



# 2023

This newsletter will showcase some of the innovative and exciting activities and learning opportunities our students were involved in during 2023.



All newsletters are available on the school website <https://toormina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064085677574> for up to date information.

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## Congratulations

Just some of the achievements we have celebrated this year!

# 2023



Maya Farmer was a Regional Finalist for Lions Youth of the Year March 2023 and in the State Semi-Final for the Plain English Public Speaking Award in June.

Jay Bloomfield was the first regional student ever to be selected for the NSW Combined High Schools Debating team in September 2023.

Year 12 student Hayden O'Rourke had two of his poems placed on the commended list for the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards.

Lilly Devine, has been invited to perform at Bravissimo 2024 in Port Macquarie! This is a HSC showcase of the best music performances from this region and what a fantastic opportunity for this talented singer and congratulations also to the CAPA teachers!

Our Senior Debating team had wins against: Birrong Girls High in February, Merewether High in March; Newtown High School of the Performing Arts in May; and Bulli High School in June.

Mock Trial team won against Trinity Grammar April 2023; James Ruse Agricultural College May and progressed to the second elimination round, an amazing achievement!

At the Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod Toormina High School had multiple wins – Drama – 2 x firsts, 2 x seconds, 1 x third and the Mixed Tub Choir with students from our Special Education Faculty..

Our Tournament of the Minds team were Regional Champions in August and were the only public secondary school team to compete in the State Finals in September!

Toormina High School hosted the preliminary rounds of the UN Evatt Youth Competition where Maya Farmer and Samantha Edwards were successful in progressing to the semi-finals in Sydney. Samantha Edwards and Jade Blair represented the school in Sydney in the semi-finals.



# 2023



Our students enjoyed the professional assistance available to them at our after school Homework Centre every Tuesday and Wednesday.



Students completed online numeracy and literacy assessments, NAPLAN, and Science assessments through VALID.



We excelled at the annual Science and Engineering Challenge.



Students had the opportunity to learn AUSLAN in the library at lunch times with Hannah, a local Hearing Teacher.



We celebrated Academic Achievement at assemblies. We also recognised consistent effort and application in classroom activities, positive contribution to classroom discussions, improvement in engagement and effort, respectful attitude to self, peers and staff, and excellent assessment tasks in our Merit Award assemblies.



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Toormina High School School Captains, Zach McGinty and Maya Farmer, travelled to Sydney to meet the Governor and also our local member, Gurmesh Singh.

The team above trekked for 48 kilometres continuously in the Gold Coast hinterland as part of the Kokoda Challenge. An amazing achievement!



Students represented Toormina High School in the annual Sawtell ANZAC Day march.



The THS Environment Group has been very proactive this year. The group ran a movie screening of 'The War on Waste', held talks during breaks and has been picking up rubbish in the playground.



Olympian Brooke Hanson visited our school and gave an inspiring talk to students.



Our 2023 year 7 cohort got to know each other early in the year at a fun Bonding Day at the Big Banana. Students also improved their skills participating in the year 7 swimming program. A camp will also be held in Term 4.



CAPA students were inspired during an excursion to Sydney.

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Our Student Leadership Team have members from each school year. They participated in team building activities at their Bonding Day and also attended a Future Leaders workshop.



Year 12 enjoyed a day at the water park in Port Macquarie before settling in to their HSC preparation.



Personal challenges and team building were goals for our year 8 cohort's trip to the great Aussie Bush Camp.

Toormina High School had 39 students qualify to represent the North Coast at NSW State Championships in: swimming, soccer, volleyball, Rugby League, Cross Country, athletics, touch football, gymnastics and tennis!

Year 8 student Lily Bright-Taylor has competed in the Australian National Swimming Championships bringing home 4 medals!

Our Buckley Shield team made it to the top 16 in the State!

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School sport on Wednesday afternoon offers students the opportunity to improve their skills or try a new activity. During 2023 we had choices including: yoga, dance, ju-jitsu, archery, fishing, ice-skating and croquet!

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Our boys tennis team were North Coast Champions and 6th in the State, and Zac Creenaune was a NSW CHS tennis representative. We held the annual swimming carnival, athletics carnival and cross country run which are always fun and also enables students to earn points for their school house through participation.



The **Special Education Faculty** is always a busy place! During 2023 while learning their units in English, maths and science, students enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, printing and creating in their TAS periods. They gained real life skills and experiences in their Community Access excursions. Students gained work skills at Bunnings, the Happy Boxes Project and in our very own coffee shop. The school farm is another learning opportunity that all students enjoy. Students from the Special Education Faculty participate in all the whole school assemblies, year camps, carnivals and special events. We also have two student representatives on our THS Student Leadership Team for 2024.

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In the **Creative and Performing Arts** area in 2023 we sang, we danced, and we attended workshops and eisteddfods. Students could access tutors from the Coffs Harbour Conservatorium of Music. We learnt to throw pots, create sculpture, paint. We made videos and developed photos! We also had amazing excursions. During Term 4 we started two High Potential Gifted Education Program (HPGE) creative arts groups in music and art to provide opportunities for all students to develop identified talent and interests. These students have been identified by their teachers as showing potential in these areas and are undertaking a program one lesson per week with skilled staff.





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**Aboriginal Education** programs our students participated in during 2023 included: Change the Story, a Bangarra dance workshop, Nyami Gawbarri, Oorala, Tahgara, Deadly Choices and a One Mob radio workshop.

We had a student receive the ELSA Dixon scholarship and another be selected to join the Bangarra Dance group. We held Yarn Ups at school with our community and selected students attended regular small group sessions with a tutor at school with the aim of adding 10% on top to their marks.

We combined with students and staff from Orara High School and Coffs Harbour High School each week for Cultural activities which culminated in an amazing performance at the stadium for our local primary schools. This group also welcomed Secondary Principals to their conference in Coffs Harbour.

Our NAIDOC week celebrations had weaving and games, dance and our assembly included guest speaker, Aunty Brenda Matthews, who had a profound affect on students and staff as she told her story.

We look forward to 2024 with anticipation of offering more rewarding opportunities to our students.





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**Wellbeing** of students is a sustained focus at Toormina High School. This year students have participated in: Tomorrow Man, the Resilience Project, the Westmead Feelings program, the Butterfly Effect, Life Ready, LoveBites and wellbeing programs presented internally by our Student Support Officer and Head Teacher Wellbeing.

We supported R U Ok Day, Wear it Purple day, Sorry day, Kindness day and Harmony day. We will also be running the BATYR Program in Term 4 and there will be an excursion for our winning school house. The THS house system is an integral component of our pastoral care framework as are school camps, excursions and bonding days.

We are hosting extra transition visits from our primary schools with the goal of increased familiarisation of high school life and improved student wellbeing.

On staff at THS we have a Head Teacher Wellbeing, year advisers, school counsellor/psychologist, an Aboriginal Education Officer, a Wellbeing and Health In-reach nurse, a Student Support Officer, a HSC tutor, a youth worker, a Learning Support Team, an after school Homework Centre, a Supervisor of Boys, a Supervisor of Girls and an Anti-Racism Contact Officer. Wellbeing will continue to be a focus at Toormina High School in 2024.

The **Careers** faculty has organised a wide range of valuable opportunities which included: University Open Day excursions, Year 10 Careers and Post-school Options Expo, university roadshow, and regular white card courses. Information sessions - Services Australia, Australian Defence Force, Housing Industry Association, School-based apprenticeships and traineeships, and NRL vocational education and training. Work experience, TAFE Yes, Health Pathways, Fit for Service, Trade Taster, and Southern Cross University Masterclass programs.

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**TAS-Technological and Applied Studies** subjects present creative and practical challenges and learning opportunities associated with cutting-edge subjects such as engineering, food technology, information and software technology, software design and development and textiles and design. As many of the TAS subjects are constantly evolving, students can follow career paths in diverse industries. THS students are taught the standards and proficiency required by professional leaders with a variety of industry experience across multiple disciplines.

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**Science** continued to be fun during 2023 with great excursions especially for our Marine Studies students. The THS farm has calves, sheep, ducks, chickens, crops and plenty of learning opportunities! The practical lessons in our laboratories are also a highlight! We also had primary school scientists visit!

During Term 4 we have been hosting a Bongil Bongil Community of Schools (BBCoS) partner primary school each day from Boambee, Sawtell, Bonville, Toormina and William Baydon in an excursion based high school experience. Primary teachers have been teaching their students in our classrooms, giving students the opportunity to have the 'high school' experience with the support of their regular class teachers. We have also had the Science and mathematics faculties holding classes.



The Science faculty have been lucky enough to have year 4 students from Boambee Public School visit us. Students were taught two full science lessons by THS Science teacher Tasanee Alam. Students learnt how fireworks are made, about the different parts of the Bunsen Burner and then we conducted flame tests. Students were led in small groups by our year 12 leaders. All students engaged in the science experiments and followed safe science practical laboratory protocols.



In the second lesson students learnt about the 2 different types of electricity, static and current electricity. Students blew up balloons and charged them by rubbing the balloons against their hair demonstrating static electricity!! Students set up an electrical circuit using transformers, wires, light bulbs and switches. A few cheers were heard when their lights all glowed.

We are excited to have more and more students attending THS in their younger years and assist in helping students feel comfortable in a high school setting.

The **Mathematics** Growth Team trainer has been working with the Mathematics staff over the last two years. They have been providing targeted, sustained professional learning that focusses on context specific need and is evidenced based. Staff have been supported to then embed this into their pedagogy.

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As part of Toormina High School Transition program, students from the Bongil Bongil Community of Schools, were invited to participate and engage in our very first 'Creating Mathmagicians' program.

Creating Mathmagicians is an initiative designed by Mathematics teacher, Katie Griffiths in conjunction with our Toormina High School Mathematics Growth Team Trainer Jodie Hartmann.

This synergistic approach to learning mathematics aims to build a sense of belonging and connection with future year 7 students of Toormina High School by engaging participants in a range of fun and explorative mathematical activities. Qualified THS mathematics teachers designed and facilitated the program with the purpose to engage, enrich, collaborate and develop curiosity amongst the students, whilst experiencing playful mathematics.

Attending these sessions provided another opportunity in supplementation of other programs to ease the transition between primary school and high school, whilst providing the teaching staff an environment to collaborate across the schools and develop professional connections with our teaching staff.

Students from surrounding public primary schools attended THS on a Wednesday afternoon for the past 6 months to engage in this new program, building connections with their future peers and developing a positive mindset around their mathematical ability.

Staff and students enjoyed attending 'Creating Mathmagicians' so much this year, the principals are already booking in for this program 2024, with our 'Mega Maths Day' kicking off the year in February.





# 2023



Our **English** staff visited local primary schools with our excellent debating students to adjudicate public speaking competitions and to demonstrate debating techniques. We also joined with representatives from each school in a forum on a Toormina Youth Hub proposal.

We hosted our Bongil Bongil primary school students to write, illustrate and publish a book in just one day!



A highlight for the **Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)** faculty in 2023 was the exhibitions of the amazing models of Ancient Civilisations in year 8 and natural geographical features in year 7.





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During 2023 we had lots of laughs too! We built viking boats, went on camps, performed concerts, sang karaoke, danced, played chess, held formal dinners and socials. We played games, cooked sausage sizzles, made silly hats and enjoyed learning and teaching!



We will start transitioning to our new Toormina High School uniform in 2024.  
Uniform items will be available from our new supplier in January 2024.

**TEAM SPIRIT, 1/10 GDT Seccombe Close, Coffs Harbour 66519030**

Monday - Friday 8:30am -5:00pm or order online

<https://www.teamspiritsports.com.au/> or in store

Toormina High School username: toorminahs password: uniform25

# 2023



**2024 Toormina High School Captains**



**2024 Toormina High School Student Leadership Team**



Vice-captains, Zac Creenaune and Poppy Browne on left, Principal Paul Humphrey, Captains Maddy Hatfield and Jack Hone on right.



**We hope you have enjoyed looking at just some of the activities and opportunities our Toormina High School students have enjoyed during 2023!**