 6755 3507 OR beth.lang@newcastle.edu.au



RSVP TO YOUR CAREERS ADVISOR BY FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

If any students are interested in attending they should see Mr Taylor. We may send a school group if the level of interest is sufficient. Otherwise students will need to make their own way to and from.

Mr Mark Taylor

GIRLS' EDUCATION DIRECTOR , ALEX POLLITT

Combating poverty

In the school holidays I had the privilege of spending 3 weeks in Cambodia, a country I had never visited before. I went with a group of 18 people from across Australia with a Christian Development organisation called TEAR AUSTRALIA.

This was not about volunteering, but rather we went to learn. We went to learn about the Cambodian partner organisations that TEAR support and about Cambodia herself- her history, her politics, her people and the complexities many are facing. The projects we visited ranged from savings groups through to chicken farming and education programs and water projects and to community advocacy groups.

I can't begin to explain how profoundly moved and humbled I was on so many occasions. Our days were filled with meeting Cambodians from partner organisations or with visiting villagers or communities in both urban and rural areas. As I sat on mats feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the challenges these people faced, and angry at the acute unfairness of it all I also grappled with the notion of poverty in both our contexts. The poverty in front of me was obvious and confronting. However some of it was as fundamental as 'We don't have enough water, so have to spend all our money to bring it to our village.' 'We can't grow crops when the rains come early or not at all.' 'I can't send my child to school, because there isn't one anywhere near me and I couldn't afford it even if there was.' 'We have no voice and the local governor does nothing to help us.'

The Cambodian organisations we met were working with people to empower them to be able to address or at least cope a little better with all these realities. They were in the business of addressing aspects of poverty.

The thing we kept hearing over and over and the bit that gave hope amid all the difficulties was when families within villages were joining together and creating support networks through saving groups or community action groups. It wasn't just the access to small loans or the empowerment that comes from being able to take control, but from the act of coming together to forge bonds and community ties that combats those feelings of hopelessness, alienation and loneliness. It was this that stirred my heart.

Too often we in Australia over simplify, and make 'poverty' simply about economics, but in a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world alongside some of the highest rates of suicide and mental health challenges, there's clearly more complexity. The truth is, most of us instinctively know 'poverty' comes in different forms, but whether it be economic or emotional a sense of belonging and community is fundamental to providing hope and ways of alleviating some of the effects of poverty.



I know spending time in Cambodia has challenged me in a whole range of ways and I am still working through what I do with it all, but a by-product of this experience is an increased desire to see community and a sense of belonging grow and develop in our own context. I am the first to say I want to see our students recognise big issues of justice, to learn empathy as they grapple to understand the challenges of our world, but I also want them to see building community and their active participation in that as a stepping stone to combating the poverty of hopelessness, loneliness, and heart suffering in our own corner of the world. We may not be able to fix poverty on a global scale or make huge dents in economic poverty for millions across the world, but care and compassion for the person sitting next to us in class, or sleeping in a bed down the hall, or performing on stage next to us...that we can all do. Mother Theresa once said 'We think poverty is only being hungry and naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.'

So, here at TAS, my prayer is that each of us realises that our choices to care for others day by day makes us partners in combating poverty in our own context.

Miss Alex Pollitt



Round Square International Service 'Big Build' in Nepal

Two of our students, Sam Ruba and Yannick Tursan d'Espaignet applied for and were successful in gaining a place in the first 'big build' service project run by Round Square International at Kathmandu in December. Fifty students from around the world participated in a re-build of a school that was destroyed in the devastating earthquake in 2015. With a focus on development of skills and competencies for leadership, the Big Build brought together a truly international team of 50 students from schools across the five regions that make up the Round Square global network. For a full report on the project click [HERE](#) or visit the [Round Square website](#).



There is to be another 'Big Build' in Tanzania in July and 'Big Build' in Vietnam from 7-22 December 2017. If you are interested in finding out more, please see Mrs Barnier or go to <https://www.roundsquare.org/rsis-vietnam/>



Exchange

Welcome to Findlay Rose-Bristow and Adam Wordie who have joined Year 10 for the term from Gordonstoun, Scotland. It is unusual that we take two exchange students from a school at the one time, but on this occasion we made it work.

Both these boys would love the opportunity to experience as much as possible during their time here so please don't hesitate to take them out on leave over a weekend.

Michael Paul and Lachie Oates left Australia in January to make their way to Gordonstoun where they are both, I believe, enjoying being two of around 20 exchange students there at this time and braving the Scottish winter.

Exchange opportunities are available to:

- Year 8 students in pairs within our region which extends well into East Asia and New Zealand.
- Year 9 students should be considering destinations for their exchange if they are thinking about the possibility to do so in Year 10.
- Year 10 students should have already applied for exchange but we are taking applications until the end of February for possible exchange later in the year (no promises)!

Upcoming Round Square Opportunities

Year 8 – Fiji Service trip in September holidays

Year 10/11 – Thailand Service trip in September holidays

13-15 year olds – Regional Conference in Mongolia (23-26 September)

16-17 year olds – International Round Square Conference in Capetown, South Africa. Applications are now open and will close on Monday 6 March 2017.

Unfortunately there will not be a Young Round Square Conference within our region this year as a host school was unable to be secured. This is unfortunate as the Young Round Square Conference at Epsom College, Malaysia last year was a highlight for a Junior School delegates.

Application forms are available from Mrs Barnier, Mr Buntine or on the [Round Square website](#) of [CLICK HERE](#).

Mrs Anna Barnier
Round Square Representative

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Connect with us!

Welcome to our many new families to TAS! As you will find, TAS is more than a school, but a diverse community of students, parents and friends, past, present and future. There are many ways to engage with the School and stay connected.

The TAS website www.as.edu.au is the first place to go to for information about what's happening at TAS. Click on the Portals button at the top right of the home page to go to the Parents Portal, where you can find everything you need to know in one place - whether it be current news, forms and school policies, links to the Uniform and Book Shop and Medical Centre, the latest dining room menus - and so much more. Please familiarise yourself with the information available, and bookmark it for your convenience.

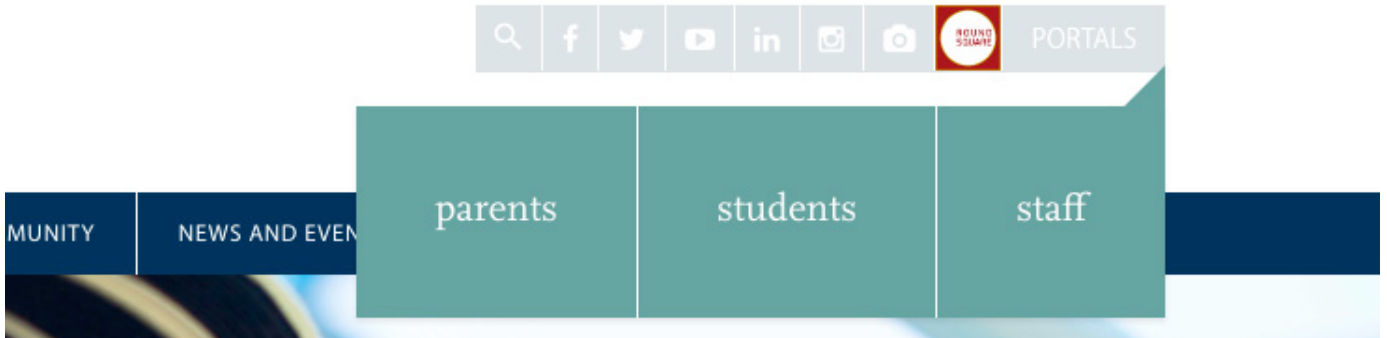
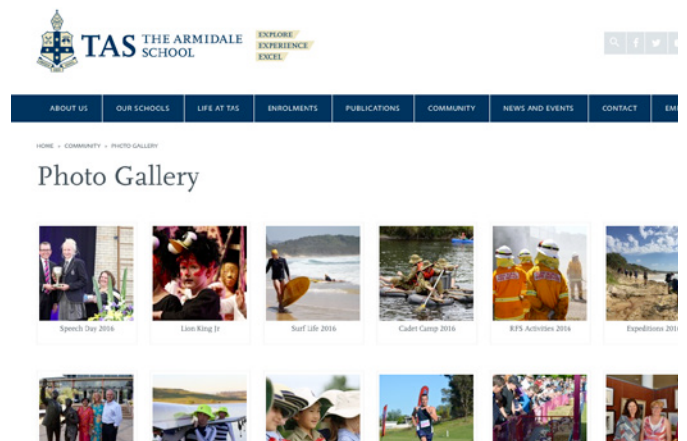


PHOTO GALLERY

Also on the menu bar is a shortcut to the School's photo gallery (www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery); simply click on the camera icon next to the Round Square logo.



Every Wednesday the School's weekly newsletter TAS Talks is produced, full of information of relevance to current families. A link to TAS Talks is emailed to those who subscribe; for details how to add your email address to the distribution list, click [here](#)

Current families and Old Armidaliens (our former students) receive the quarterly publication Binghi, which is also available in digital form [HERE](#)

TAS is also a recognised leader in social media, utilising various platforms.

On Facebook, 'Like' us at www.facebook.com/TASarmidale - as 2,500 other members of our community have already done.

For those on Twitter, follow us @TASarmidale. We also post images to the School's Instagram account @tasarmidale which offers snapshots of #taslife.

Join our network at LinkedIn by searching for 'TAS The Armidale School'.

Many sports and co-curricular Music also use Team App, a handy way of getting out urgent information about practices, team lists and results. To see if your sport offers Team App (and to subscribe, go to <http://www.as.edu.au/life-at-tas/co-curricular/sport/tas-sport/team-apps/>)

Welcome aboard!

Mr Tim Hughes
Media Manager

DIRECTOR OF CO-CURRICULAR, WILL CALDWELL

Swimming Championships

After strong performances last night in the Butterfly and Individual Medley, all Houses will be looking to consolidate their position – the key is participation!

The following link will provide you with the full schedule of events:

<http://www.as.edu.au/content/uploads/2016/01/Events-Schedule-2017-Sheet1.pdf>

Please note the following details for the remaining events:

Competitors should wear TAS swimming costume / knee suits and house swimming caps - caps will be handed out by House Captains

Thursday:

Junior School Swimming Carnival, commencing at 9:00am.

All are invited to support 'Pink Stumps Day' as the First XI take on the Headmaster's XI at 1:15pm on Wakefield.

Thursday night:

200m Freestyle + House War Cries.

Warm-up at 6:30pm - races commence at 7pm.

Families and friends are strongly encouraged to share what is a highlight of the year.

Friday:

Warm-up at 8am - races commence at 9am (roll call, in houses, at 8:30am on Wakefield).

BBQ lunch is provided for students and spectators.



Rowing – A test of character

Whilst crews have been training hard to prepare for the competition phase of the season, last weekend's races were more a test of character than ability. With temperatures reaching 46 degrees at Penrith, there was every chance that races would be cancelled. Despite this risk, crews were determined to forge ahead and were rewarded for their fortitude. The schoolgirls quad scull was cancelled, however, the TAS crew were rigged up and on the water at 6am to ensure a row over the Olympic course – a critical step in their preparation for head of the river. The Schoolboy fours races commenced at 7am meaning that our three crews gained some valuable experience and an opportunity to measure their progress. They posted encouraging times and are looking forward to another crack at it next weekend in the Kings/PLC Regatta, also held on the Olympic Course.

TAS P&F Rugby Committee General Meeting

All parents are invited to attend the TAS P&F Rugby Committee General Meeting, to be held in the Archdall Room, at 7am, this Friday 17 February.

Winter Sports Information

Please click on the link below to find more information about the Winter Sports offering at TAS, including the costings for each sport. Every student must select ONE full sport, and an extra sport may also be chosen. More information can be found on the Sports page on the TAS website. [CLICK HERE](#) to view document.

Mr Will Caldwell
Director of Co-curricular



PDHPE - Non Uniform

As you may be aware the PDHPE program at TAS has two components, these being the practical and theory courses. Practicals are conducted in the double periods and theory classes in the single periods. The only exception is the first three weeks of term one where all classes are practical in order to complete the required physical tests.

For the practical lessons, students are required to bring the schools PE/sports uniform to class. Students are not permitted to participate in the practical classes without the required change for health and safe reasons. In an attempt to assist the student participate when they don't have the required uniform, the school has adopted a policy of hiring items of clothing to those students who, for whatever reason, fail to bring the uniform to class. The charges for the hire are added to the students account at the end of each term. This policy allows the students to participate in the class and act as a reminder for the next practical lesson.

This year we have been able to develop a system of informing the parents/guardians when their child has failed to bring the required uniform. This is simply an information sharing exercise to inform parents/guardians on the day that it occurs rather than wait to the end of term. This will be delivered in the form of a non-reply email. The email will list the charges for the uniform hire and gives the parents/guardians the opportunity to support their child in remembering the required uniform for the next occasion. The students are only charged for those items that they hire. The cost of hiring all four items is a total of \$10. The individual hire charges are: shoes \$5, Shirt \$2, shorts \$2 and socks \$2 (students keep socks after the class).

We believe that organisational skills and preparedness for class are essential for students to gain from all the educational opportunities afforded to them at TAS. We are seeking the assistance of the parent/guardian body to help achieve these goals for their students.

If at any time the students cannot bring the required uniform (damage, wash, lost) then students can bring a suitable alternative (house shirt) with an explanatory note from parents/guardians. Please note that green and grey socks are not part of the PE/Sports uniform and will not be permitted to be worn in practical classes.

I hope this clarifies the policy as we have had some level of confusion in the first two weeks and we are hoping that it will assist the students to bring the required uniform when needed and we lessen the need to hire uniform to students in the future.

Mr Mark Taylor
PDHPE Co-ordinator

Mountain Biking

With students away at the cadet leaders course and some of the senior mountain bikers travelling home from Rounds 5 & 6 of the National MTB Series in Bairnsdale, Vic, we had a smaller group of riders attending Monday's Summer Series Race. Having a smaller group didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the TAS mountain bikers however, with all riders giving their best effort throughout the race. The event wasn't without it's share of incidents, with a few TAS riders succumbing to mid-race tyre blow-outs and crashes. Thankfully these were not too serious and are quickly being understood by the newer riders as just part of mountain biking. The results haven't been published at the time of writing this report, they will however be published on the NEMTB Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nemtb.com.au/> in the coming days. There are also some great photos of TAS students from last weeks' race on this page. There will be photos from yesterday's race on the TAS MTB webpage as well. Well done to everyone who raced yesterday (and special thanks to Mr Tim Hughes who gave up his afternoon to drive the bus to and from the event at the last minute along with supporting riders throughout the race).

We will look forward to hearing a report from students about Rounds 5 and 6 of the National Series next week.

Mrs Jo Benham



The race start line-up



The First Lap

Netball

We are looking forward to a great netball season this year and the season is starting early this year on Saturday 18 March (Week 7 this term) so we need to get the registration process and teams sorted as soon as possible.

Registration

Registrations need to be completed no later than Thursday 23 February (which is next week) and must be completed online using the following link.

<https://netball.resultsvault.com/common/pages/noauth/olregstart.aspx?misc=Q71ULju/0AMvybgLuy4UZGs2IKGEOGli7Wt/V8pbUq8=&entityid=69621&fl=1&id=30707>

If you played last year for TAS or another school and have MyNetball login details you will need to use these, if you have forgotten your details you can use the 'Forgotten login details' link in the 'Return user' section.

If you have not used this system before you will need to set up your account, if you click on the link above there is a section called 'First time participant' so just follow the prompts to set this up.

The registration process is relatively easy, however, if you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact Ms Alice Hudson on 0410 168 646 or ahudson@as.edu.au.

Trials

We will have two trial days next week, Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February, starting at 3:45pm at the netball courts near Middle School.

These trials are to place the top two teams so if you are in Middle School or you want to play in a social competition you do not need to attend, however, you must register before Thursday 23 February.

If you have any questions about the trial process, please contact Ms Harrison at rharriso@as.edu.au.

Mrs Rachel Harrison

CREATIVE ARTS

Last week we had the big announcement that Middle School is staging a production of *Into The Woods Jnr* for performances in Term 2, Week 6. This production will be directed by Mrs Leasa Cleaver with Mrs Rebekkah Baumgartner as Musical Director and Ms Collete Brus as Assistant Director. Since the announcement additional audition slots have had to be added to cater for the huge number of students excitedly signing up. I wish all students auditioning the very best and can see this is already shaping up to be another stunning feather in the cap of the Creative Arts.



As part of *Into The Woods Jnr* we are having a poster design competition for the show and all TAS students are eligible to submit an entry. We are after an interesting interpretation of the show's normal stock image that is on the bottom of this page. You might choose to do anything from drawing to photography or digital media or even a combination of mediums. The winning student will receive a fabulous prize and will work with Mr McPherson to finalise their design for marketing. Entries are due Monday 6 March (Week 6) and should be submitted to Mrs Cleaver or dropped off at the Hoskins Centre office.

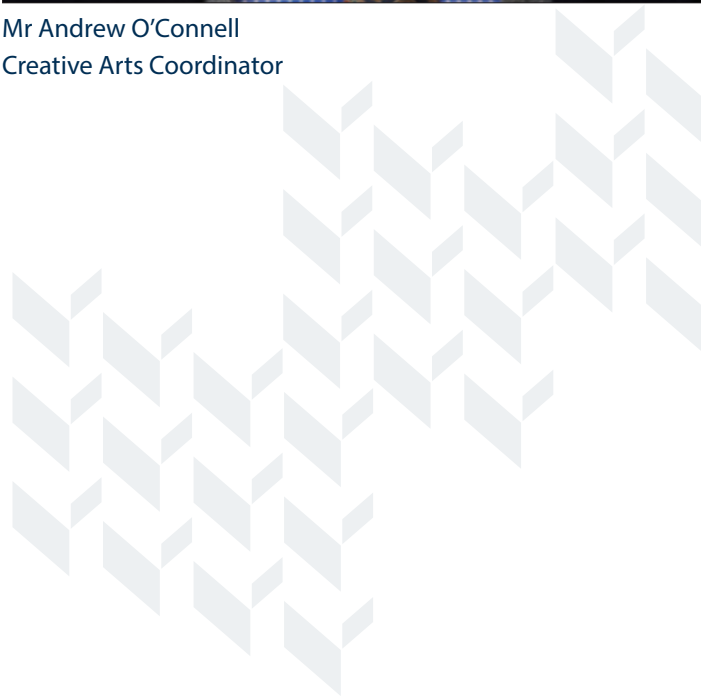
On Sunday the Year 11 and 12 Drama students returned to Armidale after a four day excursion to Sydney that left them inspired by the phenomenal IP and GP showcase at OnSTAGE, blown away by the incredible Belvoir production *Jasper Jones* and ready to tackle their studies with a renewed focus and enthusiasm. They were also somewhat hot in the heatwave during our return. Our school HSC showcase events for Drama, Music and Visual Arts happen in Term 3 and I encourage you to make them a priority this year as we once again have some very fine students in the Arts.

Today we have the *Spooky Men's Chorale* joining us in the Hoskins Centre to run a masterclass for aspiring vocalists and later on this evening perform their wonderfully wacky repertoire to a completely sell-out theatre. If you were lucky enough to get a ticket (we've had to turn away many a desperate caller this week) I am sure you are in for an incredibly funny and entertaining show.

This Friday evening at 5:30pm is the launch of Season 2017 at the Hoskins Centre. This public launch is bringing members of the community in to hear from the companies presenting works this year, as well as other Arts groups in attendance. We hope it will be a great celebration of the Arts and all members of the TAS community are invited to come for a glass of bubbles and to hear all about the fantastic shows happening at both the Hoskins Centre and in the wider region.



Mr Andrew O'Connell
Creative Arts Coordinator



The Government Inspector

Tickets are now live for *The Government Inspector* and can be booked through the Hoskins Centre website. The best seats are always in short supply so make sure you get in early to avoid disappointment. For more information check out the fetching poster in TAS Talks.

Mr Andrew O'Connell
Creative Arts Coordinator

THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL PRESENTS:

THE

GOVERNMENT

INSPECTOR

MAR 23

MAR 24

MAR 25

7pm

2pm, 7pm

7pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

<http://wordpress.as.edu.au/hoskins/>

<https://www.trybooking.com/255135>

MUSIC MATTERS

Twilight Concerts

There will be two Twilight Concerts in Term 1:

- Thursday 2 March (Week 5) in Memorial Hall
- Thursday 30 March (Week 9) in Hoskins Theatre

Please note that both these dates are immediately prior to two TAS Activities Days. Some students may be involved in cadet preparations the night of one Twilight Concert, but should be available for the other concert. The number of performers will be limited to 20, to keep the concerts to a manageable length. The concerts will run from 6-7pm, with a supper to follow.

Music tutors have been asked to register any students who are ready to perform for the first concert and to notify parents to confirm their availability. For those students needing piano accompaniment, rehearsals will be held the afternoon of the concert. A schedule will be sent out during the week of the concert, notifying those students of their rehearsal time.

Ensembles

Thank you to those students who have put their name on the sign-up sheets for ensembles in the Music Centre. Please make sure you check ensemble rehearsal times. They are listed on noticeboards in the Music Centre, in the Covered Way, Junior School reception, Middle School Town Square and on the Music website <http://wordpress.as.edu.au/music/music-tuition-and-ensembles/ensemble-rehearsals/>.

It's great to see so many register on TeamApp 'Music - The Armidale School' to keep up to date with ensemble rehearsals and news. It's important to choose which groups you belong to (for example, Camerata or Young Voices) within the App in order to access the relevant information and alerts. This is how we will be communicating with parents and students in TAS ensembles and advising changes to schedule. Easy instructions are on the Music website <http://wordpress.as.edu.au/music/music-tuition-and-ensembles/ensemble-rehearsals/> The web version of the App can be seen at <http://musicthearmidaleschool.teamapp.com/>

Composer in Residence – Paul Jarman

Internationally renowned Australian composer Paul Jarman will visit TAS next week to work on a new piece inspired by the Old Boys who served our country. During his residency Paul will be conducting workshops and working with vocal and instrumental ensembles.

"Paul Jarman is a musician of tremendous vitality and infectious enthusiasm" Lyn Williams OAM – Director Sydney Children's Choir & Gondwana Voices

Ms Leanne Roobol
Director of Music



HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, MARK HARRISON

We're okay here

Well, Week 3 has arrived and, considering this is a term of 'firsts' for so many Middle School people, we're managing reasonably well. New classes, teachers, sporting teams combine with Chapel, Assembly, War Cries and Day and Boarding House activities to make for a time of not inconsiderable adjustment. Perhaps the most important aspect of your children's time at TAS at the moment is the fact that they're busy. Weather has been frustrating some activities, however, and I'm sure all will join me in wishing for less extreme heat in the very near future. Some, I suspect, will be reminding me when, and I'm almost certain to do this, I make cold weather comments next term. Be assured that wherever possible boarding students continue to experience their weekend activities and all are making preparations for the next part of the term and, as I indicated at our Town Meeting this week, our annual swimming carnival in particular.

Swimming Carnival

You'll have received by now information about the Parent Information Session, BBQ and start of the Swimming Carnival this coming Thursday evening. Again, I encourage you, wherever possible, to attend these sessions and also the continuing swimming activities on Friday. For many families this will be your first actual contact with the boys and girls and it's time to 'catch up', encourage and listen to them. Certainly, there's much news to tell and I know the Middle School people are looking forward to the end of this week, in particular. All, for example, have been attending their Senior Houses for War Cry sessions and such activities are necessary to the development of their perceptions of 'community'. The House and Swimming Captains are making Middle School students feel welcome in their respective Houses – I know this for a fact because I've been trailing after them to witness the various activities. As was the case over the last few years, while the students' capacity (I refer to students of all ages, not just yours) to 'hold a tune' is questionable, the volume is nothing less than impressive and I know you, too, will enjoy the carnival. I'm looking forward to meeting and seeing you again on Thursday and Friday of this week.



Family Ties

Despite the conventional wisdom associated with keeping all new and returning students gainfully employed it would be supremely naive to think that none is missing home. As indicated last week, while their reactions are as various as their individuality, missing home is natural and considering this feeling is an affirmation of 'things familiar' and people they know well and trust, it is, as I've indicated, actually a very normal reaction and something we expect. To their very real credit the boarding staff have been tremendously busy and supportive: I went to White House last week to find that so many staff, including Mr Andrew Junge, were on duty, assisting with academic work and, perhaps more importantly at this stage of the year, just talking to the boys about their day. The Year 8 students and senior girls in Dangar and Moyes, too, deserve special mention: they've shown the new ones how to manage general house routine, are knowledgeable, good humored and sensible in terms of advice given to their peers. In short, the signs of a very healthy, successful start to the year are strong and positive.

To ensure success I ask that you, likewise, encourage your children, ask about the good things that happened in their day and, above all else, reassure them when and where necessary about matters requiring same. I also encourage you, now that most of you are about to see your children, to let us know of concerns relating to them. Again, I want you to contact us about any concerns you may have, especially at this stage of the year.

Homework

By this stage of the term you'll have seen or heard about the School's year-specific Homework Schedules. While it is easy for us to assist boarders with their new study routines during Prep time, it would be a very good idea, I think, for parents of day students to read through the sheet your children have and assist them with the organization of a daily work completion routine. You'll note that the sheets contain subject-specific colour codes to facilitate such organisation. If you have any questions about the process, please speak to your child's Homeroom Teacher who will be able to advise you about the best ways to facilitate the process of homework completion and assignment / assessment preparation. What I like about this initiative is that it gives us opportunity to support and guide Middle School students to the realization of good study habits over time. The success of this issue is dependent on mutually supportive communications between us. The schedule is reasonable in terms of time allocations for all subjects and sensitive to the needs and interests of younger students in that again, very pleasing for a teacher of English, there is provision for reading time, especially at the end of each week.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this week.

Mr Mark Harrison
Head of Middle School



HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

As we enter our third week, with various events and activities looking, the term is beginning to look a little hectic. I am really pleased that the children have settled into a sound routine and while some have found the transition back to school somewhat challenging, I know our teachers are very pleased with their rapid progress.

Please look carefully at the Looking Ahead section of the Junior School section of TAS Talks with a view of being able to drop in and join us when you can.

Leadership in Junior School

As you may be aware, one of the IDEALS embodied by the "Round Square" Organisation is Leadership. The others are Internationalism, Democracy, Environment and Service and together they are the pillars on which the organisation is built and to which the organisation's member schools subscribe. The Round Square and the IB organisations create a wonderful road map for our School. Clearly this is a major influence throughout Middle And Senior School so it seems sensible for us to underpin the Junior School strategic vision along the same lines.

Our House leaders will be guiding all our students throughout the year, themselves receiving formal training and being given the opportunity to put leadership into action. The first opportunity will be this week at our Swimming Championships and again next week, during our excursion to Lake Keepit. I am sure they will benefit enormously from the experience and tether with their peers, I look forward to the positive influence they will begin to make to our entire Junior School. Again, I congratulate those chosen to be House Leaders and look forward to working with them throughout the year.



House Leaders for 2017 (L to R) - Ross House: Lochlan Gerdes, William Gilpin, Tom Ball. Broughton House: Caleb Baumgartner, Lennox Neilson, Max Rogers. Green House: Sam Hynes, Harry Pennington, Will Brett.

Round Square Ideals – Excursion to Lake Keepit February 20 – 24

As has been advertised at the end of last year and with notes going out to parents next week sees a Years 3, 4 & 5 head out to Lake Keepit Sport and Recreational Centre near Gunnedah. The philosophy behind this change to our program was explained last week and parents of students in Years 3 – 5 should have now completed and returned their permission forms. If you have not done so or have any questions about your child's excursion please contact your classroom teacher. Further information relating to these excursions can be found on the Junior School website.

New Clubs in Junior School - STEAM

I am very pleased to announce that Mr Tim Scott will be offering two new clubs in Junior School this year. Both clubs will be focussing on elements of STEAM education. STEAM education explores the synergies between STEM subjects (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the Arts. The explicit teaching of these areas acknowledges the importance of the need for our future thinkers to be creative and innovative, principled, courageous and reflective. The interdisciplinary approach of our IB program and the Learner profile reflects and reinforces this. We are very fortunate then, to have Mr Scott in our school and be able to utilise his broad range of skills and expertise to benefit our children. Please register your children's interest in joining these clubs through junior@as.edu.au There will be a nominal cost for these clubs as explained below and should it be necessary, participation will be limited to those students who are most committed and interested in these activities.

Mr Ian Lloyd
Head of Junior School

Looking Ahead

Week 3 - Persistence

14 – 16 February	Life Education Van at TAS
Tuesday 16 February	School Swimming Championship
Wednesday 17 February	Year 4 Assembly in Memorial Hall

Week 4 - Organisation

TBC	Workshops with Mr Paul Jarman
Monday 20 – 24 February	Years 3 – 5 Excursion Week
Wednesday 22 February	No Assembly

STEAM Education in Junior School

Coding Club - Thursday mornings 8:00 am in Junior School

Held in the upstairs foyer and E&E classroom using mainly Grok Learning material - groklearning.com

Grok is an Australian company which formed from the NCSS Python Challenge run by the University of Sydney TAS has been involved with Grok and the NCSS Python Challenge since its inception.

Old Armidalian Elliot Diebold (2009) who studied Software Design at TAS, worked as an on-line tutor for NCSS Python Challenge while he was an undergraduate studying computing at Sydney University. Elliot is now working as a contractor for Virtual Reality companies, helping with their research, design, and in the development of projects.

Please note that there will be a charge of \$30 per student to join the club. This gives access to all Grok learning courses and competitions for a 12 month period.

Parents are encouraged to share in the experience and can create a login after the student accounts have been organised.

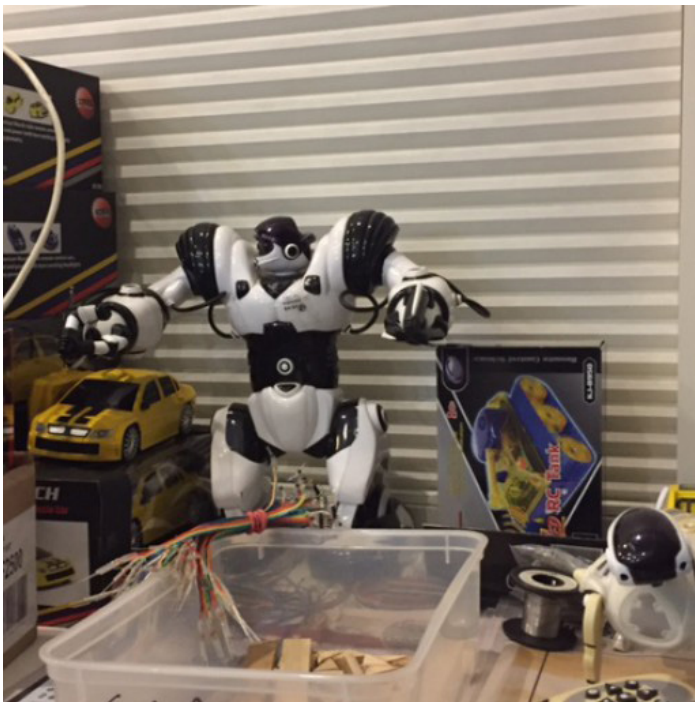
Engineering Club- Friday mornings, 8.00am in Junior School

Held in the upstairs foyer and E&E classroom, we will be looking at some electronics, robotics and mechanics, learning how to use tools to disassemble and assemble projects and generally looking at how things work and at some emerging technologies.

There is an opportunity to be involved in the REA (Re Engineering Australia) introductory 4X4 and SUBS in Schools programs.

Please note that there will be a charge of \$30 per student to join the club. This gives access to the tools, projects and covers consumables.

Mr Tim Scott



Engineering and Coding Clubs now in Junior School

Contacting the Junior School Ph: 6776 5817

Parents may wish to leave a message on the Junior School answering machine by phoning 02-6776 5817. These messages are noted prior to school, during the recess and lunch breaks and after 3.30pm. A message left on the Junior School answering machine will enable staff to return your call at a suitable time. The main school number- 6776 5800, manned during office hours, may also be rung for more urgent matters as can the Head of Junior School's mobile number if required.

Naming Belongings

Parents are encouraged to name all their children's belongings, particularly with Excursion Week looming. We endeavour to return all lost property but this is not possible if items are not named. A blue lost property box is in the Junior School After School Care Centre and parents are encouraged to check here in the first instance if items are lost. Items returned to the school are often left at the main TAS Reception. Please ensure all second hand clothing is marked with the correct name.

Absences from School

Parents are asked to advise the School if their child is absent by 9.00 am on the day and a note from the parent explaining the absence is required to be sent to the teacher upon the child's return to school. Parents of students, who are ill at school, will be contacted to discuss the most appropriate care for their child.

If the School has not had notification of a child's absence by 9.30 am on the day, the School will contact the family to check on the child's whereabouts.

Camp Australia – After School Care After School Care in 2017

Camp Australia will start the after school care program again in 2017. If you would like to use the service throughout the year, you will need to register first with Camp Australia.

To register go to:

1. www.campastralia.com.au
2. On the home page go to 'new parent' and type in The Armidale School.
3. On the right hand side of the page 'registration'
4. After you have registered you can start making bookings online.

If you need more information or help, please contact the customer service team on 1300 105 343

PYP in Transition

Through play based learning experiences, Transition are currently exploring the concepts form and function

The big idea they are focussed on is "Schools and communities are organised to help us learn and play together."

The students have been getting to know each other and their teachers. They have been enjoying time in their own playground sharing tutti-frutti, lunch and many water based activities in the hot weather we have been experiencing.

Mrs Ball, Mrs Trenerry and Miss Coates have been really pleased with how well the youngest members of our Junior School have organised belongings in tote trays and the respect they have shown when playing together.

They have been for a tour of the Junior School and know where the other classes are located.

Year 5 are the Transition buddies for this term and they have enjoyed getting to know the leaders of our Junior School. This also makes the transition into the bigger playground less daunting. Year 5 have been reading to the students and then doing activities with them.

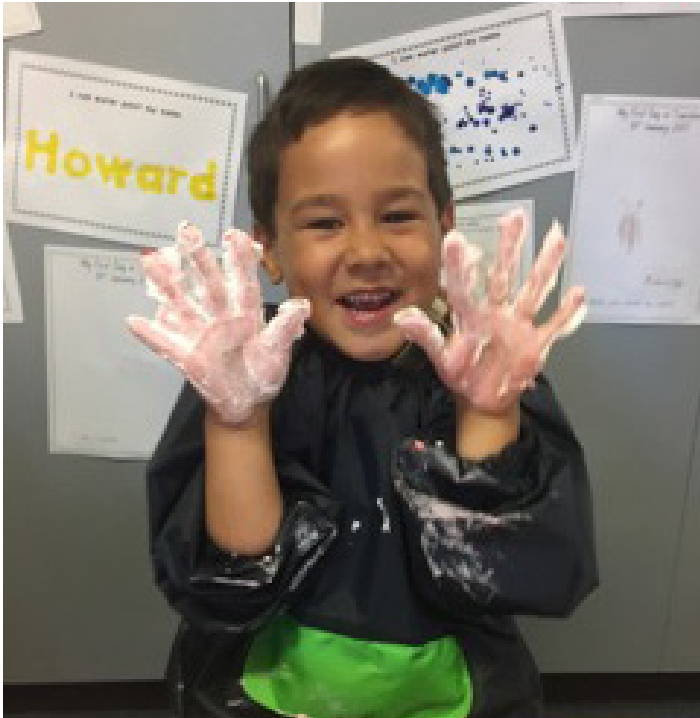
Mrs Veronica Waters
PYP Coordinator



Visiting the TAS library- Joshua Calkin & Baxter Carruthers



Grace Ryan enjoys water play



"Messy Play" Lennox Muli



Yunho Lee creates his name with play dough

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT, CHRISTINE WRIGHT

Junior School Swimming Championships

Our annual swimming championships will be held on this Thursday, 16 February from 9.00 am. Please ensure your child has returned their nomination form to Mrs Wright. Thank you to all of you who have returned forms allowing us to get started on the organisation of this carnival. It would be greatly appreciated if you were able to assist on the day in any way. Please email Mrs Wright on cwright@as.edu.au before the day if available

There will be a cake stall available on the day provided by our wonderful parents. Please pop this date in your diary and come along to support your child if you are able.

If you have any questions about sport in the Junior School this year please contact me by email.

Winter Sports - Netball

Our Winter sports will be approaching very quickly and nominations for team sports will occur this term. Netball nominations are due next Thursday, 23 February and as such I would like to get an idea of numbers.

If your daughter is interested in playing Netball this year, please have a chat with her. I will be speaking with all interested girls this week.

If you have any questions about sport in the Junior School this year please contact me by email.

Mrs Christine Wright
Junior School Sport Coordinator

Summer Sports

Our summer sports program for Term 4 is in full swing with children commencing their training sessions this week. Please check the training and game days below:

Indoor Hockey – Monday training, Friday games

Gymnastics – Monday skills sessions

Tennis – Monday training with Justin Sherriff

Swimming – Thursday training

Cricket – Wednesday training, Saturday games

Basketball – Monday games, Wednesday training. Starts Monday, 20 February

Please ensure your child informs their coach if they are unable to attend a training session or game day.



Gymnastics

Despite the hot weather, the children showed fantastic enthusiasm throughout the afternoon. We started a game called pigs and pigeons, which involved a number of stretches, then went on to complete a series of high and low parallel bar work activities. Our group rotations included cartwheels, beam locomotion, springboard activities and static partner beanbag games. Finally we finished with a circuit that included the tumble tramp seat, egg rolls and our favourite, the dip step on the beam.

Mrs Lana Hawksford



Katie Hynes showing her balancing skills on the horizontal bar

Orienteering Opportunity for Junior School

Junior School students have a wonderful opportunity in a couple of weeks time to have some expert orienteering coaching from a visiting Finnish orienteer, Atte Lahtinen.

Atte is in NSW for six months on a sporting scholarship provided by Orienteering NSW and will be in Armidale on February 25-26. To make the most of this opportunity, the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club and Bush n Beach Orienteering Club (based in Coffs Harbour) are conducting a two day coaching weekend. Details are outlined on the attached poster at the end of this edition of TAS Talks especially those have shown an interest and achieved success at the annual Armidale schools orienteering events.

The weekend is of course open to all to attend and families are especially welcome.

The weekend will be followed up by two more events on 12 and 26 March. More information on future events can be found by clicking Event calendar on our [website](#).



Joe Fenwicke, Andi Li and Lucas Hu demonstrate static acrobatic balances



**TAS
Hoskins Centre
FEB 15 7:30pm**

The
**Spooky
Men's
Chorale**

Ennobled by improbable facial hair,
burdened by a vast, lovable incomprehension,
and dignified with cavernous vocal chords, The Spooky Men's Chorale
employs a devastating combination of beauty and stupidity to comment on the unsolvable
paradoxes of being a man through a diverse repertoire:
from Georgian table songs to immaculate ballads, vaudevillian nonsense to the Bee Gees.

The Spooky Men's Chorale, presented in association with Musica Viva Australia, is coming to these venues in 2017:

TAS Hoskins Centre, Armidale	Wed 15 Feb	Civic Centre, Gunnedah	Sat 18 Feb
Tamworth Capitol Theatre	Thu 16 Feb	Crossing Theatre, Narrabri	Sun 19 Feb
Royal Theatre, Quirindi	Fri 17 Feb	School of Arts, Tenterfield	Wed 22 Feb
		Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes	Thu 23 Feb

The Spookies will also run workshops at TAS Hoskins Theatre 15 Feb & Gunnedah Conservatorium 18 Feb



Arts
NSW



Australia
Council
for the Arts

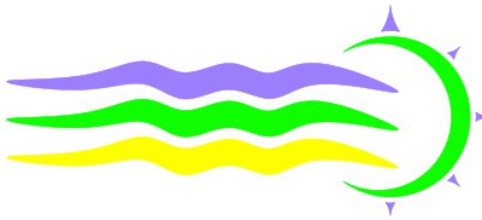


For information & bookings check
www.artsnw.com.au/anw-on-tour



ORIENTEERING COACHING WEEKEND

Bush 'n' Beach
Orienteering Club



Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th February

Visiting Finnish orienteer, Atte Lahtinen, will be providing individual and group coaching for all levels of experience

Saturday:

- An orienteering event at the Blue Hole in the morning, with coaching provided before and after you participate.
- Preview coaching 8:30 am – 11:00 am: book at Registration on arrival.
- Starts: 9:30 am – 11:30 am (course closure 1:00 pm)
- Post-event coaching from 1:00 pm: join the group review of your course as you relax with your BYO picnic lunch
- Training activity: after a swim in the Blue Hole, join the training activity at 3.00 pm
- Social evening from 5:00 pm: BYO “pot luck” dinner to share at the Armidale Showground (stove & dishwasher available) group dining facility. “Armchair” orienteering for all, and a mini-night-O (BYO torch) for kids.

Sunday:

- An orienteering event at Oakview (20 km on Bundarra Road) in the morning (starts from 8.30am – 10.30am), so you can put into practice all that you have learned.

Members of an orienteering club can register at <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au>

Alternatively you can book at <https://www.trybooking.com/OUNY>

For more information phone Maurice on 02 6772 9604 or Helen on 0478 226 601

RICK HATCH - POTTERY CLASSES

Rick and Suzanne Hatch are again offering after-school classes in clay work. We have been preparing for weeks and have 2 great projects ready to go. The goal of our teaching is for the children to have heaps of fun while developing imagination, hand skills and the ability to solve problems with creative flair.

- **Where:** Classes are held in Art Room 1 of the Hoskins Centre at The Armidale School
- **Who and When:** Years K to 4 are on Tuesdays from 4pm to 5pm
Years 5 and up are on Thursdays from 4 pm to 5 pm
- Children may arrive any time after 3:20 pm
- Classes begin on Tuesday 7 February and Thursday 9 February. There will be no class on 21 & 23 February as this is Excursion week for TAS Junior School
- Classes run for six weeks, followed by a Party and Exhibition celebrating the work done by the students
- Cost : \$ 150. This includes the cost of materials and firing of the work

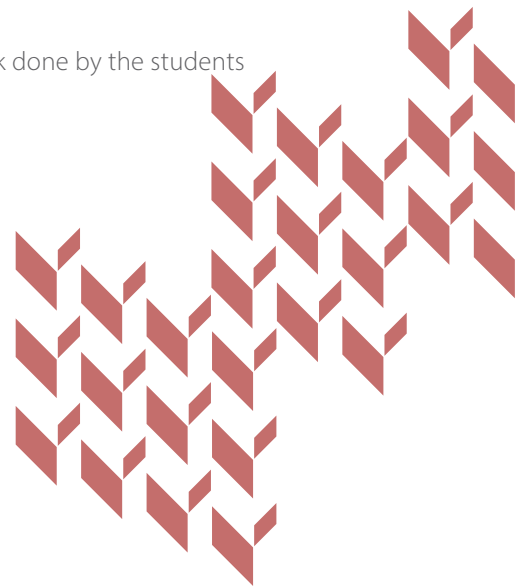
For enrolment and further information:

Contact Rick Hatch on 6772 5371 or email weemalapot@yahoo.com.au

Please include your child's age and name, and your name and phone number

Kind regards,

Rick Hatch



- **Thursday 9th February** – 1.5hr 6pm-7.30pm
session for ages 13-17 \$35 per child
- **Friday 10th February** – 1.5 hr 6pm – 7.30pm
session for ages 17+ \$35 per person
- **Saturday 11th February** – 1hr 8am – 9am
session for ages 8-12 \$25 per child



Great prizes to be given away!!!



Register with the Grafton Hockey Association

Kookaburra

Email: admin@graftonhockey.net.au

Hockeyroo

DYLAN WOTHERSPOON

Ph: 0400 888 785

GABI NANCE