



THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL

AN INTRODUCTION

Compiled by A J Constable, a former Duty Master and edited, with additions, by the School Council History Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Peter Wright. The committee acknowledges the help of Old Boy David Rose with photos.

July 1987

(Revised July 2007 *in italics*)

THE SCHOOL'S ORIGINS

The origins of The Armidale School go back to the year 1838, when Patrick Grant, a magistrate at Maitland, conceived the idea of a proprietary school for boys in the Hunter Valley. The scheme was taken over by the Scott family and other prominent members of the Church of England in the northern districts of NSW. Subscriptions were received from 47 prospective shareholders, and 500 pounds was also obtained from the Society for the Promotion of Christian knowledge as a result of the efforts of the Bishop of Australia, W G Broughton. In 1840 a site for the future school was purchased at Honeysuckle Point, Newcastle.

Nothing more was done at the time until William Tyrrell, DD was appointed first Bishop of Newcastle in 1846. The management of the property then passed onto his hands, and in 1854 the land was resumed by the Hunter River Railway Company. The money for this resumption amounted by 1869 to 9 000 pounds. As it still seemed impossible to fund the type of school hoped for the money was held by the Master in Equity, an official of the Supreme Court of NSW.

By 1877 Bishop Tyrrell had pushed the matter further, and the Master in Equity drew up a scheme for the establishment of the School. Land was selected at Blandford, near Murrurundi. By 1881 the capital of the School amounted to 14 000 pounds. As this was inadequate to build the School at Blandford, a new suggestion was made that it should be built on the New England Tablelands at Armidale. Archdeacon Coles-Child, Sir Joseph Abbott, and Mr R P Abbott seem to have been the leaders in the proposal to establish the School where it was subsequently built. Additional capital to the amount of 6 000 pounds for the establishment of the School at Armidale was raised by James Ross, Archdeacon of Armidale, and his leading laymen.

The Foundation Stone of the main school building was laid by Lord Jersey, Governor of the Colony, on 22 February 1893. The formal Opening Ceremony was performed by the Rt.Rev A V Green, Lord Bishop of Grafton and Armidale on 15 May 1894.

The New England Proprietary School Limited was incorporated on 5 June 1891. The 100 pound shares, offered at 50 pounds each, allowed each shareholder to nominate one pupil for each share held. There were 65 original shareholders. The Directors bought 20 acres in Armidale in September 1891, for 1370 pounds, supplementing 10 acres which Mr F R White of *Boooloombah* had purchased for the School in 1889.

The initials NEPS are still to be seen high on the front of the main building, above the portico, in red terracotta. The name of the Company, and of the School, was changed in 1896 to The Armidale School (TAS). In that year TAS joined the Association of Great Public Schools (GPS) in Sydney and has remained a member ever since.

The School site was transferred in 1950 to the Trustees of the Church of England Diocese of Armidale. Since then TAS has been administered by a School Council comprising members from the Diocese, Old Boys and P&F. (*More recently the School Foundation has also been represented on the Council.*)

THE MAIN BUILDING

The Directors of NEPS Limited resolved at first to offer a prize for a design for the main school building. Later, they decided to commission John Sulman, a Sydney Architect, to draw up plans for buildings to accommodate seventy boarders with provision for extensions for twice that number.

Sir John Sulman was born in England in 1849, arrived in Australia in 1885, was knighted in 1924, and died in 1934. He was an architect and town planner and lectured in Architecture at Sydney University for many years. He was a Trustee for the Art Gallery of NSW for over 30 years. He instituted the Sulman Medal and Diploma for Architecture, awarded annually since 1932 by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for work of outstanding merit in NSW. The Sulman Art Prize, awarded annually by the Art Gallery of NSW, was given by his family in his memory.

Sulman wrote the main building of TAS:

“I have tried to create in this School building the sort of artistic design I have discussed with my friend William Morris and other artists. The front of the building stretches 250 feet, facing north, and includes all the necessary facilities and rooms for a Boarding School. My emphasis is on space for the boys to move around in, but also on large windows and high ceilings to ensure plenty of light and fresh air. I have chosen to build in dark brick, contrasted with terracotta dressings, for warmth of appearance. I hope this building will be useful and comfortable for those who will inhabit it”.

The façade of the main building, although a pleasing whole, is not symmetrical. This is a feature of the “Queen Anne” movement, which influenced much English building from the 1860s to the 1880s, and came to Australia with the work of John Horbury Hunt. Hunt was the architect of *Boooloombah*, former home of F R White and now administration centre of the University of New England. He was also an architect of St Peter’s Cathedral and other fine buildings in the district. Sulman’s friend, William Morris, was one of the most celebrated of nineteenth century designers, and a pioneer of English socialism.

The main building, generally of two storeys, has a three storey section at the western end (the Headmaster's Lodge) and a three storey section above the portico. The portico is distyle (having two columns). The small single storey room to the east of the portico was also part of the main building, as is evidenced from the southern side. The internal walls are stucco with timber boarded ceilings, and the bricks are laid in Flemish bond. The roof of the main building is slate. Repairs made to it were completed in 1983.

The Headmaster's residence contains some wall-moulded plaster archways, keystones and a fine cedar staircase. Above the entrance to the Lodge the date 1892 can be seen. This would seem to indicate that the western end of the building was erected before the eastern end.

THE DINING HALL

The Dining hall has a massive open-pitched roof structure stayed by decorative cast-iron tie rods. Also of interest in the Dining Hall is the large area of windows to the south with the School coat of arms in stained glass in the middle.

The windows were designed by Norman St Clair Carter, who was a very distinguished portrait painter and stained glass artist. There are five of his portraits at the University of New England, and five at the Armidale CAE. His stained glass windows include the King Solomon window (presented to Armidale Teachers' College in 1935 and featured on the front of *An Armidale Album* compiled by Dr Lionel Gilbert, 1982 and windows in NEGS Chapel and the Chapel on the pulpit side of St Peter's Cathedral. Other examples of his work may be seen in windows in Wesley College Chapel, Shore Chapel, Warrior's Chapel in All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst, St Stephen's Church Macquarie Street, Sydney and the North Clerestory windows of St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

BIG SCHOOL

Big School was used in the early days for both teaching and School assemblies. *Big School* is a term from English public school buildings. Features to note are:

- The large windows to the west and the high windows to the east (above the covered way), the high ceiling.
- The six Honour Boards, three listing the Senior Prefects and three the Captains of the School (Dux). The cedar board on the western wall, listing Presidents of the Old Boys' Union since its formation, was unveiled in August 1983.
- The portraits of former Directors of the Company used to hang along the eastern wall.

THE CHAPEL

The Chapel was designed by Cyril Blacket. He was a son of Edmund Thomas Blacket, who designed the main building of Sydney University, and St Paul's College at Sydney University. The foundation stone of the Chapel was laid by the Rt. Rev. Henry Edward Cooper, Bishop of Grafton and Armidale on 5 September 1902.

Behind the foundation stone is a bottle containing a document which describes the history of the Chapel up to that time, a list of Directors, the names of the Headmaster and Assistant Masters and of subscribers to the Chapel fund, the number of boys at the School, a copy of *The Armidalian* and a local paper of 5 September 1902.

The Chapel was built largely as a result of the generosity of A A Dangar, F R White and citizens of Armidale. The cost of the building was 1250 pounds. It was dedicated by Bishop Cooper on 6 February 1903.

The architectural style is gothic revival. Points of interest to note are:

- The exposed roof frame and trusses.
- A five-pointed brick arch over the altar.
- The cedar-lined apsidal bay spanning the Sanctuary, painted blue with white stars.
- The 28 stained glass windows – seven in the Sanctuary, four pairs on the southern side (the rear three pairs are plain), three pairs on the northern side (the rear two pairs are plain), two in the western wall, and a circular “Rose” window divided into five parts.
- The roof shingles made from forest oak (replaced in 1981).
- The Armidale “blue” bricks laid in Flemish bond.

The Chapel organ was built and installed in 1965 at a cost of 2500 pounds. The metal pipes were imported from Holland, the wooden pipes were made in Brisbane. The action is electro-pneumatic controlled by a multiple cable from the console. The plaque on the console records that the organ was dedicated by Bishop R C Kerle on 26 September 1965.

THE CHAPEL GATE AND MEMORIALS IN THE CHAPEL

A brass plaque on the right pillar of the Chapel Gate (*the original gate nearest the Lodge – ed*) records that the gate and Chapel wall were given by Mrs M M Mackenzie in memory of her late husband, Herbert Swinton Mackenzie, the first boy to be enrolled at TAS. A brass plaque on the left pillar records that the lights on the Chapel and Douglas Street Memorial Gates are in memory of Kenneth John Caldwell, a boy at the School from 1941 to 1943. The Kenneth Caldwell Memorial Prize for Agriculture is awarded annually.

The light above the Chapel door is in memory of John Ross Montgomery, who was at the School from 1933 to 1937. There is also a brass plaque inside the Chapel in his memory. J R Montgomery died at the School on 19 November 1937 aged 16 as a result of pneumonia and influenza. The John Montgomery Prize for All-Round Achievement is awarded each year.

Other memorials in the Chapel in order starting from the first on the northern wall as you enter the Chapel and proceeding clockwise are:

- **Neville Maxwell Lockhead** – He was Captain of the School (Dux) in 1938. He collapsed in the surf at Terrigal and died aged 16 on 6 January 1939. There is also a light on the ground floor of Dangar House in his memory. The Lockhead Memorial Prize for Science is awarded annually.
- **Thomas Kingsmill Abbott** - He was the third Headmaster. The second and sixth stained glass windows in the sanctuary are both in his memory as well as the carved wooden plaque. He died suddenly on the tennis court at TAS on 8 December 1912.
- **James Henry Kenneth McConville** – He was a Master at TAS from 1971 – 1985. He died tragically in an abseiling accident on 16 March 1985 aged 45. The McConville Building is in his memory.
- **Patrick Sinclair Anderson** – A Memorial Window is in his memory. He was at TAS when it opened on 1 February 1894, and he was the first Old Boy to be killed in World

War I. He died from wounds received at the landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 aged 32.

- **John Herbert Moses** - The Altar Rail is in his memory. He died on 23 February 1916, of oedema of the larynx aged 11.
- **Francis James White** – He donated the Pulpit. He owned *Saumarez, Bald Blair, Ward's Mistake and Aberfoyle*. His wife was Margaret and their seven children were Harold, Frank, Mary, Elsie, Joan, Frieda and Doris. He was a generous benefactor to TAS. He was Chairman of the Hospital from 1907 to 1931. He died 27 August 1934 aged 80. His son, Harold Fletcher White, was one of the first boys at TAS when it opened, he was both Senior Prefect and Captain and later served in World War I, became a Lieutenant Colonel and was on the School Council for many years and was Chairman of it. He was one of the School's most distinguished Old Boys. He died 20 February 1971, aged 87. White House is named after the White Family.
- **Frederick Robert White** – He donated the first stained glass window of the seven windows in the sanctuary. He built *Booloominbah* which became the administrative centre of the University of New England. His wife was Sarah and they had 12 children, 9 of whom lived to adulthood: Charles, Kate, Ronald, Clarence, Florence, Amelia, Jack, Adelaide and Ethel. Like his nephew F J White, he was a generous benefactor to TAS. He died, 6 September 1903, aged 68.
- **Archdeacon James Ross** – The fourth stained glass window and the high-backed Bishop's chair are in his memory. He was Archdeacon of Armidale and one of the founders of the School. He died on 16 September 1902, 11 days after the Chapel foundation stone was laid.
- **Sydney Cox** – The seventh stained glass window is in his memory. He was a boy at the school. He died on 17 August 1905, aged 17. The Cox Cup for the Champion Rifle Shot in the School is in his memory and it was first awarded in 1906.
- **Archer John Croft** – The Altar frontals are in his memory. They were made by Mrs Helen Magoffin, wife of R.J Magoffin. Archer Croft was an Old Boy and the youngest son of Sir Hugh and Lady Croft of Salisbury Court, Uralla. He was an outstanding sportsman and represented New England in cricket for 29 years. He died in 1971.
- **Ronald Andrew Hamilton** – The first pair of stained glass windows on the southern wall are in his memory. He was Senior Prefect in 1953 and died on 13 June 1960, aged 25.
- **Geoffrey Wellesley Hyman** – The brass plaque records that he “gave his life in trying to save from drowning, a girl unknown to him at Tamarama Bay, Bondi “on 29 January 1930, aged 23. He was the first son of an Old Boy to attend the School. His father, Arthur Wellesley Hyman, was a prominent Old Boy and founded a lectureship in the Faculty of Law at Sydney University in his son's memory.
- **Montagu Consett-Stephen** – He was an Old Boy and died on 18 May 1920 aged 32 after a short illness. The Montagu Consett-Stephen Cricket Club for the best batting average in his memory.
- **Henry Douglas Eyre Ralfe** - He was an Old Boy. He was a Flight Commander in World War I and was killed in an air battle on 6 May, aged 27.

- **Robert Rhodes-White** – The stained glass window on the left in the western wall is in his memory. He was an Old Boy. He died in Thailand on 14 February 1944, aged 35, while he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese in World War II.
- **Archie Robert Baker** – The right hand stained glass window in the western wall is in his memory. He died on 3 July 1944 from meningitis, aged 16 1/2. The Robert Baker Memorial Prize for History was awarded in his memory.

THE GREAT WAR MEMORIAL HONOUR ROLL

It lists 46 names and was unveiled on 27 September 1921. The Latin inscription below the names can be translated:

“They that did love and were loved and here in this School were reared, in the mighty conflict of the age, for us, for their country, for the world, with the highest courage and by glorious death entering upon life everlasting”.

These words were taken from an inscription at Stone School, Boston, USA.

- **John William Law** – A boy at the School, he died on 4 August 1927, aged 16 years, 10 months, as a result of an accident.
- **Alexander Irvine Doyle** – A boy at the School, he died on 29 August 1927, aged 16 years, 2 months from septic pneumonia.
- **Graham Arthur Edwin Coupland** – One turned mahogany planter stand is in his memory. He was a heart surgeon and distinguished Old Boy. He died suddenly from a heart attack on 2 June 1982, aged 47. The other stand is in memory of his father Alfred Edwin Coupland who died on 15 June 1982 aged 77.
- **Charles Frederick Tindal** – He gave the Headmaster’s prayer desk. His father was Charles Grant Tindal of *Eversley*, Hampshire, England. C.F Tindal owned *Ramornie* near Grafton. He had three sons who served in World War I. His son, Louis Nicholas Lindsay Tindal, went to TAS, and was killed in France in World War I, aged 23. Another son, Arthur Willoughby Tindal was Captain of the School in 1915. C F Tindal’s great nephew, Archibald Robert Tindal, went to TAS and was killed in Darwin in World War II, aged 26 and Tindal RAAF base at Katherine is in his memory.
- **William (Bill) Alfred John Mulligan** – The small silver lavabo bowl is in his memory. He was a prominent Old Boy and grazier. He served on the School Council. He died on 9 November 1982, aged 73.

The Chapel organ was built by H.W Jarrott and Co of Brisbane. The metal pipes were imported from Holland. Bishop R.C Kerle dedicated the organ on 26 September 1965.

THE WAR MEMORIAL ASSEMBLY HALL

The War Memorial Hall was dedicated on 1 May 1957, by the Rt Rev J S Moyes, Bishop of Armidale, in the presence of the Governor, Sir John Northcott. The Hall was funded by Old Boys, and designed by a distinguished Old Boy, Mr R J Mogoffin. The Hall is 84 feet long and 44 feet wide. The stage (which has dressing rooms underneath) is 18 feet deep. The ridge of the tile roof is 14 feet above the junction of the ceiling beams. This makes the roof quite a bit steeper and higher than the ceiling. The seating capacity of the Hall is approximately 500.

The foundation stone of the Hall, now to the left of the northern entrance, was first laid in the northern wall of the ground floor section of the Science Block (now the southern side of the Hall) on 10 December 1952. At the time the stone was laid, the plan was to erect the Assembly Hall on top of the Science Block. This did not prove feasible so the stone was shifted to its present site to avoid obscuring it. The date above the northern entrance, "1957", is in Mr R J Magoffin's handwriting.

In the eastern wall of the Hall at the back of the stage are three stained glass windows. These windows were donated in 1961 by members of the Old Boys' Union, and were designed by M Napier Waller. In a frame in the foyer of the Hall there is a picture of the windows with a description of each. There are four coats of arms which form the main subjects of the windows: those of the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the School. One of the windows is in memory of Eustace Simpson, and Old Boy, a solicitor, and long serving member of the School Council.

The two Honour Rolls around the gallery were unveiled by Sir Leslie Morshead on 17 August 1957. They record the names of all those Old Boys and Masters of The Armidale School who served in the two World Wars, with a cross against the names of those killed.

The chairs for the stage were donated by G E Forster of *Abington*. The table and lectern were donated by the Moffatt family of Yarrawyck Station in memory of Malcolm Douglas Moffatt who was a Flight Sgt in the RAAF. and was killed in World War II, aged 23.

THE G.A. FISHER WING

The G A Fisher Wing was named after the School's ninth Headmaster, Gordon Arthur Fisher, BA, BSc, MACE, Headmaster for 22 years from 1940 to 1961. He was the first Headmaster who was not an ordained priest. The School Constitution was changed in 1939 to allow for the appointment of a layman.

G A Fisher was born in August, 1900 and died in July 1973, aged 72. He attended Ipswich Grammar School, where in 1918 he was Senior Prefect and Captain of the First Rugby XV which won the Queensland GPS Premiership that year. He went to St John's College, Queensland University, and graduated with Bachelor's Degrees in Science and Arts. He was Captain of the Queensland University Rugby XV in 1921, and won football Blues in four consecutive years.

For five years, from 1923 to 1927, he was the Senior Science and Maths Master at Warwick High School. He came to TAS as Senior Chemistry Master in 1927, remaining until 1929. He returned in 1940, after being Head of the Junior School at Shore.

In all, Gordon Fisher spent 25 years at TAS. During his first appointment here he established himself as an innovative teacher of science and excellent football coach. In 1927 TAS had its first GPS victory for eight years and in 1929 beat St Joseph's College. Similar successes in science and coaching were in evidence during his second term here, as Headmaster.

In 1940, when Mr Fisher became Headmaster, TAS had not really recovered from the Depression. By a positive philosophy and a determined effort to publicise the School, he built up its reputation and kept it high, thereby enlarging its numbers especially at the beginning when war emergencies made country boarding schools a popular choice for Sydney parents.

The Merit Award, presented each year to boys for all-round performance and service, was a prize devised by him. He donated the G A Fisher Prefect's Prize. The G A Fisher Prize for Science and Agriculture awarded to a boy in Year 10 is in his memory.

THE A.H. CASH BUILDING

A Victorian by birth, Alan Henry Cash was a pupil at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, where he had an outstanding career. After a year at Trinity College, Melbourne University, a year marked by fine academic results, he joined the AIF. He was commissioned as a Intelligence Officer, H.Q. 2nd Australian Corps, in 1943, and served for two years in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It was during the latter part of his Army service that he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for Victoria.

On completion of his military service, Mr Cash went to Oxford University, where he was a member of New College, graduating Master of Arts in 1949. Whilst there he took a full part in sporting activities, playing in the New College First XI, and First Football XV.

After leaving Oxford he taught for one year at Lower Canada College, Montreal, and then joined the staff of Geelong Grammar School. In 1956 he became Classics Master and Assistant to the Headmaster. He was also involved in a wide variety of sporting and other activities there including Cadets. It was with this breadth of experience behind him that Mr.Cash came to TAS as its tenth Headmaster, at the beginning of 1962.

Shortly after his arrival at the School, Mr. Cash changed the organisation of the upper part of the boarding establishment, making the Houses not merely units for sporting administration, but residential as well. During the twenty years Mr Cash was Headmaster, a great deal of building activity took place, both to upgrade existing facilities and to provide for greatly increased enrolment.

Mr Cash retired in May 1982. The A H Cash Building was named in recognition of his services to the School and the building programme undertaken at TAS during his Headmastership.

THE JOHNSTONE LIBRARY (*now the IT Centre*)

The School Library, opened on 11 August 1973 by his son P L. Johnstone, is named after the late Brigadier JLG Johnstone.

John Lorimer Gibson Johnstone was born in Armidale on 6 March 1881. He was the seventh child of Rev Dr Thomas Johnstone, the Presbyterian Minister in Armidale from 1857 to 1903. Educated at The Armidale School he was, with his brother, Frank Glass Johnstone, enrolled with the first group of boys on the first day of the School's existence in 1894.

Brigadier Johnstone commenced his Army training as a Cadet at School, and on leaving joined the NSW Lancers as a bugler. He was commissioned in May 1905 as 2nd Lieutenant, being promoted to Lieutenant in July 1906. At the outbreak of World War I he had risen to the rank of Captain.

He dropped his Commission and joined the 1st AIF on 25 August 1914 and left Australia with the first convoy aboard the *Argyleshire*. In 1915 he served in the Gallipoli Campaign. He again achieved the rank of Captain, being mentioned in despatches, and served in France on all major Fronts continuously until he returned to Australia in 1919. He continued his Army service with the 12th Light Horse Regiment, and was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1927. In 1936, he was made Colonel, and became Commanding Officer of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. His promotion to Brigadier occurred on 1 May 1938. He served in Australia during the World War II until his retirement on 1 June 1942.

In addition to his military service, JLG Johnstone was Honorary Treasurer of the TAS Old Boys' Union from 1902 to 1909, and Secretary from 1909 to 1943. He was President from

1943 to 1946 and in 1957 was elected an Honorary Life Vice-President . He served on the School Council from 1947 to 1956. He was a Solicitor in Armidale.

Paul Lorimer Johnstone, an Armidale Solicitor, served on the School's Council for many years and is an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Old Boys' Union. He was awarded the MBE for his services to education.

R J MAGOFFIN BUILDING

The R.J. Magoffin Building, which houses the Junior School, is named after the School Architect of many years, Mr Reg Magoffin. It was opened on 14 August 1976.

Reginald John Magoffin attended TAS from 1917 to 1924. A prefect in 1921, 1922 and 1923, he was appointed Senior Prefect in his final year. Captain of Abbott House in 1923 and 1924, he was a good academic and an outstanding sportsman. Prizes won by him included:

- The Blaxland Prize, 1923
- The Higinbotham Prize, 1923 and 1924
- The Fletcher Athletic Cup, 1923 and 1924
- The Rawson Cup, 1924 and
- The Percy Marks Cup, 1924.

He was a member of the First XV for three years (1922 – 1924), captaining the 1924 team and being awarded Full Colours in 1923 and 1924. He represented the School at the annual GPS Athletics Meeting in Sydney for six years (1919 – 1924), and was awarded Full Colours for Athletics in 1923 and 1924.

Mr Magoffin was also a good boxer, winning the Light and Welterweight Championships in 1920, the Middle and Heavyweight in 1922, the Middleweight in 1923 and the Heavyweight in 1924. He received Boxing Colours for the years 1921 – 1924.

A member of the Imperial Rifle Challenge Team for four years between 1920 and 1924, he also gained Shooting Colours in 1921, 1923 and 1924. Equal winner of the Junior Athletic Championship in 1922, he won the Senior Championship in 1923 and 1924. He was a member of the First Cricket XI in 1924 and was awarded Half-Colours.

He was a member of the Football, Cricket, Athletic, Boxing, Shooting, Library, House, School Club (Secretary), Dramatic Club and Golf Club Committees, and a Librarian from 1922 to 1924. He also received Abbott House Colours in 1923 and 1924.

THE B J MATTINGLEY PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

The B J Mattingley Physical Education Building, opened 6 February 1979, is named after a former Senior Master.

Brian John Mattingley was born in Launceston, Tasmania. He attended Launceston Grammar School where he swam, did life-saving courses and played cricket and football. He went to the University of Tasmania and graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1935. In 1936, he went to Scotch College, Adelaide, where he taught Latin and English for three years.

B J Mattingley came to TAS in 1939 to teach Latin. He began teaching English here the following year. In 1942 “BJM” joined the Army, and in 1943 joined the RAAF. He was awarded the DFC for his service as a navigator and bomb aimer with Bomber Command over Europe. He returned to TAS on and off during the war until 1946, when he resumed full-time teaching at the School.

During his time at TAS he held various positions; for many years he was Senior Master, and on three occasions was Acting Headmaster. The total period of his Headmastership added up to about four terms. He was also, at various times, Senior Housemaster, Choirmaster, organist, Bush fire Brigade Chief, and Honorary Secretary of the TAS Old Boys’ Union. For 40 years he coached the School Swimming Team, which won the Monckton Shield 15 times between 1948 and 1979.

B J Mattingley retired at the end of 1979, after 41 years service to the School, and was afterwards ordained in the Anglican Church. He lives at Bridport, Tasmania. (*since deceased*)

THE McCONVILLE BUILDING AND RUGBY MEMORIAL

James Henry Kenneth McConville was born in Orange, NSW, in June 1939. He attended primary school in Orange and then a seminary at Moss Vale for three years. The final two years of this secondary education were spent at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill, where he distinguished himself as a scholar and sportsman.

From St Joseph’s Mr McConville went to Bathurst Teachers’ College. He graduated two years later and took up his first teaching post at Isis River Public School, a one-teacher school near Gundy.

He came to TAS as a teacher of English in 1971. He coached Athletics, Cricket and Rugby, becoming Master-in-Charge of Rugby and coach of the first XV. He was Sportsmaster in 1972-73 and in 1974 was appointed Housemaster of White House. He was also Co-ordinator of English from 1974 to 1982 and Co-ordinator of Economics in 1976.

Major McConville took over as Commanding Officer of the School Cadet Unit in 1979, and it was during a Cadet exercise in March, 1985 that he was tragically killed in an abseiling accident. When the question of a fitting memorial was raised it was decided that a building be constructed for after-match functions and the housing of sporting memorabilia.

The centrepiece of the building is “The Ken McConville Rugby Memorial”, an octagonal table made entirely of Australian timbers by Mr Jack Evans. The table features not only Ken McConville, but also the TAS Open Rugby Tour of the United Kingdom in November-December 1984, which he organised and led.

THE OLD BOY’S BARBECUE

This barbecue area, next to the McConville Building, was erected in 1980 by the Old Boy’s Union in memory of those Old Boys of the School who served in the Great War (1914 – 1918). It also identifies the playing fields provided after that conflict.

HOSPITAL/SICK BAY/MEDICAL CENTRE

Until recently, Sick Bay (the School Hospital) (*Medical Centre*) was situated in the area above the Enquiries Office (now a part of Broughton House). In 1983 it was moved across

Brown Street to the building it now occupies. There it was opened on 13 August 1983. This building, though originally built as a sick bay, had been used for various purposes over the years (most recently as the Music Room). It required major renovations and extensions before it could be brought back into use as a Sick Bay.

THE CLYDE FAIRBANKS MAXWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Maxwell Memorial Library was officially opened by Bishop Wentworth Shields on 27 May 1923. It was given by Lady McMillan and Lt Colonel Marcus Maxwell in memory of their brother, Lieutenant Clyde Fairbanks Maxwell, who died fighting in France in 1916.

Lady McMillan and Colonel Maxwell gave the sum of 2000 pounds for the erection of a Library, designed by Mr R N Hickson to adjoin the east end of the main school building. This donation was for building and furniture.

On 22 October 1922 the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, visited the School to lay the foundation stone. The building progressed smoothly, and by May the following year, the two-storey structure was completed. The lending library was housed on the ground floor while upstairs was devoted to the reference section.

The blessing and official opening of the Library followed the Founders' Day Service of the School on 27th May, 1923. The following inscription, suggested by Colonel Maxwell, was placed over the mantelpiece in the lower room of the Library:

*To the Glory of God
and
In Lasting Memory of
2nd Lieut. Clyde Fairbanks Maxwell
9th Battn. Essex Regt
an Old Boy of this School who was killed at La Boisselle
in France on the 1st July, 1916, during a voluntary attempt
to take ammunition to an isolated detachment of his
Battalion, although previously twice wounded.
This Library was erected.*

*“They carry back bright to the corner the mintage of man,
The lads that will die in their glory and never be old”.*

By 1973, the rooms proved inadequate to house the School Library and after the erection of the Johnstone Library they were made available for Common Rooms for boys. The ground floor room is now the Tyrrell House Common room. The upstairs room (known as the Maxwell Room) is used a quiet reading room and for special functions and meetings. (*The Tyrrell House Common Room is now located upstairs in what was used to be Tyrrell Dorm 2*)

THE ARCHDALL ROOM

The Archdall Room, opposite the main entrance to the Dining Hall, is used today as a meeting room, most notably by the School Council. It was originally designed as a Masters Common room, and it was used for that purpose for many years. It was named in recognition of the

services to the School of the sixth Headmaster, the Rev Canon Henry Kingsley Archdall, MA, ThSoc.

THE C C DANGAR MEMORIAL HOUSE

For some time following the Armistice in 1918, the Old Boys debated the form of a suitable War Memorial for those of their number who had fallen in World War I. The possibility of a Junior House had been suggested, but it seemed unlikely that the necessary sum of money could be raised. By 1920 the need of such a House was keenly felt. It was then that Mrs C C Dangar (later Mrs H K Gordon) came forward with her magnificent gift of Dangar House in memory of her husband, Major Clive Collingwood Dangar.

Clive Dangar was a son of A A Dangar of *Baroona*, Singleton, and was the first Old Boy to become a member of the School Board. After holding a Commission with the Third Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment (with which he served in Africa during the Boer War, being mentioned in despatches), he obtained a Commission in the 13th Hussars, and was for some years stationed in India with that Regiment. Resigning his Commission before the outbreak of World War I, he took over the property *Gostwyck*, near Uralla.

When War broke out in 1914, Major Dangar left for England, where he offered his services to his old regiment, the 13th Hussars, and carried out training work until he was transferred to Egypt and attached to the Australian Forces. He was actively engaged in military operations in Egypt, receiving the Military Cross for outstanding service.

After recovering from severe wounds suffered during the advance on Palestine, Major Dangar assumed duties on the General Staff of the Australian Imperial Forces there. Illness compelled him to return to Australia where he died in 1919 whilst en-route to a Military Hospital near Melbourne.

In 1920 the plans of Dangar House were drafted and accepted by the Board of Directors, the architects being Power and Adams. On 8 February 1924, Mrs C C Dangar laid the foundation stone of the new building, which was officially opened later that year by the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair.

THE MOYES BUILDINGS

These buildings are situated immediately east of Dangar House. They commemorate the work of the Rt Rev J S Moyes, CMG, MA, DD, ThD, DLitt, Bishop of Armidale and Chairman of the School Council from 1929 to 1964. The original Moyes building was opened on 8 December 1965. The extension (New Moyes") was completed in early 1985. (*now used for Drama*)

THE T R FORSTER BLOCK

This two-storeyed brick building at the end of the Covered Way, now used as classrooms, was opened on 6 August 1952. It was originally used as a Recreation Block. It is in memory of Thomas Richmond Forster, who served on the School Board for nearly thirty years from 1904. An Old Boy of The King's School, he was a very generous benefactor to TAS and one of the founders of the University of New England. His wife was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.R. White of "Booloominbah" and his two sons, Frederick and Geoffrey, both attended TAS. The G.E Forster Memorial Prize for Agriculture is awarded annually to a boy in Year 11. Geoffrey Forster was a very generous benefactor to the School.

THE TECHNICS BUILDING

What is now the Technics Building used to be the School Gymnasium. Designed by R N Hickson, it was constructed during 1938. The major donation for its erection was by Miss SEK Hudson whose brother, John Macansh Hudson, was President of the Old Boys' Union from 1938 to 1940 and who served on the School Council.

THE DOUGLAS STREET MEMORIAL GATES

These gates were presented to the School by T R Forster. On the southern pillar is a plaque inscribed with 45 names of those Old Boys and Masters killed in World War I. The gates were dedicated at the same time as the Chapel gate.

THE C R RICHARDSON MEMORIAL GATES

These gates (on the Grafton Road) were opened and blessed by Bishop Moyes on 18 August 1957. A gift from J Richardson & Co Limited, they were erected in memory of Major C R Richardson, an Old Boy of the School.

Clifford Russell Richardson attended TAS from February 1901 to Easter 1907. He was a Prefect, Vice-Captain of the First XI, a member of the First XV and Sergeant in the Cadets. He enlisted soon after war was declared in 1914 and sailed to Egypt later that same year. Landing in Gallipoli he was severely wounded in his right arm and sent to Deaconess Hospital, and from there to Manchester and London. He was the first Australian officer to be awarded the Military Cross.

He returned to Australia in December 1915, and sailed back to Egypt in April 1916 in command of a troop ship. He was invalided back to Australia in August 1916, returning to his pre-war work as Director of J Richardson and Co. Ltd., General Merchants of Armidale. He was Deputy Mayor of Armidale in 1923, Foundation President of Armidale Rotary Club and Chairman of the Board of the Armidale and New England Hospital. He died on 5 July 1946, aged 56.

THE K S LAWRANCE MEMORIAL

Keith Sinclair Lawrance attended TAS from 1950 to 1956. He was a Prefect in 1955 and Senior Prefect in 1956. He played in the Second XV in 1953 and the First XV from 1954 to 1956 (Vice Captain 1955 and Captain 1956, Half Colours 1954, Full Colours 1955 – 56). He was selected to play in the combined G.P.S. Third XV in 1955 and the Combined First XV the following year.

He played in the School First XI for five years (1952 – 56). Captain in 1955, he won the Consett-Stephen Cup for best batting average in 1955 and 1956. He was awarded Half-Colours for Cricket in 1952 and Full Colours 1953-56. He was a member of the Tennis Team from 1953 to 1956, captaining the team in 1955 and 1956 (Half-Colours 1953-56).

He was a member of the School Swimming Team from 1950 to 1956. He was also a member of the Cadet Unit during that period, rising to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) in his final year. Captain of Abbott House in 1955 and 1956, he received House Colours for four years (1953 – 56). He was also a member of the School Club and Film Committees

(1954-56), and Armidalian and Chapel Committees (1956). He died from a brain tumour in December 1957.

The memorial consists of lawns and gardens, which surround a drinking fountain surmounted by a statue of Mercury. In Roman mythology, Mercury was the messenger of Heaven (his Greek name was Hermes). The helmet symbolises lofty thoughts while the wings on the helmet and heels symbolise spiritual elevation, imagination and intelligence. The whole was the gift of Keith's parents, Dr & Mrs Ken Lawrance, and his older brother John. The Keith Lawrance Memorial Prize is awarded annually to a Year 12 boy who has given leadership and service in many fields.

THE WAR MEMORIALS

Mention has already been made of the World War I Honour Roll on the Douglas Street Gates, and in the Chapel, the Honour Rolls for both World Wars in the War Memorial Assembly Hall, and the Old Boys' Barbecue in memory of Old Boys who served in World War I. The Roll of Honour in the main entrance hall was unveiled by the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, on 22 September 1919. It lists 268 Old Boys who served. Those in small letters at the bottom enlisted but did not serve overseas. The Armidalian of December 1919 records the names on the Honour Roll as well as the names of five who were accidentally omitted.

In the Tyrrell House Common Room (*now the Sandilands Studio*) there are two frames of photos of those 44 Old Boys and two Masters who lost their lives in World War 1. About 273 Old Boys served, which was about 60 per cent of all those boys who had been at TAS during the first 21 years from 1894 to 1914. Of those who served nearly one fifth did not return.

There are two frames of photos of those 49 Old Boys and two Masters who lost their lives in World War II. About 457 Old Boys served in World War II and one in ten did not return. The average age of those who died in both World Wars was just under 27. Twenty seven of the 51 who lost their lives in World War II served in the Air Force.

THE SCHOOL HOUSES

There are now five school Boarding houses and two Day Boy houses (Green and Ross). The fifth Headmaster, the Rev Canon John Forster, instituted two sporting houses in 1918 and numbered them 1 and 2. The sixth Headmaster, the Rev Canon H.K. Archdall, replaced these with three houses (Abbott, Dangar and White) in 1923. Three senior boys were elected to captain these houses. Each was appointed to his house by the toss of a coin – RCK Lethbridge to Dangar, RJ Magoffin to Abbott, and HA Braund to White. The first year of competition was won by White House. In 1924 a local architect, Mr RN Hickson, donated a cup for inter-house sport. Dangar was later re-named Tyrrell. A fourth house, Broughton, was established in 1958. These became boarding houses as well in 1964. The Day Boy houses (Green and Ross) were established in 1983 and Croft House was added for boarders in 1986. Abbott, White and Croft Houses have separate buildings. Broughton is in the western end of the main building. Tyrrell House is in the eastern end of the main building and is entered up the main stairway in the entrance hall.

ABBOTT HOUSE

When the Supreme Court directed the Master in Equity to draw up a scheme for the establishment of an Anglican School in the Diocese of Newcastle in 1877, it was hoped that

enough new shareholders would be attracted to enable the scheme to go ahead. One of the new shareholders was Mr J P (later Sir Joseph) Abbott, who took up two shares.

Sir Joseph Abbott became Chairman and was later President of the Board of Directors. The Directors were responsible for:

- Buying the land for the School.
- Arranging for the design of the buildings and the design and Motto of the School Crest.
- Calling for tenders for the building.
- Arranging for the appointment of a Headmaster and agreeing on his salary.
- Asking the Governor to lay the foundation stone and to give permission for the School to adopt his colours.
- Drafting and approving a prospectus, a uniform, advertising and all other things that go with the foundation of a new institution.

Sir Joseph Abbott, who was knighted in May 1892, was forced to stay in Sydney because of his parliamentary duties when the Company's office was moved to Armidale. Nevertheless, as Chairman of the Board of Directors, he kept in close touch. It is in recognition of the part played by Sir Joseph in the foundation and early years of the School that Abbott House is named. Sir Joseph's portrait is hung in the Abbott House Common room.

BROUGHTON HOUSE

William Grant Broughton was the successor in 1830 to T H Scott as Archdeacon of NSW. He is regarded as the founder of The King's School. He became Anglican Bishop of Australia in 1835.

Bishop Broughton strongly supported Anglican education, and was responsible for raising a loan of 500 pounds from the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, for the building of a school in the Hunter Valley area. He thus helped to establish the fund which was eventually used for the creation of TAS.

Broughton's only visit to Armidale was made in 1845 when there were 76 inhabitants, about 14 scattered cottages, one inn, and a store under construction. A large granite cross near the Court House records that he held the first Anglican Church Service in Armidale on 12 October 1845. He made Armidale a religious and educational centre by appointing the Rev. Henry Tingcombe, a keen educationalist and the first Anglican clergyman in the New England, as Vicar of Armidale in 1846.

CROFT HOUSE

The Croft name has been associated with TAS since the early years of the School's history. Many members of the Croft family have attended the School as pupils, and several have given much to TAS through service on the School Council and the Executive of the Old Boy's Union. Croft House was named in recognition of the support given to the School by various members of the Croft family over many years. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Herbert Croft on 8 October 1985, and the building officially opened by Sir Owen Croft, Bt, on 6 October 1986.

GREEN HOUSE

Green House (one of the two Day Boy Houses) is named after Bishop A V Green, MA, LL.D. It was established in 1983. Newly installed as Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, Dr. Green formally opened the School on 15 May 1894. Bishop Green came to Australia as a boy. He graduated Doctor of Laws at Melbourne University and proceeded to theological studies, becoming Archdeacon of Ballarat in 1890. Born and educated in the post-Darwinian era, he was able to receive and evaluate, rather than to reject, the recent discoveries of historians and natural scientists. He was the first Australian theological student to be raised to the episcopate. His sister, Miss Florence Green, established the New England Girls School (NEGS) in 1895.

ROSS HOUSE

Ross House is named after Archdeacon James Ross, DD. It was established in 1983. A native of Aberdeenshire, in Scotland, Archdeacon Ross brought the Scottish enthusiasm for education to Armidale. In 1887 he was responsible for the founding of the New England Ladies' College (now PLC).

He was largely responsible for raising the 6,000 pounds necessary to ensure the foundation of The Armidale School (originally New England Proprietary School), this being the sum required to supplement the fund of 1840. Himself a shareholder, he rode through the country around Armidale and Glen Innes to raise money.

His very strong belief in the necessity for a Church of England School in New England, his sincerity, and his forthright character, enabled him to secure the capital in six months. As secretary to the enterprise he undertook most of the early administrative work.

In early 1893 Archdeacon Ross, one of the Directors of the School, was in England to select and secure the services of a Headmaster. By February the Rev W Fisher had been appointed. In mid 1893 Archdeacon Ross was selected Chairman of the Company, and for the rest of his life he was closely connected with the School.

Both Green House and Ross House were named and officially inaugurated by H.H The Prince Edward, in April 1983.

TYRRELL HOUSE

William Tyrrell was the first Bishop of Newcastle, appointed in 1847. His diocese originally included New England but the diocese of Grafton and Armidale was created, through his efforts, in 1863. Bishop Tyrrell first visited New England in October, 1848. He was an indefatigable traveller. Moving from station to station he often covered between 40 and 70 miles a day, holding services each evening. He appointed incumbents to many developing towns, and trained and ordained men for this purpose.

His connection with the school goes back to the purchase of the land at Honeysuckle Point in 1840. As soon as he was installed as Bishop he proceeded to have the land divided into lots and leased. When the land was resumed and the Trust funds invested, Bishop Tyrrell worked to establish the School. He commenced a lawsuit in the Supreme Court of NSW in 1874 in order to carry out the aims of the original shareholders. The court referred the matter to the Master in Equity in 1877, and instructed the Master to draw up a scheme for the establishment of a school in the Diocese of Newcastle.

Bishop Tyrrell died before the final decision was made to establish the School, but it seems certain that without his persistence the Trust moneys would have been otherwise disbursed, as many of the then stakeholders desired.

WHITE HOUSE

White House was named after the White Family. Mr Frederick Robert White of *Harben Vale*, Blandford (near Murrurundi, NSW) and later of *Booloominbah*, Armidale was a major benefactor of the school. Mr White's portrait is hung in the White House Housemaster's Office.

Mr White gave a portion of land near Blandford for the establishment of a boarding school in the Hunter Valley district, before the site was moved to Armidale. He also bought the original ten acres in Armidale for the School.

One of the six initial enrolments at the School was Harold Hastings White, who became Senior Prefect in 1900. F R White was his uncle and F J White was his cousin. His father was Edward White of *Martindale*, Denman. An additional link with the White family was established when the School purchased the property *Meadowfield* (the small acreage to the east of the main School area). This homestead was used by F R White during the time *Booloominbah* was being built. Thus the name White, its families and its heritage were very much part of the early years of TAS.

In 1963 the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies, opened the White House building, the first separate boarding house for Senior School pupils. This was the commencement of the physically separate House system.

THE ASSOCIATION OF GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NSW

The GPS Association of N.S.W. was established in 1896. The Association now contains nine members, of which only one (TAS) is located outside the Sydney metropolitan area. The schools comprising the Association were established as follows:-

- The King's School – 1832
- Sydney Grammar School – 1856
- Newington College – 1863
- St. Ignatius College – (Riverview) – 1880
- St. Joseph's College (Joeys) – 1881
- Sydney Boys' High School – 1883
- Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) – 1889
- The Scots' College – 1893
- The Armidale School (TAS) – 1894

TAS HEADMASTERS

- 1 1894 – 1906 Rev W A Fisher, MA (Cambridge)
- 2 1906 – 1910 Rev A H Reynolds, MA (Cambridge)
- 3 1910 – 1912 Ven Archdeacon T K Abbott, MA (Oxford)
- 4 1913 – 1918 Rev F T Perkins, MA (Sydney)
- 5 1918 – 1919 Rev Canon J Forster, BA (Melbourne), ThL.
- 6 1919 – 1926 Rev Canon H K Archdall, MA (Cambridge), ThSoc
- 7 1927 – 1934 Rev H Sanger, MA (Cambridge)
- 8 1936 – 1939 Rev H P Young, MA (Cambridge), BLitt
- 9 1940 – 1961 G.A. Fisher, B.A., B.Sc. (Queensland), MACE
10. 1962 – 1982 A H Cash, MA (Oxford), DipEd, FACE
- 11 1982 – 1986 G C S Andrews, MA (Cambridge), DipEd, DipEdAdmin, FRGS, MACE, MIBG
- 12 1987 - 1997 K Langford-Smith, BA (Sydney), MA (Western Australia), ACP
13. 1998 *current Mr Murray L Guest*