This first edition for 1994 of our Tintern News contains information about the destination of our 1993 school leavers. It was pleasing to learn the girls’ results and their various tertiary placements and work opportunities. We congratulate them and wish them well as they move into the next stage of their lives.

The re-evaluation of primary, secondary and tertiary education that commenced in the early 80s is gathering momentum at the present time. During the 80s, universities altered their structures and began to re-conceptualise many of their courses. Likewise, primary and secondary education began to take a more national view, rather than the strictly state focus that had previously been so important.

The technology that is now part of all aspects of education will increasingly become an important aid to student learning. In addition, curriculum will be re-conceptualised and, as is evident already, in the final two years of schooling, a much wider range of opportunities is now available, are links with institutions beyond the secondary school itself. For schools, it is important to be able to balance the day to day, child by child detailed requirements of learning, as well as the overall strategic planning of a curriculum that will bring maximum benefit to all concerned.

Each year at our Year 12 Conference former students of Tintern, who are either studying at tertiary institutions, or who are in the world of work, come and take part in activities. We are delighted to have them and the current Year 12s gain much from interaction with these former students. It is always interesting to hear of their activities since leaving school and to learn something from them of the way in which they have made use of all that they have learned.

We welcome Bishop John Stewart as our new Chairman of Council and the Reverend Stewart Taplin as our new Chaplain at Tintern. On February 4 we were honoured by a visit of the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Keith Rayner, as he introduced both Bishop Stewart and Father Taplin to the school community. In this edition of the Tintern News you will read of student activity which has taken place at the end of last year and during the Christmas break. Our students have had a wide range of experiences, including intensive sports clinics during the holidays, a Leadership Training Camp and attendance at Summer Science Conferences in Canberra. Other students have been involved in Work Experience and overseas activity. The extent and breadth of their experience and learning is great.

As in most things there have been fashions in education. In the early 70s, one of the influential writers and thinkers was John Holt. In his book, “Freedom and Beyond”, he includes the following thoughts:

“Not long ago I would have defined the problem of educational reform as the problem of somehow getting much more freedom into our schools. If we could find a way to do that we would have good education for all children. Now, however, the problem seems larger. If schools exist we naturally want them to be better, but it no longer seems to me, that any imaginable sum of school reforms would be enough to provide good education for our children. People, children, are educated much more by the whole society around them and the general quality of life in it, than they are by what happens in schools.”

John Holt goes on to stress the need not only to look at the very best possible structures and learning that can take place in schools, but also at the larger question of what society expects from its schools and the impact that society has on the process of schooling.

It is important to realise that there are two forms of education. One is the more formal and vocationally organised education that mainly takes place within the school and tertiary system; the other is more informal, in that it teaches us how to live wherever we happen to be. It is not possible to separate one from the other and 1994 sees Tintern straddling both these ‘educations’ with enthusiasm, interest and excitement.

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New Chaplain Loves Climbing up Walls

Tintern’s new Chaplain, Father Stewart Taplin, may be found happily hanging from a wall while encouraging Outdoor Ed students to experience the delights of abseiling or working quietly with Year 8 and 9 students in the Religion Studies programme. At a special service held in the C M Wood Centre on Monday 4 February Father Taplin was inducted as chaplain of Tintern by the Archbishop the most Reverend Dr Keith Rayner.

Educated at Camberwell Grammar School and Ridley Theological College, Fr Taplin was ordained 21 years ago. He has a Bachelor of Education, a post-graduate Diploma in Educational Administration and currently is enrolled in a Master of Education programme. He has served as a parish priest in Melbourne and the United Kingdom as well as chaplain at several other independent schools.

Father Taplin’s interest in the natural environment and long-term involvement in outdoor education led him to Cumbria, in the UK, where he gained an Advanced Certificate in Outdoor Education and later to Wales where he completed a residential Outdoor Education course.

Challenging young people to explore their own abilities, the quality of a life shared with others and the discovery of a greater source of life are central to Fr Taplin’s quality philosophy. He aims to pass on his philosophy that life is an adventure. He believes that by educating young people in the responsible use and enjoyment of the outdoors he can bring them to a closer understanding of the link between the natural creation and a spiritual life.

Fr Taplin is married to Clemence, also an Anglican Priest and they have an eight month old girl, Elizabeth. He is looking forward to the challenge of being priest and teacher in the Tintern Community.

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From the Development Office - 1994 Year 8 Appeal

Preparation for the 1994 Year 8 Capital Fundraising is underway. All families in Year 8 and above not already involved in our Capital Appeal programme, will be contacted by our Appeal Chairman, Harvey Martin and our Appeal Team. The programme to maintain a Capital Fund to underwrite the School’s major building projects commenced in 1990 and the ongoing support by members of the School community has meant that the successful financing of the PE Centre project continues.

As other capital works such as the Senior College are commenced, funding will shift from the PE Centre to assist in the financing of these other important educational facilities.

Lyne Franke, Director of Development