

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 3 | WEEK 9 | September 2023



STUDENT LEADERS 2024

Congratulations to our incoming senior executive team: School Captains Maddie Hatfield and Jack Hone, Vice Captains Poppy Browne and Zac Creenaune and Prefects, Lily Davies-Jamieson and Oscar Hickey.



Student Leadership Team 2024 Representatives

Year 7 - Charles Gadd, Claire Edgar & Darshini Prajapati

Year 8 - Charlotte Myers, Jack Benfield & Cooper Hatfield

Year 9 - Brayden Edgar, Skye Murphy & Sophie Watson

Year 10 - Jack Jones, Eva Smith & Eunice Ngongo

Support Unit representatives - Max Watts & Joseph West

Aboriginal student representatives - Izac Taylor & Troy Backhouse

Congratulations

Earlier this year, Year 11's **Jay Bloomfield** was selected to compete in one of three State representative Combined High School's debating teams. Jay's team will compete against other representative teams from various private school organisations in a bid to win the NSW Representative Debating Cup. Jay is the first regional student to be selected for the competition. Jay will participate in two debates in September in Sydney. Good luck Jay!

Anita Milne, English Teacher



Toormina High would like to congratulate year 12's **Hayden O'Rourke** on having two of his poems placed on the commended list for the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards 2023.

These poems made it into the top 70 poems out of over 6200 entries from some of the best school aged poets in Australia. Hayden's poems will be published in the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards, Winding Roads Anthology. What an outstanding achievement! Hayden is one of only a few public, regional school students to receive this commendation. Congratulations Hayden!!

Anita Milne, English Teacher



Year 8 student **Lily Bright-Taylor** has competed in Australian National Swimming. She gave it her all, taking home bronze in the MC 100m backstroke, silver in MC 50m freestyle, and bronze in the MC 50m backstroke. She also took home Silver in the mixed MC Medley NSW relay. Lily took time off her BP in all her swims, 7 seconds being her best in the MC 100m backstroke. Well done, Lily!



Congratulations to year 8 student **Shaye McCormack!**

Shaye has been successful in rugby selections and will now be representing the Mid North Coast at the Rugby Union Country Championships. Well done, Shaye!

Zonta Awards

At the Zonta Awards Dinner 2023 from a field of amazing candidates for the 2023 Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Ella Drewell was awarded an Honourary Mention. Arabella Flowers was awarded a very worthy Honourable Mention for being rated 8th in the State in the Achievement Award for a Young Indigenous Woman. Arabella also gave an Acknowledgement of Country to open the evening.



Tournament of Minds

Our talented students represented Toormina High School at the Tournament of Minds State Finals at the University of NSW in Sydney last weekend. While we may not have secured a win, we couldn't be prouder of the remarkable efforts and enthusiasm displayed by our students. Our students demonstrated their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, impressing the judges and their peers.

A noteworthy accomplishment is that Toormina High School was the sole public school team that qualified in the challenging Social Sciences Secondary discipline, competing against 9 other teams from New South Wales. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and intellectual excellence of our students.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to return next year, even more prepared and determined to secure the win. We are confident that with the same level of dedication and the invaluable experience gained this year, our students will achieve even greater success in the future.

Congratulations again to Hunter Broadbent, Siena Walsh, Sophie Watson, Adelle Desir, Kirra Blackman, and Darshini Prajapati who participated, as well as the dedicated teachers and parents who supported them on this incredible journey. Together, we celebrate their achievements and look forward to another year of excellence and growth.

Ella Lehr, English Teacher



Merit Awards Congratulations to all recipients, more photos in an album on our THS Facebook page.



This year we have re-structured our Class Merit Awards to ensure we continue to reward our students for demonstrating the core values and expectations of the school. We will continue to have academic awards assemblies at the end of Term 2 and Term 4, THS house point system awards and reward postcards to acknowledge our students across various platforms.

The categories for the Class Merit Awards are:

- Consistent effort and application to all classroom activities.
- Positive contribution to classroom discussions.
- Most improved in engagement and effort.
- Demonstrates a respectful attitude to self, peers and staff.
- Submission of an excellent assessment task.

Class Merit Award structure:

- We have decided to hold one Class Merit Award Assembly per term in Week 6 or Week 7.
- Venue – Library and or the hall (depending on availability)
- Junior year groups (Years 7-10) will be allocated a different period. The Support Unit and senior students will be presented together.
- Performances/presentations from various year groups will occur.
- Live stream will be available.

NOTE: The next Class Merit Award Assembly will be held – Term 4, Week 7, Tuesday 21st November:

VENUE - Library

P1: Year 10 P2: Year 9 P3: Year 11 and Support Unit P4: Year 8 P5: Year 7

Nichole Maloy, Deputy Principal

Tennis

The Toormina HS tennis team travelled to Ulladulla to compete in the Stan Jones Cup finals. This event has each of the NSW CHS regional winning schools vying to make the Australian titles. Our team made up of Zac Creenaune, Roy White, Kai Bennett and Jake Creenaune, performed admirably finishing in 6th position. The top schools were sports high schools, demonstrating how far our comprehensive school had come. Zac particularly stood out going undefeated in all no 1 singles matches. To finish 6th in the whole of NSW Combined High schools is an outstanding achievement.



Toormina High had 3 students representing North Coast at the State boys tennis championships held in Gosford, Zac Creenaune, Kai Bennett and Jake Creenaune took on the other 9 regions and finished in 7th position. The Sydney teams were very strong and our Toormina boys performed admirably. It has been a tremendous sporting year in school tennis for our Toormina players and they should be very proud of everything they have achieved.

Adam Berrada

PDHPE Teacher, CHS Sports Organiser, NSW CHS Tennis Convener

Rugby 7's

Toormina High School girls competed in the State Finals of the Rugby 7's. The team played 5 games and showed enthusiasm, determination and great sportsmanship. Well done girls!





NSW CHSSA Championships

Congratulations to students who competed recently at the NSW CHSSA championships at the Olympic Park Athletics Centre in Sydney.

The boys relay team consisting of Alfred Austin, Jaybien Johnson, Bailey Webb and Delali Bokor came 4th in the relay heat.

Delali Bokor - 2nd in 200 heat, injured in final then, unfortunately, couldn't run in the 100m.

Ade Amado-Taylor - 5th in 200m heat. 2nd in 100m heat, 6th in final.



Please follow us on the
Toormina High School Facebook
page - look for the school logo.

Please 'like' and 'share' to show our community all
the fantastic achievements and activities at THS!

MOBILE PHONE Change of Policy

The NSW Government has announced restrictions on the use of mobile phones in New South Wales high schools beginning in Term 4, 2023.

Toormina High School will be making changes to the way mobile phones are accessed by students during the school day. The new system is being implemented to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and to also promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Important changes coming in Term 4

The new mobile devices management plan at Toormina High School will apply to mobile phones, smart watches, Airpods/headphones, tablets and laptops and will occur during all school hours, including break times such as during lunch and recess, as well as while students are on school-based excursions.

Students will still be able to carry their phones while travelling to and from school.

Parents/Carers and students wishing to apply for an exemption will need to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss their individual circumstances and complete a 'Mobile phone request for medical information' form.

How we will restrict mobile phone access

After careful consideration with our key stakeholders including the Student Representative Council (SRC), P&C, staff and executive teams, we have decided to proceed by using the option of mobile phones being turned off and kept out of sight, to reduce the distractions of students in the classroom.

What does this mean?

We are excited to make our school a mobile phone-free space to improve learning and engagement, however, we will always make sure you can contact your child in an emergency. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly on 6653 3077. Students will be expected to comply with the school rules and failure to do so will result in confiscation and the need for parents to collect the device. Ongoing failure to comply may result in formal cautions and suspensions. There will also be further information posted on school communication platforms.



IMPORTANT DATES

Monday	11/9 - 22/9	Year 11 Examinations
Friday	22/9	Year 12 Farewell - Breakfast, Assembly, Formal Dinner
Monday	9/10	First day Term 4 - students and staff
Friday	20/10 - 3/11	2023 Higher School Certificate Examinations

Community Access

Room 23 students enjoyed the beautiful spring weather recently, going for a walk on the Jetty and meeting SLSO Annalies' children and other staff at the new cafe. The Community Access program is designed to support student's social skills when out and about in the community.

Suzanne Hardy, Support Teacher

Lifelong Learners!



Teachers never stop learning! The Mathematics faculty at Toormina High School have been working with the trainer from the Mathematics Growth Team to dig into the 'why' of mathematics and refining multiple ways of explaining and proving fundamental mathematical ideas. Here, the staff challenged each other to teach the concepts involved in fractions, using different visual representations, rather than the traditional textbook algorithm. Staff thoroughly enjoyed posing questions to each other and prompting deep thought and discussions around different ways of seeing and explaining concepts. Our students are benefiting from these professional learning sessions in their lessons, when they are able to engage in mathematics teaching and learning to develop a deep conceptual understanding.





Oorala

Recently we took a group of Year 10 and 11 Aboriginal students to the University of New England to participate in the Oorala program. Throughout the Experience Days, students participated in a series of workshops and lectures, received course information and careers advice from UNE academics and staff at the Oorala Centre.

The workshops were hands on and enabled students to find out what studying at university is all about, and the study options that are available for them. They were fully immersed in the University culture for the excursion as we stayed in one of the University dorms and what it is like to live on campus.

The students enjoyed the experience and hope that they will be given the opportunity to participate next year!

Chris McDonald, AEO



We like to introduce staff to our community with a questionnaire...



Name...Amy Stevens

THS Position...School

Psychologist

The high school I attended was...Henry Kendall High School.

On weekends I enjoy...taking my retired greyhound on adventures.

I love...small acts of kindness.

I dislike...my mind going blank

Advice for teenagers...be

curious, not judgmental.



Students from Room 23 worked really hard to create a wonderful gift for father's/parents for Father's Day. We have been learning to use the Cricut machine that the Special Education faculty purchased earlier in the year. Students used recycled timber (kindly donated by the TAS facility) to create a wall mounted key/hat hanger (sanding and painting the timber, then decorating with a personalised image and adding hooks). We even made cards using the Cricut. Fantastic work!

Suzanne Hardy, Support Teacher

TAS Projects



Careers

The Careers team at Toormina High School is asking for your help. We are hoping to gather some information that will assist us in supporting students as they are sourcing Work Experience opportunities as well as enhancing our local knowledge of career pathways in the Coffs Harbour area.

We would be interested in finding out how our parents/carers might be prepared to support young people in the workplace and/or share their career journey with small groups of students.

It would be very much appreciated if you could please complete the quick online survey questions so that we can give our students the best opportunities for valuable work experience and local expertise.

Kerstin Woodward RPCDP
Careers Adviser

Toormina High School Parents/Carers Survey



**DON'T FORGET
CASH OR YOUR
DEBIT CARD**



**You will need your debit
card or cash to pay at
the canteen from first
day back next term.**

**No device can be used for
payment.**



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



Another successful **Coffee Shop** was organised by the Special Education faculty during Week 9.



Principal's Column

Another great week has unfolded at Toormina High School this week. Our new captains, vice captains and prefects were announced. Thank you to our outgoing student leadership team for their contributions in 2023. Our Tournament of the Minds team competed in the State finals in Sydney and despite not placing were the only State school in their division. The girls Rugby Union 7s team played in the State finals and finished 7th. An outstanding result. The girls stayed at Hurlstone Agriculture College, in the dormitory with the boarding students and represented our school exceptionally. A big thank you to the Hurlstone Principal, Christine Castle and her staff for their assistance with accommodation for the team. Our boys played yesterday in the Harry Wells 9 aside Rugby League with both teams doing well and finishing in the top 4 teams in their competitions. Thank you to all of the amazing staff involved in these activities.

Our P&C have reviewed the results of the uniform survey and have approved the design of the uniform. Thank you to every parent, student and staff member that completed the survey. The final designs are below. The uniform will be available for the commencement of the 2024 school year. The current uniform will continue to be able to be worn but will no longer be able to be purchased once the new uniform arrives.



School Polo Shirt



First Nations Polo Shirt



School Senior Polo Shirt



First Nations Senior Polo Shirt

Students will be able to wear either the First Nations or non-First Nations shirt and Hoodie



School Hoodie



First Nations Hoodie



Black Shorts with Sky Blue THS



Black Skirt with Sky Blue THS

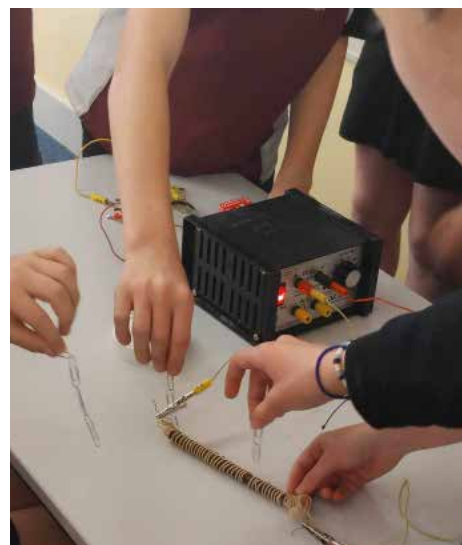


Maroon Skirt with Sky Blue THS

The juniors will have the option of the Black Skirt and Seniors will have the option of the Maroon Skirt

A long pants option for boys and girls will also be available. The formal shirts were as per the survey designs.

Paul Humphrey, Principal



Ms Alam's **Year 7 Science** students enjoyed creating electromagnetism using a solenoid and an electrical circuit.



Year 8 TAS

This term, 8 Tech 2 have been working on a sheet metal tool caddy. They have studied plan reading and specifications to create a tool caddy using hand and power tools. They used techniques such as measuring and marking, metal folding, cutting, drilling and joining. This class is a pleasure to teach, and many students will go on to utilise their high order practical skills through life and hopefully in the design and trade industries.

Joel Warren

**TAS and VET Construction Teacher
VET Coordinator**



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