



## Award winning AUTHOR



Grace Koppman, year 11, has taken the first steps toward fulfilling her dream to become a writer.

Grace has won a short story competition which means her story (reproduced on right) will be published in the 2014 Write4fun anthology.

Congratulations Grace!

She saw a shooting star that night; it was the very first one she had ever seen. Something that everyone made out to be such a common appearance was like a dream for her. She always dreamed that it would be beautiful, a vivid beam of light falling from the sky as if a god above had dropped a precious diamond. It was everything she wanted it to be, sparkling with wonder. No, it was even more than she wanted it to be, because she saw it with two of her greatest friends. Looking back, she was so childish back then, but she was happy, at peace.

Time went on, and with growing up came struggles. She was naive, unknowing of the world's harshness. The cruelty of people around her made her believe negative theories about herself. It took her so long before she realised these horrid assumptions weren't true. Every time she cried in the dark night, she would stare up at the sky, hoping, praying to see a shooting star. These nights, however, always seemed cloudy, the glimmering wonder of the stars hidden from her inexperienced eyes. Perhaps it wasn't really the falling diamond she wanted though; perhaps it was her friends. Her true friends. Now that she'd seen the world's harshness, she realised how special they were- caring and magnanimous. They were distant from her now and she had to endure the emotional battles for herself. Somehow, throughout her pain and suffering she seemed to get by. She grew and matured, and with age came wisdom. The scars withstood by her heart eventually convalesced, however, they didn't disappear. They were still there, but now, they represented her strength. They showed that she'd survived many mental clashes without having her heart break. What didn't kill her made her stronger.

A new year came along; so much time had passed since she'd seen a shooting star. Finally, after so long, she was with her friends again. With them, her pained mind had healed. The invisible poison inside her had withered away, but all the credit for this couldn't be given just to her friends, no. That night, they stared up at the sky, and the clouds parted. Shooting stars, millions of them. Three pairs of eyes were shining, captivated. She started to cry. Such a beautiful sight. Not only that, but she was witnessing it with the two people most special to her in the whole world. Millions of diamonds falling from the sky, maybe this was a celebration. Celebrating that the three of them were finally all together again, or maybe, it was celebrating that she'd finally found herself. She finally found who she really was and where she belonged. A pure soul with no demons chaining her, but it wasn't her friends who had sliced those chains, she had done it herself, they'd only helped her along to achieve such a feat. Her joyous tears gleamed like these infinite falling diamonds. It was a meteor shower.

Grace Koppman



## ICACS Mathematics Competition

Earlier this year, 30 students from year 7 – 10 took part in the International Competitions and Assessments For Schools (ICACS) Mathematics competition .

This week we received our results and all students who participated did very well. Special mention goes to the 11 students who received credit and distinction awards as follows :

### Distinction

Drew Gilcrist and Luke Zerbe.

Luke Zerbe was presented with the Principal's Award for his outstanding achievement.

### Credit

Layne Murphy, Zachary Brooke, Emily Bond, Tori Van Stijn, Zyla Steele, Hannah Richardson, Hunter Bake- Smith, Danielle Tate, Johan Newman, Michael Morrison.

Renee Dawson - Mathematics Teacher

## New on our school website this week.....

- Illness Misadventure Form
- Leaving school? Literacy and Numeracy test information available.

THS website also has news, important dates and HSC information.



## Year 9 AGRICULTURE

Students are studying the care and development of the chickens. They will weigh the chickens weekly and observe the changes in their behaviour and feathers. The students will also be conduct an experiment to see what effect feeding the chicks purple corn will have on their weight compared to regular yellow corn.

Year 9 Agriculture students holding 2 day old chicks are Zack Smith, Charlie Towells, Kaitlyn Bland, Hudson Khalil, and Chassidy Rerekura.  
Andrew Willhoite -  
Agriculture Teacher





## The 'Toormi Tradies Garden Club'

Members of Toormina High School Garden Club have installed a vegetable garden in the agriculture area of the school. The students have conditioned the soil with mushroom compost and mulched the plot with sugarcane bagasse. They will tend the garden as part of their mathematics curriculum, which integrates mathematics into real life situations. This is a project instigated by Craig Holden, Head Teacher Mathematics, to educate students on the use of mathematical principles in horticulture. Students have measured the growth rates of plants and calculated the amount of fertiliser required.

Their supervising teacher, Dudley Bertram, along with assistant Ms Sue Flick, explained that the student garden provides hands-on experience for students to observe the life-cycle of edible plants over the course of a year, as the students plant, cultivate and harvest the crops.

The students have discovered the challenges of horticulture, enduring raids from galahs, loose chooks, wood ducks and ducklings who like to eat the lettuce and dill seedlings. So... somewhere out there in the region are pre-seasoned ducks and ducklings.

Students are excited to be sharing their knowledge of planting and caring for a garden with other students and plan to prepare a slide show for some of their classmates, which will promote gardening and environmental issues. Members participate in garden study, take horticultural field trips and have prepared floral arrangements for the administration offices. Staff in the agriculture area have helped by making sure the plot was irrigated, for this the students are very appreciative. Students have seen the results of their hard work and this culminated in the successful sale of their first batch of produce on Wednesday, week 2. Students will continue to sell their produce each Wednesday morning at recess in the hall outside the library.







## HEADSPACE COMES TO TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL

'headspace' delivers early intervention services to young people (12 to 25 years of age) who are at risk of experiencing, or are experiencing, emerging mental health issues. This service is provided under a multi-discipline model. At headspace Coffs Harbour we have general practitioners, psychologists, psychiatrists, a Mental Health nurse, Drug & Alcohol Counsellor, Sexual Assault Counsellor and youth workers.

'headspace' Coffs Harbour is excited about the prospect of partnering with Toormina High School to improve young people's access to headspace services. One of our experienced youth workers, Jo Magill, will be working at Toormina High School every second Thursday to provide access for students who may benefit from services delivered by headspace Coffs Harbour and to provide some ongoing assistance to students already accessing headspace Coffs Harbour services.



## BOOKS FOR SUPPORT UNIT

In a world of touch screens, iPads, smart phones and bluetooth; fortunately there is still room for books.

Thanks to Mick Maley from Coffs Harbour Triathlon Club for the generous donation of \$1,000 to purchase high interest reading books for the Toormina High School Support Unit.

Photograph above is teacher, Helen Howard, with students, Liam Sims and Ben Thorn.

Chris Browne - Head Teacher Support

## PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Dear Parents,

Again we are in a very busy term. I encourage you to read about the many activities your child has available at our school.

Plans for our new uniform and the school Uniform Shop and opening hours during the last week of the January holidays will be published as soon as they are finalised. We will be starting the year with the school shirt and shorts available for all students and also to be worn for sport. The junior girls' blouse and 7-12 tracksuit have also been approved by the Uniform Committee. I thank the Committee for all their hard work so far. There is more to come as we are approving items for production only when we are sure the design and fabric are suitable. I hope you approve of our new look starting in 2015.

Best wishes,  
E. Donnan

## SPIRIT of TOORMINA AWARDS

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

Keely Van Stijn  
Danielle Tate  
Jireh Joaquin  
Beth Sorenson  
Chassidy Rerekura  
Obian Laidlaw  
Tori Rose  
Hannah Davies  
Luke Field  
Kate Malcolm  
Kieran Lopes  
Aimee Donaldson

## YEAR 9 are 'UNI BOUND'!

On Tuesday, October 14, 25 year 9 students attended Southern Cross University's 'Uni Bound' program. This program is aimed at increasing understanding of higher education and career options.

Students were able to participate in seminars on critical thinking where they worked in teams. They toured the library and after lunch attended a psychology lab and a midwifery lab to gain insight into tertiary education. Shar Valentine - Year 9 Adviser



Comments from some of the students...

'It was good, insightful and fun'. Orion

'It was a great day. We learnt a lot and it was ssmmmoooth'. Victor

'It was very informative. I didn't know there were so many courses and studies to do at our local uni!' Grace

'It was an excellent experience and opened up my mind to new opportunities'. Hannah





## Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers

A free 2 hour workshop provided by NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

The workshops provide practical advice about:

- The new changes to the Learner Driver Permit,
- The new Safer Drivers Course,
- How to use the Learner Driver Log Book,
- How to plan driving sessions,
- How to deal with difficulties that may arise during driving practice,
- The importance of giving the learner constructive feedback.

The workshops are designed to help learner driver supervisors plan the best on-road experience for learner drivers and include information about the current licence conditions for learner and provisional drivers, young driver safety issues and low risk driving.

Who should attend:

- Parents, friends or relatives who are/will be supervising drivers
- Learner drivers are welcome to attend if accompanied by their supervisor

The workshop will be presented by the Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) in partnership with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

### IMPORTANT DATES - WEEKS 5 & 6

**MON** 3/11-7/11 Year 12 HSC

**WED** 5/1-7/11 Year 8 Sydney Excursion

**MON** 10/11-14/11 Year 7, 8, 9, 10 Examinations

### Apprentice Glazier/Shopfitter

Are you keen to work, willing to travel and able to work as part of a team?

Do you have carpentry skills and a driver's licence?

If this sounds like you and to find out more please email Cliff Perrie at [cliff@higlazecontractors.com.au](mailto:cliff@higlazecontractors.com.au)

# Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

TIME & DATE:

Thursday 11 December  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

VENUE:

ETC Office  
80 Grafton Street  
Coffs Harbour

BOOK NOW ON:

[www.etc ltd.com.au/rms](http://www.etc ltd.com.au/rms)  
Ph: (02) 6650 1969  
Freecall 1300 359 968

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

