

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners
TERM 4 | WEEK 2 | October 2023



Year 12 2023

Farewell Assembly and Formal Dinner photos are on our website and Facebook page.



VALE WENDY WHITTLE



During the term 3 school holiday break, the Toormina High School community was deeply saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of CAPA teacher, Wendy Whittle.

Wendy had worked as a Visual Arts teacher since 2011, contributing to many of the schools in the Coffs Harbour region before finding her place here at Toormina High School in 2017. In term 3, 2023, Wendy commenced in a fulltime role at Grafton High School.

Wendy was a dedicated teacher who cared about the success of all of her students and her positive influence on students reached far beyond the classroom.

Wendy was the Year Advisor for the 2023 Year 9 cohort. She developed particularly strong relationships with many of these students and their carers, offering support and guidance as part of the Wellbeing team. Wendy led a number of art mural programs designed to support students in developing confidence, self-worth and peer connection. Her positive and caring nature allowed Wendy and her students to achieve great results. These fantastic murals, which can be seen around Toormina High School, will stand as a reminder of her legacy for many years to come.

Due to her compassionate nature, Wendy became an emotional support for many students over the years and was able to positively change the lives of many.

Wendy was one of the CAPA faculty family. Her positivity, infectious laugh and her banter will be greatly missed.

Thank you, Wendy, for all that you have done for the students and staff of Toormina High School.

CAPA FACULTY



Principal's Column

During the holiday break, we received word that a former teacher, Wendy Whittle had unexpectedly passed away. Wendy had been an art teacher at Toormina High School for about seven years up until the end of Term 2 this year, when she commenced in a permanent position at Grafton High School. Wendy was a vibrant and caring teacher who engaged students in learning and was always seeking to achieve the best outcomes for the students she taught. She had been the Year 9 student advisor up until she left to start work at Grafton High School. Wendy's passing has impacted many of the staff and students at Toormina High School. Our thoughts are with Wendy's family and Wendy will be sadly missed by all that knew her.

At the end of last term, we celebrated the completion of 13 years of schooling with our graduating HSC class of 2023. A fantastic Graduation Breakfast was followed by the Graduation Ceremony and later in the day by the Year 12 Formal. The amazing students were well supported by family and friends as they commenced their final days leading up to the end of their compulsory schooling. Many of the Year 12 students attended additional classes delivered by their teachers during the holiday period in preparation for the HSC examinations which commenced last week. We keenly now await the results of our students as we are very confident that our students will achieve outstanding results.

Paul Humphrey, Principal

Debutante Ball

Coffs Coast Autism held an All-Abilities Debutante Ball over the holidays and some of our students were lucky enough to be involved. An ex-Student Kaitlan Carmady, current students Bryce Duffy, Arabella Flowers and Kye Lowe were presented to society. Arabella was asked to do the Acknowledgement of Country and she was a wonderful representative of our school and her culture.

This ball was the brain child of Christine Davis, Kaitlan's nan, and these young people with additional needs loved the opportunity to put on their glad rags and celebrate being themselves!

Tim Warner, Learning & Support Teacher



North Coast Junior State Debating Tryouts



On Tuesday October 17th, Toormina High School hosted tryouts for the North Coast Junior State Debating team. Students from across the region were invited to try out for the North Coast team to compete in the Junior State Debating Championship in December this year. The competition is open for students in Years 9 and 10 with 1 student per school selected to form a team. It was a fantastic day with students from Toormina High, Macksville High, Bellingen High and Grafton High participating in a number of friendly debates and training. The students were combined into mixed teams and had the opportunity to take on different speaking roles and practice new techniques under the guidance of our enthusiastic debating coaches Sally Atkins and Anita Milne.

Congratulations to Toormina High's Eva Smith, Bellingen High's Mollie Young and Grafton High's Georgia Hodges who were selected for the team! These students will attend a 3 day camp in Sydney to compete in the championship December 4-6 this term.

Bongil Bongil Public Speaking Competition



On Wednesday October 18th Toormina High students Eva Smith and Jack Jones, along with English Teacher/Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator Anita Milne had the honour to judge the local Bongil Bongil Primary Schools' Public Speaking Competition. Students from K-6 from Toormina Public School, Boambee Public School, William Bayldon Public School, Sawtell Public School and Bonville Public School took part in the day, impressing judges and audiences alike with their confidence, enthusiasm and interesting speech topics. Student judges, Eva and Jack, greatly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to apply their own skills and experience with public speaking to help adjudicate. They did an outstanding job and were commended for their professionalism and readiness to volunteer their time to help foster the potential of our primary school speakers. Toormina High would like to thank Danielle Craddock from Toormina Public School for including us in this wonderful event and congratulate all of the Bongil Bongil public speakers!

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Pre-service teachers, Mateja Kostica from Canberra University and Rhianon Ward from University of Southern Queensland to our HSIE faculty.

Textile Art



During the holidays TAS teachers, Mel Sharkey and Tanya Crough, were sponsored by Caroline Sharkey to participate and gain new skills and textile art knowledge at a three day course led by the inspiring textile artist Kathryn Harmer Fox in Urunga. The vessel project made during the course was completely constructed from fabric and free motion machine embroidery. These skills and inspiration will benefit our THS students and we would like to thank Caroline for providing this amazing opportunity to our staff.





Science is fun!

Year 4 Boambee Public students visited Toormina High School. The students learnt how to use a bunsen burner with science teacher Tasanee Alam, with the assistance of some of our school leaders.. The students also explored the school under the excellent supervision of Boambee teacher, Chris Shipman, Mr Shipman is an former Toormina High School student. Thanks for the visit!



Year 12 students please return text books to the office, also, any unwanted uniform items can be donated, thank you.

PARENTS if any contact details change please inform the school on 66533077.

Great Cycle Challenge



Arlo Smith, Cooper Thompson, Gus Tiedeman and Jesse James have joined the Great Cycle Challenge to raise money for kids fighting cancer. Their goal is to ride 1,000 kms, so far they have ridden 400kms, their group name is Boom Gang! I am so proud of these boys!

Rebekah Schafer
Year Adviser

Donation Link

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffgreatcyclechallenge.com.au%2Fteams%2FBOOMGANG%3Fmibextid%3DZxz2cZ&data=05%7C01%7CMarcia.OSullivan1%40det.nsw.edu.>

Combined High Schools Cultural Experience

Students from Orara High School, and Coffs Harbour High School joined with Toormina High School to rehearse their dancing with Aunty Gloria and Uncle Cordell in preparation for their performance at the C.Ex International Stadium next week.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are required to wear only approved school uniform items. The wearing of full school uniform by all students enhances school tone and the morale of staff and students. We want the calibre and achievements of our students to be fully recognised and appreciated by the wider community, and we recognise that the dress of our students very much shapes the perception of our school by the community.

- Approved school uniform dress items are listed below.
- Hooded, coloured or printed (other than the school logo) tops are NOT part of our uniform, and are NOT to be worn.
- Families can apply for Student Assistance if they have trouble affording uniform items.
- Students unavoidably out of uniform should have a note from a parent/carer, and show it to the Head Teacher Wellbeing who may offer them clean uniform items to wear that day.
- Occupational Health & Safety Requirements stipulate that students must wear enclosed shoes at all times.
- Uniform needs to be modest at all times.
- Excessive jewellery may also present an WH&S hazard and students may be requested to remove such items.

UNIFORM OPTIONS

Prices have been heavily discounted on uniform items in picture on next page as we will be transitioning to a new uniform from 2024 (over an extended period).

Uniform order link below

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2F1VPwTJWHdizyQoN67&data=05%7C01%7CMarcia.OSullivan1%40det.nsw.edu>

Junior girls - unisex THS polo shirt, black shorts, junior girls THS skirt, black track pants, black jumper, covered black shoes.

Senior girls - unisex THS polo shirt, black shorts, senior THS white blouse, senior maroon THS skirt, black track pants, black jumper, covered black shoes.

Junior boys - unisex THS polo shirt, black shorts, junior boys button shirt, black track pants, black jumper, covered black shoes.

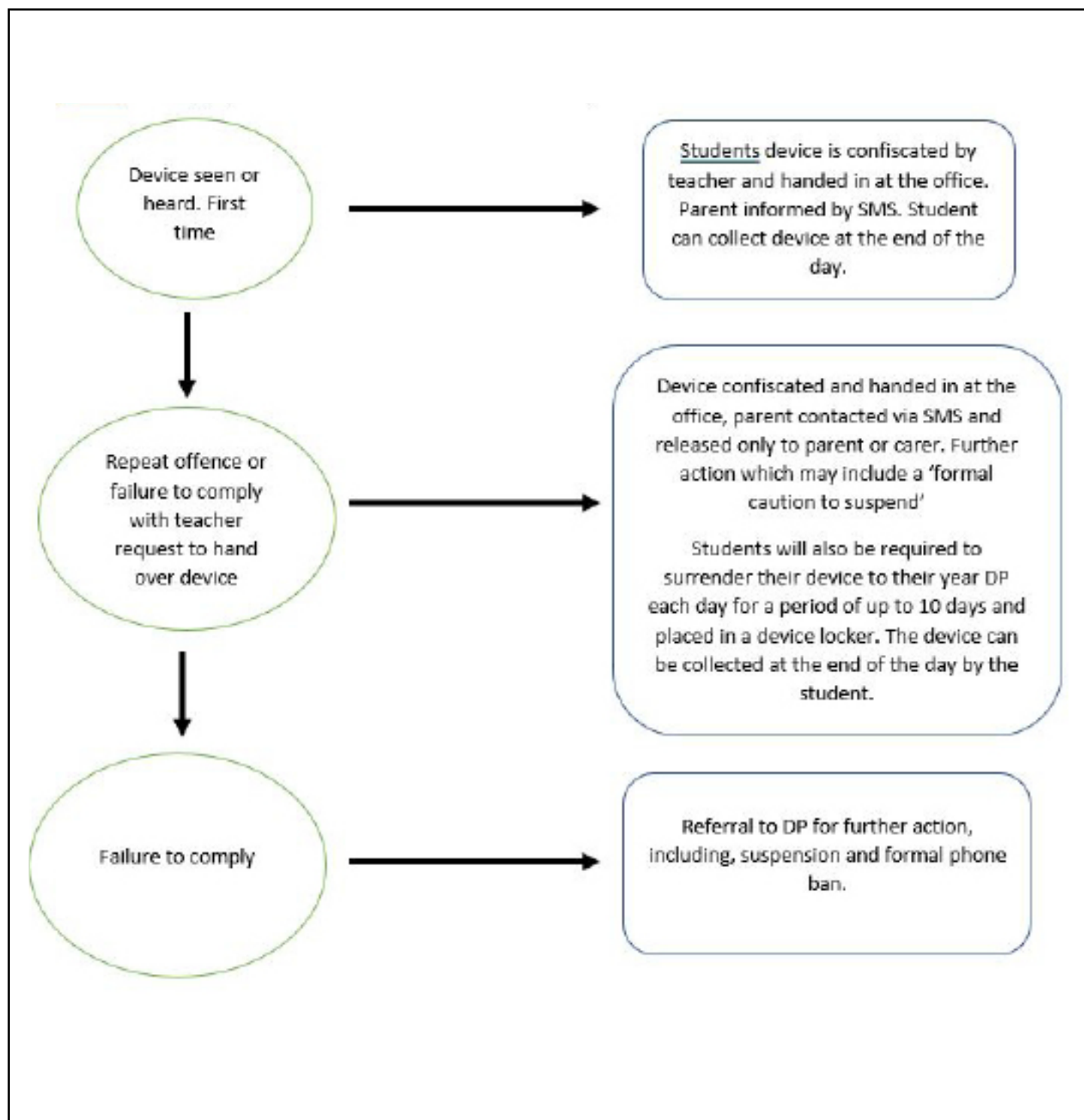
Senior boys - unisex THS polo shirt, black shorts, senior THS White button shirt, black track pants, black jumper, covered black shoes.

Sports uniform - unisex THS polo shirt, black shorts, black track pants, black jumper, sports shoes.

Benefits of having and enforcing a school dress code

- School uniforms increase student safety
- School uniforms keep students focused on their education, not their clothes
- School uniforms create a level playing field among students, reducing peer pressure
- Wearing uniforms enhances school pride, unity and community spirit
- School uniforms can improve attendance and discipline
- School uniforms makes getting ready for school easier, which can improve punctuality
- School uniforms can save parents money

The new **Mobile Phone Policy** commenced on the first day back of this term. Please remember you are not allowed to use your phone at school at any time of the day.



Airport Visit

Students from Room 13 Aqua class were lucky enough to get a full tour of Coffs Harbour Airport, this was an amazing experience for all involved. We started by being escorted along the runway in our bus, showing the students how they check it before each flight. We then got to see a plane up close as we waited for the Fire and Rescue Airport crew, we then got a tour of the high tech fire and rescue truck!

We got a close up view of a plane taking off, and the SES helicopter winch training. The students then got a behind the scenes look at the airport traffic control tower, watching from the tower as another plane took off, listening to all of the communication between the plane and the tower and seeing the radar technology being put to use.

Finishing the day with a look at security and the new full body scanner, allowing a much more secure way to travel. Then the wonderful team at Coffs Harbour Airport treated us to a pizza lunch as we watched the latest passengers arrive.

Tim Warner



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!

Are you an employer in the Toormina/Sawtell area?

Would you like to support a Year 10 student one day a week during 2024 undertake work experience in your business?

Training Services (RIEP), Dept of Education, Uniting and HR Culture are working together to support students and employers in the local area support students gain work experience during their Year 10 year. This program will consist of a Induction morning for employers where you will meet your student, complete the necessary work experience paperwork and undertake some fun activities with your student to get to know them better before they come into your workplace.

Students will be supported through a number of workshops that will help them grow and develop their employability skills.

This could be a great way to find your next apprentice or trainee, or just provide some invaluable work experience to a student that can launch their career journey, and participate in a program that can help grow your community and develop the young people that live within it.

If you are interested in finding out more about this, please register on the below Eventbrite link, and I will contact you to discuss further.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/734458323617>

Alternatively, you can contact me via email or phone and we can have a chat.

Kind regards, Sam Palise

Senior Project Officer | Regional Industry Education Partnerships

Training Services NSW | Mid North Coast

+61 413 430 091 | samantha.palise@det.nsw.edu.au | <https://www.nsw.gov.au/.../vet.../regional-schools-industry>

Busways New Timetable

From Monday 30th October 2023, there will be several changes to School and route services operated by Busways which will impact students attending your School.

New timetable is available on our website: <https://t.ly/ifuWV>

YEAR 10 Excursion

An Expression of Interest has been emailed to all year 10 families for the planned year 11, 2024 excursion to Moreton Island, QLD. It is important that this simple yes (interested) or no (not interested) reply is returned for planning and moving forward on this excursion! We look forward to making some great memories with our 2024 year 11 cohort. If you have not received the email, please contact the school, thank you!

Melanie Sharkey, Year Adviser

IMPORTANT DATES		
Friday	20/10 - 3/11	2023 Higher School Certificate Examinations
Monday	23/10- 27/10	WEEK B
Monday	30/10 - 3/11	Year 10 Examinations
Monday	30/10 - 3/11	Year 8 VALID Online Science Assessment
Thursday	2/11	Bowraville Memorial Cup
Thursday	2/11	Student Leadership Conference
Monday	6/11 - 17/11	Year 7,8,9 Examinations
Tuesday	7/11	Special Education Faculty Coffee Shop
Friday	10/11	Remembrance Day Assembly



TAS teacher, Joel Warren, has his **year 11/12 construction** students learning real work skills practicing with concrete. They aim to complete a slab in our school agriculture plot.

Year 11 BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who contributed their time and their cooking skills on Saturday with our first seniors' fundraiser.

Proceeds will contribute to the year 12 gift to the school which will be presented at their graduation in 2024. It was successful day, seeing the kids working together, laughing, having fun, learning customer service & the importance of teamwork.

Well done year 11.

Mrs Griffiths, Year Adviser



Busy Boards

Over the past semester room 26 students, during their TAS units, have been making Busy Boards for the students in the room 21 class of the Special Education Faculty. The class met with room 21 teacher Mrs Strachan to learn about what the students needed and adapted their ideas and problem solved to achieve these great boards which will be presented to the class on completion.

Well done room 26.

Louise Evans, Support Teacher



Recycling Team from the Special Education Faculty assist staff by collecting recycling and delivering paper each week to staffrooms, thank you team!



Harry Wells Memorial Gala Day

The under 16s rugby league side travelled to Port Macquarie last term for the Harry Wells Memorial Gala Day that has run for 51 years! It also happened to fall on RUOK day with many different wellbeing organisations making the trip to advise young rugby league players on the benefits of talking about our issues. Personally, I thought it was an exceptional event that was run perfectly and accommodated our two sides very well with the extended travel as well as those from surrounding areas.

Our boys played three games in total coming away with a 1-2 record. Game one against Hastings finished 14-8 loss with the boys not quite up to the intensity of 9 a side rugby league. We lost the game on the edges by committing too many to a tackle to win the ruck but an early spread from the opposition saw us caught short for numbers. Post match, Degan Charman, the skipper for the day, spoke about our errors and where we could improve for game two. Taj Wilson was best on ground for game one.

Game two against the eventual winners of the day, St Joseph's was a much more intense game and unfortunately resulted in our second loss for the day 14-0. For 10 minutes the boys were in the match with a nil all score line but a failed attempted tackle in the middle led to a break by the opposition, resulting in a try in the bonus zone. Another try just before full time left us scoreless for the game, but our defence was much improved with the boys working extra hard for each other. Maddox Bird tackled his heart out that game and really stood tall when his team needed him most. I couldn't be more impressed with this young man's effort as he never took a backwards step against a much larger opposition. To put into context how good this side was. We watched them the game before run in 6 tries before the 10 minute mark.

Game three was a battle to avoid last in the pool. A few niggly injuries didn't stop the boys from wanting to finish strong against Gloucester High. They scored first with our boys trailing 4-0 early. We quickly hit back with 2 tries to take the score 12-4. Another try our way had us up 18-4 but a good fightback from the opposition had us nervous with only a few to go and up 18-8. Brayden Levy, with the game on the line, ran through two attempted tackles to run from halfway untouched, to under the sticks to give us a 25-8 victory. Roy White had an amazing game until he rolled his ankle and, once he was off, we lost our go forward. It was great to see the others step up with him and Maddox off the field.

These young men entered a competition out of our area and mixed it with some of the best of the south. I am very impressed with their attitude both on and off the field. Our captains Degan and Riley Swift, led from the front all day and didn't want ever to step off the field. Our 15s boys that represented: Taj, Maddox, Roy, Riley Hudson, Joseph Anderson all played well above their weight. The positive attitude that was displayed throughout the day is something they should all be proud of. At the conclusion of the event, the boys assisted in cleaning up before we made our way home. A big thank you to Woodsie who took the day to drive down and support the team, we couldn't have got there without the manager. It is days like these where we get to see our students excel in areas beyond the classroom and represent our wonderful school not just in our local community but also the Mid North Coast.

Brad Herman, Team Coach





Special Education Faculty Coffee

Students are busy learning how to make delicious sausage rolls with our resident chef and Support Teacher, Natalie Lumley, ready for our upcoming coffee shop.





**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
FACULTY
COFFEE SHOP**

TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY
TUESDAY, 4th APRIL
TUESDAY, 23RD MAY
TUESDAY, 20TH JUNE
TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST
TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER
TUESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER
TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER

10AM - 1:30PM

**A RANGE OF FOOD AND
DRINKS PREPARED AND
SERVED BY STUDENTS
FOR SALE ON THE DAY.
*CASH OR CARD
ACCEPTED***

DEVELOPING VALUABLE
VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND
CONFIDENCE AMONG
OUR STUDENTS

****GUESTS TO SIGN IN THROUGH THE
FRONT OFFICE BEFORE MAKING
YOUR WAY UP
TO THE COFFEE SHOP PLEASE****

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!






FOSTER A CHILD IN NEED

Every child deserves a safe and loving home.
If you have ever considered becoming a
carer, now is the time, **we need you!**

INFO SESSION

26 Oct, 23 | 5:30 - 7:00pm
1/43 Gordon Street,
Coffs Harbour



*Please note this event will be available via MS Teams for those who live in the MNC region but are unable to attend in person**

SYDNEY ARA FIRST NATIONS FOUNDATIONS

ALL MOB WELCOME

OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS,
AGES 10 - 17,
COME AND HAVE A KICK!

Talent days from
14 October - 27 October

Sydney - Saturday October 14,
11:30am - 1:00pm,
Henson Park, Marrickville

Coffs Harbour - Monday 23 October,
5:00pm - 6:30pm,
Fitzroy Oval, Coffs Harbour

Port Macquarie - Tuesday 24 October,
5:00pm - 6:30pm,
Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie

Central Coast/Hunter - Thursday 26 October,
5:00pm - 6:30pm,
Adelaide Street Oval, Tumbl Umbi

Shellharbour - Friday 27 October,
5:00pm - 6:30pm,
Myimbarr Oval, Shellharbour

FIND OUT MORE

QBE

Scouts
NSW

Join Scouts

Scouts gets you outdoors to learn
leadership, resilience, working with
others and more. Just as important are the
friends you'll make and the fun you'll have

For more information: **SAWTELLSCOUTS.COM.AU**