

# NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 2 | WEEK 10 | July 2025



CREATING OUR FUTURE



## Write A Book In A Day

The Bongil Bongil Community of schools came together in a remarkable display of creativity and compassion for this year's Write a Book in a Day event. Students from Toormina High, Sawtell Primary, Boambee Primary, Toormina Primary, Crossmaglen Primary, Bonville Primary, and William Bayldon Primary joined forces, with 123 participants forming 15 teams. Their mission: to create, write, illustrate and publish captivating books within just 12 hours. These books will be included in digital online libraries throughout Australian hospitals for sick children to enjoy.

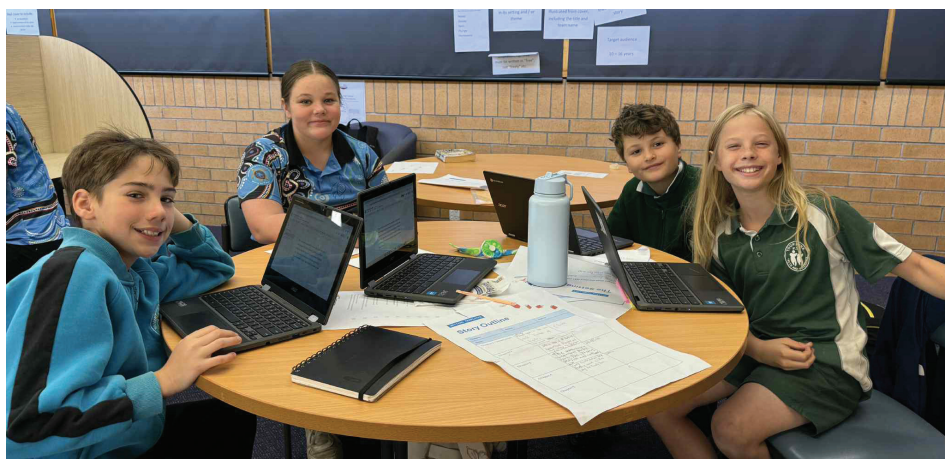
Write a Book in a Day is an Australia-wide writing competition fundraiser, organised by The Kids Cancer Project, with all funds raised going toward vital childhood cancer research to discover cures for the 950 Australian children who are diagnosed each year. The goal is for 100% survival. Our Bongil Bongil Community of Schools raised a whopping \$5961. Congratulations!

A heartfelt thank you extends to our dedicated team of student helpers, primary school staff, and the invaluable contributions of Lisa Mullan, Karina Allen, Ruby Allen, Anna Savage, and our esteemed principal, Mr. Paul Humphrey. Special appreciation also goes to Woolworths Toormina for generously donating fruit and bottled water, ensuring our young authors were fuelled for their creative endeavours. A huge thank you is also extended to Dominos Pizza Toormina for their ongoing support, who year after year are instrumental in making this day a success.

Most importantly, thank you to our participating students who demonstrated empathy, dedication and determination throughout the day.

This collaborative effort exemplifies the spirit of community and compassion within our schools, leaving a lasting impact on both participants and beneficiaries alike.

**Adrienne Gillingham, Teacher Librarian**







### Inclusive Education

As we reach the end of another vibrant and rewarding semester, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements of our students and express my sincere thanks to our school community for your ongoing support of our programs.

This week, we proudly recognised students who have demonstrated excellence across academic, cultural, and social areas of school life during our merit assembly. It was a joy to see so many of our young people acknowledged for their growth, hard work, and contributions. Congratulations to all our award recipients we are proud of your efforts and accomplishments.

Our student-led Coffee Shops once again proved to be a highlight of the term. These vibrant events are a true team effort, with 13 students from our IE Hospitality program working alongside their mainstream Hospitality peers to prepare and serve a range of delicious food and beverages. As they work towards achieving their competencies, these students gain valuable hands-on experience in a real-world setting. Beyond skill-building, the Coffee Shops continue to bring our school community together in such a positive and welcoming way. A big thank you to Mrs. Lumley for her ongoing coordination of this inclusive program, and to our community for your continued support.

A special congratulations goes to Lachlan Wainwright, whose artwork was celebrated with an award at Bay Arts. This is a fantastic recognition of his creativity and talent.

Delilah and Ellie, our school support dogs have continued to play a pivotal role in supporting our academic and wellbeing programs at THS. Delilah & Ellie have become an integral part of our school community and bring so much joy to all students in our school. The program has resulted in significant improvements in engagement and behaviour when they are at school. Thank you to Bree from Wellbeing Support Dogs Mid North Coast for continuing to work with us and allowing Delilah and Ellie to be part of our THS family.

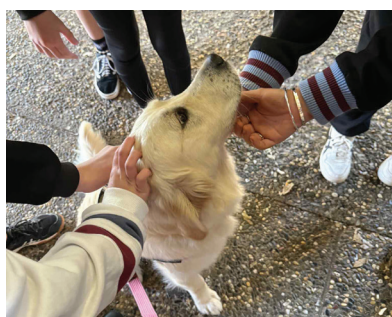
Finally, this will be my final newsletter article as Head Teacher of our Inclusive Education Unit. I would like to personally thank our Inclusive Education community, the students, staff, and families for your support over the past four and a half years. It has been an absolute privilege to work with you, and I am so grateful for the opportunities to work together with you all to improve outcomes for our students.

Wishing everyone a safe, restful break and a wonderful start to next term.

**Scott Gale, Head Teacher Inclusion and Support**

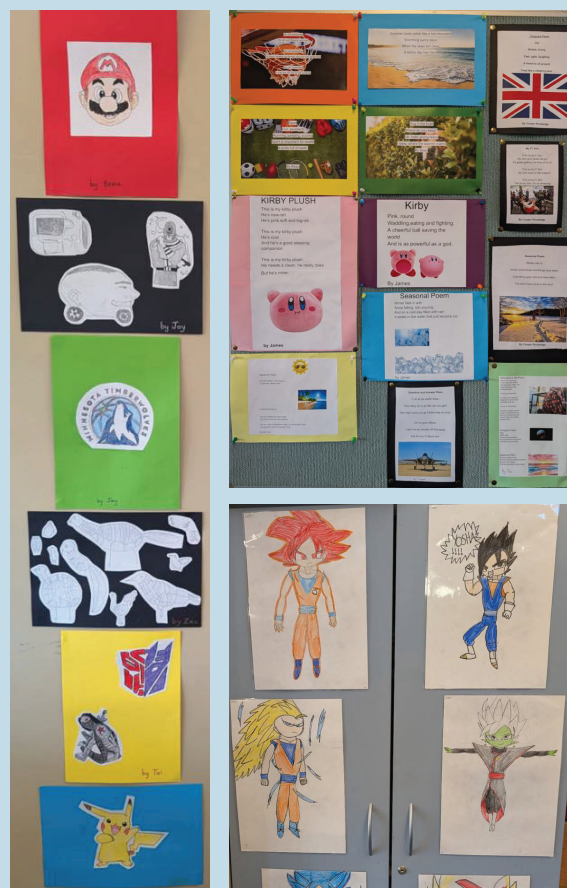






### Room 25 Artworks & Poetry

Room 25's Inclusive Education students have been busy this term creating a wonderful collection of artworks and poetry. The classroom has come alive with creativity as students explored different styles and techniques. A standout is Year 8 student James Ford, who has impressed with his detailed series of character illustrations. We're also excited to share some of our students' original poetry, which you can read at the back of this week's newsletter.



Students in the IE – Orange class have completed a creative street-art project, designing a welcome sign for the Inclusive Education Hub. Each student contributed by decorating an individual letter using various techniques, including painting, spray painting, and Posca pens. They also participated in the installation process, drilling and mounting their boards along the entry fence. The final display reflects both the students' individuality and their collaborative effort. Be sure to view the finished piece next time you visit the Hub. **Leighton Wren, Inclusive Education Teacher**



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## Record Breakers!

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of two of our outstanding athletes, Zac Wilson and Rogan De La Cruz, who made history at this year's THS Athletics Carnival!

Zac Wilson soared to new heights in the High Jump, breaking the longstanding school record of 1.85m with an extraordinary jump of 1.90m.

Rogan De La Cruz leapt into the record books in the Triple Jump, smashing the previous record of 11.22m with a phenomenal 12.11m.

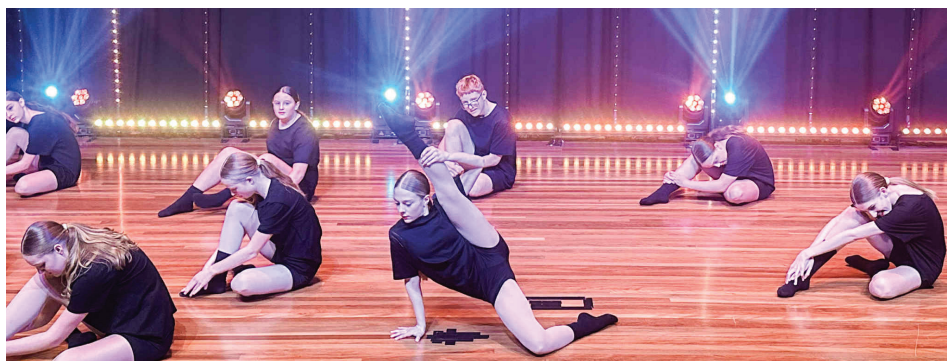
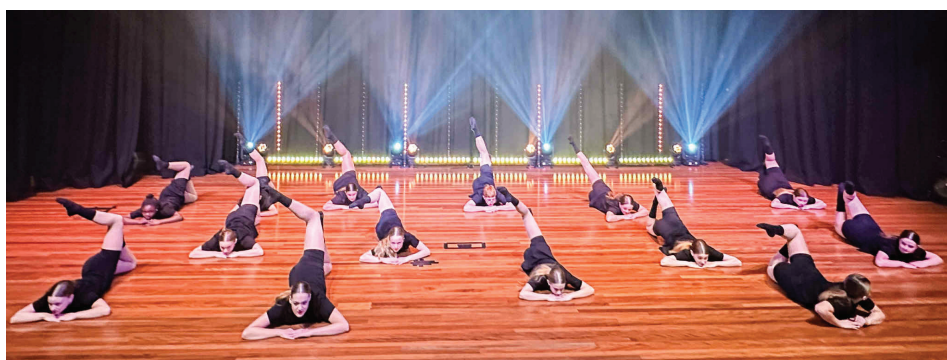
These achievements are a testament to their dedication, talent, and hard work. The entire Toormina High School community is incredibly proud of Zac and Rogan - congratulations on your record-breaking success!



## Dance Festival

Our talented Toormina High School dancers lit up the stage at the Mid North Coast Dance Festival, delivering two unforgettable performances: Take Flight and Lone Wolf.

Under the expert choreography and guidance of Mrs Atkins, our students showcased a stunning blend of contemporary dance and musical theatre, captivating the audience with their precision, emotion, and stage presence. This was a truly impressive display of creativity, dedication, and teamwork, reflecting the hours of rehearsal and passion poured into every step. Congratulations to all involved, we're incredibly proud of you all!







### Debating

Congratulations to our amazing Year 9 Debating Team, who achieved a fantastic victory in their debate against Orara High School this week! Competing as the affirmative side, our students impressed with their well-researched arguments, confident speaking, and excellent teamwork. Their preparation and collaboration clearly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts.

We wish the team the very best of luck as they move forward in the competition!

**Sally Atkins, Debating Teacher**



### Open Girls Tennis

A huge congratulations to our Open Girls Tennis Team on their incredible win in the North Coast final of the Floris Conway Trophy!

In a thrilling and hard-fought match against Rivers Secondary College, the final result came down to the wire, with both teams winning four sets each. Our THS team clinched the victory by a single game, 34 to 33 - a true testament to their grit and determination!

We're so proud of Lexi, Onyx, Chloe, and Whitby for their outstanding performance and teamwork. The team will now represent the region at the State Finals in Nelson Bay next term.

Best of luck girls, we'll be cheering you on all the way!

**Adam Berrada, PDHPE Teacher**

### Lawn Bowls Champions

Well done to our Lawn Bowls team, who were crowned Zone Champions after a thrilling day of competition!

The team battled through two tough matches, securing a close 13-10 win over Woolgoolga High, followed by a dominant 13-2 victory against Coffs Harbour Senior College. Their skill, focus, and teamwork were on full display throughout the day.

Raymond, Zac, and James now progress to Round 3, where they will take on Melville High School. We wish them all the best as they continue their impressive run! Well done, boys, you've done THS proud!

**Sheridan Johnston, PDHPE Teacher**





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## OCHRE UP Exhibition

In Week 5, students from Toormina High School and Orara High School proudly participated in the OCHRE UP exhibition at the Saltwater Freshwater Gallery. This collaborative event was held in partnership with the gallery, a significant cultural space on the Coffs Coast that supports and showcases Aboriginal artists from across the Saltwater Freshwater region, including the Worimi, Biripi, Dunghutti, and Gumbaynggirr nations.

The exhibition featured powerful and expressive artworks created by students, with the opening night serving as a meaningful celebration of culture, creativity, and community. Seeing their work displayed in a professional gallery setting was a proud and affirming experience for all involved.

The exhibition remained open for two weeks following the launch, offering the broader community a chance to engage with and appreciate the students' outstanding work.

A heartfelt thank you to photographer Alicia May for her support of this important initiative, and for the incredible images she captured of our students. We are so grateful for her generosity in allowing us to share these beautiful photographs with the Toormina High School community.

**Anthea Flowers, NASCA Co-ordinator**







### Award Nominees

We are incredibly proud to share that several members of our school community have been nominated for the 2025 Yandaarra Aunty Grace Roberts Community Awards - a well-deserved recognition of their outstanding contributions. The awards celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and organisations who make a positive impact on local community life. They honour the enduring legacy of Aunty Grace Roberts, a respected Elder remembered for her leadership, strength, and dedication to her community. Since 1998, the awards have been proudly presented by the City of Coffs Harbour and the Yandaarra Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Please join us in congratulating Uncle Kevin Dumas, Dee-Dee Dickson, Taj Wilson, and Ade Amado-Taylor on their nominations. We are so proud of the way they represent our school, our values, and their communities with pride, commitment, and care. Their leadership and passion inspire us all.



## NAIDOC WEEK 2025

### Week 1

#### Friday July 25th

- NASCA NAIDOC BBQ - Free sausage sizzle thanks to NASCA, Woolworths and Mission Australia. Students are encouraged to wear red, yellow or black accessories in support of NAIDOC Week

### Week 2

#### Monday July 28th

- In class artworks and activities to celebrate NAIDOC Week

#### Tuesday July 29th

- Special NAIDOC Wellio Session
- NAIDOC Awards Assembly in the hall
- NAIDOC Trivia & History Challenge in the library

#### Wednesday July 30th

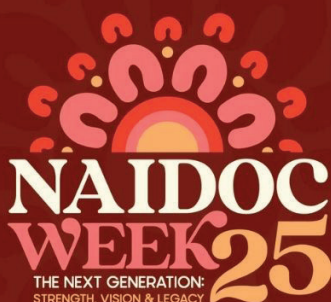
- Aboriginal themed music in the Quad at break time
- Aboriginal Games House Competition with NAIDOC House Cup

#### Thursday July 31st

- Rewards Recipient Morning Tea in NASCA Room

#### Friday August 1st

- Special Goorioke in the library for Karaoke Friday celebrating Aboriginal music artists



### NASCA On Country

In Week 2, Toormina High School's NASCA students enjoyed a meaningful On Country day with our sister site from Melville High in Kempsey. Held on beautiful Gumbaynggirr Country, the day featured cultural storytelling and artifact sharing with Aunty Deb Dootson, and traditional basket weaving with Dallas Gittins from Saltwater Freshwater Gallery. Students also learned the story of the Moon Man and local healing sites near the Marina with former Program Lead Kat, before enjoying lunch together. The Australian Defence Force joined us for a career talk, sparking plenty of great questions from our students. It was a day filled with connection, learning, and pride in culture. We're looking forward to continuing the connection with another On Country day in Kempsey next term.

**Anthea Flowers, NASCA Co-ordinator**



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## Year 10 Work Experience

This week at Toormina High School, we're celebrating Work Experience Week - an important part of our School to Work program. We sincerely thank our employers and parents for their support in providing this valuable opportunity. Your involvement helps students explore career pathways, gain real-world skills, and build confidence for their future.

**Kerstin Woodward, Careers Advisor**



ARMSTRONG DRIVE, TOORMINA NSW 2452 | 026653 3077 | [toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) | [www.toormina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.toormina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider Name: NSW Department of Education CRICOS Provider Code: 00588M



### Year 9 Agriculture

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of a gorgeous new addition to the Toormina High School farm - a healthy little lamb named Rosie, who has already captured the hearts of students and staff alike!

Mr Minchinton's Year 9 Agriculture class had a wonderful morning on the farm, helping care for our newest arrival. Under the expert guidance of our incredible Farm Assistant, Kenny, students learned how to feed the lamb and ensure she stays healthy and happy.

It was a hands-on and rewarding experience, with students also busy collecting fresh eggs from our chickens and tending to the school gardens - which are thriving and looking fantastic!

Studying Agriculture and experiencing farm life continues to provide rich, real-world learning at THS, and we're so proud of the care and enthusiasm our students bring to every visit.



### Creative Cultural Learning

Students from our Inclusive Education Room 24 recently took part in a beautiful and engaging cultural learning experience with Aunty Judith and SLSO Mel. Using a lightbox and sand, students explored their creativity by re-creating scenes from the Gumbaynggirr language creation story of Giidany - the Moon Man. After watching the story come to life on screen, they had the chance to interpret the stunning imagery through hands-on art.

It was a fun and meaningful morning filled with creativity, cultural connection, and plenty of smiles. A big thank you to Aunty Judith and Mel for sharing this special experience with our students!





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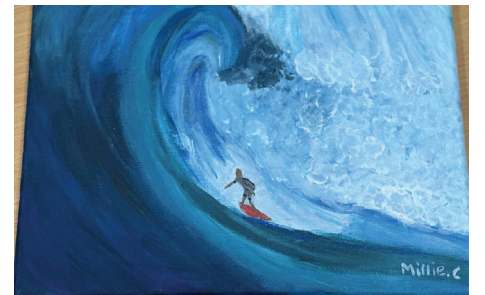
## CAPA Showcase

Last week, some of our students were lucky enough to enjoy a special sneak peek performance ahead of the incredible CAPA Showcase held that evening - and what a night it was!

The Showcase was a true celebration of creativity and talent, with breathtaking performances on stage and stunning artworks displayed throughout the venue. It was inspiring to see the hard work and passion of our students brought to life in such a vibrant and powerful way.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated CAPA staff, whose time, energy, and unwavering commitment made the showcase such a memorable success. Your guidance and support continue to help our students shine.

We are so proud of all the performers and artists who took part, and deeply thankful to the families, friends, and community members who came along to cheer them on. Your support means the world to us and to our students. Events like this remind us how strong and vibrant the creative spirit is at Toormina High School.



## Upstage Workshops

Our Drama, Dance, and Singing students recently enjoyed a fantastic day of creative learning through workshops run by the talented team from Upstage. The sessions were packed with energy, fun, and valuable skills, giving students a great opportunity to grow in confidence and connect with their passion for the performing arts.

A big thank you to Upstage for visiting Toormina High School and delivering such inspiring workshops - our students had an amazing time!

**Sally Atkins, Drama & Dance Teacher**





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## Athletics Carnival

What a fabulous day we had at our Athletics Carnival on June 23! The sun was shining, the energy was high, and our students gave it their all - cheering on their peers and enjoying the fun and friendly atmosphere.

We've captured so many great moments, please head over to our Facebook page to check out all the photos from the day!

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff for organising such a well-run and memorable event. Your hard work behind the scenes made it a fantastic experience for everyone involved!



### Toormina High School – World's Greatest Shave

Our Student Leadership Team is proud to announce that Toormina High will be participating in the World's Greatest Shave to support blood cancer research and patient care.

The event will be held on Friday 5th September during an extended lunchtime in the school hall. Students and staff are encouraged to get involved by shaving or dramatically cutting their hair.

We've set a school fundraising goal of \$2000.

Donations can be made:

Online: <https://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/fundraisers/ToorminaHigh-School2025>

At school: via roll call collections or the school office

Want to raise money individually? Join our team here:

<https://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/join/ToorminaHighSchool2025>

If your child wishes to shave or cut their hair, please:

Contact Ms Bilbija and ensure online permission is given

All haircuts will be done by a qualified hairdresser. If you're a hairdresser willing to volunteer your time, please get in touch with Ms Bilbija.



## Seasonal Poem

Summer blasts in

With beams of light  
And radiant heat  
It starts warming up

The sun rises  
The temperature rises  
My excitement rises

Summer is like a big warm hug

By Jay Davis



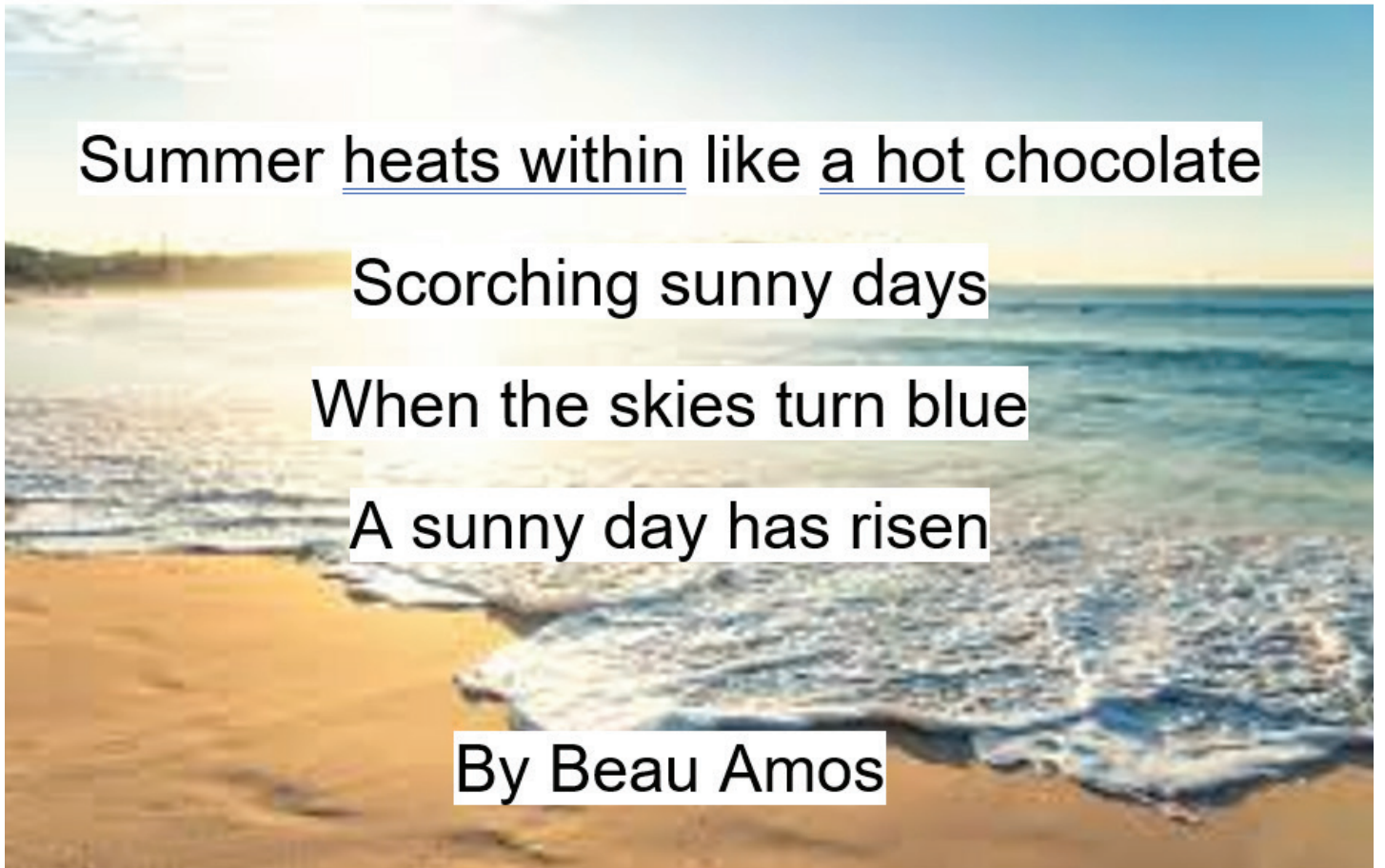
Summer heats within like a hot chocolate

Scorching sunny days

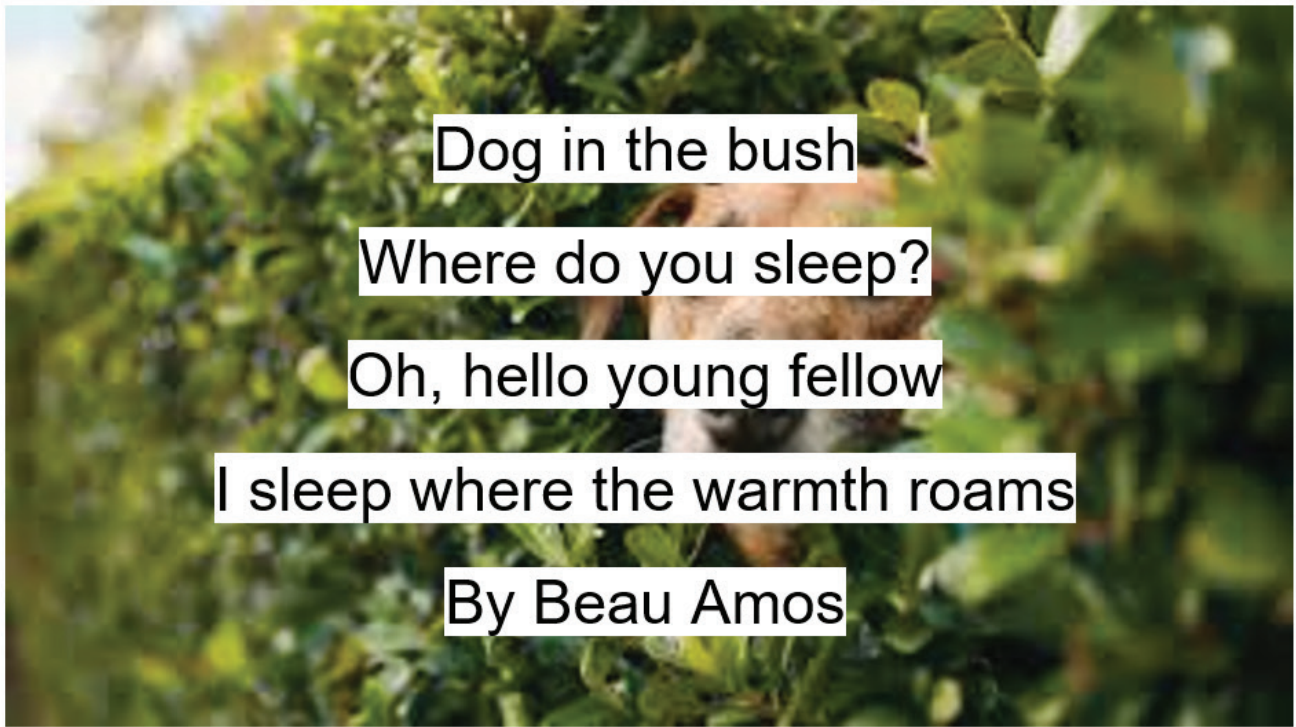
When the skies turn blue

A sunny day has risen

By Beau Amos







Dog in the bush

Where do you sleep?

Oh, hello young fellow

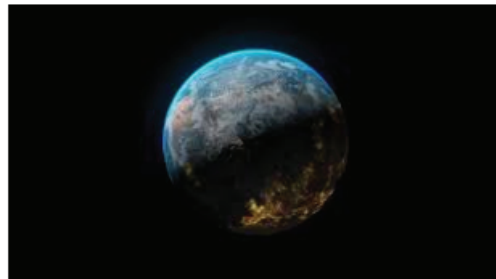
I sleep where the warmth roams

By Beau Amos

## Cinquain Poem

Night  
Silent, dark  
Covering quiet sleepers  
Not a sound from any around  
A shadow over the world

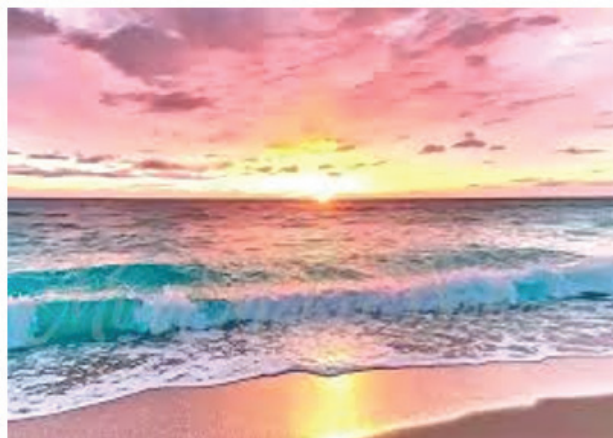
*By Tui O'Connor*



## Seasonal Poem

Summer barges in with  
Burning heat and wrapped presents  
The sun at its closest  
With the temperature rising rapidly

*By Tui O'Connor*





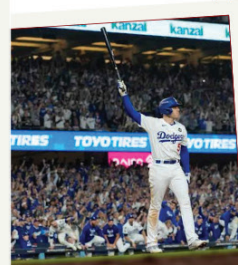
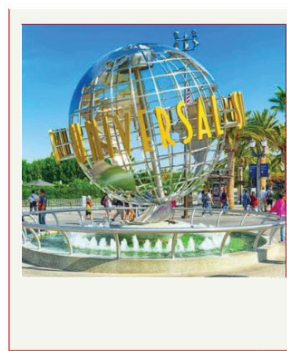


# DANCE IN AMERICA

## INFORMATION EVENING

10/9/25 6:00pm  
Toormina High  
School Library

For all current Year 7-10 Toormina High School students  
and incoming Year 7 2026 and 2027 cohorts



Perform at Disneyland & Universal  
Studios as well as down Main St USA  
Disneyland in the parade & take part  
in professional dance classes

**DEPARTURE: APRIL 2027**





# GALAMBILA NAIDOC FAMILY FUN DAY

THE NEXT GENERATION;  
STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

## TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

MMM AUNTY'S COFFEE  
POPPY'S MOBILE COFFEE  
POP-UP PHOTO BOOTH  
RURAL FIRE SERVICE  
OUTDOOR GAMES  
JUMPING CASTLE  
FACE PAINTING  
FIRE BRIGADE  
REPTILE PARK  
BUSH TUCKER  
WEAVING

MATT FLANDERS  
GARLAMBIRLA ELDERS  
JALAY JALAY DANCERS  
MATT DEVITT  
ELDERS AREA  
CLAY WITH UNKY TONY  
SALTWATER SISTAS

STARTING WITH  
SMOKING CEREMONY AT 9.30AM  
@SHOWGROUND IN  
NORM JORDAN PAVILION










# GAIN A QUALIFICATION WHILE YOU WORK

**NATIONALLY  
RECOGNISED  
QUALIFICATION**

**FAST TRACK  
YOUR CAREER  
EXPRESS YOUR  
INTEREST NOW:**

- SCHOOL BASED OR PART-TIME
- ZERO COST FOR TEAM MEMBERS
- GET PAID TO LEARN
- ON THE JOB TRAINING
- DEDICATED TRAINER SUPPORT
- GUARANTEED MINIMUM WORKING HOURS





**GET AN INFO PACK  
& CHECK ELIGIBILITY**

Training Unlimited Pty Ltd - RTO ID 20891. Eligibility criteria & conditions apply. States that are eligible for Traineeship - WA, QLD, SA, TAS, NSW.



NSW Department of Education

## Apprenticeship and traineeship head start

Educational Pathways Program



## Pre-apprenticeship/traineeship skills course

Community Services & Allied  
Health  
Novaskill

### Kick-start your apprenticeship

As part of the Educational Pathways Program, Novaskill is offering a pre-apprenticeship skills course in Community Services & Allied Health.

This Short Course is a great way to introduce school students to Community Service and Allied Health Industry. We make this program engaging for students—especially those in Year 10 or 11 & 12. This program focuses on Safety - hands-on learning - Industry Immersion Days and creativity. To receive a Statement of Attainment, assessment materials must be submitted within two weeks of course completion.

### Unlock your future options

Completing this course and the below units of competency can earn you credits for further learning!

Units of competency:

- CHCCOM005 Communicate and work in health or community services
- CHCLEG001 Work legally and ethically
- CHCDIV001 Work with diverse people

### Course Details

Start date	25/08/2025
End date	29/08/2025
Duration	5 Days + 3 Days of Industry Immersion (2nd - 4th of September)
Location	Grafton
Training Provider	Novaskill
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 years and over and in year 10-12</li> <li>• Australian or NZ citizen, Australian Permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder</li> </ul>
Cost	\$0 (Fully subsidised by the NSW Govt.)

### Keen to apply?

To sign up for the course, speak to your Careers Adviser and complete this Expression of Interest (EOI) Form

For more information:  
Novaskill.com.au



## PASSIONATE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS?

# JOIN US! FOR THE COFFS HARBOUR LCOY

**MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2-4.30 PM**  
COMMUNITY VILLAGE MEETING ROOM  
1, 22 EARL STREET COFFS HARBOUR







## HOLD UP...WHAT IS AN LCOY?

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) gathers **young, passionate** individuals from around the world to discuss climate change. This year, Australian Youth for International Climate Engagement (AYFICE) and United Nations Youth are partnering to deliver LCOY in Australia!

**Sign up here!**

Your feedback will be included in the National and Global Youth Statement presented to the COP Secretariat at COP30 in Brazil this year. This means that **your voice** will be heard at the annual **United Nations climate change conference!**





This course is delivered in partnership with the Educational Pathways Program  
[education.nsw.gov.au/educational-pathways](http://education.nsw.gov.au/educational-pathways)