



FARRER OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION 2006 NEWSLETTER

Contains extracts from 2006 Farrer Newsletters



Presidents Report

I would firstly like to thank the members of the Committee who have been involved this year. Particular mention must go to Jock Stier our secretary, for his tireless and inspirational efforts. Also, Sue Stass who is always willing and eager to help the Old Boys. Thank you both.

I know if I start naming people I am bound to leave someone out. So, if I leave you out don't think it is because of your lack of input, it more reflects my poor memory. Thanks go to Jock Stier, Steve Mathers, Ian Foster, John Swan, Derek Smith, Barry Hoy, Mark Thompson, Brian Chapman, Paul Tongue, Steven George, Mick Gill, Chimp Phillips, Graeme Heagney, Mark Waters, Leo Blanch, Arnold Goode, John Walls and David Miller.

The annual reunion this year I would note as one of our best, with some members giving rather humorous speeches at the dinner which made for a great night. A special thank you to organisers of each year, at the reunion this year. Please forward to the Old Boys Assoc. a list of updated name and addresses.

This year we have funded landscaping and new seating around the BBQ area above No.1 oval. This area was put to excellent use at the reunion weekend. It is now a very attractive area to have a meal and sit comfortably. We have included lighting and a watering system. We hope to develop this area more in the coming years with more seating.

This year in conjunction with year 12, the Old Boys have raised money via a sheep manure drive. Not only do the year 12 boys sell it off at the school, they also supply local nurseries such as Hem-skeerks, Collins Bros and Tamworth Landscaping. Monies raised by Year 12 go to providing facilities at the school. This year the Year 12 students also made a donation to the Old Boys Assoc to assist in the development of the BBQ area.

Recently a few Old Boys have contacted the school asking if the Farrer Old Boys Association is still running. Yes, the Old Boys Assoc is still running. The Old Boys Association is stronger than ever and our membership is now over 4000. We apologise for not having sent out a newsletter. From this newsletter on the Old Boys News will be included in the School Newsletter. There is a school newsletter published twice a term. We are also working with the school to improve the Old Boys website and if anyone has any news please email Jock Stier. The newsletters will be available from the school website and will not only include Old Boys news but current school news as well. For those members who don't have access to the internet, a paper copy can be posted to you upon request once a year after the Old Boys re-union. This will drastically reduce mailing and printing costs

Regards - **Brett Warden - President.**

Email: jwarden@bigpond.net.au



BBQ Area

Farrer Principal Mr Steve Cavanagh

The 8th Principal of Farrer, Mr Steve Cavanagh, took up his position at the beginning of last Term.

Having taught in a number of schools across the State, he comes to us with a wealth and variety of experience.

Born in Gosford, he was educated in Tamworth at CBC and then McCarthy Senior Catholic HS, before completing his B Arts and Dip Ed at UNE.

He began his teaching career in English at Temora HS. This was followed by positions at Wade HS Griffith, Bellingen HS and Mt Austin HS Wagga Wagga before he was appointed to the position of Principal at Nyngan HS.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every school in which I have taught and greatly valued the efforts of Staff, students and community, even though they have all been different," he said.

"Having come from Tamworth, I was already aware of the great reputation that Farrer has, and as it was different to the other schools, I considered it as my first choice."

As Mr Cavanagh lists Rugby League coaching among his past activities, it should be noted that he was recently the coach of the Nyngan town team and has past experience in management positions as well.

Married to Kate, the couple have two children and two grandchildren. Their son Shane is married to Annemarie with a daughter Jo, while their daughter Megan is married to Phil with a son Alex.

New circumstances can always bring their own headaches, as you try to learn all the intricacies, but after only 6 weeks in the job, the Cavanaghs had settled in quite well.

"We have been very impressed with the friendliness and supportive attitude offered from all areas of the school community.

I have a particular interest in Boys' Education, especially in a rural, Agricultural context.

While it is important to maintain the great traditions of Farrer, I also want to encourage innovation and promote best practice. As such, I want to help to improve the opportunities and educational outcomes for all Farrer students."

Mrs Cavanagh has a background in education also, as an Early Childhood Teacher, but is content to get to know the school community. With that end in mind, she is keen to get in-

volved and welcomes the opportunity to meet



Steve and Kate Cavanagh, very happy to be the newest members of the Farrer Community.

the Farrer families.

"I am vitally interested in improvement and see the implementation of strategies, professional development and support to achieve this 'value adding' as my key responsibility and focus.

The many opportunities presented to students here at Farrer are evident in the impressive catalogue of sporting achievements, academic initiatives and cultural and social pursuits.

Farrer is the sixth school in which I have taught and I have been extremely fortunate in my career. I have fond memories of every school; I have enormous respect and affection for each staff I have had the pleasure to work with and I have wonderful memories of the many students over the years from all of these schools. I have always chosen to move to schools which are different, throughout my time as a teacher because I enjoy the challenges and stimulation that these differences necessarily engender. As with any public school, there are features of Farrer that are similar to all of my previous appointments - the great students and the way they look after one another, the rural area, the dedicated and professional staff, the supportive parent and community structures, the departmental regulations and processes. However, again similar to every other school, there are differences which make Farrer special and unique. I am presently enjoying both the similarities and the differences.

We look forward to meeting you in the future and hope you have a happy festive season."

Steve & Kate Cavanagh

TRADITIONS CONTINUE AT FARRER

Principals' Assembly on Centre Lawn. Right - Principal Mr Steve Cavanagh with Deputy Principal Mr James Levy assisted by Mr Alan Scott and students



Congratulations

- ☺ **Dr Michael Kilborn**, Specialist cardiologist at RPA Hospital has been appointed as Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Sydney University in July has just become a dad for the second time in October.
- ☺ Old Boys **Andrew Collins, Nic Moore, Michael Snowden, Alex Steinbeck, Daniel Whale, and Oliver White**, along with Danial Rindfleisch and one other current student represented in the Central North U/19 Rugby Union.
- ☺ **Jamie Mitchell, Luke Taylor and Peter Wenner** (Old Boys) represented Group IV Rugby League.
- ☺ **Shawn Kidd and Mark Macaulay** (Old Boys) represented Group 21 Open RL.
- ☺ **Elsen Price, Tom Stent, Will Kent** two other students have been selected in the State Concert Band to play at the Sydney Opera House.
- ☺ **Sam Bowden, Marcus Bower and Sam O'Shan-nessy** (students) represented Greater Western U/15's at the NSW CHS RL Championships.
- ☺ **Callan Elliot and Tim Clarke** (students) represented North West in Open Soccer.
- ☺ **Daniel McCulloch** (Old Boy) winner of the NSW Young Auctioneers Competition at the Sydney RAS.
- ☺ **Stuart Maunder** (Old Boy) as Director of the stage production of "Dusty" at the Sydney Opera House.
- ☺ **Jarrad Smith** (Old Boy) recipient of Everingham Solomon Legal Bursary has been elected President of Duval
- ☺ **Doug Biffin** (Old Boy 2004) elected President St. Albert's College

Farrer Promotions Below: Farrer Old Boy Mr Robert Baker 1949 to 1953 with wife Maureen visiting Mrs. Sue Stass in Lightning Ridge. Robert was Captain of Farrer as well as being the Captain of the First XI & the First XIII.



Below: Farrer Jazz Band playing to AgQuip Visitors 2007 Farrer Site E24



Old boys visit the school after 60 years

Recently, two Old Boys, Ron Jones (1940-42) and Henry Duprez (1942-46) contacted Mr. Les Carrington to arrange some time to have a look at the Museum and School. The visit was prompted by the news that Alice, the wife of the inaugural Principal, and Mr Fred Eldering, one of the Golden Oldies had both recently passed away. Memories came flooding back, as though it were only yesterday that they had been in residence.

Ron, who came from Pilliga, already had his cousins at the school and as there was no school at Pilliga, Farrer was his chance to get an education. A quietly spoken man, Ron, who now lives in Kurrajong Village in Tamworth, contemplated what was and how things had changed so much. While he listened to Henry's stories for the most part, he did admit to riding his pushbike to Lye's farm, buying a watermelon for 6 pence and then balancing it on his handlebars back to school, where he proceeded to sell pieces to the other Boarders.

He was very impressed with the sporting facilities now available. When he was a student, the fields weren't leveled but on a slope and were very rocky.

"It made for interesting hockey games. It was okay if you were running downhill, but then you had to run uphill and often the ball would become confused with a rock."

His time at Farrer had an interesting outcome. He was so taken with the pigs on the farm that when he returned home he purchased his own animals and began his farming life. (Not impressed when it was suggested that perhaps some of his stock may have escaped to become feral pigs in the Pilliga).

Henry, who now lives diagonally opposite the Nemingha Hotel, was more forthcoming with his stories.

Originally from a farm 17 miles north of Manilla, he was only 11 when he arrived at Farrer. As it was wartime and petrol was scarce, so he only got to see his parents three times a year at holiday time. There was certainly no chance of day leave.

In later years he would ride his pushbike into town to the Railway Station, catch the train to Manilla at 5am and then ride his bike the rest of the way home.

However, the one thing that was most vivid in his memory among other things was Dairy duty.



Old Boys, Henry Duprez and Ron Jones check out some of the memorabilia in the Old Boys Museum during a recent visit after 60 years.

"You had to get up at 3am to get the cows in from the top paddock. We didn't have torches, so you basically went by the moonlight and sometimes got confused by stumps and hillocks. After hand milking we then had to carry the 8 gallon (36 litre) cans up to the Refectory. Two cans between three boys."

"It sounds hard, but it was what we were used to, so we just did it."

Both were able to put to rest one of the great Farrer Myths. The existence of a bomb shelter under Centre Lawn.

"There was never anything under the lawn. We built slit trenches on the slope outside where the Hall is today. I think more people got injured trying to get into the trenches during drills than could ever have been hurt by bombs, if they came."

Following the time in the Museum, they walked across to the Industrial Arts block to marvel at the variety of equipment available and to view the Year 12 HSC Major Works.

"When we were here, we weren't allowed to do work with metal. We did make a few small things in wood. The forge room, which now houses the welding bays, was only for the Staff and was mainly used to garage the Truck."

Time was running short, but they managed to fit in a quick look at the Old Bricks dorms, where they had previously lived. The main change evident to them was the fact that the old verandahs are now filled in and there is carpet, heating, air conditioning, kitchenettes and separate Prefects rooms. It was good to watch their faces as they moved around the school, marveling at the improvements and journeying back in their minds to a time 60 years ago.

- Les Carrington, Careers Teacher



Deputy's Diary

The school, as ever, has been a very busy place providing the Farrer students with an amazing array of opportunities:

- Music Camp at Echidna Gully. 4 students have been nominated to attend the State Music Camp and perform at the Opera House.
- Year 11/12 Primary Industries Crop class travelled to Carrigan's, Boggabri working on cotton harvesting.
- Students participated in the Australian Mathematics, Science, Geography and Spelling competitions.
- Our debating teams continue to have success.
- Design & Technology and Engineering Studies students have been to Newcastle and Uralla gaining practical industry experience.
- Yr 11 Agriculture & Yr 10 Agriculture Extension classes participated in the Property Planning Competition.
- Yr 11 Primary Industries competed in the Prime Lamb competitions at Glen Innes and the Dubbo Show
- Our jazz band performed at Calrossy in a recent charity fundraiser.
- Students have been involved in pregnancy testing the White Suffolk flock with positive results.
- Yr 10 students over 16 have been donating blood.
- Staff and students have been involved in film making courses.
- Students have been involved in OH&S training in conjunction with their Primary Industries courses.

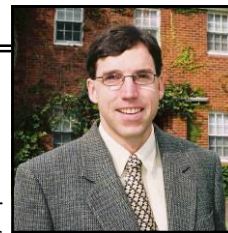
Curriculum, we have implemented new courses in cotton basics into the Primary Industries course and intend to incorporate this into the Yrs 9 & 10 Agriculture

The School Council has approved funding for Stage 1 of the Multifunction centre to be constructed on N° 1 oval. Thanks go to Bill Bryan for his incredible contributions to this stage including drawing of tenders for the project.

The final fit out of the basement conversion to a gymnasium/weights room is completed.

The Farrer Foundation has employed Janelle Warden as a fundraising officer. Janelle will be working to raise funds for the purchase of additional farm land for the school. Refer insert.

Jim Levy -



Deputy Principal Residential

Following many representations over a number of years the Department of School Education has acknowledged the specific nature of the three Residential Agricultural High Schools and have created the position of Deputy Principal Residential for a trial period of 2 years. The Department is scheduled review this position in March 2007.

After a difficult process, Mr. Clint Gallagher has been selected for this role at Farrer.

Mr. Gallagher is certainly no stranger to us as he has been one of the Welfare Head Teachers for the past five and a half years.

In that time, apart from his duties as a Mathematics classroom teacher, he has been an avid supporter of the extra-curricular activities of the School.

In conjunction with former Principal, Ian Downs, he instituted the position of Weekend Activities Officer and has been instrumental in the introduction and management of the Tutoring Programs for Boarders during Prep.

He has taken an active role in coaching both Rugby League and Cricket, where he has been responsible for the Under 16 RL playing in the Group IV competition, the U/16 cricketers and a number of Coleman Trophy teams.

Despite those demands on his time, he also found time to marry Melissa and the couple now have their first son.

**2007 OLD BOYS REUNION
WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 6TH OF OCTOBER
2007 AT FARRER
Everyone is Welcome**

Old Boys interested in being a reunion coordinator for the following year groups:

Golden Oldies/1947,57,67,77,87 & 97
please contact:

The Secretary, Mr Jock Stier during
office hours 02 67669655
email:jock.stier@domefinancial.com.au

Farewell to members of the Farrer Family

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of our foundation members of the Farrer Family.

Mrs. Alice James was the wife of the foundation Headmaster, Clary James and filled the position of Matron. In that capacity she was more than just the wife of the Boss. She was mother to the many young boys who called Farrer home in those early days. Alice gave more than just medical assistance as the first boys, some as young as 11, came to terms with living away from home. One of the early memories was of her secretiveness as she concealed birthday presents such as pushbikes, until the right day and then sharing the joy with the boys as they received them. A grand lady, she maintained great fondness for Farrer and following Clary's death, funded a Speech Day award in his memory. The James Family award is presented each year to the student who excels in Senior Agriculture. Both she and Clary were always welcome visitors to the school they established, long after his retirement. She passed away at age 96.

Mr Fred Eldering was among the first intake in 1939. His association with Farrer began before then, as his father, who was the publican of the Nemingha Hotel, had been one of the chief advocates for the establishment of the school. During his life after Farrer, Fred was very active in Agriculture as a sheep buyer, travelling throughout Australia. It was Fred who coined the phrase Golden Oldies and provided the school with a sign, now in the Old Boys Museum, which has been signed by all of the initial enrolment who attended the first reunions. More recently, his sheepdog can be seen in the film Babe. In 2001, Mr. Eldering wrote, "In those early years, we were a family, students, the James', teaching staff, field staff and domestics, that is why the school was able to get off to such a great start.

I owe much to "the Boss", his talks and advice. It was a special part of my life. I was honoured by being first, as the Boss said to me in 1956... "Creating a Tradition for others to Follow".

Mr. Eldering, who passed away on 8th June 2006 at the age of 82 is remembered each Speech Day with the presentation of the Fred Eldering Shield for "academic sporting and agriculture achievement, leadership and school spirit."

Mr Jack Massingham (OB 1945) of Binnaway, Jack was Dux of his year.

Mr Barry Charles Munro (OB 1940) Aged 76 of Lismore passed away 14th February 2004

We may have lost four of our links to the past, but their legacy lives on.

Farrer Foundation Inc

Appointment of Fundraising Officer

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Janelle Warden to the position of Fundraising coordinator.

The initial primary focus of the Foundation will be the raising of \$2 million to purchase much needed farmland for the School. Currently we lease 1200 acres at Moore Creek at a cost of \$50,000 per annum.

The newly purchased farmland aims to create sustainability for the Angus Stud, White Suffolk Stud and Illawarra herd with cropping to feed the stock.

Janelle has two boys currently at Farrer - Jed (Yr11) and Toby (Yr8), and is married to Brett, President of the Old Boys Association.

One initiative for fundraising has been the opening of a Telstra Bigpond dealership through the Foundation. This means that any Bigpond product (Broadband, 2 way satellite etc.) sold through the Foundation will attract a hefty commission payment to the School.

Please contact Janelle for more information on what is available in your area.

Farrer Farm Fund

Farrer moving forward

A fully tax deductible project to raise the funds to purchase a much needed farm for Farrer Students

Buy an acre (\$1000), donate some wheat, wool, cotton etc?

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE

Contact Janelle Warden
0267721111 or 0429 635 543.

The Class of 1951-1955

Realising that it was 55 years since we commenced High School and 50 years since we sat for the Leaving Certificate, we began contacting each other in early 2005. While we are still not absolutely sure of our statistics, they can be summarised as; 32 commenced in 1951, 1 arrived and 1 left after 1st and 2nd year and 32 sat for the Intermediate Certificate. 16 left after the Intermediate and 2 arrived (one for only 1 year) and 17 sat for the leaving certificate. 23 have been contacted. Sadly two are no longer with us, having died young in car crashes; a salutary lesson here.

A dinner at the Power House was organised for the Friday 7th October, the night before the main Reunion. 18 were able to attend, which was tremendous. They came from a wide area, with contingents from Walcha (John Dunbar, Don Murchie, Bob Thomson), Tamworth (Ralph Arnison [Bective], John Benham [Willow Tree] and Geoff Ingall [Wallabadah]), SE Queensland (Doug McGuffog [Noosa], Doug King [Pelikan Waters], Bill Norvill [Karana Downs], Ron Philp [Scarborough]), and then Wollomombi – Allan McRae, Uralla – Max Goode, Armidale – Col Harris, Wialla – Ken Brookes, Wauchope – Graham Hoy, New Lambton – Ken Hargreaves, Scotts Flat – Arthur Burns and Goonellabah – John Ferguson. Those that were contacted and could not come were Geoff Atkinson (Banora Point), Geoff Chapman (Main Beach Queensland), Barry Cornish (Narromine) and Norm Lockett (Kootingal). The first enjoyable period was recognising and reacquainting with each other before dinner. The photos brought along were on display and in this modern era are digitised and can be distributed freely in future. The conversation did not flag all evening and with personal histories, bad jokes and contemporary issues, it was a very happy and gratifying experience. The mob looked fit and healthy and there were many “I wouldn’t have missed this for quids”. It was decided that we would do it again in 10 years. By morning this had become 5 years – 71 being a better bet than 76. Would you believe we didn’t take a group photo!



A fine body of men. Where did the 50 years go?

Back: **Graham Hoy, Arthur Burns, Doug King, Max Goode, Bob Thomson, John Dunbar, Geoff Ingall, Ralph Arnison, Doug McGuffog, John Ferguson.**

On Saturday we joined the main Reunion at the barbecue and the school tour. We also managed to get a group photo, although a couple had gone home. The woodens are gone (we knew that and there are rumours about how that happened); our dorms (5, 6, 7) are no more; the showers are the same; the boiler room is no longer the boiler room. The booster house is the same (doesn’t look as if it has been painted since). The Laughing Cavalier has disappeared from the classroom stairs; fireplaces bricked up; the drake has gone; vegy garden gone; chooks gone; the gentlemen’s club gone; the Boss’s office gone; they now have air conditioners! Verandahs are enclosed and they can train in the swimming pool, not the river. And do they still do stock? Bet they don’t honour/salute God, Flag and King and march on Monday morning. We all found the Old Boys Museum very interesting and worthwhile. As one wife remarked: “all those items sitting in drawers at home would be better off in the Museum.”

Most attended the dinner at night, held in the upgraded School Dining Room. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all who attended from all years, more chance to catch up with each other and a great night had by all.

Our congratulations and appreciation goes to the Farrer Old Boys Association for their organisation of the Saturday and the chance to get together.

In future the old boys will be using one page of the Farrer school news letter (published twice a term) to keep you informed.

Unfortunately, we were unable to contact Peter Barber, John Bullen, John Cutmore, Bob McCook, John Parsons, Geoff Smith, Peter Stokie or Kevin Turner. If anyone hears of them, please let us know.

2006 FARRER AGRICULTURE

White Suffolk Sale

Farrer's 12th Annual 'on-farm' Ram Sale saw repeat commercial producers using the Helmsmen system. Farrer sold 40 'Lambplan' tested white Suffolk rams at a very consistent average of \$791 with a top of \$2000. Stud Manager, Darren Smith said the experience was fantastic for the students, who were very pleased with the result. The sale average stacked up well against the national averages for this breed.



Farrer Bull Sale

Once again Farrer hosted a successful 'on-property' annual bull sale with a slightly improved average to last year. With an almost total clearance, 32 bulls sold to a top of \$7,500, averaging \$4,296 and grossing \$137,500.

Congratulations to Nigel & Sue Smith of Woonooka Angus Stud who paid the top price for Farrer Z79 by Wattletop Woofers. The Smith's chose wisely to select two bulls from the sale draft that would suit their breeding objectives.

The first bull sold at the Sale is traditionally the 'scholarship bull' and this year, Farrer Ringleader Z44 was sold to the Say family 'Euroa' Glen Innes for \$5000.



The Farrer stock handlers presented A professional look to complement the catalogue of Angus bulls

(The Cornish & Rothwell Scholarships are also offered to talented & needy students on a annual basis).

One pleasing aspect of this sale was our competitive average when compared to other studs. This suggests that a consistent, even line of quality bulls were offered for real value. Our success in 2006 is attributed to the efforts of many including the Agriculture staff, farm staff, our stud Administrator Kellie Kelpzig and the students involved.

Repeated comments after the sale were how well the bulls were presented with full credit going to Brian Coleman and his staff.

There was also a lot of praise for all 'the boys' who did a tremendous job. They were all great ambassadors for the school.

Tamworth Show

As has been the practice in recent years, Farrer students have taken part in all aspects of the Show: Junior judging of pigs, Beef cattle, Merino sheep, meat sheep and fleeces. In addition to the job of preparing and leading the Angus and Illawarra cattle, students have also participated in the Junior Parade's competitions. Quite a number followed the tradition and assisted the Show Committee as Stewards, around the Show as well as in the Main Arena. Of particular note is that even after leaving school, many Old Boys continue to compete and this year saw Daniel McCulloch (2002) competing at the Sydney RAS Young Auctioneers competition where he was judged the best in NSW. This follows on his previous successes in Merino Fleece judging. It also continues a recent trend of Farrer Old Boys in this competition, such as Patrick Purtle (Manilla) and Chris Goscomb (Gunnedah).

Dairy

This was a bumper for the dairy leaders with 22 boys participating in the showing, parading and judging of the Farrer Illawarra cattle. During the four week lead up to the show all of the boys helped to prepare the cattle, involving themselves in leading, washing, groom-

ing and judging. A special thankyou must be given to all of the farm staff, Mr Wilson, Matthew Wilson, Mr Brown and especially to Kelly Klepzig for helping with all aspects of the preparation for the big day.

Year 8 Ag Pig Unit

This year the Year 8 Agriculture classes have the experience of working with a group of 40 pigs as



they grow from weaners to porkers. Each class is rostered on for 6 weeks and students work in small groups to ensure the pigs wellbeing over those 6 weeks.

Students become proficient at weighing the pigs and the new technologies involved in NLIS are used to identify each pig throughout its growth. The boys look forward to the regular weighings to see how well their pigs are performing, although for some the smell is a bit of a deterrent. Their classmates are quick to point out when they have been to the piggery, however they know it will soon be their peers turn!

The piglets come from D'Hudsons as weaners and are sold for processing into pork on the north coast.



2007 COMPLETION OF MULTIFUNCTION CENTRE

Diagram with further information at the end of this Newsletter

The Farrer Refectory Staff entered a Sanitarium Weetbix competition and won the prize below. They have offered for tender to the Farrer Family in the first instance, if reserve price is not reached it will be offered on Ebay.

Proceeds directed toward completion of our Multipurpose Centre.

FARRER FUNDRAISER

Would you like to make a **tax deductible** donation to the Farrer Building Fund to assist in refurbishing the clubhouse on No. 1 Oval.?

Well here is your chance to be a part of our fundraising drive and to win yourself a Bradman Endorsed Cricket Bat. Simply propose an amount that you would like to tender for the bat and if you are the highest bidder then the bat's yours. There is no obligation to donate if you are unsuccessful in gaining the highest bid.

Card 1	Fred Spofforth	31 of 60
Card 2	Bill O'Reilly	23 of 60
Card 3	Sir Donald Bradman	1 of 60
Card 4	Keith Miller	21 of 60
Card 5	Dennis Lillee	12 of 60
Card 6	Allan Border	3 of 60

Closing date 17/12/06

Please address: Attention The Principal
585 Calala Lane
Tamworth 2340

Website: www.farreragri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: farreragri-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

OTHER WAYS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP?

Farrer needs help with this project. We are looking to the community to raise the extra funds that will be needed to complete this project. We are re-launching the "Sponsor a Seat or Row" in the grandstand. We have received sponsorship for 80 seats to date, from Old Boys, past year 12 students, parents and past Principals & Deputys. Should you wish to sponsor a seat and have your name on it, it's a \$1050 tax-deductible donation to the Farrer Building Fund (for some that may mean only \$550 as the Government would refund the rest. **A Bargain!**)



TECHNOLOGY & APPLIED STUDIES

Year 12 Students with their HSC Projects for 2006 in the TAS Courtyard.

HSC markers visit each school to mark the practical achievements of students.



1. Luke Haling made this tandem axle box trailer.
2. Liam Hair's hydraulic press is a sure winner.
3. Sam Plevy with his portable sheep-classing race.



Farrer Old Boys toast of the NRL and Raiders



Photo courtesy of Action
Photographics, Sydney

September 7, 2006

Former Farrer First XIII Captain, Alan Tongue has capped off a fantastic year for the Canberra Raiders, in his seventh season in First Grade with the club, by taking the coveted Raiders Player of the Year award.

"Alan has had a tremendous season for the green machine, starting in all of the Raiders 24 home and away matches and breaking the NRL record for most tackles in a season with 1040," said Ben Pollock, Raiders Media Manager.

In setting the record, Alan was a phenomenal 200 tackles in front of his nearest rival, Nathan Hindmarsh of the Parramatta Eels. It was a pleasing record for Alan to set, as the previous record holder was Richard Swain. Richard who represented Melbourne Storm and New Zealand, had preceded Alan as the Captain of the Farrer First XIII in 1993. Swain now plays with in the English "Superleague".

After collecting his awards Alan said he is just happy to be playing good football at the moment and credited his success this year to his teammates and family.

"I just wanted to be the player that other players want to play with," he said. "It's been a great year for me and I would like to thank both my beautiful family and the rest of the Raiders players and coaching staff."

Raiders coach Matt Elliott said

Tongue is the perfect example of what a football player should aspire to be.

"Alan Tongue is the most inspirational player I have ever met and it has been a pleasure coaching him," Elliott said.

Alan's potential was recognised early when he was placed on a Bronco's scholarship for his senior school years. The commitment to success was no surprise to those at Farrer who knew him as a schoolboy player. While others were rising for the day and getting started, Alan could be found on the training paddock, from 7am each morning, practising sprints, chip and chase exercises and honing his step. That commitment was rewarded with an Australian Schoolboy guernsey & CHS Blue in 1998, before being picked up by the Raiders as a utility forward.

The Raiders Player of the Year is selected by the players and coaching staff on a 3-2-1 voting system, with Tongue polling 28 votes ahead of Troy Thompson (19), Clinton Schifcofske (16), Adam Mogg (13) and Todd Carney (12). Alan's time at Canberra has been littered with awards and strong performances. In his first year, 1999, he was Jersey Flegg captain; in 2000 he was named Raiders Rookie of the Year; and in 2003, Clubman of the Year. Last season he finished runner-up in the Player of the Year.

The Presentation Night was a good time for Farrer Old Boys. Nick Colley, Year 12 last year, received the coaches' award for the Jersey Flegg side.

Perhaps the next player to capture the record will be Marty Lewis, now playing with the Parramatta Eels. In 2005 Marty was Captain of the School and the First XIII, with three years service, and represented the Australian Schoolboys.

Information provided courtesy of Mr. Ben Pollock Canberra Raiders Media Manager.

<http://www.raiders.com.au/>

Farrer Old Boys ongoing contributions to our school

This year has so far seen the construction of a landscaped area in front of the BBQ area above no.1 oval. This will make it a little more user friendly. There has also been a sprinkler system installed to keep the grass alive during the dryer times. Cement slabs are also in place for the placement of tables and chairs, with the idea that parents will use this area when visiting their boys.

Earlier in the year we held 2 sheep manure drives with the help of year 12, some year 11, Luke Bristow and all those lucky enough to be on weekend detention. Let me say, the Old Boys association doesn't believe spending your day under a shed digging in sheep manure is detention material, but who are we to argue. The monies raised will help support the sporting complex amongst other things.

I would like to encourage any Old Boys out there to come along and give us a hand.

It's a great opportunity to catch up with old mates, to get to know the staff at Farrer and if you have a son attending, a great way to be involved in his education. Please feel free to ring myself,

Brett Warden AH 0267722522
or Jock Steir BH 0267610092.

Excellence in Sport Education

Below is an extract from the submission to be recognised for an Excellence in Education Award at the coming Education Week Awards.

Farrer has had outstanding success with a very broad range of sporting activities for a number of years and includes significant participation by students.

Our school athletics, swimming and cross country **carnivals**, involve almost 100% school participation with parent and community involvement. (We had 15 heats of the Under 14 – 50 metres), many of our students go on to North West and State Representation. Sam Bowden toured the USA with the Australian athletics team. Our under 14 relay team will compete at the State Championships.

The school is heavily involved in a wide range of **summer and winter** sports with success.

In summer we have cricket teams in the local Tamworth competition in Year 7, U/14's, U/16's and Opens as well as the Ron George and Davidson Shield Open Cricket competitions.

This year in **cricket**, we won the Ron George Shield and made the semi-final of the Davidson Shield, also gaining success in the U/14 Cricket winning the Coleman Shield competition. 2 players made the North West Side and the Captain – Blake Fitzgerald made the CHS 1st X1 and the N.S.W All Schools team.

Basketball. we have teams participating in local competition as well as the CHS knockout competitions.

Water polo success included winning both the Under 15 and Open Regional Finals in 2006. Ryan Betts and Norman Turner were selected in the CHS Under 15 side and Josh McGann in the CHS Open 2nds having toured New Zealand with the NSW Under 16 side.

Horse Sports teams have successfully participated in the Coonabarabran Horse Sports as well as Manilla, Quirindi and Carinya. We were placed 1st in the team of 4 in a competition that involved over 500 riders. Gavin White was the Australian Champion Open Rider at the Australian Campdrafting Championships

In the winter sports program we were successful in **Open Rugby League** including winning the University Shield in 2003 and being semi finalists in both the Arrive Alive and University Shield in 2005, and in addition our U/16 side played as West Tamworth in Group 4, the U/15 side won the Country Cup and the U/13 side were 3rd. We successfully participated in the state-wide Buckley Shield, winning in 2001. We also successfully field teams in the U/14-15, U/13, U/12 at the Tamworth Minor League.

In 2005 our School Captain, Martin Lewis, made the Australian Schoolboys and with Zac Russ and Nick Colley touring the UK with the AIS team. Josh Dutton, Sean Russ and Josh Carroll also made the North West and Greater Western side in the U/15s.

In **Rugby Union** we were semi finalists in the Waratah Shield, and Yeates Shield Open Competitions as well as the Wiburd Shield. The Buchan Shield U/15 team were regional finalists. We were also successfully involved in the Prime Cup with three teams in Open, Under 16 and Under 14 competitions. Farrer won both the Open and Under 16 competitions in the Prime Cup and our U/17 team playing as Quirindi were grand finalists in the Central North Competition. We had 10 players in the Country Development team that toured Argentina. Farrer dominated the North West team with 4 players going on to CHS teams, Andrew McKenzie being selected in the New South Wales All Schools Team.

Kai Barnes, Mat Swan, Jake Hawkins and Ben Markerink were selected in the Lloyd McDermott Aboriginal Rugby Union teams.

In **Soccer** we participated in the Bill Turner U/15 and the CHS Open Soccer knockouts. Two students made the North West side and Troy Osborne was selected as the Open CHS Soccer Goalkeeper.

We were also successful in the Ron Barassi **AFL** knockout competition.

Farrer was also involved in **touch football** both in knockouts and with the mixed competition in Tamworth.

In **Hockey** we made the State Final series in Opens and the team included State and Australian Representative players in the Open and junior sides. James Riddell made the Australian U/16 side, Scott Weatherley the Open CHS side and Sam Clifton the NSW U/17 side.

We made the finals in the Open **Tennis** at Albury where our best player Kenric Starr was undefeated. He was in the Open Tennis Team for the past 6 years.

This year we have been involved in other sports including **Archery** where Chris Neale was placed 2nd in NSW for his section.

Part of our reason for our outstanding success is due to the **expertise of the staff and their willingness to commit to the extra curricula activities.**

In addition to our external sporting commitments we have implemented an integrated sports program for year 7, the Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross Life-saving programs as well as a specific program addressing teenage obesity.

The measurement of sporting outcomes include outstanding levels of participation by almost every student at the school. Success at various team and individual levels through to state finalists and Australian Representative level.

Farrer has clearly demonstrated a broad based student orientated range of sporting activities and we have a strong commitment to the promotion of sport as part of a balanced life style.

Farrer cements position as a provider of cotton education

The Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre offered to fully fund two students and Graeme Harris to attend the recent conference on the Gold Coast.

Funding included payment of casual teacher relief, travel, meals and conference registration fees.

Zac Carrigan and Jason Herbig were invited to attend due to them undertaking a pilot program in a new course called "Cotton Basics" developed by the Cotton industry. The course uses units of competency drawn from the national training package in rural industry, which Mr. Harris had agreed to trial.

This trial has been enthusiastically endorsed by Year 9 students wishing to undertake the course in 2007.

Numerous links to various participants within the cotton industry were explored and developed.

During the conference a number of outcomes were achieved which included:

Establishment of direct articulation from the Cotton Basics Certificate II into the Certificate III course at Queensland Agricultural Colleges Emerald campus;

Development of opportunities for structured work placements with a number of leading cotton organisations including Auscott and Boolamon Plains Pastoral. Both of these received prestigious awards at the Cotton Awards dinner;

Preliminary discussions with NAB regarding a cadetship in finance for a Farrer student each year; Promotion of Farrer as a school of choice for agricultural education;

Development of links with many Farrer Old Boys who are involved in the industry;

Collection of teaching resources to assist in the delivery of the course; and

Development of employment related links for Farrer students.

Apart from attendance at the conference lectures and symposia on current issues in the industry, the boys and Mr. Harris manned the Cotton Australia stand to answer questions regarding educational options for students. They then appeared on stage with Mrs Georgie Carrigan for a segment addressing the national skill shortage in the industry and future training opportunities.

Following discussions with Emerald Ag College officials, Mr Harris was able to negotiate a pathway for Senior students who undertake the Certificate III Grain Production course as part of their HSC. Farrer is the only secondary school licensed to deliver this qualification. Successful completion of the course will permit entry into the Advanced Certificate at Emerald (1 year) followed by advanced standing into the second year of the Agriculture degree at the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland.

The advantage of this pathway is that there is no requirement of a UAI.

Special thanks must be extended to Georgie and Andy Carrigan for their support and providing accommodation in their unit for the boys and Mr. Harris.

Participation in this program has assisted in promoting the course and developing a network of organisations all keen to assist in the future development of the program.

Thanks to Mr. Harris' efforts, Farrer now finds itself firmly established as a leading provider of cotton education.



HSC Primary Industries Students excited to be going to the AA Company properties in the Territory for work placement

Fact Sheet Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School 2006

- Founded in 1939 as an agricultural high school for boarders, particularly those who are isolated and day students from the Tamworth region. Located on the outskirts of Tamworth NSW on 140 hectares of prime Peel Valley farmland.
- We are a Lighthouse school for BOY'S EDUCATION including Vocational Education, traineeships and an outstanding ODAS program of camps and tours involving the whole school every year.
- The only PUBLIC agricultural boarding school for boys in Australia.
- Third largest boarding school in the State with outstanding facilities including 7 computer rooms, outstanding TAS workshops, indoor basketball Gym, 200 seat auditorium, 25 meter pool, weights room, Old Boys museum and great facilities to teach practical agriculture.
- Student population 610 with 360 boarders. 65% of students off farms with many more associated with the agricultural industries. We have 34 aboriginal students, many boarders.
- The Staff are dedicated, caring and committed with many being here for over 20 years. Nigel Smith has coached the 1st XI hockey side for the past 29 years and coached representative sides to State Championships. John Kilborn has coached the 1 XI cricket side for 29 years, assisted by Les Carrington for 27 of those years. 2006 Steve Sears, Head Teacher English retires after 29 years of dedication. Bill Trounce also retires after working and living at Farrer since 1979. Val Miller and Brian Coleman on the non teaching staff have dedicated over 30 years to Farrer. 25 staff live on site.
- 2005 academic achievements include achieving 14 band 6 results in the HSC. 4 students with a UAI over 90. Our HSC results were the best in the North West. 100% of our students in employment or further education after graduating from Farrer.
- 2005 School Certificate we had 15 Band 6 results. One student achieving 99% in Mathematics.
- Our ELLA, Literacy & SNAP, Numeric results were among the top in the State.
- We were awarded a New England Region literacy award during 2006.
- We accelerate our top students in Agriculture.
- Excellent results in National competitions for English, Mathematics, Computers, Economics, Business Studies and Financial Literacy. Damien Meppem in the top 1% of the State in Economics.
- Stock market game. In 2005 our year 9 team won the NSW division and came 2nd in Australia.
- Ben Roberts (yr 11) selected to attend the National Mathematics Camp. Only 70 in Australia.
- Debating year 10 were regional winners for the first time. Success in both junior & senior teams.
- We have been very successful in the Lions of the Year public speaking competitions.
- Concert & Jazz Band perform in the community. Many students are involved in the Tamworth Conservatorium program. Cameron Burnes won the Conservatorium Scholarship in 2003 & 2005. Tom Stent won for 2007. Elsen Price played in the School Spectacular in Sydney. 2 students were selected in the State Wind Ensemble that performed at the Opera House this year.
- Farrer participated in Capers again this year in the band and as back and front stage crews.
- Our HSC Art works have appeared in Art Express.
- Our HSC Industrial Tech Metal projects have been selected for display at Intech.
- In 2006 we introduced senior tutorials to assist students in preparing for the HSC.
- In 2007 we will be introducing cross school tutorials for extension classes.
- Our work audit program and OPAL are used to ensure ongoing academic performance.
- We have been runner up in the State Chess championships for the past 2 years.
- Farrer has the largest number of primary industries students in the State. Courses include cropping, cotton, beef and sheep. Primary industries being one of the schools top subjects in the HSC.
- Agricultural opportunities include Beef cattle, Sheep, Dairy cattle, Wool husbandry, Horticulture, Pig Production, Egg Growing, Dry land and Irrigated cropping.
- Dairy Cattle, White Suffolk Flock and Angus stud are all run as very profitable business ventures. We turned over in excess of \$140,000 at the Bull Sale.
- Recently won award from Dairy Farmers for the quality of our milk production.
- Students are heavily involved in showing, judging and parading cattle, steers and sheep. Mark Turnbull was Junior Champion Parader at Quirindi Prime Stock show and Grand Champion Parader at the Northern Schools Steer Show.
- Strong community commitments raising funds for the Red Cross & Red Shield appeals. We supported students in need raising over \$20,000 to support James Heilbronn & Cameron Fordham.
- Our seniors are involved in the Blood Bank program.

- We had a successful musical "Robin Hood".
- Every year we hold an Open Day during February and an Orientation day for New Enrolments.
- We offer bed & breakfast for Country Music and sporting camps during holidays for extra funds.
- We have 12 League & 12 cricket teams, 13 Rugby sides, 7 hockey sides 4 water polo teams.
- We won the 2003 University Shield in Open Rugby League & regularly make final stages of Arrive Alive, State Carnival and University Shield. We recently won the Country Cup in Under 13 and 15. Our Buckley Shield teams are always strong winning this competition in 2002. Our Under 16 sides were group 4 champions 2005 and 2006. We have had Australian schoolboys including 2005 Martin Lewis and Tom Learoyd in 2004 as well as AIS and state of origin age player Zac Russ. Zac was awarded a CHS Blue for Rugby League.
- In Rugby Union we have been very successful in the Prime Cup winning in 2005 and 2006 and have been semi finalists in the Waratah Shield. We dominated the Wiburd Shield year 10 country Rugby competitions. We have had representative players at Australian Schoolboys, State and Country representative level including tours to Argentina and South Africa. Andrew McKenzie last year made the Open NSW All Schools side. We have conducted 2 very successful tours of New Zealand.
- This year we gained a silver medal in the under 16 relay at the State championships.
- Tennis we made the state finals in 2005, Kennrick Starr being a State ranked player.
- Soccer we had the CHS Open goal keeper in Troy Osborne in 2005.
- We have 12 cricket teams and our 1st XI is very successful in Ron George & Davidson Shield. In 2005 we made the semi finals of the Davidson Shield. We have a current State Under 17 player in our 1st XI as well as other representative players with a representative NSW Country in indoor cricket.
- In Hockey Farrer reaches State final level. We have current Australian Under 18 representative Sam Clifton as well as James Riddell in Aust U17's & Ryan Betts in U15's. We have 6 Hockey teams In touch football the school has been very successful with Mat Swan representing NSW in the National championships in Perth in 2006. We have many boys involved in the local mixed competition.
- Current student achievements are diverse and include State and National representation in other sports including Indoor cricket and Water polo. We also have champions in Archery, Skeet shooting and Horse sports.
- Gavin White was the Australian Camp Draft Champion in 2003 and 2004.
- Chris Ware is the current Champion Boy Rider at both the Brisbane Royal and Toowoomba Shows. He was 3rd in the rider class at the Sydney Royal. David Inwood is a champion show jumper.
- Old Boys network totally 4000 members. Across NSW, Australia and the world.
- Tony Windsor an Old Boy is the Independent Member for New England.
- Past student achievements include Rhode Scholar and leading surgeon Michael Kilborn.
- The current Director of Opera Australia is Stuart Maunder who is an Old Boy.
- We have had Olympians including Mathew Smith, silver medal winners at Atlanta in hockey and George Barton, a medalist in shooting.
- We have a Wallaby in Dr Geoff Chapman who went on to be a very successful horse trainer.
- Kiwi League international in Richard Swain was an Old Boy.
- We currently have a number of players in the NRL including Alan Tongue and Tom Learoyd at Canberra and others playing grade with other NRL clubs.

What are we doing? We are continually looking for improvements in our results academically, with our welfare and management of the students and with our facilities.

We have developed a new Weights room in the basement. Constructing the PD/H/PE Centre on No 1 Oval. Have you bought a seat in the grandstand?

The Big Plan for Farrer is to purchase additional farmland for the school. We currently lease 800 hectares at Moore Creek for \$50,000 per year. We have employed a Fund Raising Officer Janelle Warden for the expressed purpose of raising through sponsorship and donations \$2 million to purchase a farm close to Farrer to expand the educational opportunities for our students.

We need the farm for educational, ecological and economic reasons. please don't hesitate to contact Janelle on 67721111 or Jim Levy on 67648602 or Steve Cavanagh on 67648601 or Steve Mathers on 67658395 or Rod Roseby on 67461861. Help us move forward. Look forward to your response. Thank You Jim Levy