

# TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 11, December 2012



Best wishes from our family to your family.....



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Toormina High School Students, Friends and Families!







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"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." From 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas' Dr. Seuss



He knows if you've been bad or good Sooo.....

Be good for goodness' sake!





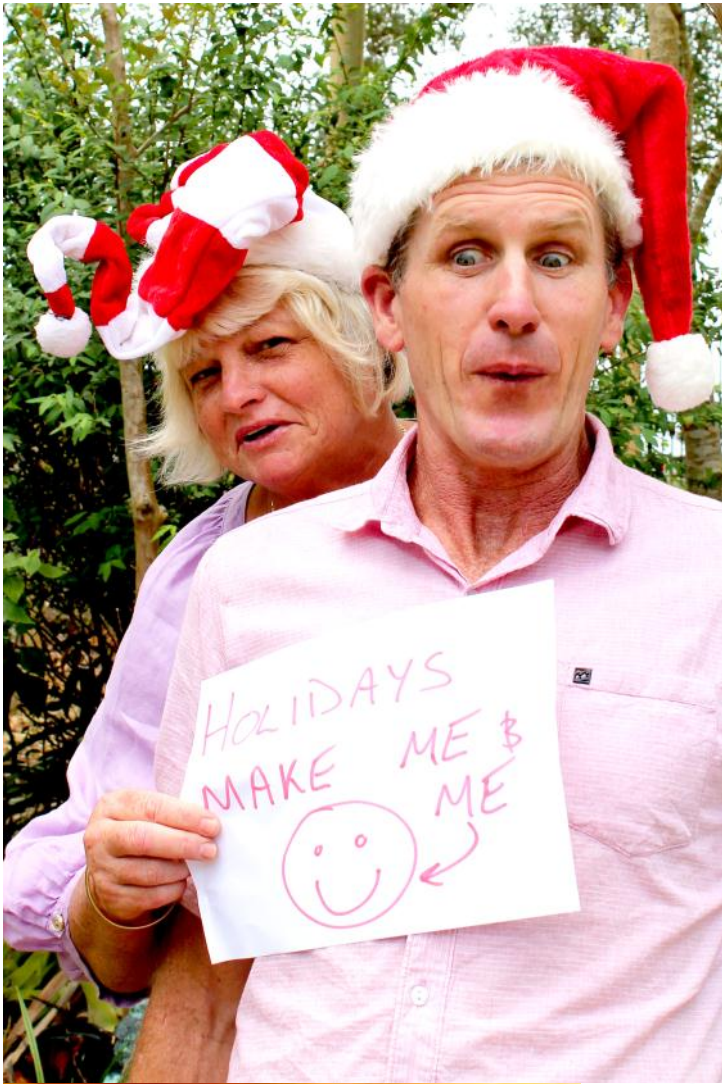


"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."



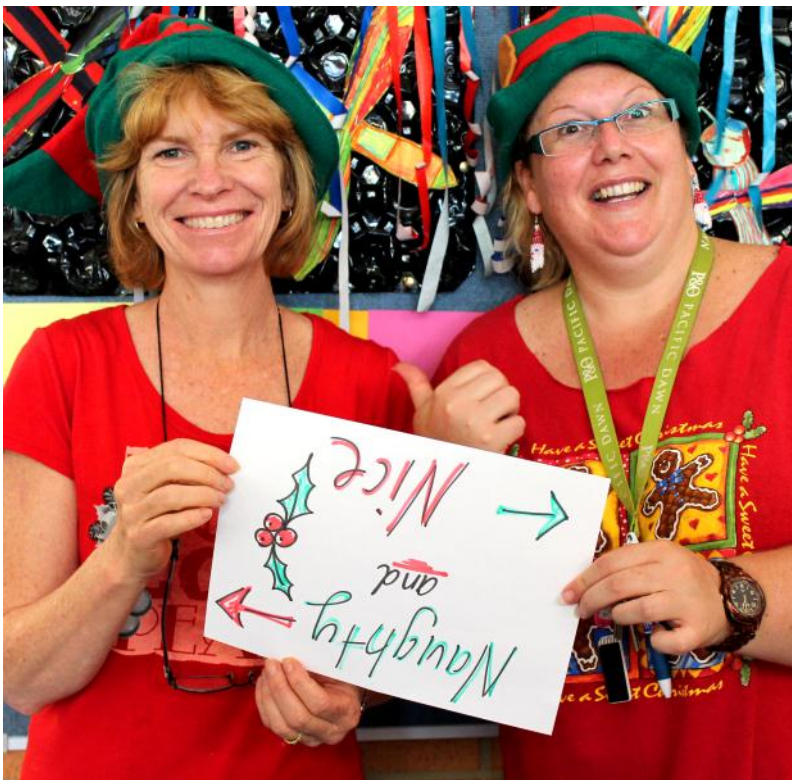
Joy to the World





We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!

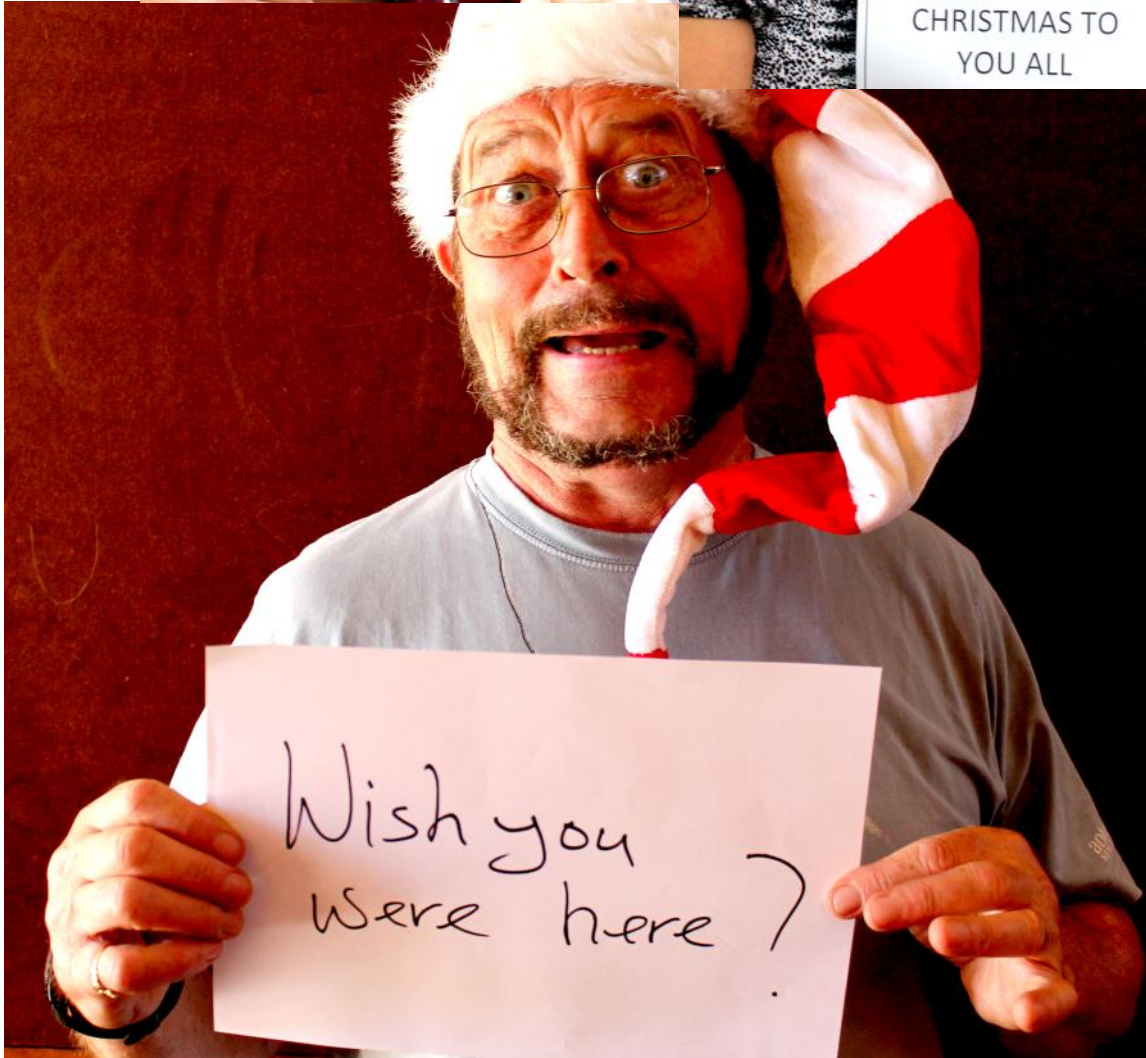




He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"







We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# From the Principal

I wish to recognise these students' achievements, from Year 12, Blake Bollen, Samantha Catto, Trent Dierick, Wade Hyland, Laurie Poole, Tiarne Saunders and Matthew Skelton have been awarded early entry to the University of New England for 2013.

Liam Reynolds and Tarsha Shipman have been accepted into Southern Cross University to study courses there concurrently with their school studies.

Southern Cross University has currently made Early Entry Offers to: Ayden Baloh, Kiara Briggs, Jamie Canute, Samantha Catto, Trent Dierick, Erica Geddes, Kiara Greenway, Wade Hyland, Benigno Manlapaz, Laurie Poole, Tiarne Saunders, and Gemma Wolter.

The University of NSW has recognised as High Achievers in Mathematics and Science respectively Jacob Shand and Matthew Berrington.

I have acknowledged these achievements as university entrance is one of the highest goals of secondary education and these are the students who have received an offer even before the HSC results are issued next Wednesday. We are proud of the achievements of all these students and thank their teachers for their excellence in delivery.

2012 has been a defining year for Toormina High School. As well as the many achievements of our staff and students in academic, sporting and cultural life, it is a year where we suffered a very serious and derogatory attack orchestrated by two disgruntled parents, inflamed by a local politician, and which was conducted through radio and television media and promoted through social media.

The school had a clear choice. We could stay quiet and hope people took no notice or forgot about the allegations or we could stand up and put our case out there. Popular wisdom is that to stay silent makes things go away more quickly but we found that speaking out together was our only option – no one was going to traduce our reputation and expect us to be silent.

My speech at Presentation Day last year centred on character and how we educate young people to build their character to develop every day into people who are ethical, honourable, achieving and compassionate. I did not know how soon we would need these character traits to defend our school and its honour.

Staff, parents, the wider community and my Principal colleagues came from a standing start to speak positively about our school and to confront every accusation made by these people. I was amazed and humbled at finding out during that time and since just how much our students, staff and community loved their school and what worthy defenders they would be. I thank all of you who got involved and who are working with a ferocious passion to make this school stronger, louder and prouder.

The change it has made in me is that I will not be silent if we are wronged, I will not be quiet and I will encourage everyone to speak up to defend themselves. This attack has been transformative for our school. It has made our school stronger, happier and more committed than ever to providing the best educational opportunities for all students. With the devolution of authority and funds increasingly to school level from 2014, we will continue to reach out to all our community for your ideas, participation and your commitment and support for our school.

Mr Dillon, Mrs Kennedy and Mr Bear are staff leaving us this year. I thank them for their contributions to the life of our school. Mr Holden and Mrs Baker will return next year. My special appreciation goes again to our wonderful staff, especially to Erica Lyne and Simon McKinney who are outstanding practitioners and friends as Deputy Principals at our school. Again, thank you to the P&C and retiring President Kevin Jeffrey who is a stalwart in supporting our school and its students.

We look forward to 2013 with enthusiasm and with a new certainty about the respect and love the community has for our school and for its students and staff. We will be working towards developing the NSW version of the Australian Curriculum for implementation during next year, we will be hosting the Bongil Bongil Community of Schools' first Musical in June and we will be educating our students to be their very best selves.

I thank you all for your support and wish you a happy and fulfilling life over the holidays and for 2013.

Liz Donnan