Oxley Wins!  
School Pride

Our Twilight Swimming Carnival proved to be a great demonstration of school pride! Thank you to the many parents and families who also attended to support our students.

It was wonderful to see so many students attending, participating and proudly wearing house colours in the usual array of creative designs, with Year 12 leading the way with their very colourful Hawaiian theme. The House Colours prizes were awarded to:

- Toby Cooper and Rhiya Thapa (Chandler)
- Ryan Hendrickse and Hazel Chatfield (Dumaresq)
- Carmen Lewis and Megan Irwin-Fittock (Oxley)
- Colinya Chatfield and the Blue Man in the Hawaiian Shirt (Salisbury)

Congratulations to Oxley House which won the carnival! Congratulations to Age Champions and record-breakers and to all students who competed in events and novelty races to gain points for their house. A big thank you must go to Ms Deb Turner and Ms Kim Kelly for their organisation of the carnival.

Antique and Collectables Fair

Thank you to our hard-working P&C Committee for their organisation of our major fundraiser this weekend. This also serves as a great AHS community event with parents, staff and students working together to raise money for our school. If you haven’t already volunteered, you can still help by attending the fair. Prizes for the raffle and lucky door include an antique ring, a figurine, a weekend at Valla Beach and vouchers to spend at the Fair.

School Directions

Implementation of plans for 2016 is well underway. The 21st century Learning Team is planning the Collaboratus initiative and the Futures Learning project to create 21st century learning spaces in the library and outdoors has just been approved by State office. Many new programs, such as Rage, Sistayarn and Friends, commence next week. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) continues to underpin the way that the school operates and teaching positive behaviours in shared spaces like corridors and stairs is one of the learning outcomes this term. All teaching reinforces our core values of Pride, Respect and Responsibility.

Anne Matley  
Principal

Report from Jade Press, Year 12, 2015

After completing the HSC, I went to Tanzania as part of a student nursing program called Gap Medics. In Tanzania I was a part of some amazing experiences. I saw my first baby born, first C-section, first resuscitation, and many more firsts. I was able to help with many pre and post birth procedures. Although I experienced all of these firsts, it was extremely eye opening with the lack of...
equipment and different standards to our first world hospitals.

Also during my trip I was able to visit the local orphanage which has 66 children. I had a special bond with two babies 9 month old Lita, and 5 month old Catalina. The stories of these children were heart breaking and knowing they had been there from almost day one of their lives was upsetting. I fundraised over $1000 for the orphanage and the children.

I was also able to visit the Masai tribe and learn about their life and tradition. We were shown one of their ritual dances and song. This trip was amazing and I learnt so much through it.

The 2016 ConocoPhillips Science Experience

At the end of 2015 Aziz Winrow and Tamara Kermode approached the Rotary Club of Armidale for sponsorship to attend the 2016 ConocoPhillips Science Experience Day that the UNE in January. The Rotary Club of Armidale was extremely generous and paid the full registration fee enabling both students to attend the 2-day course. As you can see by the student summaries below the experience was both educational and engaging. I encourage all students in Year 9 and 10 to consider applying for a scholarship to attend the 2017 Science Experience Days. These will be advertised in the newsletter and student notices towards the end of the year.

Mrs Williams, Science Teacher

Aziz, Brian (from Armidale Rotary) and Tamara

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience was an amazing chance to see what university life could be like. Being able to stay on campus and going to actual classrooms in a realistic manner was very encouraging for my interests in going to university after high school.

Also seeing the different things that researchers and students get up to at university was very educating. I had no idea that the UNE was working on cattle emissions or had a pharmacy course.

Although all of the activities were deeply enjoyable and educational with helpful, enthusiastic and professional staff, my favourite activity was either pharmacy or microbial biology because they had educating and hands-on practical that appealed to me.

Aziz Winrow

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience was a truly life remembering few days. Over the days we did various activities from extracting DNA, making hand cream and completing a quiz at the Zoology museum. Most of us decided to stay at the accommodation provided at the White College on campus. In the morning those of us who stayed...
would walk up to breakfast at the 'Stro'. At 9am we met in one of the lecture theatres closest to the college to watch a YouTube channel that features various science experiments conducted. Both days offered thrilling new experiences. The activities I enjoyed the most were going to Dangar Falls for spotlighting, and visiting the Zoology museum because they were both first hand experiences with animals. I hope to go again next year because I had such an amazing time.

Tamara Kermode

The Armidale Rams Junior Rugby League Club will be holding a Registration day on Sunday the 28th February from 11am at Rugby League Park.
We invite all players new or existing to come along to register and meet the coaches and committee. There will be a Free BBQ for all registering players plus fun and games.
We have teams from under 8's to under 16's, senior Girls League tag and asking for expressions of Interest for junior girls league tag for girls aged 9-12.
Fees are $100 for the first child and $90 per sibling thereafter.

This year’s autumn festival has the theme “Our Sporting Legends’.

From the Acorn of 1952 ... we would like to share one of our past “legends of Armidale High School”.

Norma Cooper came first in the NSW Country Springboard Diving Championship, first in the NSW State Junior Championship and first in the Australian Junior Springboard Diving Championship.
(From the Archives)

City Hockey Club
Field hockey registration for the 2016 winter season is now open. City fields teams in the Friday evening junior boys/mixed competition. Registration forms available from the Colour Copy Centre, East Mall. PH 0427668915 AH for more details.
All welcome.
Year 7 induction camp

On Thursday morning, the newest members of the Armidale Academy attended the Year 7 Clontarf induction camp.

With an unpredicted downpour of rain, plans were slightly altered and we had to spend the morning indoors. The boys were given a talk about the history of the Clontarf Foundation as well as a run down on the 6 Pillars that form the Foundations of the Clontarf Foundation. We talked about why Education, Leadership, Wellbeing, Partners, Sport and Employment are important in our program. We had a game of Ten Pin bowling where the boys got a chance to practice their sportsmanship.

After enjoying a healthy ham and salad roll and a piece of fruit, the boys cleaned up the dining area at the Arboretum, including rubbish left by other users previously.

We then headed out to Yarowick Crossing to do a "pitch inspection". To our relief, the ground was dry so we decided to stick with the plan of camping out under the stars. Everyone chipped in and collected firewood before we had a dip in the Gwydir River. The water was flowing nicely and after a bit of swimming, everyone was ready for a feed. In true Clonny Style, the rissoles, snags and coleslaw was ready to be devoured by the hungry team. It was then time to tell some stories whilst enjoying the glow of the camp fire.

Friday was welcomed with a good feed of bacon and eggs and fruit juice for breakfast. Just as well, as the boys needed more energy for more swimming. Hopefully we get the same enthusiasm at the swimming carnival next week.

We headed back to town where the boys assisted with unpacking the gear and sweeping the bus.

The boys, as well as the staff, enjoyed a great induction into the Clontarf Foundation and a brotherhood was formed amongst the group that will last throughout high school.
60 seconds with Will

Where do you come from?

I’m a Gomeroi man from Coonabarabran. I have lived in Sydney and also spent a few years in England.

How many NRL games did you play?

I played 62 games with the Balmain Tigers, 25 games for South Sydney Rabbitohs and 9 games for the Illawarra Steelers.

I also played 21 games in England.

What were you doing before Clontarf?

I completed a teaching degree and did some teaching at Menindee and Dubbo South Primary. I was also AEA at Coonabarabran High School for 10 years.

Finally, what’s your favourite food?

I enjoy all food, Thai, Chinese, Indian and Italian but the best is mums Sunday Roasts.

1st training for 2016

Tuesday morning means training morning at Armidale Academy. Armidales weather welcomed our new Football Operations staff member, Will Robinson for his first taste of a Clontarf training session. 15 boys were in attendance which is a good grounding that we can build on.

After training, we enjoyed a BBQ breakfast, which put us in a good frame of mind and ready for class.

Why do we do training?

We do training to practice a few things related to our pillars. Wellbeing- exercise and healthy breakfast. Leadership- boys get to learn about being a good team mate. Sport- playing and learning skills associated with all the different sports we play. Partners- it’s a chance for any of our partners to get a close look at what the boys are getting out of the program. Most importantly, Education and Employment. By practicing getting up early, being prepared and being on task, the boys develop life skills that will help them when they finish school and join the workforce. By picking them up, it also ensures that they are attending school and are ready to learn.