

# TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 8, November 2012



## Big Win for THS and Public Education



Toormina High School were proud participants in the first Northern New South Wales Philothon held at Bishop Druitt College on 15-16 November. Philothons are philosophy competitions that foster higher order thinking skills and focus on the individual's contribution to the 'success' of the discussion, rather than the individual's ability to present or develop their own opinions. The winners and runners-up from the contest are now eligible to attend the Australian Philothon in Melbourne in 2013. Over one hundred students entered the competition. And included students from Government and non Government schools from Central Coast to Tweed Heads and west to Armidale. Some of the schools competing were Bishop Druitt College, The Armidale School, Central Coast Grammar and Saint Joseph's Port Macquarie. The topics discussed were: Does sport necessarily develop good character? Is it moral to fake kindness? Can you lose your mind? Science needs a Hippocratic Oath and Do we own our bodies? A team comprising Damon Lewis, Brian Adam, Lil Ross, Beau McAuley and Justin Pryce won their division with exceptional results. Lil Ross and Chalise Van Wyngaardt were named as the most promising female philosophers in their respective divisions. K. McDowell

Our 'Thinkers' Blake Greenway, Brian Adam, Bailey Patterson, Nick Owen, Beau McAuley, Chalise Van Wyngaardt, Justin Pryce and Elizabeth Ross (absent from photo - Damon Lewis)

## S.N.A.P. = STUDENT NOMINATED AWARDS PROGRAM

SNAP FEVER IS HERE – WE DRAW THE LAST IPOD TOUCH AT THE MAJOR AWARDS CEREMONY 11 DECEMBER!!!

Launched in 2012, our successful THS positive rewards program is driven by student achievement and their positive attitude towards receiving awards and rewards. These awards and rewards are a great incentive to promote achievement and participation in and out of the class.

### HOW IT WORKS:

- Each Student carries a small booklet (100 stamp spaces) and each teacher a stamp.
- Students may politely nominate themselves for a stamp, as well being initiated by teachers. The idea being that students become pro-active and part of the process and help remind their busy teachers about the stamps. It breeds a culture of achievement with students wanting and striving to be the best they can.

### REWARDS and AWARDS

- 25 stamps = \$5 off a school event or cost of their choice (not canteen) eg. Social, excursion, fees, etc.
- Each page (6 stamps) = raffle ticket in end of semester, latest and greatest, Ipod Touch draw.
- 5 stamps in any one subject/activity = SUBJECT AWARD

After Thursday assembly, SRC reps record the number of new pages a student has filled. Students take their booklets to the office to have any subject awards recorded. This ensures if booklets are lost, rewards can be re-credited.

### SUCCESS

The SNAP booklets have been so successful that it has put a massive dent in the SRC funds. So much so that we had to severely restrict spending on projects this year from monies raised throughout 2012! All the more impressive is that it was conceived, funded and driven by the SRC who spend a lot of their time in maintaining it. It has been the most significant initiative implemented by the SRC at THS. Great stuff!!

Cheryl Ward

Pictured at right with their SNAP booklets are SRC Presidents Simon Greenway and Kate Harding



## From the Principal

Two Toormina High School students have been accepted into Southern Cross University's Head-Start Program for 2013. Liam Reynolds has been accepted into Human Physiology and Tarsha Shipman has been accepted into Communication in Organisations. These students will undertake a unit of university study concurrent with their school senior studies in 2013. This is a very competitive process and we congratulate these two students.

Two more students have received recognition last week for their achievements at the International Assessments and Assessments for Schools examination from the University of NSW. Jacob Shand was acknowledged for achieving a High Distinction in Mathematics and Matthew Berrington for his High Distinction in Science. Congratulations go to these students, their parents and their teachers.

Liz Donnan



# Thanks Toormina High!

Former Toormina High School student Billy White has been accepted into TAFTA (The Australian Film and Television Academy) next year.

Billy said he appreciated opportunities he had at Toormina High School to pursue music, drama and to be involved in the musical productions.

He is currently working on a music video for local band 'Sayd' also former Toormina Students. Billy is the son of one of our fabulous teacher's aides Mrs Barb White. Congratulations Billy!

## Toormi Tradies

The Toormi Tradies is a boys initiative started this year as an alternative to traditional schooling.

The Year 9 boys involved are encouraged -

- To learn using hands on methods
- To work as part of a team
- To make decisions
- To listen and talk to others
- To take leadership roles within the group
- To gain skills that may help in future employment

Each week the boys undertake project work that is

usually associated with trades people. Some tasks

completed this year include construction of a shade house for Sawtell Public School, painting of the library toilets, designing and building seating for the school, removal of a brick wall in the electronics room, modification to the canteen and lawn mower maintenance.

The initiative has been a great success this year and as a result of this will continue with a new intake of students for 2013.

Rob Berry Coordinator

Photo shows 'Toormi Tradies' Victor Brown, Brad Innes, Jack Ryan, Leonard Britten and Stormy Smythe



## Generous Donation by Seniors



The State of Origin Work Experience Program enabled six Indigenous Year 11 and Year 12 THS students to travel to Sydney to participate in a work program, leadership seminar and mentoring.

The students also attended the second State of Origin game and a dinner with the NSW players. At the dinner the team signed a football which the students have donated to the THS Support Unit to raffle to raise money towards a pergola to shade students with severe disabilities in the SU playground. Pictured with the football are Jess Sinclair, Jess Summerville, Jarrod Hoskins-McInally and JD McKechnie

Aunty Judith

Tickets are for sale for \$1 each from the Front Office.

# North Coast Win

On Friday, 9th November, a team of 5 competitors ( Blake Greenway, Lauren Dam, Madeline Gough, Cody Bland, Jaydan Stevens) travelled to Yamba Main Beach to compete in the North Coast Surf Life Saving Championships.

Under cloudy skies and testing surf conditions the competitors used their surf and beach skills to contest the main disciplines of surf-lifesaving.

Events included individual age surf races, board races, iron person, beach sprints and flags, as well as a variety of mixed relays. Each of the competitors who attended the carnival showed excellent sportsmanship and competed with skill and tenacity for each event they contested. With some outstanding results being achieved. N. Greenway



**Congratulations to Lauren Dam who won the 16 Years Girl Championship**

# From Classroom to Real Life

Students in the Support Unit have spent the last week constructing a cement slab for our garden shed. Maths outcomes included measurement, calculations and ratios. Next week we hope to assemble the shed so that we can store all of our garden equipment.

N. Belling

Photo shows Jordan Burnett, Mr Belling and Hayden Castle hard at work.



Week 9	DATES
3 - 7.12.12	Yr 10 Work Experience
3 - 5.12.12	Yr 7 Tea Gardens Excursion
6.12.12	Yr 6 Orientation Day
7.12.12	Yr 7 - 11 Minor Awards Ceremony Merit and Encouragement

**\*\*Please inform the office of any changes to your contact details eg. address, email, home phone or mobile**

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