

# NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners

TERM 2 | WEEK 7 | June 2025



CREATING OUR FUTURE



## Year 8 STEM Experience

Last week, our Year 8 STEM girls embarked on an exciting journey into the world of science, innovation, and possibility. Mrs. Alam was delighted to accompany the group of 18 girls to Yarilla Place, where they took part in a series of engaging, hands-on STEM workshops. The event connected students with women working in science and technology careers, with the goal of igniting a lasting passion for STEM.

Students were inspired by a panel of remarkable women leading the way in fields such as paleontology, engineering, and technology, each sharing their personal stories, challenges, and triumphs.

The day was packed with unforgettable experiences: suturing bananas like future surgeons, investigating a crime scene as forensic detectives, and watching fiery chemical reactions spark a love for chemistry. They also met squishy, spiky marine creatures, navigated the ocean floor through virtual reality, and got a taste of what it's like to operate a submarine.

It was a day filled with learning, laughter, and inspiration, opening young minds to the many exciting pathways that STEM has to offer.

The future is bright, and it's being shaped by these incredible young women.

**Tas Alam, Science Teacher**





### MNC Tennis Gala Day

Toormina High School recently sent both a boys' and girls' team to compete in the early rounds of the Stan Jones Cup and Floris Conway Trophy at the Sawtell Tennis Centre.

Despite a setback just before play commenced losing two boys to illness the team rallied by calling in two exceptional substitutes, Kyan Stulgies and Clancy Tune, who stepped up and performed admirably. They joined Jake Creenaune and James Arnold to complete the boys' team.

After a convincing victory over Bellingen High School in the opening round, the boys faced a tough challenge against a strong Grafton side. The final came down to the last tie, with the teams finishing level at 4 matches apiece. However, Toormina High emerged victorious on a countback a testament to the depth and determination of the team.

In the Floris Conway Trophy, our girls' team of Onyx Raven, Whitby Collins, Lexi Tune, and Chloe Murphy had a successful and memorable day. Their first match was against Coffs Harbour Senior College, who fielded a state champion.

Despite the challenge, all four girls played to a high standard and secured a 6-2 win.

This result set up a Mid North Coast final against a formidable Grafton team, who have represented the North Coast at the state finals for the past 15 years. Rising to the occasion, the Toormina girls delivered their best performance of the day, winning the tie 6 matches to 0.

Both the boys' and girls' teams now progress to the Regional Gala Day, where they will compete for the opportunity to represent the region at the State Finals. An outstanding achievement, well done to all involved.

**Adam Berrada, Tennis Coach**



### North Coast Football

Year 12 student Taj Bennett is proudly representing North Coast Football for the second consecutive year and has been given the prestigious honour of captaining the team!

Last year, Taj was selected as a shadow reserve for the NSW CHS team, an outstanding achievement in itself.

We wish him all the best in his quest to earn a place on the NSW team this year.



Toormina High School  
Facebook Page

Please 'like' and 'share' our posts on the THS Facebook page to show our community all the great activities and achievements of our students!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064085677574>



### Dance Eisteddfod

Last Friday, our talented students took to the stage at the Dance Eisteddfod held at the Coffs Harbour Senior Campus, delivering impressive performances and achieving fantastic results - placing 2nd, 3rd, and receiving a Highly Commended across two incredibly competitive sections. Their routines showcased not only technical skill, but also creativity, confidence, and passion. The level of professionalism and stage presence displayed by our students was truly commendable.

A huge congratulations to all of our amazing performers - we're so proud of the effort, dedication, and teamwork you demonstrated throughout the entire process. The commitment, energy, and collaboration you brought to the stage were truly inspiring and a testament to your hard work during rehearsals.

**Sally Atkins, Dance Teacher**





### MNC Cross Country

Last week, a team of our dedicated and talented students travelled to Woolgoolga to compete in the MNC Cross Country Championships, and what a fantastic day it was!

We are incredibly proud of all our students who represented the school with determination, effort, and sportsmanship. Their commitment and hard work paid off, with 26 students qualifying for the next stage of competition - an outstanding achievement!

A special congratulations goes to our Age Champions, Fletcher Bridgeman and Luis Osterloh, whose performances stood out among a very competitive field.

We wish all our qualifying students the very best of luck as they prepare for the next round.







### MNC Rugby Union

Congratulations to Year 8 student Isla Carroll, who recently represented the Mid North Coast Rugby Union team at the U14 NSW State Championship. Through a weekend of fierce competition in tough, freezing conditions, Isla showed outstanding commitment, resilience, and sportsmanship. Her team finished 8th overall, and her efforts on and off the field earned her the prestigious Coach's Award, a true testament to her dedication and positive attitude. Well done, Isla!



### Year 10 Careers Expo

On Thursday, June 5th, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to attend the Careers Expo at Coffs Harbour Racing Club. The event brought together a wide variety of exhibitors from industries, training organisations, and tertiary institutions, giving students a valuable chance to explore potential career paths and ask questions directly to professionals. It was a fun and engaging day filled with inspiration, hands-on activities, and fresh ideas about life after school. Students came away with a greater understanding of the options available to them and a renewed motivation for planning their future. We're proud of how our students represented the school and look forward to supporting them as they continue their journey toward their chosen careers.

**Cathy Luff, Year 10 Advisor**





### AFL Gala Day

Our school's Junior Girls AFL team delivered an outstanding performance at the recent AFL Gala Day, showcasing skill, determination, and school spirit across a full day of competition.

The team came out firing in their first match against Orara High School, securing a dominant 39–6 victory. Excellent team-work and composure were on display, with Harpa Skinner leading the way in defence, shutting down key plays and limiting Orara to just one goal. Up forward, Chloe Murphy was a constant threat, kicking multiple goals to keep the momentum going.

In their second game, the team faced a tougher challenge against Coffs Harbour High School. Rising to the occasion, the girls fought hard for a 34–14 win. The defence remained solid, with Maeve Knight standing strong under pressure, while Emily Donovan was instrumental in attack, scoring crucial goals and setting up opportunities for her teammates.

With a place in the grand final on the line, the team met Bishop Druitt College in their third match. Under pressure, the girls delivered another convincing performance, winning 33–14. Chloe Murphy, Khaylin Wilson, and Adelle Desir led the way with relentless effort around the ball and smart decision-making when it mattered most.

In the grand final, the team faced a very strong Saint John Paul College side. Despite a valiant effort, our girls went down 31–15. Every player gave their all, demonstrating resilience, grit, and great pride in representing the school.

It was a fantastic achievement to reach the grand final, and all team members should be extremely proud of their efforts.

**Kate Williams, AFL Team Coach**



### Leadership Excursion

Recently, our school captains, Eva Smith and Jack Jones, had the exciting opportunity to attend a leadership excursion in Sydney. During the trip, they heard from a range of elected representatives who shared valuable insights and advice about leadership and public service. A highlight of the day was meeting our local representative, Gurmesh Singh, who generously gave the students a guided tour of Parliament House and a behind-the-scenes look at his office. The captains also visited Government House, where they explored the rich history of the iconic building through a guided tour. It was an unforgettable experience that left both Eva and Jack inspired and more motivated than ever in their leadership roles.



### Paint and Graze Event

What a night! Our recent Paint and Graze event, hosted by our Year 12 students and their advisor, Melanie Sharkey, was a resounding success, selling out a week in advance! Due to overwhelming demand, we even added extra seats to accommodate more guests.

Our talented Year 12 hospitality and food technology students, alongside our dedicated Year 11 hospitality students, served a sumptuous five-course meal to 37 delighted guests. The evening was beautifully complemented by a winter mountain escape painting class, expertly guided by resident art teacher, Mr. Joe Walsh.

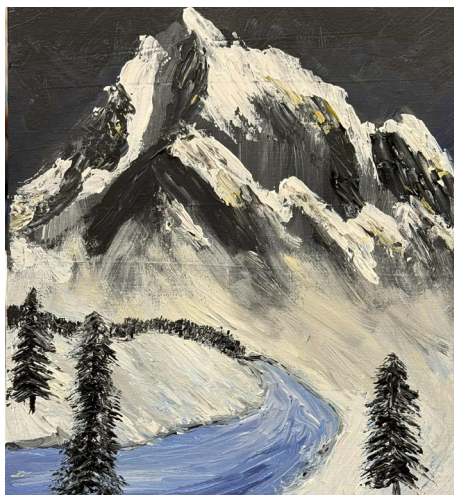
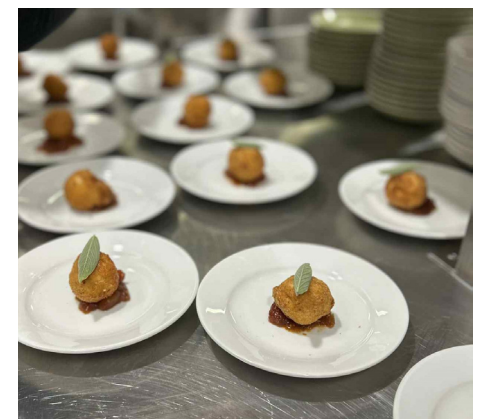
A special thank you goes to Joe for dedicating his family time to help make this event a triumph. We also warmly appreciate Mr. Gale and Mrs. Emma Nixon for their invaluable assistance in the kitchen and preparations leading up to the event.

These events require meticulous planning and teamwork, and we extend our gratitude to kitchen assistant Kanisha, who ensures all ingredients are organised and ready for a smooth operation.

To our supportive guests, your presence is vital! Without your enthusiasm, our students wouldn't have the chance to gain confidence and experience in serving customers within a restaurant environment. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community.

Looking ahead, our Year 11 students are excited to take over this event as they begin their fundraising campaign in Term 4. We eagerly anticipate hosting many more memorable catering events in the future!

**Melanie Sharkey, TAS Teacher**





### Premier's Debating Challenge

The Premier's Debating Challenge for Year 7-10 has commenced for 2025! On Wednesday, June 11 Toormina High's Years 7/8 team of Bethany Hudson, Attila Sullivan, Thomas Edmonds and Kai Blackman competed in their first round debate against Orara High. It was a fantastic start to the debating season with our team taking a win as the negative team in the debate that all high school students should have the option to learn online rather than in person. Our second Years 7/8 team and Year 10 will also compete in debates against Bellingen High on Friday June 13. Good luck to everyone!

**Anita Milne, English Teacher**



### Oorala Experience

Our students are currently taking part in the Oorala Experience excursion in a brisk but beautiful Armidale. They've jumped into engaging, hands-on workshops in Physical Education, Geology: Palaeontology, Nursing and Law, exploring new ideas and career pathways.

The experience has offered an exciting chance to learn beyond the classroom, make new connections and create lasting memories.

**Chris McDonald, AEO**





### Principal's Column

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we reflect on the term so far, I am filled with immense pride in our school community - our dedicated staff and talented students have truly shone in a variety of academic, sporting, and cultural pursuits, as highlighted in our school newsletters. First and foremost, I would like to commend our teaching staff for their unwavering commitment to providing our students with high-quality education. Their hard work and innovative teaching strategies have fostered an engaging learning environment where students can thrive. It is heartening to witness the enthusiasm that our teachers bring to the classroom, inspiring our students to reach their full potential.

Our students have responded to this encouragement with remarkable achievements across various subjects. From outstanding performances in mathematics and science competitions to creative expression in the arts, it is evident that our students are not only learning but also excelling. I encourage you to celebrate these accomplishments with your children and remind them that their hard work is recognised and valued.

In addition to academic excellence, our sporting teams have been a source of pride for our school. It has been fantastic to see our students demonstrate teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship during competitions. Whether on the field, court, or pool, their dedication has led to impressive results, showcasing their talents and commitment to physical fitness.

Furthermore, our cultural events have highlighted the diverse talents within our student body. From musical performances to drama productions, our students have brought creativity and passion to the stage. These events not only allow our students to express themselves but also strengthen the bonds within our school community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all parents and caregivers for your support of our students and staff. Your involvement plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and enriching environment, and together, we can continue to encourage our students to pursue their passions and strive for excellence.

As we move forward, let us celebrate these achievements and continue to support one another in our shared mission of nurturing well-rounded individuals. We appreciate your ongoing dedication to our school community.

With pride,

**Susan Jordan, Relieving Principal**



### History Study Day

Our Modern History students recently attended the History Teachers Association Study Day at the CHEC campus - a fantastic opportunity to prepare for their upcoming Trial HSC exams.

They joined over 390 students from 30 schools, engaging with some of the state's leading history experts for a valuable and inspiring day of learning.

**Karina Menzies, History Teacher**



### Author Visit

Our Year 12 Standard English students had the incredible opportunity to meet Favel Parrett, author of *Past the Shallows*, as part of their HSC studies. Favel shared insights into her writing process, themes in the novel, and answered thoughtful questions from the students. It was a truly inspiring and memorable experience - thank you so much, Favel, for your time and generosity!

**Adrienne Gillingham, Teacher Librarian**





### Attendance

I would like to take a moment to discuss the importance of student attendance and our ongoing efforts to communicate effectively with you regarding absences.

Attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and social development. Each day of learning is an opportunity for your child to engage with their peers, participate in classroom discussions, and absorb new information. Consistent school attendance not only helps with academic performance but also fosters a sense of belonging and community within our school.

To support our attendance initiatives, we have implemented an SMS notification system that alerts parents and caregivers when their child is marked absent from school. This system is designed to keep you informed and engaged in your child's education. We understand that there are various reasons for absences, and our goal is to ensure that you are aware of your child's attendance status promptly.

We appreciate the positive response from many of you regarding these SMS messages. Your feedback is valuable, and it has been encouraging to see families becoming more involved in addressing attendance issues. We believe that open communication is key to supporting our students, and we encourage you to reach out to us if you have concerns about your child's attendance or if there are circumstances affecting their ability to attend school regularly.

If you receive a message regarding an absence, we kindly ask that you respond promptly. This helps us keep accurate records and provides us with the opportunity to offer any necessary support. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring that our students thrive both academically and socially. Together, we can promote a culture of attendance that benefits our entire school community.

**Susan Jordan, Relieving Principal**



### Applications are now open for our 2026 Year 7 High Potential and Gifted Education Program

At Toormina High School, we are committed to recognising and nurturing excellence across four key domains: Creative, Intellectual, Physical, and Social-Emotional. Our HPGE Program, The Quest For Excellence, is designed to inspire curiosity, support academic achievement, and cultivate a love of learning. To apply for a place in our Year 7 HPGE Program for 2026, please follow the link.

**Applications close June 16th, 2025.**

#### TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL HPGE

For further information on The Quest For Excellence Program, please email Toormina High School at:

[toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**To apply, please visit our online application form - <https://toormina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2025/5/hpge2026.html>**



Every student is known, valued  
and cared for in our schools



## Attendance: every day counts

- **Focus** on identifying and understanding attendance patterns
- **Create** a welcoming place for everyone
- **Embed** proactive strategies to address students' needs

**How do we ensure schools are places where  
students want to be?**



**Education**

[education.nsw.gov.au](https://education.nsw.gov.au)

[@NSWEducation](https://twitter.com/NSWEducation)

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



### Embracing the Winter Uniform

A reminder for our students and parents/carers,

As the winter months settle in, it's time to ensure that our students are prepared not only for the colder weather but also for the school environment. Wearing the correct winter uniform is essential for maintaining a sense of unity and pride within our school community.

#### Why Uniform Matters

**Promotes Equality:** Uniforms help to minimise social differences and create a sense of belonging among students. When everyone wears the same attire, it fosters a spirit of inclusivity.

**Encourages Focus on Learning:** With a uniform in place, students can concentrate more on their studies rather than on what they or their peers are wearing.

**Enhances School Identity:** Our school uniform is a symbol of our values and traditions. Wearing it with pride reinforces our commitment to our school community.

#### Winter Uniform Guidelines

As a reminder, the correct winter uniform for our students includes:

A THS school jumper or jacket

Long black trousers, black track pants or THS school shorts or skirts (as per the school's policy)

Appropriate footwear (closed leather shoes are recommended, as they are required for practical subjects and when entering science labs).

#### Please do not send your child to school in:

Exercise tights and leggings

Clothing with large brand logos

#### Staying Warm

Layer up: Wearing a thermal top or additional layers underneath the uniform can help keep students warm without compromising the uniform policy. A white or black long sleeve shirt underneath the THS uniform would be preferable for layering.

Plain black tracksuit pants or black trousers are readily available from local retailers such as Kmart, Big W, Best and Less, Lowes etc from as little as \$6.00.

#### New style girls' school shorts

Our NEW style girls shorts are currently instock and ready for purchase at Slick Sportswear & Uniforms in Coffs Harbour.

Slick Sportswear & Uniforms is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm, at GDT Seccombe Close, Coffs Harbour. Alternatively, you can place an order online at any time via their website.

We ask parents and guardians to support our efforts by discussing the importance of wearing the correct uniform with their children. Let's work together to ensure our students are dressed appropriately for the winter season.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in maintaining our school's standards and fostering a positive learning environment. Together, we can make this winter a comfortable and productive time for all our students!

School assistance with uniform purchase may be available on application. Please contact the school for further details.



# TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL

## CREATING OUR FUTURE



SCAN ME



**Slick Sportswear and Uniforms**

**Address: 1/10 Gdt Seccombe Close**

**Coffs Harbour NSW 2450**

**Ph: 02 6651 9030**

**Shop Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm**

**Username : toorminahs**

**Password : uniform25**

**[www.teamspiritsports.com.au/club-shop/](http://www.teamspiritsports.com.au/club-shop/)**

ITEM	SELL PRICE INC GST
POLO SHIRT	\$40.00
SHORTS	\$26.00
SKIRT	\$35.00
HOODIE	\$65.00
FORMAL SHIRT	\$35.00
FORMAL BLOUSE	\$35.00

 **TeamSpirit  
SCHOOLS**



Dear parents, guardians and carers

Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy \(https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy\)](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal \(https://www.nccd.edu.au\)](https://www.nccd.edu.au).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Kind regards,

Paul Humphrey, Principal





**TUESDAY 24TH  
MAY  
10AM - 1:30PM**



# **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & SENIOR HOSPITALITY COFFEE SHOP**

## **SOMETHING SWEET \$4.50**

- (GF) CHEESECAKE BROWNIE
- LEMON AND BLUEBERRY CAKE
- RED VELVET AND WHITE CHOCOLATE COOKIE
- COCONUT ROUGH SLICE
- (GF) STICKY DATE PUDDING W/  
BUTTERSCOTCH SCE & ICE CREAM

## **SOMETHING SAVOURY \$4.50**

- ZUCCHINI AND BACON SLICE  
(GF)
- PORK AND FENNEL SAUSAGE  
ROLL
- CREAMY PUMPKIN SOUP W/  
BREAD ROLL

## **SOMETHING HOT \$4.50**

- CAPPUCINO
- LATTE
- FLAT WHITE
- LONG BLACK/ SHORT BLACK
- MOCHA
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- TEA (ENG BREAKFAST/EARL GREY/  
PEPPERMINT)

## **SOMETHING COLD \$4.50**

- MILKSHAKES  
(CHOCOLATE/CARAMEL  
STRAWBERRY/VANILLA)
- ICED COFFEE
- ORANGE JUICE
- APPLE JUICE
- LEMON MYRTLE CORDIAL

**DEVELOPING VALUABLE VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND  
CONFIDENCE AMONG OUR STUDENTS  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**