



CREATING OUR FUTURE

HSC BEGINS!



In 2016, 8 students from our current year 9 cohort are beginning the journey for their HSC. Due to a very strong cohort of students in this year and their hard work and dedication, these students have completed the requirements for year 10 mathematics and the ROSA. The students will undertake study in the Preliminary course for Mathematics, with 3 students beginning the preliminary Course for Mathematics Extension 1.

This is a fantastic and unique opportunity for these students to continue their learning in mathematics and progress as a group. The students will be supported by having in class preparation for the remainder of term 4.

The advantage of this program will be the early completion of 2 units of study for their HSC, allowing students to take on subjects offered by universities in year 12 or to have more time to focus on other subjects.

The students are Mycah Richards, Kiarna Ryman, Luke Zerbe, Drew Gilcrist, Hunter Bake-Smith, Hannah Richardson, Zyla Steele and Nika Ryan (absent from photo).

Renee Dawson, Mathematics Teacher

2015 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARDS



The North Coast Regional Aboriginal Education Awards for 2015 were held at Woolgoolga Public School. The award recipients were selected from nominations taken from schools stretching between the Nambucca Valley and the Lower Clarence. We are thrilled to have gained 6 of these awards. Iraia Connors received an Encouragement Award, Jayden Kitchener-Waters and Georgia Elliott were acknowledged for Outstanding Student Participation, Damien Dickson was recognized for his Outstanding Achievement in Sport, Erykah Kitchener-Waters gained the Student Leadership Award and finally for her years of service to Aboriginal education, Judith Peen also gained an award.

The ceremony also called upon Erykah to be the MC and she made us all proud as did her brother Jayden who stepped in voluntarily to take over so he could announce his sister's award. **Toormina had more recipients than any other school which is a real testament to the quality of our Aboriginal students.**

Helen Young, Deputy Principal (Relieving)

Absent from photo, Judith Peen and Iraia Connors

An exciting opportunity exists for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who may be interested in obtaining a Business Services Cert II qualification with Westpac Banking Group, Coffs Harbour. This traineeship is directed at current year 10 students going into year 11.

Interested students should see Mrs West for more details.

Resume and a cover letter should be submitted online at maxima.com.au/banking-careers.



EXCELLENCE in TEACHING AWARD

Each year the local regional committee of the Australian Council of Educators (A.C.E) presents awards to teachers recognising those who have excelled in their professional practice.

Toormina High school is proud to announce that Sheridan Johnston from our PE faculty was a 2015 recipient of this prestigious award.

Sheridan has shown excellence; through quality teaching programs and initiatives, dedication to the teaching profession, extending students in her care and for training each weekend, and then marching for 48 hours solid, with a group of students in their participation of the Kokoda Challenge. Sheridan accepted her award at a ceremony in Port Macquarie.

Congratulations Sheridan!

Kathy McDowell, Deputy Principal

CONGRATULATIONS JESSE and NATHAN

IMPORTANT DATES

MON	9/11 - 17/11	Year 8	Science VALID Test
FRI	13/11	Year 12	Exploring Early Childhood Task due
TUES	17/11		2016 Yr 7 World Orientation Day
THURS	19/11	Year 11	RRisk Program
		Year 12	SLR First Aid Task due
		Year 12	Drama Studies Assessment due
FRI	20/11	Year 9	Excursion
		Year 12	PDHPE Assessment due
		Year 12	Ind.Tech Assessment due

Egan Reynolds has been successful in gaining entry into the Defence Force with a start date in early 2016.

Jesse Kirkman will take on the role of Boys School Captain and the Student Executive Team have voted in Nathan Pollitt as Boys Vice Captain with both appointments becoming effective immediately.

Laura McRae, Head Teacher Welfare





A group of Year 9 students from THS recently attended Southern Cross University's Uni-Bound Residential School. The students attended a two day/ one night University experience, where they participated in a wide range of on-campus activities. Some of the activities in which they participated were: Information Technology, Psychology, Tourism & Hospitality, Midwifery, Law, Sports & Exercise Science, Careers and Marine Science.

The program aims to demystify university life including; more involved investigations of course subjects, experiencing interactive activities, campus tours and learning from and interacting with university students from diverse backgrounds.

Corey Warn, Tahlia Dolling, Samantha Morrison, Lachlan Styles, Jessie Dawson, Tamika Beard and Courtney Miley gained a valuable insight into university life from this experience.

Robyn West, Careers Adviser

UNIVERSITY BOUND



FAREWELL HENRY

Henry Wabwile has been a great asset to the ESL/EALD team. Henry has the ability to connect with our ESL/EALD students and inspire them to work hard. Henry knows intimately the struggles of arriving in a new country. Henry has a thirst for knowledge and asks challenging questions in the class, prompting the ESL/EALD students to do the same. The THS community wish Henry and his wife a safe and enjoyable trip back to Kenya where they are establishing a tour company.

www.henryandjan.com

What is Gonski?

The National Education Resource Allocation (Gonski) Agreement is the largest social reform to education in the last 30 years and is designed to ensure that every Australian child, no matter what their background, can get a high quality education.

The funding began in 2014, after the independent Gonski Review warned too many Australian children were missing out on the education they needed due to a lack of resources. The review, headed by respected businessman David Gonski, said Australia was under-investing in education and not delivering funding where it was needed the most. Under the Gonski plan all schools are funded according to the individual needs of their students and what is required to educate them to a high level.

Gonski funding was agreed and signed-off to increase each year until it hits the 6th year in 2019. Once each school reaches the minimum resource standard at the 6th year, then it was also agreed that this standard would never be breached or be allowed to drop below that standard again. This minimum standard was agreed to continue into perpetuity.

I urge everybody to support Public Education and the good work being achieved by Gonski at Toormina High School and other public schools in the region.

Daniel Laing



Skoolbag is a FREE app for your smartphone, ipad or tablet which allows you to receive alerts and information & the newsletter instantly from our school.

We are encouraging everyone to please install Skoolbag. This is an easy, cost effective means of communication for THS. Simple instructions are on the THS website or contact us for help on 66533077.



Congratulations to mathematics teacher, **Kali Roraduri** who was married recently. He received the THS Tiara for newlyweds at the staff meeting last week.



Branden Gregg, Gabriel Diallo-Wigzell and Meg La Macchia feed the axolotls.

AXOLOTLS

Coffs Coast Pets in Toormina has provided two pet axolotls for the students in Laboratory 1. The students will be able to care for them and watch their behaviour. Year 7 have been learning about classification and have recognised Axolotls as a type of amphibian not a fish. We are hoping the axolotls will breed and the students will be able to examine their life cycle.

Thank you to COFFS COAST PETS at Toormina for their generosity.

Michelle Nicholls, Science Teacher

YOUNG SCIENTISTS



On Thursday the 5th November, a group of 24 eager students made the trip across to the University of New England for the annual 'Science in the Bush' event. For many students, it was their first visit to a university and they were able to experience science on a whole new level.

Highlights of the day included: exploring the outer edges of the Universe with an astrophysicist, creating some extremely disgusting and highly believable wounds in the medical wing, learning the art of sport psychology and practising their detective work in the forensic chemistry lab.

It was a great opportunity for the students to use state of the art facilities in order to understand a little more about the different kind of work scientists do in the real world. It was such a great day out, many of the students are already asking to go again in 2016.

Derek Howard, Science Teacher



CONGRATULATIONS

This term Toormina High students participated in the South Coffs Community Garden Logo Competition.

Amanda Flack a committee member gave us a little brief about the new garden;

A little background on our garden, we are intending, pending council approval to establish a community garden at the location next to the Boambee East Community Centre on Bruce King Drive. Our aim is to create through the garden a "cultivating community" as we passionately believe that community engagement will be the key to our gardens success. One of the ways we thought to start this community engagement was through asking the children of our community to create a logo that we then can use on our letter head and flyers, one that will capture the sense of the community we are trying to develop. Our MISSION; To create a community garden of organically grown fruits, vegetables and flowers using best horticultural practices; to provide a capacity for building strong community relationships including the disadvantaged; to cultivate a community of committed to sustainable land use, waste management and recycling, whilst recognising the cultural significance of the land to the Gumbaynggirr people.

South Coffs Community Garden Inc. would like to congratulate the following students have won prizes in our South Coffs Community Garden Logo competition.

Excellence Award went to Pornltra Thasadon (Pam)

16 yrs - SPRINGLOADED 10 PASS PRIZE

Recognition Award went to Erin Potter

14 yrs - BIG BANANA MINI GOLF PRIZE

Encouragement Award went

Lainey Gow

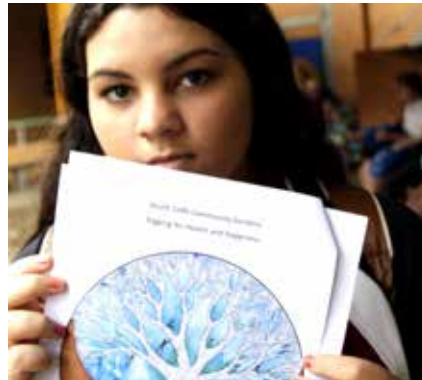
15 yrs - YOGHURLAND GIFT CARD

Plus the overall Winners:

Jodie Wood / Oliva Abel/ Aryan Mather

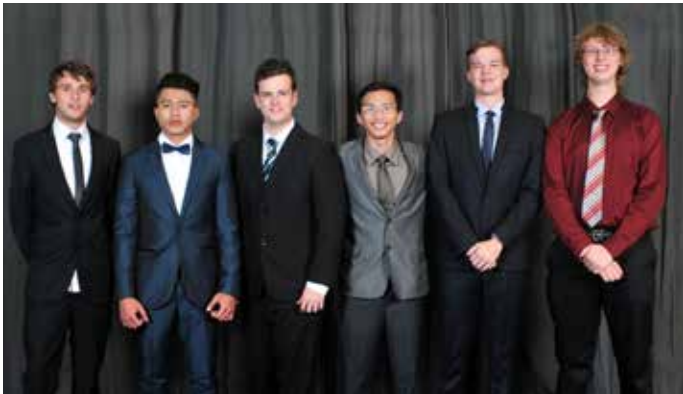
Congratulations all students!

South Coffs Community Garden Inc



THS CREATIVITY

Our EALD students, Parwez Gul Abdullah and Shahnaz Abdullah painted henna designs on art teachers Rebekah Schafer and Hannah Campbell (pictured above). On right, is teacher, Tanya Cheers, proudly displaying Nasimeh Ghorbani's excellent backpack made in her textiles class.



2015 YEAR 12 FORMAL

Year 12 celebrated the end of their high school education with a wonderful night at Opal Cove. More photos are on the school website and CDs for the year 12 cohort are available at the front office.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS VISIT

Over the past few weeks Mrs McRae, myself and some wonderful year 8 student ambassadors have been visiting our primary schools and meeting the year 6 students.

The THS year 8 students had some valuable advice on high school life to impart. Whilst the Y6 students were shy to begin with we fielded many questions to help calm their nerves about starting high school. Photo on right shows our ambassadors at Boambée Public School.

Leanne Firkins, Year 7 Adviser 2016





REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY 2016

Erykah Kitchener-Waters (on left) began our Remembrance Day assembly with an Acknowledgement of Country. School captains, Shaylee Poole and Jesse Kirkman addressed the students on the importance of Remembrance Day then Jayden Kitchener-Waters and Caitlyn Bland sang 'He was only 19'.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THS TEACHERS

Throughout this year four teachers from THS have been involved in further professional development as part of the Teacher Talk course. Jenny Bryant, Greg Driscoll and Lisa Mullan recently completed the Foundation course which focused on classroom management and instructional strategies aimed at increasing student engagement.

Julie Roberts also completed the follow-on course in Instructional strategies and is about to begin training as a Conference Accredited teacher, enabling her to give feedback on lesson observations in order to further develop our staff. The Teacher Talk course has spread across 5 schools and there will be opportunities for staff members to enroll next year, all of which will benefit our students.

SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

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

*Jannaya Burnett *Emily Patston
*Rylie Morrison *Tyler Brunton

NEWS LETTER



TERM 4 | WEEK 6 | NOVEMBER 2015

NETBALL NEWS

Toormina High School's Under 15's Netball Team participated in a Zone Knockout Gala Day at Sportz Central.

Toormina came away with 2nd in the zone with a young team who have a lot of potential for next years carnival.

Results from the day were as follows:

Bellingen def Orara

Toormina def Dorrigo

Woolgoolga def Bellingen

Zone grand final: Woolgoolga def Toormina.

Congratulations girls!

Sheridan Johnston - Team Coach



Congratulations

to Liz Davis for 20 years of dedicated service to Toormina High School.



MID NORTH COAST TENNIS REPRESENTATIVE

THS year 8 student, Luke Field, represented the North Coast in the Boys Tennis Team at the Combined High Schools trials. Luke was the number one player for the MNC team and played well all carnival, overall the MNC team came 6th in the state. Congratulations Luke!

Simon Bilsborough, CHS Co-ordinator

Principal's Column

After much hard work and self-reflection Toormina High School will this week complete the Department of Education's External Validation Process. I am pleased to share with our staff, students and community the results of the external review which found that our school is achieving outstanding results in a variety of areas including: curriculum and learning, school planning and implementation, student wellbeing, collaborative teaching practices, and in the development of leadership skills in staff and students. Based on the new school planning process, the external review (conducted by a Principal School Leadership Officer and the Principal of another school) involved the development of a school summary which reflected on the Toormina High School's progress toward excellence in the areas of learning, teaching and leading.

In this first year of our new school plan I am pleased with the progress the staff, students and community of Toormina High School have made toward meeting the milestones in our school plan and ultimately our three strategic directions (Creating Our Future Learners, Creating Our Future Leaders, Creating Our Future Community). In the coming years we will continue to strive toward excellence as we further embed our new programs into practice. Areas we have identified for further development in 2016 and beyond include the broadening of our collaborative practices through Project Based Learning to eventually encompass all KLAs; the further development of our future staff leaders as they undertake action research projects as part of the Aspiring Leaders Project; the amplification of our connections with our school community in our Alternative Education Programs to meet the needs of our students; and, the ongoing work to improve student learning outcomes through CREST Senior Mentoring and the Intensive Literacy Project. I'd like to give particular thanks to the school executive and the following staff who have been of great assistance in this challenging process including: Kathy McDowell, Helen Young, Julie Roberts, Sue Winsor, Matt Francis, Laura McRae and Graeme Ross from Coffs Harbour Office.

Dr Joanne Bellette
Relieving Principal



SMOOTH GROOVE The Support Unit Coffee Shop was entertained last week with music from teachers, Chris Browne and Kyle McGeary and local musician and parent, Tony Harvey.



TEST MARKING continues at this time of the year for all staff and science teacher, Derek Howard is in the thick of it!

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL NOTES
AND PAYMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS ARE
RECEIVED BY THE FRONT OFFICE.**
Excursions involve organisation on many levels and
we have four in the next few weeks.
Please contact the school for further
information if needed, 66 533 077.



National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Project



pathfinders

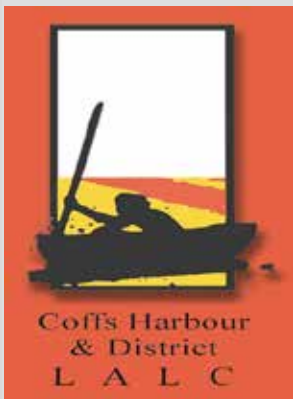
A PATHFINDERS PROJECT

The Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Project is proudly delivered by Pathfinders Inc. and proudly supported by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet via the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

A free Birth certificate is available for Aboriginal applicants that meet the following criteria

- ◆ Are preparing to attend pre-school
- ◆ Are preparing to attend primary school
- ◆ Are preparing to attend secondary school
- ◆ Are transitioning from school to the workforce
- ◆ Are transitioning from school into further education
- ◆ Were born in NSW, Qld, ACT or Vic.

Parents/Guardians and young people 16 yrs and over must bring 3 forms of ID from the following



**Tuesday 17th
November
10 am – 3 pm**

**Coffs Harbour Local
Aboriginal land
Council**

Grace Roberts Hall

**Wongala Drive, near
corner of Pacific
Highway and Arthur
St (its newly named
and wont appear on
GPS)**

Coffs Harbour.

Category 1 (You need one from here)	Category 2 (You need 2 from here)	Proof of Guardianship (You need one from here)
Driver's License	Medicare Card	Child's name on medicare card
Passport	Credit or Debit Card	Child's name on C'link card
Firearm's License	Proof of Age Card	Letter from at GP
RTA or RMS Photo card		Letter from Centrelink
Centrelink Benefit Card		
Certificate of Aboriginality		
Marriage License		

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