

TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 7, November 2012



A Safe Space For All

Senior students of Toormina High have taken the initiative to create a Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) within the school. The aim of this innovative group is to unite students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression.

The GSA provides a safe haven where students can discuss sexual orientation and gender issues in a supportive environment, as well as encouraging acceptance and tolerance throughout the school. Students have taken a positive view of the group and a large number have taken interest in coming to meetings and participating in events such as the national Wear it Purple Day on September 7.

Jade McFayden – Year 12

Pictured on right are Jasmine Cridge, Jade McFayden and in front Liselle Tanner



Sketchbooks

The Toormina High Sketchbook 2012 was a wonderful success across the school, with students and staff.

The sketchbooks had great creative techniques and outstanding skills that varied from photography to drawings. Each and every sketchbook became unique, but the prizes winners were Amber Holmes, Layne Murphy, Jade Andrews and Marcia O'Sullivan.

L. Bluhm

Primary Students visit THS

Students from Boambee, Crossmaglen and Sawtell Public Schools attended Toormina High School on three Wednesday afternoons to experience High School music.

The students had the opportunity to try some of our band instruments, such as trumpets, trombones and flutes, and some managed to make a LOT of noise! Mrs Babbage recorded some of their playing to put together a multimedia book and soundtrack of "Who Sank The Boat?". We look forward to welcoming these students to Toormina High School. Mrs Babbage

Pictured are Nikita Fellows (Boambee Public School) and Hunter Bake-Smith (Crossmaglen Public School)





Crayfish Hotel

Year 11 Marine Studies students have spent the last two week building a breeding and 'growing out' tanks to house Blue claw crayfish (*Cherax destructor*) as part of their option module Aquaculture. It is a closed system with algal scrubber and circulated heated water.

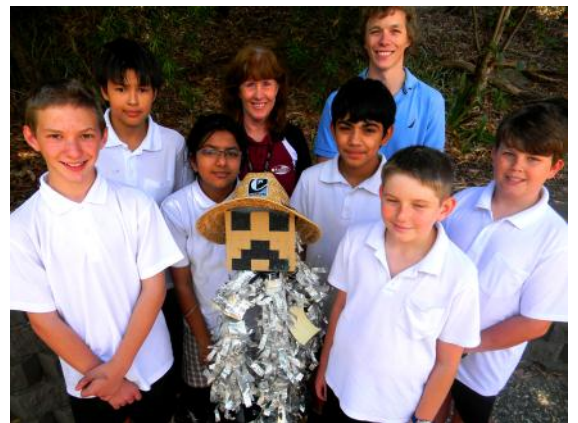
Pictured with the three storey crayfish hotel are Luke Cross, Cruz Hastings and Malcolm Brunton D.Howard

Scarecrow

Outstanding in the field!!!

The Year 7 Science Club took out 2nd prize in the North Coast Regional Botanical Gardens- Sustainable Living Festival: Scarecrow Competition.

Pictured at left with the 'Reaper' are Jacob Marshall, Mark West, Tanisha Gulati, Mrs Davis, Josh Singh, Mr Ryan, Mitchell Clark and Tye Shipman



From the Principal

Toormina High School students established the Gay Straight Alliance at school early in 2012. This Alliance is designed to demonstrate our school's inclusive culture where diversity is respected and celebrated and where all students are welcome and safe. For teenagers, the issues of their sexual development and their sexuality are very important and those who feel that they do not fit in or who feel discriminated against by the mainstream community are at risk of physical and psychological harm. I congratulate the students who have established and maintained the Alliance and who work to create a safe and pluralist school culture where all students have a place.

My congratulations go to our Year 9 and 10 teams of students who participated with significant success at the first north coast Philosothon last week. They brought back a number of awards which will be reported next issue in detail. Creative thinking about the big human questions is the focus of the Philosothon and we are very proud of the broad educational experiences our teachers provide to develop higher order thinking in our students. Special congratulations go to Chalise van Wyngaardt and Lil Ross.

Liz Donnan

DATES	Week 7
26 - 29.11.12	Yr 8 Gold Coast Excursion
27.11.12	Yr 6 Information Night
29.11.12	Coffee Shop
29.11.12	Yr 11 RRISK Seminar
Week 8	2013 Musical Auditions

Photo shows Dahna Knight at the opening of her exhibition with Mayor Denise Knight and Mrs Donnan



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