



**TAS**  
THE ARMIDALE  
SCHOOL

EXPLORE  
EXPERIENCE  
EXCEL

# TAS TALKS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

Wednesday 31 January 2018 Term 1 Week 1

## HEADMASTER, MURRAY GUEST

### Welcome

Welcome to the new school year to all our returning and new students, parents and staff. Once again we begin the year with well over 100 new students and the growth in boarding numbers is the largest we have seen for very many years. The new girls' boarding house which is close to full already is complete and in operation and interested parents will have the opportunity to look through it on Thursday 15 February prior to the Middle and Senior School swimming and war cry competition. That will be the opportunity to pay tribute to those responsible for this big project for the School, including our Board, builders Rice Constructions, architects BVN and the two man team of Pat Bradley and Stewart McRae who drove it for the School from start to finish. Other good work has been happening in Tyrrell House and that will be followed in other senior houses through the year.

I made comment at our first assembly on Tuesday that this is a significant time for all those who are new here and perhaps particularly those who have joined us as boarders for the first time. What we all have in common though, students and staff alike, is that we have experienced a first day and week at TAS and that engenders a natural empathy for our new students and I am confident that they will be welcomed in the best traditions of our student body.



## Holiday Activities

Whilst most of us were enjoying the Summer break with family a good number of our students were involved in school activities and our staff have enjoyed hearing reports on the success of these at our meetings over the past week. Those activities included the rowing regattas and camps at Grafton and Taree, the cricket festival for our First XI in Toowoomba, the Forensic Science Management Camp at TAS in preparation for the full camp for Year 8s in the middle of the year and most recently the annual production camp for the cast and crew of the Addams Family Musical. Year 12 students Nicholas Bohlsen, Ashini Ekanayake and Sambavan Jeyakumar attended the National Youth Science Forum at ANU in Canberra and Nicholas Jackson the same forum at the University of Queensland, while Owen Chandler and Hannah Van Roy immersed themselves in the National Computer Science School at the University of Sydney. Students can look forward to hearing reports on these activities in coming assemblies.

There have been individual successes too with Lily Neilson enjoying success with the NSW 15 years indoor hockey team that won the national titles over the holiday break and Isaac Gerdes winning silver medals at the NSW Country Athletics Championships in Wollongong last weekend. Mr Pennington has reported the details of both of these in TAS Talks this week and I echo his congratulations to Lily and Isaac.

## 2017 HSC and the Academic Year Ahead

As most parents will now be aware, our 2017 HSC cohort set the bar high and presented a strong role model for our HSC students this year. With almost 20% of the group achieving ATARs above 90 and a very pleasing number scoring above 80, the 2017 results were the strongest we have seen in a decade and our new Year 12 students will be aware of that. Collectively the group performed very well indeed and I offer both them and their teachers congratulations on their efforts and achievements.

The focus on furthering academic culture at TAS is continuing in 2018 with fresh support for Year 12s in their study centre from Mrs Hutton and other staff, including our Careers Advisor Mr Taylor, extended library hours and changes to homework arrangements. Our Director of Studies, Mrs Wark, will be writing to parents and students with details of these initiatives in the coming week and I recommend that to you.

## Welcome to New Staff

As we begin the new year we welcome back several staff who were on leave at the end of last year. Mrs Alex Murray returns from maternity leave in 2017, Mr Andrew O'Connell returns to the Creative Arts Department after leave during Semester 2, Ms Amanda Robins returns to her leadership of the Mathematics Department after taking LSL in Term 4 and Mrs Karen Hutton returns to take up two new roles at the school as Tyrrell House Mother and Year 12 Common Room Supervisor.

As our student population increases, so too does the size of our academic staff and we welcome a good number of new staff as the new year begins, including eight new teachers.

## New Academic Staff

Miss Anna Frost comes to us from Cranbrook Junior School in Rose Bay where she has been teaching for the past five years, including working with the I.B. Primary Years Programme. Miss Frost will teach the second stream in Year 4 this year.

Mr James Brauer returns to TAS where he was a member of our Residential Staff from 2005 to 2007 in Tyrrell House whilst studying at UNE. Mr Brauer has been teaching at Marist College Ashgrove since that time and been involved with boarding as a Deputy then Head of a boarding house. We welcome him as Middle School Head of House and Maths teacher in Middle School.

Mr Michael Keenan joins the PDHPE team from Narrabeen Sports High School where he was teaching PDHPE in 2017. For the two years prior to that he was the ACT State Athletics Team Manager and before that taught at Scotch College and Wesley College in W.A.

Mrs Elaine McKellar moves to Armidale from Gynea Technology High School in Sydney to join us as our new specialist STEM teacher (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Mrs McKellar is trained in Maths and Science and has been teaching in the STEM area for the past five years.

Mme Chloe Prado is a recently qualified teacher and in the final stages of her Master of Teaching degree at UNE, having completed her Bachelor of Arts with a double major in French and Mandarin at the University of Tasmania in 2014, and she joins us as our new teacher of senior French. Mme Prado has spent considerable time in France, including a year as a language teacher at the Lycee Alphonse Allais in Honfleur at the mouth of the Seine.

Ms Fiona Xeros brings a wealth of local experience to our Creative Arts Department and will be teaching Visual Arts. Ms Xeros comes to us from Armidale High School and will probably be known to a number of you.

Mr Tom Powell comes to us most recently from Wollongong where he has been teaching History and he joins the HSIE Department. Mr Powell made the jump from a law career after working with the likes of Price Waterhouse Coopers, KPMG and others in the commercial and corporate law area to follow his passion for history.

Mrs Xavier McKenzie is an experienced history teacher and comes to us from St Aloysius College in Sydney. Mrs McKenzie was educated in Sydney, both at Sydney and NSW universities, and has returned to Armidale with her husband.

## New Support Staff

In addition to our new teachers, a number of new support staff will be working with us in other areas.

Mr Clarrie Moran takes up the role of Aboriginal Student Support Officer. Mr Moran is an Anaiwan man and lives locally, bringing wonderful connections, background and skills to this role.

Mrs Robyn Frost who is also local to Armidale takes up the role of Administrative Assistant in our Middle School.

## House Mothers

With expansion in our boarding and new strategic planning happening we have introduced new house mother positions in the three senior boys' houses to bring them into line with the Middle School boys' house and girls' boarding. Joining us are:

Ms Karyn Herbert (Croft House)

Ms Nanette Spanswick (Abbott House) and

Mrs Karen Hutton (Tyrrell House).

## GAP Students

We also have five new GAP staff joining us at the start of term, with some good diversity amongst them:

Jordan Lucas comes to us from Stanford Lake College, South Africa

Amy Mahon is from Sedburgh School, Cumbria, UK

Inga Stappen from Norbert Gymnasium Knechtsteden, Germany

Michelle Jackson joins us from Bullawayo, Zimbabwe

Liam Treavors – 2017 OA and one of our high achievers – Chapel Gappie.

## Other Staff Changes

A number of our staff take on new roles as we begin the new year:

Mr Cameron Patrick moves to full-time PDHPE and Christian Development;

Ms Rachel Harrison begins her role as the I.B. MYP Coordinator

Mr Marshall Ross will be teaching in the HSIE area full time in Term 1.

Mrs Gillian Downes moves full time to English.

Mrs Rachael Edmonds moves to full-time in her role in co-curricular administration.

Mr Nisala Wikramathilake in the kitchen has been appointed to the permanent role of catering manager, replacing Mr Kel Fairleigh who has officially retired from the school and we wish him well.

Mr Stewart McRae continues with us in project management and consultancy and you will see some of the fruits of his work in developments around the campus.

## Murray Guest



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## WEEK 1

Tuesday 30 January	Classes commence
Friday 2 February	Junior School Welcome Barbecue
Sat/Sun 3/4 February	Coast Weekend for boarders and day students Kings/PLC Regatta (Sydney)

## WEEK 2

Tuesday 6 February	Years K, 2 and 4 information evening (Junior School)
Wednesday 7 February	ID Photos (Years T-5) – formal uniform Years 1, 3 and 5 information evening (Junior School)
Thursday 8 February	ID Photos (Years 6-12) – formal uniform
Thursday 8-11 February	Year 11/12 Drama Excursion
Sunday 11 February	Cadet Leaders Course begins

## WEEK 3

Monday 12 February	Cadet Leaders Course
Thursday 15 February	Junior School Swimming Carnival Middle School Parent Information session and barbecue Tours of the new Boarding House War Cry Competition followed by MS/SS 200m F/S events
Friday 16 February	Middle and Senior School Swimming Championships
17-19 February	Cadet Leaders Course concludes
18/19 February	Encore Year 11/12 Music Excursion to Sydney

## Student Services

Locally-based professional photographers (MSP New England) will be taking individual and family portraits, including class groups for Transition to Year 6, over two days, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 February. Students are required to wear formal school uniform on the day set aside for their year group.

### Transition to Year 6

Wednesday 7 February - Venue - Hoskins Centre Foyer

### Years 7 to 12

Thursday 8 February - Venue - Big School - Main Building

Monday 12 February

8am - 10 am - Follow up for students absent in Week 2 (Formal uniform applies)

### Optional ordering of photographic products

If Parents/Carers wish to place an order with MSP New England, the photos are presented in a personalised folder and delivered to the school later in Term 1. For orders placed after the follow-up date of Monday 19 February, there is a \$20 'late fee' which covers separate postage from the processing lab. Therefore, please try to have your order placed and paid for on time.

In Week 1 Parents/Carers will receive a personalised photo order form via email where the options are set out showing prices. Payment is easy and secure with credit/debit card, or cheques (payable to MSP New England) delivered to the Main Reception Office. ***Please do not send cash.***

### Family portraits / Siblings Presentation

Please contact Mrs Meg Sadler 6776 5805 or msadler@as.edu.au if you wish to have your children taken in a family group. Appointment times will be negotiated depending on student availability and access to the set. The ordering process is similar to individual portraits, via the MSP website, with different options and prices.

Please see the two back pages of this edition of TAS Talks for a guide.

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## P&F PRESIDENT, MRS RACHAEL NICOLL

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### Welcome to 2018!!

The TAS Parents and Friends (P&F) would like to give a big welcome to all new and returning parents, students and staff. 2018 looks to be another standout year for school and the P&F.

It's the P&F's birthday this year – we will be celebrating 80 years which is quite a milestone...

The P&F consists of a core group of executive and committee members, year group Liaison Parents and the wider parent community. Over the next few weeks we will be using TAS Talks to explain who we are, what we do, how you can help and any other interesting information we can think to add.

### So who are we??? The Executive consists of:

- Rachael Nicoll – President – sons in Years 7 and 9
- Dave Fenwicke – Vice President – daughter in Year 12 and son in Year 3
- Melissa Jubb – Treasurer – son in Year 8
- Sal Molesworth – Vice Treasurer – son in Year 12
- Karen Morgan – Co Secretary – sons in Year 7, 8 and 12
- Sophia Wright – Co Secretary – son in Year 7, daughters in Years 2 and 4
- Jo Neilson – Co Secretary – daughters in Years 9 and 10 and son in Year 6

We can be contacted by calling school Reception or myself on nicollfamily1@gmail.com or 0418 980 662. Alternatively, we have a Facebook page (join us using the keywords TAS Parents and Friends).

### Liaison Parents

Each year group has Liaison Parents... These are people who 'know the ropes' around TAS and are the 'first port of call' for people wanting to know what is going on in your year and at school. LPs are the heart of the Year group communities, help new families settle in, organise fun year group events and act as a conduit from the P&F including asking for baking and helpers at various P&F events throughout the year. Many Year groups have their own Facebook page. If you want to know who your LPs are for this year, or if you are a new family and haven't heard from your LP please contact Reception.

We are still seeking a few Liaison Parents for 2018. If you are interested in becoming a Year Group Liaison Parent for 2018 or would like to know more about the role please contact Rachael on nicollfamily1@gmail.com.

### Key dates for 2018

The P&F leap into events straight away, so mark these upcoming events in your diaries:

- Our first P&F meeting will be on Wednesday 7 February at 7pm in Lower Maxwell Room – all are welcome
- We will be hosting our Welcome to TAS BBQ 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 Swimming Carnivals.

### P&F Meetings

We have two main meetings a term – usually these are held in the Lower Maxwell Room at 7pm on a Wednesday night. These meetings are open to all and we would love to see you there.

**Term 1 – 7 February and 21 March**

**Term 2 – 9 May and 27 May**

**Term 3 – 8 August and 12 September**

**Term 4 – 31 October and 28 November**

Our big fund and friend raiser events for the year are:

TAS Rugby Carnival: 13-15 April

TAS@Dusk: Saturday 17 November

Art Show: 16-18 November (to be confirmed)

Other events will be advertised throughout the year via email, TAS Talks and on Facebook.



**Mrs Rachael Nicoll**  
**President**

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## CHAPLAIN, MR RICHARD NEWTON

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### 1 Corinthians 13

How did your report look at the end of last year? How will it read this year? What do you hope it says?

As a teenager and pupil at what was then Bromley Technical High School it was noted that David Bowie was “a quiet student who needs to stop playing with his motorcycles and learn that music will not make him a liveable wage”.

An 1883 report from St George’s School, Ascot, labeled Winston Churchill as “naughty” and revealed: “He has no ambition. He is a constant trouble to everybody and is always in some scrape or other. He cannot be trusted to behave.”

Gary Lineker, the former England striker’s school reports were littered with concern about Lineker’s obsession with sport. “He must devote less of his time to sport if he wants to be a success. You can’t make a living out of football.”

The headmaster at Uppingham School let slip his frustration in Stephen Fry’s report: “He has glaring faults and they have certainly glared at us this term.”

What about our school? Our forebears set the bar high when they set 1 Corinthians 13 as our school reading. I take it that they wanted love to be the key characteristic of our school. So how does our report card read? Never? Sometimes? Mostly? Always?

Lets see if the school lesson reads authentically? “TAS is patient, TAS is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. TAS is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. TAS does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. TAS always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres.”

In a way its easy to sit back and report on TAS in a judgemental way, not it does not do this or that. But be careful, you are TAS, we are TAS. This place is made up of ‘us’, not them. How we conduct ourselves contributes to the report card, how have we gone in the past? How will we go this year?

One thing is true, as the passage describes love as patient and kind etc., there is one for whom the report card reads – always. The New Testament book of John describes God as love. God’s report card reads ‘God is love’. This is good news, when we don’t love, when we don’t deserve love, God’s love persists. This is good news for us here at TAS, our report card reads – ‘loved’.



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## DIRECTOR OF STUDIES, MRS SEONIA WARK

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### Welcome back!

As many of you will have read in the Academic Initiatives booklet that was sent out during the recent school holidays, this year sees a lot of new initiatives for TAS based on feedback from the 2017 MMG survey and from Strategic Planning sessions that were held with staff in Term 4. Some of these changes will be implemented early whilst others will be gradually implemented throughout the year.

An email to parents about these changes will be sent out on Friday. In the meantime, a quick preview:

**Prep:** The first of these is adjustments to the way homework is managed in Years 6 to 10. We know that whilst the idea of a homework timetable may have been helpful in planning, if it wasn't working for many of our students and staff then we need to change it. As such, we begin 2018 with a significant change to the structure that will also build students' independence and time management skills.

**Extended Day:** There is an increasing demand for students' to access academic assistance beyond the 8:45-3:30 school day. As such, the library will have extended opening hours supervised by teachers able to give guidance and assistance. Study skill workshops and specific subject tutoring will be able to be accessed for students in Years 6-12 who are keen to get some more support.

**Year 12 Study Days:** Students in Year 12 have started to be consulted on how they would like the Year 12 study days to be structured this year. There will be a series of workshops available focussing on academic pursuits, life after TAS and wellbeing along with time allocated to getting some work done in an environment that suits them.

**IB Middle Years Programme:** Over the holidays we received the great news that we are now a Candidate School for the MYP. We look forward to building on the success of the Primary Years Programme in Years 6 to 8 led ably by Miss Rachel Harrison, our newly appointed MYP Coordinator. Regular updates on this implementation will be able to be found in the Middle School section of TAS Talks.

**Stage 5 electives:** 2018 will see surveys of students and staff regarding the future direction of our Year 9/10 elective program. It has been in existence now for three years and it is time to ensure that it is still relevant and interesting. Adjustments to the program will be evident for the 2019 cohort.



**Learning space refurbishment:** As we grow we are able to invest in new learning spaces and this year we have already seen the commencement of the refurbishment of the Johnstone Library. Other spaces are earmarked for a 2017 refurbishment and we are all looking forward to utilising these spaces.

**Canvas:** The Canvas Learning Management System is the new educational platform adopted by TAS this year for Middle and Senior school classes. Teachers are commenting on how it is already allowing for new approaches to teaching and learning.

#### Students can use Canvas to do the following:

- Access course materials online
- Submit assignments
- Access homework tasks
- Multimedia content and resources for learning outside of the classroom
- A place to discuss and share ideas

The majority of classes already have published assessment outlines, resources, files and homework tasks.

On other matters, please ensure that you know who your child's Advisor is. This staff member is your first point of call for all academic and pastoral concerns and can find out more detailed information for you if needed. If you are not getting the answers you are wanting, then please feel free to contact me directly via email or by contacting Mrs Vickey O'Brien (phone 6776 5806).

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## CAREERS ADVISOR, MR MARK TAYLOR

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Welcome back to cohort of 2018 and I look forward to working closely with the Year 12 group to develop career plans throughout the first semester.

The newsletter is one form of communication that I use to keep parents and students informed as to upcoming events and important dates. The other is the school's Careers webpage, which can be found at the following link. <http://wordpress.as.edu.au/careers/> I receive a large amount of information each week with regards to career pathways, for which I am conscious of the need to disseminate to parents and students. So, rather than try and find specific targets for whom I think the information would be most relevant, I use the website to post the event and then advertise it through emails to the particular student bodies and write about it in the newsletter.

I would encourage all parents and students of Year 11 and 12 to watch both sites for the upcoming HSC information. The Careers webpage can also be used to revisit previous post and information.

### UMAT's (Undergraduate Medicine and health Science Admissions Test)

If students are considering a future career in medicine, dentistry or other competitive health base courses, at the major universities in Australia, they will need to sit the UMAT exam as well as score very highly in their ATAR. The UMAT consists of questions in three main categories: Logical Reasoning and Problem Solving, Understanding People and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

The date for the examination is 25 July 2018, but registration closes 5pm on 1 June 2018. I have posted more information on the school's Careers webpage.

There are numerous companies and organisations that offer services in the preparation for UMAT, most of which I will advertise as they arrive through the newsletter and webpage.

<http://wordpress.as.edu.au/careers/2018/01/30/2018-umats-undergraduate-medicine-and-health-science-admissions-test/>





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## DIRECTOR OF BOARDING, MR MICHAEL HOLLAND

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Wandering around the boarding houses and speaking with parents on Monday afternoon I could feel a real sense of positivity and excitement about the year ahead. For new boarders and parents this was mixed with maybe a little anxiety but there was a lot of talk about the wonderful things happening at TAS and things to look forward to.

The outstanding HSC results have been well documented and I would like to add my congratulations to those boarders particularly who performed so well. Flynn Ihle, Sam Thatcher, Lachlan Knowles, Liam Treavors, Jessie Digby and Harry Forsythe led the way but the cohort, in general, worked hard and were rewarded with pleasing results.

In order to build on that success, TAS is implementing a school-wide approach to prep/homework that will help younger students develop good work habits that will give them the best chance of academic success. This will include extended library hours, which you will find published in this edition of TAS Talks, as well as a structured approach to evening prep.

As you would be aware, we are taking all boarders to Coffs Harbour and surrounds to enjoy a weekend of fun activities and bonding. Heads of House are putting the final touches to the planning of what promises to be another fantastic weekend for all.

The House Mothers in the senior boy's boarding houses have made a great start and are quickly finding their place in this role that will continue to evolve. It has been great to see how warmly they have been welcomed by the boys who are enjoying their company and some extra baked treats.

The Girls' Boarding House opened on time and, apart from a minor plumbing malfunction, everyone has been impressed by the facility. Tyrrell Year 9 and 10 boarders have returned to newly refurbished spaces with some new/updated furniture, new carpet and fresh paint. Stewart McRae, project manager, has done a superb job, measuring and planning individual spaces to deliver the best outcome. Plans are already afoot for Abbott and Croft to receive the same treatment over the April Holidays.

Please remember that you are most welcome to contact me or Heads of House at any time should there be any aspect of your child's boarding experience you would like to discuss. We are all looking forward to a fantastic Term 1 and are very keen to assist you in any way we can.



**Mr Michael Holland**

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## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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### Connect with us!

Welcome to our many new families! As you will find, TAS is 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](http://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 Parent 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. Also on the menu bar is a shortcut to the School's photo gallery ([www.as.edu.au/community/photo-gallery](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/TASarmidale) - as more than 3,200 other members of our community have done.

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

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!

**Tim Hughes**  
Media Manager

### Skoolbag app for Iphone and Android

TAS Skoolbag App is now available for both iPhone and Android phones. Families are encouraged to download this extremely useful app which allows the school to send reminders to families when the newsletter is available to view online (and you can view it from the app), upcoming dates and lots of other exciting things. It is a great way to notify families of last minute cancellation of events or arrival times of buses from school excursions etc! To install Skoolbag on your Smartphone:

iPhone Users: Search The Armidale School in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

Android Users: Search The Armidale School in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

Once you have installed the app on your phone, you can chose to receive notifications relevant to your child/ren's school year by tapping More at the bottom of the screen then select 'My Subscription Groups' and turning on the relevant school years.

If you have any questions please contact TAS Reception.

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## DIRECTOR OF CO-CURRICULAR, WILL CALDWELL

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### Welcome to Co-Curricular at TAS

Each week we hope to keep you up to date with what's happening at TAS. The events and achievements, the lessons learned and the opportunities for growth. TAS is a busy place, however, our Year 12 boys and girls from 2017 showed there is a strong correlation between involvement in co-curricular activities and academic success.

### Communication and Information

Hopefully students have settled smoothly into their co-curricular activities for the term. If you have questions or concerns, I invite you to contact the staff member in charge of the activity or the Director of Co-Curricular's office. All contacts and information can be found on the TAS website: <http://www.as.edu.au/life-at-tas/co-curricular/sport/tas-sport/contacts/>

### Swimming Championships

All events will be held in the TAS pool during Week 3 of term. Middle School/ Senior School Events will commence Tuesday 13 February with the 50m Butterfly and the 200m Individual Medley, commencing at 6:45pm.

Arguably the highlight for spectators will be the 200m freestyle and House warcries on Thursday 15 February, commencing at 6:45pm. With the judges placing great emphasis on unity, Houses will be working hard to include all new students and make everyone feel a part of this special event. The main event will commence at 8.50am on Friday 16 February. Day students are required to meet at 8.30am on Wakefield for roll call.

Junior School Championships will be held on Thursday 15 February, commencing at 9am.

The following link will provide you with the full schedule of events: [CLICK HERE](#)

All students are expected to wear TAS bathers or leg suits and will be provided with a House swimming cap. Lunch will be provided for all students, staff and supporters on the main day.



### Active Kids

The NSW Government will provide a \$100 voucher to parents/guardians of school enrolled children. The \$100 voucher can be used for registration and participation costs for sport and fitness activities. Please go to [www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids) for more information. We welcome this new government initiative, although, we are still investigating the best practice in claiming this rebate. In next week's TAS Talks we hope to have advice on the procedure you should follow.

**Mr Will Caldwell**

## National Australian U'15 Indoor Hockey Tournament

The Hockey juggernaut known as Lily Neilson continued unabated during the Christmas Holidays. Playing for NSW in the Australian U15 Indoor Championships, Lily enjoyed a fantastic week of majestic hockey.

Their first game was against Tasmania, who found the going incredibly hard, with NSW winning the game convincingly 10-0. The following day, they played against ACT who are always a formidable opponent. However, NSW were victorious in winning 3-1. QLD was up next later in the day and again NSW prevailed, 4-1.

Next was WA, with NSW maintaining tremendous form, defeating them 4-0. The last round match was against VIC which was won narrowly, 4-3.

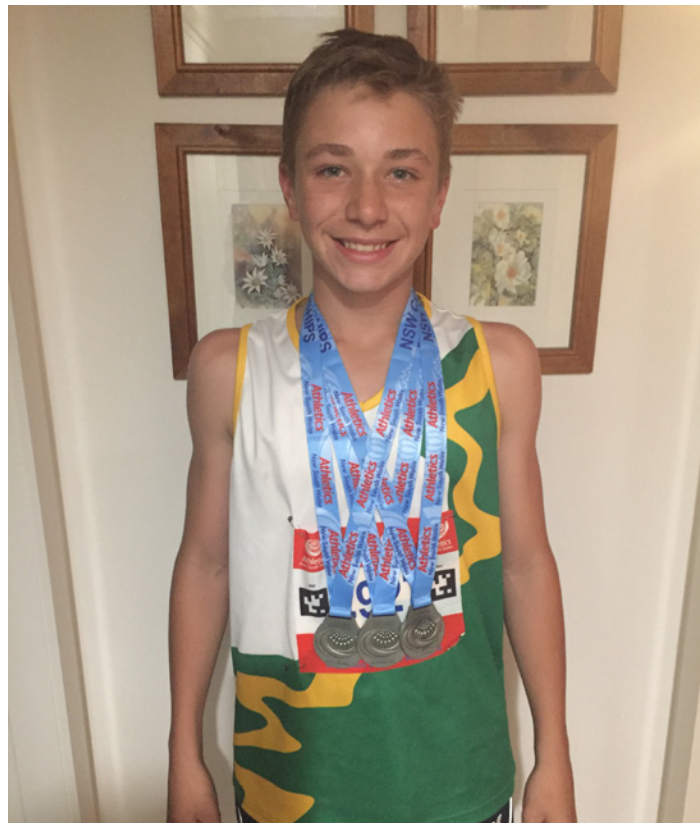
The semi final was against ACT, which NSW won 3-1 and Lily was named as player of the match.

The Grand Final was then set, with NSW playing QLD. Unlike their Rugby League counterparts, the girls ran out victors 3-1, making them the Australian U15 champions.



## NSW Country Athletics Championships Wollongong

Isaac Gerdes competed at the NSW Country Championships last weekend. Running in the U15 100 and 200m sprints, Isaac placed second in both races, securing PBs in each event. Isaac then backed up with his teammates and gained yet another Silver medal in the U16s 4x100m relay.





## \$100 VOUCHER FOR CHILDREN'S SPORT AND RECREATION FEES

Parents in NSW are now able to start claiming \$100 towards extra-curricular sport and other physical activity fees thanks to the NSW Government's new Active Kids program.

Active Kids will provide a \$100 voucher for parents to put towards sporting fees and registration costs for every school-aged child in NSW.

The health of our children is a priority for me and every parent. I hope this makes a difference in enabling you to enrol your child in the sport or physical activity of your choice.

Families will be able to use the voucher for registration and membership costs, as well as fees for activities such as swimming.

The annual voucher will not be means tested because the NSW Government wants every child from every family to get active and involved in community sport and fitness.

Parents are able to use their voucher to claim up to \$100 per school-child, per calendar year to reduce the cost of sport registration or membership of approved active recreation activities.

More details about the program and eligible sports is available at [www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids) or by phoning Service NSW on 13 77 88.

## TAS 16s Cricket

Welcome back to the new term of TAS 16s Cricket for those students and families continuing, and a special welcome to those joining the teams as new students at TAS.

We kick off the Term with TAS White playing TAS Blue in a two week match, which will be held next week over three days due to Coast weekend. We have split the 25 over games to be played next Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (3.45pm on Wakefield), then followed by the full game of 25 overs each next Saturday (10 February in Wakefield). Parents and supporters are more than welcome to come along to watch these games. For those new to the school, Wakefield is closer to the Chapel St entrance of school grounds.

In regard to information all teams, games and notices will be placed on Team App and updated regularly. If you do not have Team App, I strongly urge you to download the App to ask for permission to join TAS Cricket. Follow the instructions below.

Mrs Rachael Edmonds

### CRICKET - THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

### NOW HAS ITS OWN APP



Download our awesome new app now and stay up to date with all the latest information!

Install the Cricket - The Armidale School App on your smartphone or tablet now!

#### Follow these steps:

1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.



2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.
3. Log into the App and search for "Cricket - The Armidale School".
4. Choose your applicable access group(s).
5. If you don't have a smartphone go to [thearmidaleschoolcricket.teamapp.com](http://thearmidaleschoolcricket.teamapp.com) to sign up and view this App online.

#### Need help?

Contact: Amanda Robins  
Email: [arobins@as.edu.au](mailto:arobins@as.edu.au)  
Phone: 0267765800



## SYDNEY SWANS COMMUNITY CLINIC - TUESDAY 6 February

There is an exciting opportunity to meet two Sydney Swans players next week, have a kick with of the footy with them, ask questions, and bring along something footy/Swans-related that you might like to have autographed. An open session will be held at O'Connor Catholic College Oval from 3.30 to 4.15 on Tuesday 6th. This session would be most appropriate for Auskickers and Junior players. Of course – any one who loves football is more than welcome to attend.

For more information please contact Rachel Thorsen, Coordinator, Armidale Kookaburras Auskick Club Email: [armidaleauskick@gmail.com](mailto:armidaleauskick@gmail.com)

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# MUSIC MATTERS

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Welcome back to Music at TAS! There is such a great buzz across the whole of Creative Arts this year and we are very excited in Music about our year ahead.

We extend our heartiest welcome to Miss Arlene Fletcher who has started teaching Music at TAS and will also be joining Mr Dunham to work with TAS Senior Jazz Combo this year. Miss Fletcher works primarily with the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) and she is a Double Bass specialist. Welcome also to Mrs Nicole Mackson who will be teaching students piano at TAS this year. Mrs Mackson is also a specialist Music classroom teacher. We have attached a bio for Miss Fletcher for your interest.

Arlene Fletcher started her classical Double Bass training as a scholarship student of NECTOM back in 2004. This passion for the instrument extended into her undertaking the Bachelor of Improvisation Music degree at the Victorian College of the Arts and her Masters of Secondary Music Teaching at the Melbourne Graduate School of Teaching. In her graduate year of teaching, she became Director of Music at Albert Park College and implemented a flourishing Instrumental Music program that was inclusive of contemporary and classical repertoire. In 2016 Arlene continued work with senior curriculum implementation at Albert Park College and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. In 2015, Arlene released her debut album 'Timing' under her original jazz project Arlene Fletcher Trio. As a performer she is known for her performances with the Melbourne Jazz Festival, the International Womens Jazz Festival and her work with Tim Rogers, The Twoks, Sidney Creswick, Luke Howard, Xani Kolac, Andrew Kimber Quartet and Tara Minton. She is excited to be teaching back in her hometown of Armidale and passing on her contemporary and classical experience into musically engaged classrooms and instrumental performances.

## Instrumental & Vocal Tuition

Tuition is available at TAS for a wide range of instruments - voice, organ, guitar, double bass, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flute, piano, trombone, bagpipes, violin, cello, drums, french horn and recorder, and many more. If you would like to try out an instrument before you commit to lessons just contact the Music Office. We are always happy to advise parents/guardians and students on instrumental and vocal tuition.

Tuition Enrolment Forms are available on the TAS Website if you are keen to start learning.

Tuition Enrolment Forms are available on the Music website. Click [HERE](#).

## Instrumental Lessons have started

Instrumental tuition lessons for this term will commence in Week 2. Continuing students - if you are not sure of your tuition time please contact your tutor. Times will be up on the board in the Music Centre soon. Students please ensure you bring your instruments to every lesson and feel free to leave them in the storage area of the Music Centre if you are a boarder and when you are not using them.

Also students, please set up a reminder on your phone, computer or watch to ensure you make your regular lesson time.

## Ensemble Rehearsals have commenced

At TAS we have instrumental and vocal ensembles for all levels of experience and for all ages. Information is on the Music website - Click [HERE](#).

If you'd like advice as to which group to join, come and see the Music staff or contact the Director of Music, Ms Leanne Roobol on 6776 5890 or lroobol@as.edu.au

## Boarders' Practice

TAS boarders will be able to access the music block during practice sessions in the evenings during the term and on the weekend, to practice their instrument. A Boarders' Practice Supervisor will be in the Music Centre for each evening and weekend session to oversee and assist students with their work. Click [HERE](#) for practice times.

Ensemble Rehearsal times are listed below. Click [HERE](#)

**Ms Leanne Roobol**  
**Director of Music**

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## HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, MARK HARRISON

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### Here's to 2018

Well, we've begun: Day 1 passed as expected with real pace, renewed (some would say, frenetic) energy and a very reasonable level of enthusiasm from staff and, certainly, your children. New students continue to navigate timetables, routines, school geography, including trips to the Senior School, the Library, our new IB Middle Years Programme classrooms in the Johnstone Building and lunch lines. All students will adjust to bell times, and day and boarding routines as well.

On Tuesday evening all boarders attended their first combined Boarders' Prep session in their new designated areas. Tomorrow night they'll experience their first Chapel Service. Thus far, of course, all seems to be going really well and, as I'm suspecting if you're reading between the lines, the students (including day students) are especially busy and this is the best way of managing a new school for most and a new year for all.

I have been to lunch, lunch duty and have every intention of going to dinner and prep; all occasions present themselves as opportunities for me to talk to White House and the new girl boarders and I want you to know, considering the fact that all things are new, we seem to be making the right kind of progress: this progress is of the steady kind, so you must bear with us. To ensure progress you can assist us greatly. Talk to us and let us know of matters you think we should know about. It would be foolish of me to think that these young people will tell me everything, so I'm counting on you for your support.

To be honest, we're experiencing some tears at the moment: isn't it wonderful that they're from home environments that they love. We are doing our best to ensure that they have opportunity to speak, to let us know how they're feeling and also to let them know that our job is...well, them, actually. Your part here is to assist us – so, as indicated let us know what we need to know to assist everyone.



### Homeroom staff

The following staff will help you to know what we're doing and when...

#### Year 6

Mrs Kirsty Brunsdon  
Mrs Gill Downes

#### Year 7

Ms Harriet Symons  
Mrs Elaine McKellar  
Mr James Brauer  
Mrs Regina Pollard

#### Year 8

Ms Colette Brus  
Mrs Alex Murray  
Mr Tom Powell

Our new Administrative Assistant is Mrs Robyn Frost whose hours are from 8:30 – 3:30 Monday to Friday inclusive. All Leave Applications and general enquiries should go to Mrs Frost who will disseminate necessary information to staff.

I look forward to working with you.

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

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## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, IAN LLOYD

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I am very pleased to report that it has been a very smooth start to the year and as I travelled around the classrooms on Tuesday, it was clear that all our students were settling well. I read an ABC article recently about preparing students for the new school year (whether for the first time or not). From the referenced article, Education in Focus ([http://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/EDIF%202014--N22%20\(eng\).pdf](http://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/EDIF%202014--N22%20(eng).pdf)), Australian students spend the second greatest amount of time in primary education out of all OECD schools. From this, the article surmised that the students' relationship with their teacher and the parents' relationship with the school is paramount. It is rather stating the obvious.

Starting (back) at school is a challenging process and you will hear me talk regularly of embracing challenge. You will hear this consistently from all of us here at TAS. I spoke to all the children on Tuesday about 'The Three Steps' we use here to resolve conflict and I will talk more of this next week. In itself, it is a challenging process but one, when used effectively, has huge advantages for our children, both now and in the future years.

Suffice to say, sustaining healthy lines of communication is vital for all of us if we are to succeed in creating a warm and safe environment for our children. I encourage you all to make the most of our open door policy to visit, contribute to and become a part of our classrooms and our school community. At times, we will email en masse - if you have not received anything from us yet, please contact Junior School Reception on 6776 5817 or [junior@as.edu.au](mailto:junior@as.edu.au). I look forward to catching up with you all soon.

### Queen's Baton Relay

We have made the decision for our whole school to join with others to watch and celebrate the Queen's Baton relay as it passes through Armidale tomorrow morning and you will have received this information by email. Please dress your children in tidy summer uniform (not formal/winter uniform as advertised) tomorrow (<http://www.as.edu.au/community/uniform-shop/junior-school-uniform/>) and, if possible, join us in Curtis Park by 10.00 am to watch the relay. Students will then be offered some morning tea before returning to School at 10.45 am.

### Welcome BBQ – Friday 2 February

I extend a warm (and hopefully dry) invitation to the Junior School BBQ, to be held this Friday in the Junior School covered area. It is a great way to start the school year with a BBQ and refreshments provided, ensuring an opportunity for all our families to catch up after the break. Please bring the whole family along between 5.30 and 7.30pm and we look forward to seeing you.

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





## Happy Birthday

Many Junior School children celebrated their birthday during the holidays and we trust you all had a wonderful day. We also wish Boyd Rogers, Cecilia Price and Charlie Ryan a very Happy Birthday as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

## Naming Belongings

As we begin the year, we remind all parents to name all their children's belongings. We endeavour to return all lost property, but this is not possible if items are not named. A lost property box is in Junior School 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. If a child is ill at school, parents will be contacted to discuss the most appropriate care. 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.

## After School Care in 2018

### Camp Australia – After School Care

Camp Australia will host our after school care program again in 2018. 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](http://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 Camp Australia customer service team on 1300 105 343

## Looking Ahead

### Week 1

- Thursday 1 Feb Queen's Baton Relay 9.00 – 11.30  
(Summer uniform)
- Friday 2 Feb JS Welcome BBQ – JS covered area  
5.30 – 7.30 pm

### Week 2

- Tues 6 Feb Parent Information Night 6 -7 pm  
Yrs K, 2, & 4 in JS classrooms
- Wed 7 Feb Yr 5 Assembly – Hoskins Centre  
2.45 pm
- Thurs 8 Feb Parent Information Night 6 -7 pm  
Yrs 1, 3, & 5 in JS classrooms

### Week 3

- Wed 14 Feb Yr 4 Assembly – Hoskins Centre  
2.45 pm
- Thurs 15 Feb Junior School Swimming Carnival

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## PYP PROGRAMME, MRS VERONICA WATERS

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### The Primary Years Programme

As many of our parent body would be aware TAS JS is an International Baccalaureate World School which offers the Primary Years Programme. (PYP) As we commence a new year it is timely to reflect upon both the mission statement of the IB and of TAS Junior School.

### IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

### TAS Junior School Mission Statement

The co-educational Junior School strives to encourage all students to become responsible global citizens, resilient, independent and life long learners.

Based upon strong Christian ethos, we aim to inspire all students to succeed by making informed decisions that promote their academic, spiritual, social, emotional and physical growth.

The PYP is a framework is taught under six overarching trans disciplinary themes. These themes provide real opportunities to incorporate local, national and international issues into daily teaching without the constraints of single subject areas. The trans disciplinary themes will be explored in greater detail in TAS Talks next week.

If you are new to our JS please do hesitate to make contact with any questions you may have regarding the IB YP.

**Mrs Veronica Waters**  
**PYP Coordinator**

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## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS, MRS CHRISTINE WRIGHT

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Welcome back to our summer sports season. As we continue on from last year, most of you will be aware of what team or sports group you are in. Most coaches remain the same as last year and will be in contact with you this week in regard to sports training and games for Term One.

If you are new to our Junior School and are interested in joining a team or playing a sport this term, please contact Mrs Christine Wright at [cwright@as.edu.au](mailto:cwright@as.edu.au) so she can arrange this for you.

Information about all summer sports can be found on the TAS website.

Training for all sports will commence in Week 2.

### Junior School Swimming Carnival - Thursday 13 February 2018

All children will bring home a swimming nomination form this week. Children may nominate in as many events as they wish, however, if your child can swim 50m they must enter the 50m event only (not the 25m and the 50 event) The 25m events are available only for those who cannot swim 50m. Please return all swimming nomination forms to your class teacher by Friday. More information about our Junior School Swimming carnival will be in next week's TAS talks and on the Junior School website.

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## COMMUNITY

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### Pottery with Rick Hatch

I trust that you have all had a refreshing holiday and are inspired and enthusiastic to work with clay. As you know, the goal of our classes is to make great work in clay while developing our visual and manual skills and HAVING LOTS OF FUN!

I got lots of ideas from last year's students and have based our first project on their ideas. I will explain it all when we start in two weeks. The info is as follows:

**Where:** Classes are held in Art Room 1 of the Hoskins Centre at TAS. This is the ground floor room on the left as you enter.

**Who:** Years K-5 are on Tuesdays from 4- 5 pm

**When:** Years 5 and up are on Thursdays from 4 - 5 pm

These age divisions are a guide only. If you need your child to come on a different day that these guidelines, it is not a problem, just talk to me about it.

Also, please note that children are welcome to arrive straight after school ends, We have great fun setting up for the class together.

**Commencement:**

Tuesday 6 February

Thursday 8 February

We will have five lessons, then a one week break for firing (Tuesday 15 March, Thursday 17 March), Then a party and exhibition on Tuesday 20 March and Thursday 22 March.

Cost is \$135. This includes instruction, material and firing costs.

To enrol or for further information please email on [weemalapot@yahoo.com.au](mailto:weemalapot@yahoo.com.au) or ring me on 6772 5371

Please include your child's name and age and your contact phone number.

**Rick Hatch**



**100% Money Back Guarantee**

**Premium Pack \$45**

Group Photograph + 2 x 10" x 8" + 1 x 5" x 7" Black and White Portrait + 1 x 5" x 7" + 4 x 5" x 3.5" + 4 x 1.7" x 1.2" + Portrait Download Print quality

**Classic Pack \$42**

Group Photograph + 1 x 10" x 8" + 1 x 5" x 7" + 2 x 5" x 3.5" + 3 x 3.5" x 2.5" + 4 x 1.7" x 1.2" + Portrait Download Print quality

**Value Pack \$40**  
popular choice

Group Photograph + 3 x 5" x 7" + 2 x 5" x 3.5" + 3 x 3.5" x 2.5" + 4 x 1.7" x 1.2" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

**Essential Pack \$38**

Group Photograph + 4 x 5" x 7" + 4 x 1.7" x 1.2" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

**Basic Pack \$35**

Group Photograph + 1 x 5" x 7" + 2 x 5" x 3.5" + 3 x 3.5" x 2.5" + 4 x 1.7" x 1.2" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

\* Only available when purchasing one of the packs listed above.

**Gift Pack\* \$15**  
All 12 items

3 x Photo Bookmarks 8" x 2" + 3 x 2" x 1.4" + 1 x Door Hanger 10" x 4" + 1 x Photo Calendar 7" x 7" + 4 x Photo Gift Tags 3.4" x 2.5"

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**New!**

1 x 10" x 8" + 2 x 5" x 7" + 2 x 5" x 3.5" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

**Value Pack \$25**

2 x 5" x 7" + 4 x 5" x 3.5" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

**Standard Pack \$20**

1 x 5" x 7" + 2 x 5" x 3.5" + Portrait Download (Not print quality)

\* Only available when purchasing one of the packs listed above.

**Gift Pack\* \$15**  
All 7 items

1 x Photo Calendar 10" x 8" + 4 x 2.5" x 1.8" + 2 x Photo Gift Tags 2.5" x 5"

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Capturing School Moments

NECOM's range of programs are designed to inspire and develop music skills for life – every child can make music!

## Enrol now for 2018!



### Junior Choral Program

The New England Conservatorium is one of the leading regional centres for choral excellence in Australia. Its sequenced training program for students from Kinder to Year 12 nurtures outstanding young choristers, many of whom win selection in the prestigious Gondwana National Choral School and become members of its internationally acclaimed choirs, every year.



### Instrumental Lessons

NECOM's Instrumental Program offers instrumental lessons by our dedicated teacher-musicians or Music Educator Members. From children through to adults, string, brass and woodwind lessons are available at NECOM or in local schools, along with an option to hire instruments.



### Foundation Music Program

The ideal foundation for children (K-Yr 6) beginning to learn a string, woodwind or brass instrument. The Foundation Music Program's comprehensive training pathway includes lessons, ensembles, concerts and optional instrument hire that will inspire and support children to develop their innate musical talents.

Music is for everyone so come and learn in a fun and friendly environment.  
Instrumental Hire and Bursaries are available.

Phone: 6788 2135    [www.necom.org.au](http://www.necom.org.au)    Email: [admin@necom.org.au](mailto:admin@necom.org.au)

