



**TAS**  
THE ARMIDALE  
SCHOOL

EXPLORE  
EXPERIENCE  
EXCEL

# TAS TALKS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

Wednesday 6 December, 2017 Term 4 Week 9

## HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

### Seussical The Musical

I am quite sure that the spectacle and pageantry of our annual Junior School production over three performances last week impressed as much as they entertained and I offer special congratulations to producer Leasa Cleaver and her team on putting on such a fine show. Having every Junior School student on stage in the one show is no mean feat and the preparation behind it did justice to the tradition of exemplary performance that the Hoskins Centre has become known for. It was a fitting end to a year of wonderful performance on the stage and a credit to all.

For those who were unable to catch the show live, as well as for those who would simply like to relive some of it, photos can be found by visiting the TAS website photo gallery at [www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery/](http://www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery/)

### Activities Week

I am pleased to report that the positive activity commented on from the field in TAS Talks last week continued through to the end of Activities Week and I have enjoyed hearing the reports of strong efforts and engagement from our students from Year 6 right through to Year 12. The Activities program is a diverse one, but comes together in a sequence of progressive challenges that seem to get better with every year. The new venues and activities for Years 6, 7 and 10 have added to the overall experience in very good ways and our new structure that has seen cadets move to Years 8, 9 and 10 seems to work very well indeed. Once again I offer special thanks to all our staff who headed away from home to make this possible. Their commitment to delivering experiences outside the usual school curriculum highlights our shared vision for what is good for the development of our students and it is hugely appreciated.



## Sporting Accolades

Though their season is well in the past, congratulations are due to the TAS First XI Football team on being named as the Junior Sporting Team of the Year at the Armidale Sports Awards last week. Most will be aware of their success on the field this year, as well as their fine sportsmanship, and this award will come as no surprise. It is worthy recognition from the wider Armidale community though and we should applaud it too.

Similar congratulations go to Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon who was recognised for her 10 years of commitment to the Special Olympics in a service to sport award, also presented at the Armidale Sports Awards ceremony. Kirsty's ongoing work to support the Special Olympics is worthy of our praise too.

## Cash Cup

The final event in our inter-house competition calendar took place yesterday as Middle and Senior School students took to the stage in Memorial Hall for the Cash Cup. In a show that was quite probably the best seen to date it was clear that all were well prepared, in good voice and willing to put their best creative selves forward and I congratulate the new house leaders on doing such a good job in their first test in competition.

The Cash Cup was first presented by former Headmaster Alan Cash at the time of his retirement as an inter-house competition involving photography, art, craft and creative writing. Like a number of other historical inter-house competitions, the trophy remains, but the nature of the event has evolved over the years. Today, the Cash Cup is held on a single day with very specific requirements for the art work, lip-sync movie, musical item and drama performance that each house must produce. It has developed significant cache in its own right as a prized trophy and seeing the enthusiasm for the event from such a broad spectrum of students was quite inspiring.

## Speech Days

I look forward to welcoming parents and friends of the School as well as our two very different special guests to the Junior School Speech Day this afternoon and the Middle and Senior School Speech Day tomorrow morning. Junior School will welcome Cam White, a pro BMX Dirt jumper and former world champion who has been travelling and competing around the world since 2003. Cam will be putting his skills on show for Junior School prior to Speech Day and is sure to entertain. Middle and Senior School will hear from renowned wildlife conservation champion Dr Tammie Matson whose work on elephant projects in particular has been widely acclaimed. I am looking forward to both our guests and am sure they will add something special to our formal end of year events.

### Murray Guest



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Week 9

Wednesday 6 December

MS Family Luncheon &  
Final Assembly

JS Speech Day (5pm)

Thursday 7 December

Speech Day ( 9.30am)

Classes Conclude

## 2018

Thursday 25 January

Staff Day

Friday 26 January

Australia Day Holiday Staff

Monday 29 January

Staff Day

Boarders return

Tuesday 30 January

Day Classes commence

## Clothing and Book Shop

- Clothing Shop closes for the year on 7 December at 2.00 pm
- Re-Opens Monday 29 January 2018 9.00 am until 5.00 pm
- Tuesday 30 January 2018 normal hours resume
- The Clothing Shop is open by Appointment only during the holidays. Please use the on-line Booking System.

Mrs Vivienne Tearle

## Armidalian 2016

The 2016 edition of the school's official annual magazine, The Armidalian, was distributed during Advisor time this week, to the eldest student of every family with a child at TAS in 2016.

Please ask your son or daughter for your family's copy. Students who left TAS in 2016 and 2017 with no younger sibling at the school, will receive theirs in the post. Work has begun on the 2017 edition with hopes it will be published by the end of Term 2.



**Tim Hughes**  
Editor

## Student Services

Reminder to students who are 16 years and over or turning 16 during the summer vacation. Senior Student Concession Cards - available from the Travel Office - are necessary for students to avoid paying full fare on public transport. If you have not yet collected your concession card, then please email Mrs Sadler on [msadler@as.edu.au](mailto:msadler@as.edu.au) to request issue prior to departure for holidays.



**TAS**  
THE ARMIDALE  
SCHOOL

The Headmaster, Mr Murray Guest requests the pleasure of your company at

## Speech Day 2017

Thursday 7 December at 9.30am

TAS Sports Centre

### Guest of Honour

**Dr Tammie Matson**

Zoologist and wildlife conservationist



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## P&F PRESIDENT, MRS RACHAEL NICOLL

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### CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

We will have a few of our famous Christmas Puddings for sale at Speech Day. These are \$25 each (cash only) and can be purchased in the Gym Foyer prior to Speech Day starting on Thursday morning at 9.30am.

### HEADS UP FOR 2018

I know that Term 1 2018 seems like a while away but the P&F will leap into events straight away, so mark these in your diaries: Our first P&F meeting will be on **Wednesday 7 February** We will be hosting our Welcome to TAS Barbecue to feed hungry people at War Cries on **Thursday 15 February** Our cake stalls will be up and operating for the Junior School and Middle/Senior School Swim Carnivals

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

The P&F Executive would like to give a huge thanks to all our Liaison Parents, families, staff, and Community Service helpers and everyone else for your help throughout the year. Wow, you're amazing and we appreciate everything you do. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Finally, the P&F would like to wish all TAS families and the wider TAS community a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Take time to enjoy your families, have a breather over the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mrs Rachael Nicoll



### NEW LIAISON PARENTS NEEDED!

We are still seeking a few Liaison Parents for 2018. In particular we would love to have some people put up their hands for being LPs for the 2018 - Years 3, 4 and 5.

If you are interested in becoming a Year Group Liaison Parent for 2018 or would like to know more about the role please either contact myself ([nicollfamily1@gmail.com](mailto:nicollfamily1@gmail.com)) or your current Liaison Parent.



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## CHAPLAIN, MR RICHARD NEWTON

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### Christmas 2017

There has been a lack, a void, something missing this year, an absence, a hole that nothing else seems to fit. That's right, you know what I'm taking about, many of the TAS Mo Bros decided to go clean skin this year. Yes there has been waling and gnashing of teeth, yes there has been the cries of 'why?' You might think this tragedy has been caused by the passing of the month of November unnoticed. Perhaps you're more insightful, and your conclusion is that they could no longer bare that sort of attention. The truth of the matter is that with such a thing of beauty presiding so closely to one's self it is easy to become distracted from the normal activities of life. It became difficult to eat – as food became entrapped within the facial forest, it was difficult to proceed normally as the sensation of sucking and licking residual food from the upper lip became an absorbing activity in itself, rendering one unable to converse at the dinner table or even being able to take another bite. It became difficult to read, particularly publicly. As one gazed at the words on the page it became increasingly impossibly to adjust the focus beyond what was more immediate – the moustache.

You see things of worth, even great worth. Things of importance even profound importance, can distract from the more important things in life. There is the real risk that the immediate and beautiful will blur our vision of the things of paramount importance.

Christmas is a great example of that. There are so many good, even great things that we enjoy at Christmas time, not least the holidays. However, we must not find ourselves so enthralled by these good gifts of God that we forget God himself and what He has done for us in Jesus. Christmas celebrates The Christ, God's promised solution to our predicament. God the Son, became God the Man for our sake. Let us not lose our ability to see with clarity what we celebrate at this time of year and why it's worth celebrating.

**Mr Richard Newton**



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## ACADEMIC

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### Japanese Cooking

The Japanese language students enjoyed the end of term cooking lessons over the last two weeks. They learnt about how food is central to the culture of Japan and for many students to taste flavours they haven't tasted before. Year 6 and 7 made Onigiri (rice balls) decorated with nori (seaweed), Year 8-10 made Oyakodon, a delicious chicken and egg dish and Year 11 made my personal favourite Hiroshima style Okonomiyaki. Having lived in Hiroshima for two years, I ate this dish very often.

I told the students that if we cook they have to make the dish for families during the holidays. I would love to hear some feedback on the cooking experience. I highly recommend that all families look up these dishes on Youtube and enjoy the taste of Japanese food.

**Mr Allan Moore**



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# LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

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## Activities Week in Pictures

What a massive week it was! From the canyons to the coast, check out hundreds of photos from Bush Skills, Rangers, Cadets, Surf Life Saving and Rural Fire Service in a special Activities Week photo gallery on the school website. Just click on the camera icon on the front page of the website, or go to [www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery](http://www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery).

Here's just a taste:



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## DIRECTOR OF CO-CURRICULAR, WILL CALDWELL

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Congratulations to Lucy Fenwicke who was presented with the Pierre de Coubertin Award in Assembly yesterday. The award recognizes both Lucy's personal achievements and her ability to live the Olympic Spirit, exhibiting mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

### All the World's a Stage

For some the stage is an escape. For others, it is an opportunity to be exactly who they are. Yesterday's inter-house creative arts competition allowed all houses to shine, showing creative flair and talent in music, theatre and visual arts. It was a fitting way to celebrate a busy term; to laugh and have fun.

I commend and thank all the House leaders for their drive and commitment. It was pleasing to see the level of engagement and enthusiasm across all years. Our Theatre Captains, Ellen Coote and George Lane did an amazing job of hosting the event and were instrumental in creating an atmosphere of strong house spirit and participation. Croft House deserved their victory, cleverly blending the themes from *The Lion King* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. However, the standard across all houses was impressive and the performances entertaining.

I am sure that some of the enjoyment of Cash Cup is in the fact that it heralds the end of our school year and beginning of summer holidays. Whilst this time provides a concentrated period of development for our Rowers, Cast and Crew of The Addams Family, Mountain Bikers, Forensic Managers and First XI Cricketers, it also offers the chance to recover, spend time with family and friends; re-connect with those parts of our lives that perhaps are neglected during a busy term.

Take the time now to reflect on your accomplishments and growth over the past year, cherish the challenges and the lessons learned, be thankful for every gift you have received and have a safe, happy and restful Christmas.





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## HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, MARK HARRISON

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### Take a bow...final curtain

I'm pleased to report that the Activities for all year groups are completed and that students on the whole are well, though from the looks on faces, especially at Monday's 'new look' Carol Service and then the Cash Cup, though so tired. Such tiredness is not entirely attributable to the activities just completed – it's more the manifestation of a year just 'done'. The good news is that we've days to go and, on this note, I hope all goes well for everyone!

Academic work does continue – 'loose ends are being tied up': Year 7 Rangers and Year 8 Cadet gear is being returned progressively this week; practices for music, our final Middle (on Wednesday) and Senior School Assemblies and also the School's Speech Day (this coming Thursday) will occur and of course boarding students have already begun the clean up in their houses. Further, my strong advice to all in the last two Town Meetings indicates that this clean up extends to all students as the academic area needs a very thorough clean up as well. In short, while general activities have ceased, they're all replaced by new ones in preparation for the Christmas break.

Now that the Year 6s and 7s are back from their 'new' activities in Buccarumbi and Toowoomba respectively and that the Year 8s have returned (the very long way) from Nymboida, we're looking forward to welcoming parents to our end-of-year functions and even though we're likely to see you before you read this week's TAS Talks we hope that your time with us this week is a both productive and enjoyable. Certainly, I'm looking forward to catching up with you again, even if only for a brief talk, as we go to various activities that concern your sons and daughters.

To give some idea of how valuable and varied end of term activities are, images can be found in the photo gallery on the School website. Last week I was lucky to be involved in quite a few of these activities both at Buccarumbi and Nymboida.

Special thanks go to Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon for her meticulous organisation of the many and varied activities that our students enjoyed throughout the week at Buccarumbi. Likewise, Ms Rachel Harrison's organisation of the new Year 7 trip to Toowoomba and Mr David Toakley's management of our Year 8s in Nymboida need to be recognised here. On behalf of all, I want to thank these people for their support of your children not only during the term's, but the year's penultimate school week! These people, and in fact all staff who supported them, are deserving of a long, restful holiday break.



There's no other description for it – the combined organisation of the week by all staff members was excellent - no mean achievement especially considering the weather conditions, being mid 30s again this year, though most afternoons and evenings were cooled by a shower. However, we got very damp, too. It's good that we've been able to come home to dry out (literally).

In between times Mrs Alison Evans and I were able to get some much-needed work done on our Final Assembly arrangements. I'm still interviewing possible enrolments for 2018 – even this week.

## Staff farewells

After 4 years at TAS, Ms Jayne Heagney leaves us to take up a full-time, permanent English and History position at St Stanislaus in Bathurst. Framed by universal sporting, cadet and phenomenal pastoral expertise, Jayne Heagney's excellent teaching method complements vital and willing assistance to the cause of co- education in the Middle - indeed, the wider school. It's probably time that another part of our world also gets to be a better place because of your kindness, energy and enthusiasm

If you don't know about the next person, then your likely blind or, otherwise insensible. After four years of fierce, indomitable and utterly uncompromising guardianship of White House Middle School boarding, Mr Andrew Junge leaves us to take up an Executive role as Head of Boarding at the Haileybury Rendall School - in Darwin. Love of and expertise in rugby, passion for teaching and unbelievable pastoral devotion to all students in his care are balanced by Andrew Junge's almost religious dedication to the families of said students. Andrew Junge will be missed.

Our fearless gate keeper, guard, model of probity and Administrative Assistant Mrs Alison Evans relocates with family to Canberra. After 11 years at TAS, and having been my 'my right arm' for four and a half of them, I can state unreservedly that the combination of Alison's intelligence, her capacity to 'think on her feet' and her essentially unparalleled work ethic distinguish her from others. Alison Evans also will be missed.

On your behalf I wish well these fine people!

## Final word

2017 has been 'full' and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of us. Overall, it's been very productive and I believe we've only been able to achieve what we have because of amazingly hard-working staff and boys and girls all of whom have been accommodating. Of course, there have been occasions when, for whatever reason, 'things' have been tricky, but these situations have been managed well enough and all they do is confirm that we're normal. To be perfect all the time is almost impossible – especially when we remind ourselves that we're dealing with young adolescents.

We're just about to embark on the year's longest (and definitely the warmest, except for Makar, of course) holiday break: whatever it is you do and wherever it is you go, I hope your time with family and friends is productive, restful and safe. Be of good cheer and have a happy Christmas holiday. Again, now that we're back from flimsy cover from the elements, here's to further, good, soaking rain.

Good wishes to all,

**Mr Mark Harrison**  
**Head of Middle School**



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## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

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### Staffing Appointment - Year 4 Teacher 2018

It is with great pleasure that I announce Ms Anna Frost has been appointed to the position of Year 4 teacher from 2018. Originally from Newcastle, Anna completed her Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Sydney University with 1st Class Honours and has both Category 1 & 2 International Baccalaureate qualifications. Her impressive resume speaks of her passion for education, teaching Year 4 for the last three years at Cranbrook Junior School in Sydney. She has a real interest in the Creative and Performing Arts, enjoys travelling and various sports, including touch football and coaching football and basketball. She understandably backs the Newcastle Knights and commendably supports the NSW Waratahs. I warmly welcome Anna to TAS Junior School and look forward to her joining our teaching team.

### Seussical Jr

Much has been said about the wonderful performances of *Seussical* last week, However, I would like to personally congratulate and thank Mrs Leasa Cleaver and the team of assistants that combined over the last term to create such a colourful and enjoyable spectacle. At the Barbecue afterwards, (who said it wouldn't rain), the overriding impression was that the children really enjoyed being a part of this fun. To the Musical Director, Mrs Rachel Butcher, the Tech Support team of Michael Cornford and Harry Mackenzie and our Set Creators, Polly and Jeremy Harvey and Mr Ian McPherson our thanks. It was a stunning production and has again set the bar high for our Junior School Productions.

### End of Year Revelry

It was a fantastic evening for our End of Year Barbecue and while the weather held off for the majority of the evening, the atmosphere was fantastic. Thanks to our kitchen staff for assisting (and the Icy Poles) and to the large number of senior students who helped with the setting up and supervision of the Jumping Castle. It was a great inclusion for the night and without their help this would not have been available. It has also been a happy time for our students, with a Christmas Service and a Pool party. Again, as you can see, our older students showed great care and thoughtfulness when helping on the "Inflatable" so that some of our youngest could also have a turn. Well done to all.



### And finally...

I would like to thank all our parents who have been so supportive throughout the year. I have a love for TAS and it comes largely because of the overwhelmingly positive backing we receive as teachers. We love the job we do, but it is made all the easier and more satisfying because of your support. On behalf of all our teaching staff, we wish you a safe holiday and a wonderful Christmas and we all look forward to seeing you again in 2018.

### Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday wishes go out to the following children who celebrate their special days between now and their return to school in 2018.

Euan Billingsley, MJ Blanch, Tommy Blanch, Charlotte Coupland, Andy Hardin, Hugo Li, Marcus Robb, Lachlan Schumacher, Andrian Zhang, Andi Li, Yunho Lee, Xavier Leary, Andrew Alkhouri, Mohammed Almokhtar, Azoz Alshammari, Joel Blackburn, Will Brett, Charlize Broadfoot, Baxter Carruthers, Ted Chick, Sam Ford, Eve Hopkins, Oliver Robb, Boyd Rogers and Sophia White.

**Mr Ian Lloyd**  
**Head of Junior School**

## Looking Ahead

Wednesday 6 December Junior School Closes 12.25pm  
Junior School Speech Day 5.00pm  
in Memorial Hall  
Children to return to classrooms  
by 4.30pm

### 2018

#### Week 1

Monday 29 January Transition Information  
Evening 6.00 – 7.00pm  
Tuesday 30 January Welcome to Junior School 8.45am  
Morning Tea 9.30am –  
Junior School undercover area  
Friday 2 February JS Welcome BBQ – JS undercover  
area 6.00 – 8.30pm

#### Week 2

Monday 5 February Parent Information Night  
6.00-7.00pm  
Years K, 2, & 4 in JS classrooms  
Sport Commences

Wednesday 7 February Parent Information Night  
6.00 -7.00pm  
Years 1, 3, & 5 in JS classrooms  
Year 5 Assembly - Hoskins Centre  
2.45pm

#### Week 3

Wednesday 14 February Year 4 Assembly – Hoskins Centre  
2.45pm  
Thursday 15 February Junior School Swimming  
Championships

# LITTLEFISH



## CONTEMPORARY DANCE MASTERCLASS

**MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018**

THE FISH TANK 9/10 85 MARSH STREET

**10AM - 12PM**

10 - 16 YRS

\$50.00

**1PM - 3.30PM**

16 YRS AND ABOVE

\$65.00

For further details and enrolment forms email  
[info@littlefishentertainment.com](mailto:info@littlefishentertainment.com)



SPECIAL GUEST TUTOR  
**ROBBIE CURTIS!**

# LITTLEFISH

# MUSICAL THEATRE



# BOOTCAMP

## SING . DANCE . ACT

TUE 23 - THUR 25

JANUARY 2018

9AM - 4.30PM

AT THE FISH TANK

\$250 PER STUDENT

12 years and above

BE PART OF OUR HOLIDAY  
WORKSHOP AND START YOUR  
JOURNEY AS A "TRIPLE-THREAT"!

MASTER THE ART OF PERFORMANCE  
IN OUR ACTION-PACKED THREE DAY  
HOLIDAY WORKSHOP! LEARN  
SCENES AND SONGS FROM  
POPULAR MUSICALS AND BE PART  
OF A SHOW STOPPING ORIGINAL  
DANCE NUMBER!

For further details and enrolment forms email  
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# ARMIDALE TENNIS ACADEMY

## SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS - AO SERIES

WEEK 1: 11 DEC - 15 DEC 2017\*

WEEK 2: 18 DEC - 22 DEC 2017

WEEK 3: 08 JAN - 12 JAN 2018

\*Week 1 is a half day camp open to all ages

Grab your enrolment form -

<http://armidaletennisclub.weebly.com/coaching.html>

9.00am - 12pm HALF DAY (kids 5 to 7yrs)  
\$50.00 per day OR \$225.00 for the week

9.00am - 3.00pm FULL DAY (kids 8+)  
\$65.00 per day OR \$300.00 for the week

dave@armidaletennisacademy.com.au  
Golf Links Road Armidale 2350

