

# NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 6 | November 2013



## MORETON MAGIC!

Toormina High School Year 10 cohort recently participated in an extremely successful excursion to Moreton Island. Mrs McDowell said 'the students were an absolute pleasure'.

The highlight most often mentioned by the students was the opportunity to bond as a year group and make new friendships. Also on the highlight list was the sandboarding, snorkelling with turtles, dolphins, wobbegongs and starfish, campfires with songs, stories and marshmallows and the food and accommodation.

Perhaps this will be the first of many excursions to Moreton Island by THS!





Photo above shows Aunty Karen and our Aboriginal Education Officer, Judith Peen with Nova Peris, Australia's first Aboriginal Olympic gold medal winner and also our first Aboriginal woman elected to Federal Parliament.



Photo above is Aunty Penny with NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli and the Deputy Director-General, Greg Prior.



Trudy Watson, Head Teacher Aboriginal Engagement with author, poet, satirist & social commentator, Dr Anita Heiss.

## BUUNJI

2013 National and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference

**Buunji is a Wiradjuri word meaning 'to share'**

The conference was held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre Bayside Darling Harbour NSW, November 5 to 7, with an evening reception on November 4.

Buunji is a cultural celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, diversity and focuses on the need to embed sustainable practices in our education and training systems.

The three days were hosted by Miriam Corowa, Dr Anita Heiss, and Allen Clarke. Keynote speakers included Stephen Page, Distinguished Professor Graham Hingangaroa Smith, Tanya Denning, and Professor Peter Buckskin. Ministerial and CEC addresses were delivered by Minister for Education Mr Adrian Piccoli and Deputy Director-General Schools, Greg Prior. Also present were Dr Michele Bruniges Director General NSW Department of Education and Communities and Ken Weatherall, Relieving President of the NSW AECG Inc.

Buunji was sponsored by NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Guest performers included: Aboriginal Traditional Dancers 'Descendance'; students from Walgett High School and Collarenebri Central School; Jess Beck and Things; Featured Artists School Spectacular; Tenterfield High School students; Public School public speakers; Moree Secondary College students; and NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples need access to a western education system but not at the expense of their cultural identity. Buunji is an opportunity for inspiration; reflection on practices; and promotion of respect, empowerment, cultural affirmation, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives for identity, diversity and sustainability in educational systems.

Toormina High School facilitated the participation of Aunty Judith, Aunty Penny, Aunty Karen and Trudy Watson. Various sessions were attended and many new connections and networks established or strengthened throughout the conference, which saw participants engaged from 8am till 5:00 pm or later.

Aunty Penny

**CONGRATULATIONS THS!  
Mufti Day raised \$509 for  
Salvation Army Bushfire Appeal**

# NEWS LETTER



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CREATING OUR FUTURE



## REMEMBRANCE DAY



THS held a Remembrance Day Assembly in our School Hall. The school captains ran the assembly and Kaitlin Reeves shared the Acknowledgement of Country. The school band, Emily Taylor, Brian Adam, Brenton Knight and Kieran Lopes, along with Head Teacher of HSIE, Steve Elsley played and Brianna Hawkins-Cain and Maddy Carr sang a moving rendition of 'I was only 19'.

Last week also saw the annual visit by a group of Vietnam War veterans who come and speak candidly of their experiences as soldiers to our Year 10 Modern History classes (photo on left).



## AIRBRUSHING CLASS

The Junior Support Art Class had a treat in Week 4. After busily painting their combined artwork, they had been watching Prac Teacher, Mr. Messer, using an airbrush and all students were given a go. It was great to see the students so engaged with a new technique they had not used before. Thank you Mr. Messer!





## BCU CUP CHAMPIONS

Toormina High School winning teams receive their medallions from Gary Stevenson, NRL Development Officer.



## SALT WORKSHOPS

SALT – Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen. The SALT team organise workshops throughout NSW are funded by Women NSW.

A workshop was recently held at Toormina High School for 16 girls from Toormina High and Coffs Harbour High. This was a follow-up from the Girls in Trades Day which was held on 13th September.

The workshop ran from 11.30 - 3.20pm. The girls had to make a cultery / condiments holder from scratch which involved measuring, sawing, using a drop saw (under supervision!), using cordless drills and hammers. The day was extremely successful and productive. The girls were totally immersed in the day and some of the words used to describe their experience were: fun, fabulous, "woody" and inspirational.

As a result we had several girls express an interest in doing woodwork as an elective in year 10 and also in attending a white card course in a couple of weeks.

Robyn West - Transition Adviser





William Meyrick and Iria Connors with some of the plants the Support Unit students have nurtured.



Another successful **PLANT FAIR** was recently held in the Support Unit.

## TOORMINA TRADESMEN

'The Toormi Tradies' is a program designed to introduce students to the practical application of skills and knowledge they are developing in school.

This term there was a particular focus on the application of numeracy in a 'real' situation for 6 students in Year 7 and 6 student from Year 8.

Some of the jobs that were undertaken included gardening/ landscaping, repair of tables and chairs, painting and general maintenance. For these jobs the students were required to do all the calculations for the ordering of materials and together as a group work out what was needed to complete the jobs.

The group also learn to work in a co-operative way, to think through problems until solutions could be found as well as develop the practical and academic skills required in these activities.

Gavin Vanderkly - Industrial Arts Teacher



EFTPOS will be unavailable at our school office on 27, 28, 29 November.

Any payments made on these dates will need to be made by cheque or cash.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Linda Berry - School Administration Manager



The 'Tradies' hard at work landscaping in the front garden of Toormina High School are Sam Spillman, Blake Adams, Josh Larnach, Jonah McNellee, Jayden Burns and Cooper Davies with Mr Vanderkly.

## LINKS TO LEARNING

Once again, the Links to Learning program is operating for Year 9 boys every Monday. This is a NSW Department of Education and Communities initiative to improve learning outcomes for young people. Our students are making a tool box, book racks and CD tower. Photographed are Dylan Wildstar, Justin Thorpe, Flynn Muir and Cliff Abel.





THS staff embraced the Mufti Day and as it was held on Melbourne Cup day, hats were the favourite choice!

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents,

As you may know, the Digital Education Revolution (DER) project has come to an end and is no longer funded by government. Students from Years 10-12 are able to retain their laptops when they complete their schooling but those currently in Year 9 are required to return them to the school whenever they leave.

From 2014, all students will be able to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) which has the capacity to connect to the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) network. We are currently developing the school's BYOD policy for publication to you by the end of November and we suggest you wait for this before buying a device. Any computer or tablet a student brings to school will be the sole responsibility of the student for maintenance and repair, so it needs to be well protected and robust.

At this point, I understand that the computer or tablet (not mobile phone) needs to support 5Ghz and also 'n' dual band wireless. Screen size needs to be no smaller than 10 inches with a full keyboard. A strong, durable case is required and long battery life will be important.

The recommendation we have is that Microsoft Office 365 and the Adobe Suite will be available at school for free download from the beginning of term 1, 2014, so are not needed when you buy a new computer.

For safety's sake, it is recommended that you arrange a full money-back guarantee on any new device you purchase in case it is not compatible with the DEC system. You may also wish to investigate the benefits of guarantees and insurance as the devices will be used extensively at school.

Best wishes,  
Liz Donnan

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>MON</b>	18/11	Year 8	Sydney Excursion
		Year 7	Excursion
<b>TUES</b>	19/11	Year 8	Sydney Excursion
<b>WED</b>	20/11	Year 8	Sydney Excursion
			P&C Meeting 5:00pm
<b>THURS</b>	21/11	Year 8	Sydney Excursion
			Support Unit Coffee Shop
<b>FRI</b>	22/11	Year 8	Sydney Excursion
<b>TUES</b>	26/11	Year 10	Police Liaison Visit
		Year 6-7	Information Night 6:00pm
<b>THURS</b>	28/11	Year 10	Police Liaison Visit
<b>FRI</b>	29/11	Year 9	Excursion
<b>MON</b>	2/12	Year 10	Work Experience - until Friday 6/12/13
<b>WED</b>	4/12	Year 6-7	Orientation Day
<b>TUES</b>	10/12	Yr 7-11	Presentation Assembly 9:30am

## SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

Congratulations for showing a fantastic attitude that embodies the Toormina High School philosophy of caring, sharing and participating.

JAYDEN KITCHENER

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



## Tolerance: a vital ingredient for your child's success

*Kids who accept differences in others are setting themselves up for success in the world of diversity that they will enter.*



Want your child to be successful way past the confines of the school gate?

Then you need to make sure your child is tolerant of individual differences and accepting of children and adults who look and act differently to them.

There's no doubt that success in today's world depends on the ability to understand, appreciate and work with others. The child who is open to differences is likely to have more opportunities in school, in business and in life in general.

### Schools are diverse places

Walk into any school ground in Australia and you'll witness diversity firsthand. You're likely to see children from many different cultural, racial and family backgrounds. You'll also see kids with different needs and diverse ways of expressing themselves. Some kids will wear their hearts on their sleeves, while others will be taciturn and quiet. Tolerant kids are accepting of these differences. They make friends with children and young people who may look and act differently to them.

### Intolerance breeds bullying

Intolerance, or prejudice, is at the heart of a great deal of the bullying that occurs among children and young people. Kids who look and act differently or who are more isolated often experience bullying for no apparent reason other than the fact that they are 'different'. Whole-hearted acceptance and even appreciation

of differences is a preventative bullying measure that we can all support.

### Tolerance starts at home

Kids learn attitudes such as tolerance from those around them. Children in primary school usually reflect the attitudes of their parents. While adolescents are strongly influenced by their peers, parental attitudes still have a significant impact on their attitudes to other people. In short, if you want your child to be accepting of differences – whether they are racial, cultural, behavioural or in sexual orientation – then make tolerance a family trait. Here's how:

- ✓ **Help your child feel accepted, respected, and valued.** When your child feels good about himself, he is more able to treat others respectfully.
- ✓ **Model acceptance.** Kids learn what they live so make sure you welcome differences in others, and be sensitive to cultural or racial stereotypes. It also helps on a practical level to discuss prejudice and stereotypes when they occur in the media.
- ✓ **Challenge prejudice or narrow-minded views.** Sometimes kids, knowingly or unknowingly, can say the cruelest things about others. As a parent respectfully remind your child or young person about the impact that a narrow view can have on his or her own behaviour as well as on those it may be directed towards. Intolerance of diversity is an attitude that parents should make a stand against.
- ✓ **Answer kids' questions about differences honestly and respectfully.** Teach your kids that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.
- ✓ **Respect individual differences within your own family.** Your ability to accept your children's differing abilities, interests and styles will go a long way towards establishing an attitude of tolerance in the children themselves. By valuing the uniqueness of each member of your family you are teaching your kids to value the strengths in others, no matter how diverse.

Modern Australia is such a wonderful culturally-rich place. This diversity is part of its magic. One way to make sure our children fully appreciate this richness is to fully embrace tolerance in everything we do.

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