

NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 8 | NOVEMBER 2013



AWARD
for
JASMINE and BRIAN



As featured recently in the *Coffs Coast Advocate*, Toormina High students Jasmine and Brian Bolt have received an award from Novaskill. This award was in recognition of the commitment shown by them to overcome the adversities that life has thrown at them. Jasmine and Brian lost their mum, Jo, last year and as she wanted, they have resumed their education.

Brian is using a Pathway approach to his schooling. He will undertake his HSC over three years instead of two to enable him to complete his school based traineeship with CHESS Employment. Jasmine is currently looking for a traineeship that will enable her to do positive work in our community.

They will become the first in their family to finish school and both know how important this was to their mother. Brian and Jasmine wanted to use this article to thank Toormina High and especially Aunty Judith, Aunty Penny and Mrs Donnan for all their support. They also know they are role models to our younger Aboriginal students and are very proud and aware that their experience will encourage others. Congratulations from our THS Community!



AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE JOSH IVES

Year 12 THS student Josh Ives is about to take his place in Team Australia in the Inaugural Special Olympics Asia-Pacific Games to be held in Newcastle in the first week in December. Josh will be competing in the Ten Pin Bowling event after winning gold last year in Sydney.

Josh has been an exemplary student at THS receiving the prestigious Principal's Award in 2011 for Year 10 students. Josh competed against his mainstream cohort to win this award. He repeated this last year winning the Most Caring and Sharing Award for the whole of Year 11. Josh has been a fantastic role model to younger students in our Support Unit and has taken on any challenge presented to him. He has trained as a barista at the Support Unit Coffee Shop, he undertakes work experience in the Pro Shop at the Sawtell Golf Club and at A1 Mobile Mechanical Repairs.

The Special Olympics Asia-Pacific Games will start with a spectacular Opening Ceremony in which Josh will be marching along with 2,500 athletes from over 32 countries. There are 600 coaches and officials, 4,000 volunteers and there will be 200,000 spectators.

Josh has had a lot of support from his family and the THS community and wanted to thank everyone.

You can send Josh a 'herogram' by logging on to -
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/heromessages>



YEAR 7 - THE BIG DAY OUT!





MR LIU'S CHINA MISSION

THS maths teacher Simon Liu will be going to work in an orphanage in China next year. The orphanage is called Refuge of Grace Christian Care Centre. It is located in Luxi County, Pingxiang City, Jiangxi Province, China.

Mr Liu was a volunteer at the orphanage in January 2013 and he saw the great need at the orphanage and so has decided to go back for a more extended period to teach english, maths and computer skills to the 100 orphans living there. Mr Liu said because there was limited staff the children had to get up early to do all their own chores, washing clothes etc..

Mr Liu was interviewed by Daphne Logue and Kyuah Morrison for this article.

If you would like to help please go to <http://www.china-mission.org/>



ENRICHED KIDS

Ms Dawson presented the Maths Enrichment Group with their certificates at assembly last week.

This program has demanded commitment from these students (and Ms Dawson) and all involved should feel very proud of their achievements. Well done!

Cassie Marshall, Elizabeth Ross and Amanda Zerbe have been successful in gaining entry into Southern Cross University 2014 Head Start program.

This program allows students to gain direct entry and advanced standing in a variety of courses offered at SCU once they have completed their Higher School Certificate. Students are enrolled in a choice of university courses enabling them to taste university life, extend their capabilities and give an insight into career opportunities. The successful applicants have been chosen on merit, based on academic performance, a personal statement and principal recommendation.

Rob Berry - Careers Adviser

HEADSTART AT UNIVERSITY FOR THS STUDENTS



WORK EXPERIENCE FOR BREE



Breanna Ballinger is one of our Aboriginal students who is keen to develop vocation skills and increase her knowledge of the hospitality industry. Bree would like a part time job and from all reports she is a fabulous worker who uses her initiative in a busy work place!

Photo above is of Bree gaining some valuable experience helping out at the THS Support Unit Coffee Shop.

Trudy Watson - Head Teacher Aboriginal Engagement

EARLY ENTRY TO UNIVERSITY FOR THS STUDENTS

Each year students can apply for early entry at Southern Cross University, Charles Sturt University and the University of New England. To be eligible, students need to be showing sufficient potential that their teachers feel that they will succeed at university. The advantage of Early Entry is that students are told of their offer in early November where as the main round offers are in mid-January. Offers are not dependant on ATARS and in fact students who are not getting an ATAR can also apply.

This year we had 14 students apply for Southern Cross University, with 13 being successful in gaining their first preference and the remaining student being offered entry to a tertiary preparation course.

The successful students are Carrie Taylor (also accepted into UNE), Demi Herdegen, Drew Meehan, Emily Hodgens, Grace Cavanagh Hayward, Gracie Khalil, Jade McFayden, Jasmine Cridge, Jessica Sinclair, Malcolm Brunton, Michael McDonald, Nathan Cunningham, Rachel Banquiay and Simon Greenway. This is a wonderful opportunity and any student considering any of these universities should apply. 2014 applications will be late July or early August.

Rob Berry - Careers Advisor

SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

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

Daphne Logue, Kyuah Morrison, Aaron Hollier, Aiden Loveday, Jennifer Ridgeway, Kyanna Donovan, April Smith, Mrs Cheryl Ward, Mr Simon Liu, Ms Lina Bluhm.



YEAR 8 - SYDNEY EXCURSION



IMPORTANT DATES - WEEKS 9, 10, 11

MON	2/12 - 6/12	Year 10	Work Experience
TUES	3/12	Yr 6-7	Aboriginal Education Transition Day
WED	4/12	Yr 6-7	Transition Day
FRI	6/12	Year 7	Minor Awards Ceremony
MON	9/12	Yr 7-11	SRC Day Out
TUES	10/12	Yr 7-11	Presentation Assembly 9:30am
THUR	12/12	Year 10	Formal
		Support Unit	Presentation Ceremony
FRI	13/12		10% On Top Morning Tea
WED	18/12	Year 12	HSC Results available
THUR	19/12	Pupil Free	Students - last day 2013 Staff Development Day
FRI	20/12	Pupil Free	Staff Development Day

THS STUDENTS VISIT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Photo is Kenya and Ella with Adrienne Gillingham 2014 Year 7 Adviser



We visited Boambee Public School to share our experiences with the Year 6 students. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing them again and can't wait for them to arrive at Toormina High next year. They seem really excited about their transition from primary school to high school.

We talked to them about our experiences at Toormina High to help them feel more comfortable about starting high school.

Blake McGinty and Jasmyn Newcombe visited Sawtell Public School and Jaimie-Lee Buck, Tori Van Stijn, Kylani Rann and Somahra Fimeri Scott talked to the students at Toormina Public School.

Ella Shaw and Kenya Pederson

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents,

We are working to finalise our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. At present, we are publishing the connection requirements for any student choosing to supply their own computer for school use from the beginning of 2014 when the Digital Education Revolution (DER) ceases and students are no longer supplied with a laptop computer by government.

Please be assured that no student is required to bring his or her own computer as we will have sharing and computers available for loan during the day for lessons and we have a bank of computers in the library for students to access before and after school and at breaks to complete assignments.

The P&C have sent you home a booklet of raffle tickets to help in our fundraising to provide the \$1000 to provide a Rotary Shelter Box for the Philippines. The first prize is a touch screen laptop computer which meets the BYOD criteria very well. It was carefully selected by Craig Holden, our Head Teacher Mathematics and Technology Committee Chairperson as a very good example of what you might consider purchasing.

Second and third prizes are \$150 and \$100 Lowes vouchers. We greatly appreciate this donation by Lowes who will continue to carry our existing school uniforms. We have not been able to conduct the tender process for the design and supply of new style uniforms yet but anticipate doing so during 2014. Please return all money and tickets to us by the last Monday of term, 16th December as we will draw the raffle prizes and let you know the results on Wednesday, 18th December.

Best wishes,
Liz Donnan



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in 2014

What is BYOD?

In 2014 Toormina High School will be allowing students to bring their own device (BYOD) to school. BYOD has been developed to enable students to bring their devices to school to be used in an education setting. This means that students can either purchase a new device or bring a pre-owned device to be used in class in an educational context. It is important to note that participation in BYOD remains optional.

As a component of BYOD, Toormina High School has revised our Technology Policy. This will mean that in Term 1 in 2014 all students will be required to sign the Technology Agreement that covers use of school owned Department of Education and Communities (DEC) equipment and includes BYOD devices in school.

It is because BYOD is being conducted in an educational setting that **THE FOLLOWING DEVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED UNDER BYOD:**

- ✘ smart phone
- ✘ iPod
- ✘ MP3

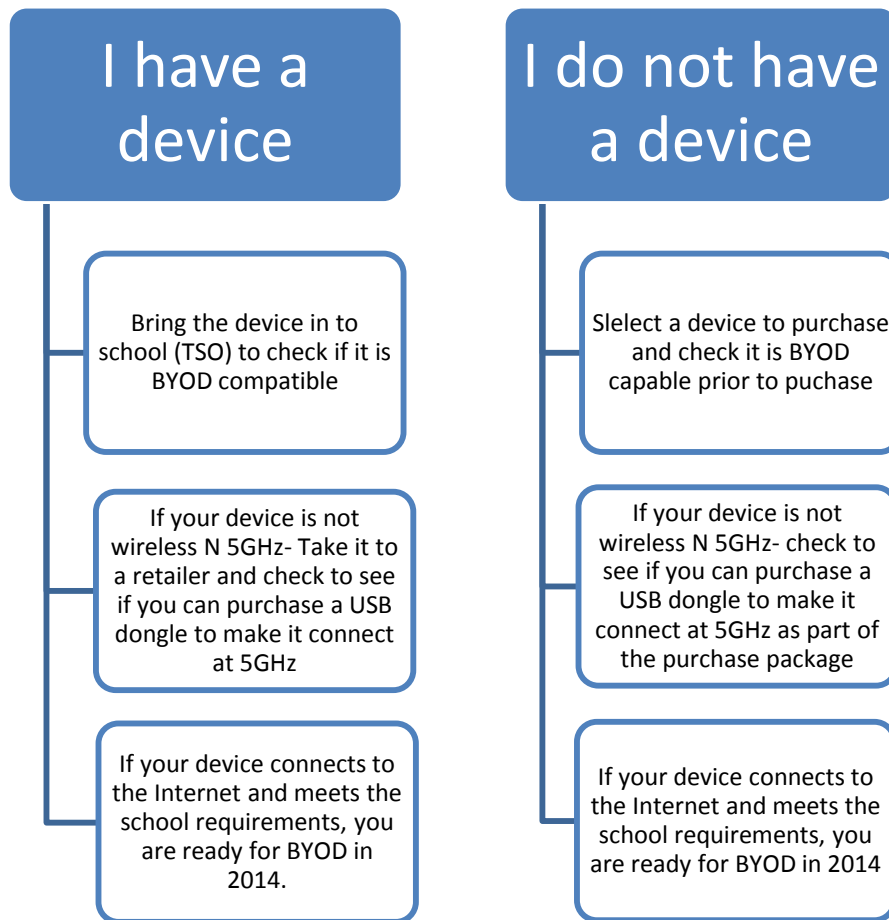
Conditions of BYOD:

- Students will be required to sign a Technology Charter
- Students participating in BYOD will be required to have a laptop bag with a padded area designated to carry the laptop or tablet.
- Students will also need a protective case.
- Student devices are required to meet our minimum specifications which relate to hardware, software, device size and if purchasing a new device; wireless capability.

Not all devices will be able to connect to our wireless system. If you intend to purchase a device for use in the school please take the hardware and software specifications with you when you make your purchase to ensure that the device is compatible with the school wireless.

If you are unsure, contact Ree Higoe, Technology Support Officer (TSO) at Toormina High School for advice and assistance on 6653 3077 or ree.higoe1@det.nsw.edu.au

Steps to BYOD



BYOD Device Software

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has negotiated an agreement with Microsoft so that from early 2014, **school and TAFE students** will be able to install **selected software** for free on their BYOD device including Microsoft Office.

A contract has also been signed with Adobe for Student BYOD software. The new enterprise agreement includes all current and future versions of:

- ✓ Creative Suite (Design and Web Premium, Master Collection)
- ✓ Presenter
- ✓ Captivate
- ✓ Photoshop Elements
- ✓ Premier Elements
- ✓ Connect
- ✓ Muse (simple website creator)
- ✓ Edge Animate

More information about the agreements, and how to make use of them, will be provided to you when the process is complete.

Device Specifications

Hardware Requirements

Tablets:

- Keyboard: a tablet device must have a separate keyboard other than the onscreen keyboard.
- Screen Size: minimum 10"
- Battery life: at least 6 hours

Laptops:

- Weight: maximum of 2.5 kilos
- Screen Size: minimum 10" – recommended maximum 15"
- Battery life: at least 6 hours

NB: All Students carrying any technology must have a laptop bag and case.

All students carrying Technology are responsible for that technology.

System Specs:

- ✓ Microsoft Windows 7 or newer
- ✓ Apple Mac OS X 10.6 or newer
- ✓ Apple iOS 6 or newer
- ✓ Microsoft Windows for Surface RT or newer

Wireless Specs: Wireless N, 5 GHz

High School wireless works on the 5 Gigahertz (GHz) range on the N wireless standard. This is not the same frequency as most smart phones, home and business wireless systems. These work on wireless G band. This means that any device trying to see the school wireless will **need to have wireless N and be on 5 GHz range.** Some wireless N devices may be marketed as "dual band" (meaning the device can use both 2.4 and 5 GHz).

Wireless N capable

Wireless capable does not guarantee that the device is going to work on the 5 GHz range. Many wireless N devices are 2.4 GHz and will not work on 5GHz wireless. If you want to connect to the school wireless, you must ensure that your device has the following wireless specifications:

Device must have 802.11n on 5GHz which can also be known as Dual Band, 802.11abgn, 802.11agn or 802.11ac. NOTE: b.g.n wireless is not 5 GHz however if the specs contain an 'a', for example 802.11 a,g,n this will be wireless N 5 GHz. Wireless 'a' is 5 GHz.

If you own an existing device that will not connect to the school wireless, ask the retailer about a USB dongle that may be able to boost devices to the Wireless N 5 GHz range.

Additional Recommendations:

- Minimum RAM 4GB
- Accidental loss and breakage insurance

Software Specifications:

- Microsoft Word (Windows) or Pages (Mac) or equivalent
- Microsoft OneNote or equivalent
- Virus protection software (eg. Windows devices: Microsoft Security Essentials, Norton and for Apple devices: ClamXav 2 Sentry)

NB: If purchasing a device make sure it is 64 bit. This is because software is no longer as readily provided for older 32 bit devices.

BYOD Device Requirements Checklist

Wireless Connectivity

Wireless Connectivity is key to BYOD devices in schools! Devices must support **802.11n 5Ghz standard**. Devices that do not support this standard will not be able to connect. (Make sure it supports both 'a' and 'n')



Operating System

To ensure the latest programs and software are compatible, we recommend the current or previous version of any operating system.
eg. Windows 8, or Windows 7
iOS 7 or iOS 6

Battery Life

Minimum 6hrs



Devices need to last the school day, we recommend a minimum of 6hrs battery life.



Memory and RAM

16GB Storage at least 2GB RAM

To be able to store and process data effectively these minimum specifications are recommended.

Hardware Features

Keyboard



A separate external keyboard is required.



A stylus, camera, and microphone may also be useful for participation in 21st century learning activities.



Ergonomics

Screen and Keyboard

Ensure the screen is of a reasonable size and the keyboard is easy to use to enable continuous use throughout a school day.

Minimum screen size 10"

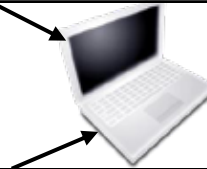
Other essential device considerations

Casing: Needs to be tough and sturdy, can it be dropped without breaking? **Max weight 2.5kg**

Weight: Is the laptop light enough for your child to carry each day?

Durability: Consider the overall durability of the device, are the keys and inputs sturdy.

Look for a tough and thick outer shell



Remember this device is expected to last several years

Accessories



Carry Case: A Carry case or skin is essential in protecting your device and can provide ergonomic advantages.

Insurance: Devices can become lost or be broken easily at school, make sure your policy covers these eventualities.

Backup Storage: It is always wise to keep a backup of all electronic documents, consider a portable hard drive as an appropriate source of backup storage.