

NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 10 | DECEMBER 2013

Thank you!



CREATING OUR FUTURE

Our school has so much community support it would be impossible to thank everyone!

We have listed below just some of the many who have contributed to another successful year at Toormina High and to everyone involved in our school directly and indirectly we say THANK YOU and wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We look forward to your ongoing support and involvement in 2014.

A1 Mobile Mechanical Repairs
ABC Childcare
Absolute panel and Paint
AIME Co-ordinator - Ellen Radnidge
Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
Amart All Sports
Artisti di Espresso
Atkinson's Real Estate
Bakers Delight
Beauty on the Promenade
Matt Baldry - Electrical Contractor
Bananacoast Commercial Agency
Best & Less
Big Banana Ice Rink
Book Warehouse
Bonville Sawtell Lions Club
Brayside Preschool
Bunnings
Busways
Cathryn Burgess - singing tutor
Caba's Drapery
Cafe Splash
Coastal Wardrobes
Coffs Car Ports
Coffs City Council
Coffs Coast Advocate
Coffs Coast Health Club
Coffs Harbour CEX
Coffs Harbour Golf Club Pro Shop
Coffs Harbour Regional Cancer Services
Coffs Harbour Toyota
Coffs Harbour Legacy

Coffs Motorcycles
Country Rugby League
Ann Crane Occupational Therapy Services
Dealer Direct
de Groot and Benson
Andrew Dent Tiling
Fishtales Restaurant
Footprints Early Learning Centre
Colleen Friel Occupational Therapy
Goodstart Early Learning
Hoys Physiotherapy
Ice Design
IGA Boambee
Infracraft Joinery
K & J Trucks
Key Employment
Kinchela Reserve Land Care Group
Kmart
Little Einstein Educational Toys
Nortec
North Wall Surf
Local Aboriginal Elders Group
Mei Wei Lim - accompanist
Marian Grove Retirement Village
Mater Christi Aged Care Facility
National Rugby League
North Coast Doors
North Coast TAFE
NovaSkill
Mark Passmore Plumbing
PCYC
Peter Morgan - conductor
Plumbe Joinery & Construction

Prime News
Pureflow plumbing
Quota International of Coffs Harbour
Raleigh Repton CWA
Renet
Rooney Glass
Rose Avenue Vet Hospital
Rowland Moye Entertainment
RSPCA
M & E Sapienza Electrical
Sawtell Art Group
Sawtell Framing
Sawtell Golf Club
Sawtell Panthers
Sawtell Public School
Sawtell Rotary
Sawtell RSL
Sawtell Surf Lifesaving Club
Sawtell Tennis Club
Senior Constable Snow
Southern Cross University
Starfish Cafe
Superstar Sports
Ten Pin Holiday Lanes
Margaret Thandi - accompanist
The Zonta Club, Coffs Harbour
Toormina Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinic
Toormina Public School
Urunga Butchery
Woolworths Toormina Centro
William Bayldon PS
Wightman Mechanical
Youth Directions

Principal's ADDRESS at PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY 2013

I extend a very special welcome to the Principal of William Bayldon Public School who is planning to leave us and go onto many happy retirement plans in future years. Jim has always had the wellbeing of his students firmly in his heart. Over the years I have worked with him, I have seen time and time again his understanding of young people, his commitment to securing the very best educational and life outcomes possible for them and his infinite good will, good humour and compassion. Jim, congratulations on a brilliant job well done. So many of our students at Toormina High now and in the past are grateful for your professionalism, your expertise and your care. Congratulations, Jim Walsh.

Today we are gathered to honour the achievements of individual students, team and group achievements and whole school achievements throughout 2013. At this point, I congratulate all of you who worked so hard to achieve the academic, cultural, sporting and citizenship outcomes we will acknowledge today. We are very proud of your diligence, your skill development, your creativity and your compassion for others.

The highest academic goal of a secondary school is to develop young people to their highest achievement and in NSW this is measured by their HSC results. One of our achievements as a school in 2013 of which we are very proud, is the number of students who know they have already received early entry to university: Carrie Taylor, Demi Herdegen, Emily Hodgens, Grace Cavanagh-Hayward, Gracie Khalil, Jade McFayden, Jasmine Cridge, Jessica Sinclair, Malcolm Brunton, Michael McDonald, Nathan Cunningham, Rachel Banquillay and Simon Greenway have all been accepted for early entry into Southern Cross University and Carrie has also received the choice of early entry into UNE. Congratulations to all those students.

Our other Year 12 students will find out their results and make their choices about university, TAFE or the workforce next week and we wish them all the very best in achieving their goals. Matt Berrington is a high achiever and he will no doubt recount his first stage of his post-school journey for us today.

Three of our students entering Year 12 for 2014 have also been accepted into Southern Cross University's Headstart Program which allows students to gain direct entry and advanced standing into a variety of courses offered by SCU in 2015 on completion of their HSC. Congratulations go to Cassie Marshall, Elizabeth Ross and Amanda Zerbe on their acceptance into this exciting scheme.

Sporting achievements abound and you will hear about many in the sports report to follow. Nothing, however, gives us more joy and a sense of accomplishment than when we hear of our students excelling at sportsmanship. We expect the highest standards of fair play, doing your best and working as part of a team in every facet of school life. Sometimes in the heat of the moment, adolescents are challenged on the sporting field in unexpected and immediate ways and they have to make instantaneous decisions about their actions. Time and time again, our teacher-coaches come back to school after a difficult situation on the field, completely in awe of our students who have shown respect for themselves, their sport, the opposing team and spectators in a variety of situations. This kind of character-building is not accidental. We expect our students to behave to the highest standards in all aspects of their lives; their coaches teach the value of character in responding to challenges in sport; our parents teach these messages from infancy; and our students take them on board and achieve stunning success – as people and as sporting teams. I would like to commend the Senior Boys' Cricket Team for their outstanding sportsmanship last week in circumstances where they secured a win on the field and an even greater win as people of character by being dignified, controlled and of very strong character and discipline in difficult circumstances. Mr Harrington, I know, was honoured to be your coach on that occasion. We all congratulate you.

The character of the students and teachers at Toormina High was evidenced by the death of one of our Year 10 students, Jake Kedzlie, in April. Jake's life and passing touched so many lives among our students and young people in the wider community. Through the most difficult times of mourning Jake's loss, then celebrating his life, his achievements and his birthday, we were joined with many people and organisations within the community, especially, Jake's parents, the National and Country Rugby League organisations, and Sawtell Panthers, Jake's club. What was very evident is the huge heart Toormina High School has. Teachers, students, parents and counselors all rallied to support our students and Jake's family. The way people supported each other then, and now, is a testimony to the love and kindness we hold so dearly in educating all our students. In particular, I wish to note the seemingly infinite compassion, understanding and kindness shown by Mrs Adrienne Gillingham who gave so much to so many people and does so still. Adrienne, it is an honour to work with you. Thank you.

Tonight we are celebrating the conclusion of 11 years of education with Year 10 at their formal. We see this occasion as representing a milestone in young people's lives and see it as an important event for them to celebrate their achievements while they are still together before they move on in many different directions. I hope you all enjoy your achievements in our celebration tonight, Year 10.

Next year will bring its own challenges and joys. We are looking forward to some major changes in schools as, increasingly, funding decisions are made at school level and students are able to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) as the government's funding of the Digital Education Revolution (DER) ceases from the end of this year. Other changes will come, one being the creation of our first ESL (English as a Second Language class) taught by Mrs Devoy and Ms Menzies. We look forward to welcoming into our school students from countries around the world, many of whom have no English and some of whom may have had no formal education.

In terms of staffing for 2014, the new Deputy Principal who has been appointed is Dr Joanne Bellette. Mrs Bellette is an outstanding teacher and administrator and I welcome her to our school and I hope she has many years of achievement and happiness working with us.

Mrs Jackie Cooper who has been Year 8 Adviser this year is going to what she calls her "dream job" at Narranga Primary School as an Early Intervention teacher. On your behalf, I thank Ms Cooper for all the work she has done with and for our students. Mr Murchie has decided to retire and I wish him happiness and good golf over many years. Mrs Ward and Mr Poidevin are relinquishing their supervision of the Student Representative Council (SRC) which they have done to such success over a number of years. Thank you, to both of you, for your deep commitment to leadership among our student body. I welcome Mr Joseph Anderson and Mrs Kelly Raynor as our new SRC supervising teachers and I know this position will bring you a lot of work and a lot of joy.

Especially, I wish to thank Mrs Kathy McDowell who has stepped up to be Deputy Principal during term 4 this year when Mr Simon McKinney was promoted as Principal to Nambucca Heads High School. Thank you, Kathy, you have done a wonderful job. Thanks and congratulations go to our Deputy Principal, Mrs Erica Lyne, who was yesterday promoted to the position of Principal of Macksville High School. Our school is very lucky to have your services over the past 13 years where you have affected the lives and educational experiences of so many students. I know you will be happy with your new school and I know they will value your leadership.

Thank you to all our parents and families for your support for our school. Thank you for supporting our appeal to buy a Rotary shelter box for the people of the Philippines after the typhoon. The SRC made \$750 last week and the P&C raffle will make up the rest to the necessary \$1000 for us to buy a shelter box which contains a tent and equipment to house up to 10 people who find themselves unexpectedly in dire circumstances. Your kindness is a reflection of our commitment to develop our students' sense of global citizenship.

Congratulations to all recipients of awards today and at the Minor Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Before I present the major awards, I would take this opportunity to I wish you all a safe and happy time over the break and I look forward to working with you again next year.

Liz Donnan



NEWS LETTER



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CREATING OUR FUTURE



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Your 2013 representatives appreciated the challenges and opportunities this year. We enjoyed promoting this great public school- Toormina High - in a positive way to the wider community. For example, by taking a public role in attending events such as Anzac Day and Regional SRC meetings.

Some of the SRC highlights of this year were our school socials which were very well attended and helped us raise over \$3000.

This year the S.R.C. led our school in support of major charity events. We had fun at the same time as benefiting others in our community. Some of the highlights were the Cancer Council's Shave for a Cure \$1400, Daffodil Day \$135, Red Cross Shelter for the Homeless \$1000 and of course the Cancer Council's 'Relay For Life' again (even though it was rained out) we still raised over \$5500 for this awesome cause.

Our major school contributions this year from multi-days, socials and BBQs have been given to support our SNAP AWARDS PROGRAM, our sporting and leadership heroes, Toormi Tradies, and faculty donations for student resources. We also had an international charity focus by sponsoring 10 students in Haiti who have been able to attend school in Bouvier, something that would have been impossible for them, without our support.

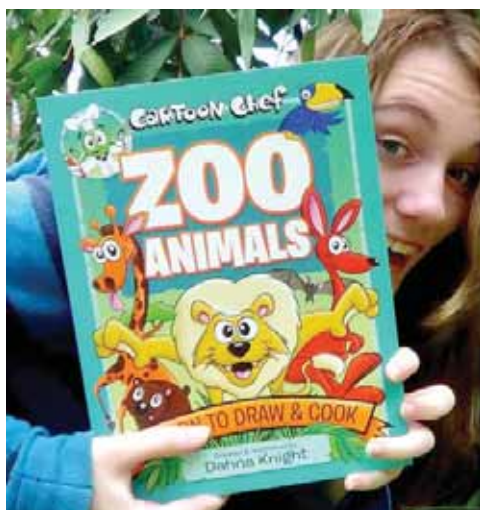
On behalf of the SRC we would like to thank both teachers involved in the SRC: Mrs Ward and Mr Poidevin, for all their hard work, support and dedication. And thankyou to the entire 2013 SRC, it has been a great year working with you all. Tarsha Shipman and Blake Greenway

150 year 6 students attended their Transition Day at Toormina High School last week. The photo right shows Mrs Gillingham, their Year Advisor, welcoming them to the school.

The students were shown around the school in small groups led by the SRC members. They got to experience how exciting high school science can be and participated in activities. The day was a great success and we all look forward to welcoming our new THS Year 7 for 2014!



PUBLISHED AUTHOR!



Toormina High School year 12 student Dahna Knight is Australia's youngest published female cartoonist and illustrator, having her new book 'Cartoon Chef: Zoo Animals' available for sale in both retail stores and online stores. She also has a cartoon strip published weekly in the 'Western Australian'.

The Cartoon Chef is a new and popular character who loves both cooking and cartooning. He can teach you how to do both with easy to follow cooking and cartooning recipes! Try your hand at whipping up a feast of crunchy 'koala cookies' and while they are in the oven, why not pass the time by learning how to draw a cute and cuddly koala?

'Cartoon Chef: Zoo Animals' is available all around Australia and has also been translated into different languages and distributed into overseas markets including the United Kingdom, Hungary, Serbia and Czechoslovakia. Dahna is thrilled to have her book available in many distant continents 'Its so exciting, having not only a published book in Australia, but in other countries with different languages! I never imagined my work being in other countries.' The book is available in Dymocks stores and online stores including 'Amazon' and the 'Book Depository'. Well done DAHNA!



CONGRATULATIONS SEAN!

Sean Lovering in year 11 was recently awarded the Novaskill School Based Trainee of the Year.

Sean has been participating in a school based traineeship since year 10 in 2012 and will complete the traineeship mid way through year 12. His traineeship is with the Coffs Harbour City Council where he works closely with the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

Judith Peen -Aboriginal Education



LEARNING LANGUAGE

This group of year 7 girls have been learning to sing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' in the Gumbaynggiirr language as part of a project by Brian and Jasmine Bolt.

The girls sang at the Presentation Assembly accompanied by Damon Lewis on guitar.

back row

Shanyne Jurd, Allira Walker, Teha Kale Kale, Jasmine Bolt, Mr Mill, Brian Bolt, Chloe Rann, Nika Ryan

front row

Justice Stewart, Nara Donovan, Tiffany Seymour, Tayla McAllistar-Sheather, Tarah Johnson, Jamie-Lee Buck



Coffs Harbour Legacy Bursary Opportunity 2014

Coffs Harbour Legacy will offer Bursary opportunities to students graduating Yr 12 and enrolling in Tertiary studies in 2014. Applications are available to students enrolled in high schools located within the Coffs Harbour and Bellingen Local Government Areas.

One successful applicant from each school will be awarded \$1000 to assist with tertiary education expenses in 2014.

Applicants must be a child or grandchild of a returned Ex-service man or woman as defined by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

For further information please phone the Coffs Harbour Legacy office on 6652 7583 or email activities@chlegacy.com.au. Applications close 28 February 2014.



YEAR 10 - 2013

As the year draws to an end we can reflect on what has been.

The Year 10 Formal was celebrated on Wednesday night at Coffs Harbour Race Club. The students continued to demonstrate what a tremendous group of young adults they are. Everyone dressed in their finery for the occasion and their behaviour was exemplary. This was commented on by all teachers that attended and the venue management. The students put together a slide show of student photos and presented awards for funny attributes.

The year started off with the tragic loss of Jake Kedzlie. The whole year group suffered terribly during this time. The only positive to this experience is how much Year 10 grew and matured. They demonstrated maturity beyond their years in supporting and counselling each other through this period. As a community we can be very proud of these young people.

The year group was very well represented in our two major musical events, "Factorium Fantastica" and the MADD concert. Most of the lead roles and many behind the scenes positions were undertaken by year 10. Students really enjoyed the experience and also being able to work with and mentor students from our Bongil Bongil feeder primary schools.

Our Aboriginal students stamped their name on many of the indigenous activities. Such as, the 'Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience' and 'The Other Election' in which Kaitlin Reeves placed 4th nationally, a great effort.

Other activities undertaken by the year group included Relay for Life (nearly), Shave for a Cure and the Lovebites program. Also, there was the formation of a Year 10 Peer Leaders Group, to mentor our Year 7 cohort.

The highlight of the year for many would have been our trip to Moreton Island. Fun was had by all, sand boarding, snorkelling, singing and just chilling out after a big year.

It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have been your Year Advisor over these past 4 years. To those students moving onto other educational pursuits, I wish them well for the future and remind them they are always welcome to return. I'd like to wish the entire year group a safe and happy holiday over the festive season and look forward to seeing your smiling faces in the New Year.

Greg Driscoll - Year Adviser



DAY of DISABILITY

Toormina High School Support Unit students attended the Day of Disability at Sportz Central last week. A great time was had by all, with plenty of activities and the opportunity to meet students from other local schools.



IMPORTANT DATES

WEEKS 1 & 2 TERM 1 - 2014

MON	27/1		Australia Day Public Holiday
TUES	28/1	Pupil Free	Staff Development Day
WED	29/1	Years 7, 11 & 12	School commences
THURS	30/1	Years 8, 9 & 10	School commences
TUES	4/2	Whole School	Swimming Carnival



SPIRIT of TOORMINA AWARD

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

ERICA LYNE

All donations of unwanted uniform items will be received gratefully at the front office.

*Special
Edition
THS
Christmas
Newsletter
coming soon!*