



CREATING OUR FUTURE

La Calaveras y La Catrinas



Over the past few weeks the Year 10 Visual Arts-Mixed Media class have been exploring the artistic and cultural practices behind the traditional Mexican celebration 'Day of the Dead'. The unit was brought to a show-stopping conclusion with a photo shoot on Tuesday afternoon, where Year 10 painted, posed and paraded as La Calaveras or La Catrinas ala Day of the Dead. The frightening display showcased some of the artistic talents of Year 10, who are to be congratulated on the tremendous effort they put into the production – Ole! Bravo!
Hannah Campbell, Teacher Visual Arts



Best Wishes Lorraine!

Lorraine Ross is a much respected member of our SASS who has brought a wealth of experience to her role as Executive Assistant. In her years at Toormina High School Lorraine has worked closely with the senior executive and staff on the development of our Annual School Reports, the management of formal communications with parents and other parties, records maintenance and a variety of other key jobs. Lorraine's knowledge and expertise will not be entirely lost to Toormina High School, however, as she moves into a role of casual support as required in 2016. Thank you for all of your hard work Lorraine.

Dr Joanne Bellette, Relieving Principal



Year 8 SCIENCE TESTS

VALID stands for Validation of Assessment 4 Learning and Individual Development. All Year 8 students in NSW participated in this online Science test during the past fortnight. Knowledge and understanding of Science and the skills in working scientifically and communicating scientifically were assessed. The results will be available early in 2016 and mailed to families with a detailed outline of students strengths in Science. A follow-up test will be carried out in Year 10. This will allow students, parents and staff to determine the long-term success of curriculum programming in the core subject of Science.

Jenny Bryant, Head Teacher Science

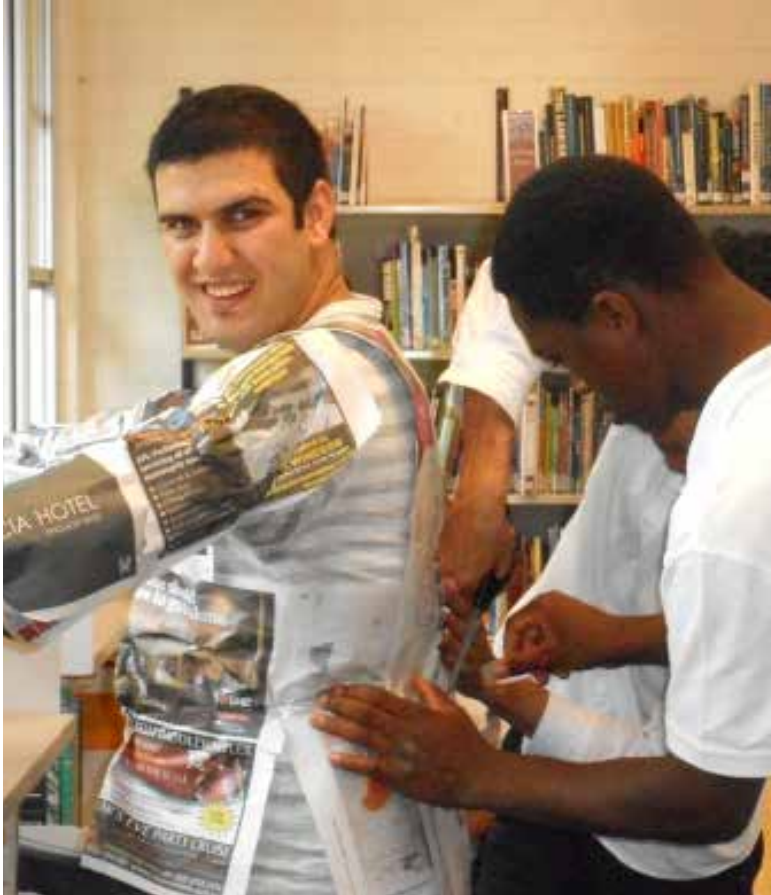
SCU INFO DAYS 2015

Southern Cross University is pleased to extend an invitation to attend one of their Info Days at the campus of your choice. SCU Info Day will provide the opportunity to find out more about courses, university life and the types of services and support SCU offers to help students achieve their potential. You are welcome to bring along friends and family to explore the beautiful campuses and facilities, meet staff and student ambassadors.

Coffs Harbour campus, December 7,
Lismore campus, December 9 and Gold Coast campus, December 11.

More information is available on the SCU webpage: <http://scu.edu.au/scuinfoday>

The Ready Arrive Work Program



The RAW program is a Department of Education initiative that provides year 10 to year 12 EAL/D students an opportunity in the region to network, share stories and gain a better understanding of the demands of gaining employment.

Twenty-seven students from Toormina High School, Coffs Harbour High School and Orara High School participated in the 'RAW' program over a three-day period. Key topic areas that were presented included: 1) Identifying employability skills and attributes, 2) Career Planning and Goal Setting, 3) How to write a resume and covering letter, 4) Where to look for jobs, 5) How to analyse job advertisements, 6) How to conduct oneself in a job interview, 7) Appropriate dress standards, 8) How to build healthy relationship with co-workers and employers, and 9) the Culture of the Australian workplace.

The EAL/D students at T.H.S. wish to thank Orara High School for hosting the event, Robyn West for organising and enrolling the students and Barb White for her assistance over the three days.

Daniel Laing, ESL Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

MON	30/11	Year 12	Chemistry Assess due
		Year 7	Take Heart Australia
TUES	1/12	Year 12	Biology Assess due
			CAPA Show
		Year 7	Excursion
WED	2/12 - 4/12	Year 8	Excursion
THURS	3/12	2016	Orientation Day
		Year 7	
		Year 12	Business Studies Assessment due
			Musicale Committee meeting 3:30 - 4:30pm
FRI	4/12	Year 12	English Studies Assess due
		Year 12	Maths Ext2 Assess due
MON	7/12		Merit & Encouragement Awards Assembly
		Year 12	English Adv & Standard Assess due
TUES	8/12	Year 10	Formal
		Year 12	Maths Gen & Maths Assess due
THURS	10/12		Academic Excellence Awards Assembly, 10am, THS Hall PARENTS WELCOME
		Year 12	Physics Assess due
FRI	11/12	Year 12	Legal Studies Assess due
FRI	11/12	Whole School	Mufti Day
MON	14/12	Year 12	Maths Ext 1 Assess due
WED	16/12	Whole School	LAST DAY TERM 4
THURS	17/12		Musicale Committee meeting 3:30 - 4:30pm
2016			
THURS	28/1	Year 7	First day Term 1, 2016
FRI	29/1	Year 11 & 12	Return to school & 12
MON	1/2	Year 8, 9 & 10	Return to school



Toormina High has been busy transitioning some of our incoming year 7 students. During week 7 we were happy to host taster lessons in art and cooking, some of our Aboriginal students also had an orientation visit to the school with Aunty Judith, as well as a day visit for some of our 2016, 7 World students, who had classes in PE, art and a race around the school.

It was great to see these excited new faces enjoy their time at our high school.

Leanne Firkins, 2016 Year 7 Adviser

A little taste of high school!



It is with great sadness that the TAS faculty bids farewell to Judy Phemister. She is leaving us to enjoy her time as a grey nomad. She has been a great asset to the faculty. Judy has taught our students in the Food Technology and Textiles rooms over the past years. She recently took up the challenge to deliver the Hospitality course after Leigh Doyle retired. This required a great deal of training and the gaining of industry experience on her part. The course as it is now is a credit to her. She has even recently rewritten the program, in line with the new syllabus, for those who are to take over from her.

She leaves us to spend time with her family and to tour the country with her husband, best wishes Judy from the THS Community.

Greg Driscoll, Head Teacher TAS (Relieving)

FAREWELL JUDY!



SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

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

Blake Pollard Cameron Pollard Joel Morris
Jim Dickson Alinta Carberry Iraia Connors



Congratulations Gypsy!

Zonta is an international organisation which aims to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs, and has a commitment to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The Coffs Harbour branch of Zonta International invited schools to nominate a senior student to participate in a competitive application process which was designed to identify the local recipient of the "Young People in Public Affairs Awards". Gypsy-Lee Musumeci presented a power speech at the awards evening on Wednesday 18th November. She was awarded the Pat Funnell Encouragement Award and has been invited to speak at the Coffs Harbour International Women's Day breakfast in 2016. Congratulations Gypsy!
Laura McRae, Head teacher
Welfare

WELL DONE Year 9 & 10 PE ELECTIVE STUDENTS!

THS PE elective students again received praise and thanks for a job well done, (printed below) after assisting with the organisation at a Gala Cricket Day organised by NSW Cricket.

This year the students have also helped staff at the Mid North Coast Primary Athletics Carnival, Bonville Public School Swimming Carnival, Toormina Public's K-2 Athletics Carnival, the North Coast Athletics Carnival and have also assisted with referee duty at soccer, rugby league and netball events.

These students are great ambassadors for Toormina High School and gain valuable experience and skills under the supervision of Simon Bilsborough. Congratulations!

I wanted to pass on my thanks and the thanks from the Cricket NSW Development Officers on what a great bunch of kids you sent over to help us last week. They were a credit to your school and great role models for our students. They made life easy for our staff and kept our students engaged. It's great that we are able to call on your students for assistance. Please pass on my thanks to them.

Regards,
Nathan Pike, Toormina Public School

**THS UNIFORM SHOP
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY,
DECEMBER 7.**

Sorry for any inconvenience.

**2016 Yr 7 Book Packs are
now available from THS
Uniform Shop, \$62 with
calculator, \$42 without
calculator.**

Trading Hours January 2016

TUESDAY, 19 January 9 - 3
WEDNESDAY, 20 January 9 - 3
THURSDAY, 21 January 9 - 3
FRIDAY, 22 January 9 - 3
WEDNESDAY, 27 January 8 - 1
THURSDAY, 28 January 8 - 1



YEAR 9 at SEAWORLD

Last week year 9 went to Seaworld for our excursion. We had an awesome time! We left at 5.15 in the morning and got home at 11.00pm.

It was really hot the day we were there so it was lucky there were water rides.

The excursion was educational because we saw lots of animals, penguins, polar bears, dolphins, seals, fish and stingrays, We even got to pat the stingrays (they felt like slimy moss).

Jaimie-Lee Buck



Improved literacy levels are being achieved in record times due to Gonski funded programs. The report is in and the THS year 7 - 10 students who participated in the Intensive Literacy program have achieved extraordinary results. In just 15 weeks the average reading age has improved by a whopping 1.9 years!

The coordinator for this program, Sue Winsor, is very proud of the students and says, 'This is just another example of what can be achieved through hard work'.

The Gonski funded program has been 'super-effective' for those students that have a high level of educational complexity and have, for a variety of reasons, gaps in their literacy development. With Gonski funds we are able to provide the resources these students need and achieve great results.

Many of the students that have participated in the Intensive Literacy program are celebrating enormous success back in their mainstream classes. The program has drastically improved their literacy skills and Gonski has been the life support that these students need to gain tangible educational outcomes.

'Toormina High School is showing real leadership on this matter, Gonski funds are giving every student the opportunity to realise their potential', Ms Winsor.

Daniel Laing, ESL Teacher



CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER

The LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transsexual ...) group are going to hold a cake stall on Tuesday the 8th of December with the intention of donating the money to an organisation that helps the homeless. The students came up with the idea in recognition of the disproportionate amount of gay youth who end up on the streets. I worked in a youth centre in Sydney for several years and witnessed young people who had gone down the road of drugs and alcohol to deal with the negative emotions related to a lack of acceptance from family and friends. I'm continually blown away by the openness of members of the LGBT+ group, the support they give each other, the regard shown by fellow students and teachers who come to meetings. It is wonderful to be part of this generational cultural shift towards equality and acceptance in our community.

Brad Poidevin, HSIE Teacher



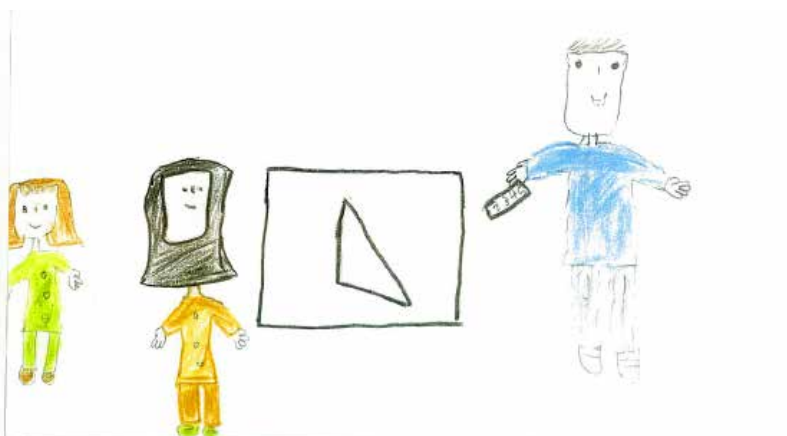
Principal's Column

As we approach the end of another school year it is nice to take a moment and reflect on all we have achieved at Toormina High School in 2015. We have implemented an enormous range of new initiatives this year aimed at improving student learning outcomes, from the Intensive Literacy Program, to CREST senior mentoring, Project Based Learning and our alternative education programs such as Links to Learning and Connections to Country. Our students have also excelled in a broad range of extra-curricular activities including debating and public speaking competitions, leadership camps, the Kokoda Challenge, Robogals, creative arts and mathematics competitions, musical and drama performances, and a vast range of sporting endeavours. Amidst all of this our students continue to work diligently in the classroom developing skills to become active, effective and engaged global citizens in the 21st Century.

All of these achievements speak to the outstanding capabilities of our students at Toormina High, but what is often overlooked is the impact that excellent teaching can have. Occasionally I receive calls from parents, grandparents and community members asking that I pass on my thanks to the staff at Toormina High School for the fantastic work they are doing with our students and community. These messages help remind our staff about the positive influence they can have on the lives of students and I am pleased to be the bearer of good tidings. However, there is no greater recognition, nor reward, for a teacher than a simple thanks from one of their students. A student saying 'thanks miss' or 'thanks sir' is a student we know we have reached, one who recognises the efforts that have been made and appreciates what they have learnt, one who understands that teachers do more than teach and who wants to acknowledge those efforts. **So in these last few weeks of school take the time to thank those teachers who have encouraged you to strive and enabled you to achieve. Together, as our motto says, we are 'Creating Our Future'.**

Dr J Bellette
Relieving Principal

To Mr Laing thanks for your
class you clas really best
and I like maths really
good.



to Mr Laing thanks for your classroom
and thanks for your maths.
Your class are beautiful
yo clas are bedfd. and yo maths are
beautiful bedfd.

Pictured above are letters the school received from Year 6 ESL students from Toormina Public School after they attended their transition day at THS.

The students participated in class activities in English, maths and science with our ESL students and teachers Daniel Laing, Rebekah Schafer and Bree Taylor.



Deputy Principal, Kathy McDowell sent a 'selfie' (photo above) very early on Monday morning as the bus was about to depart for Moreton Island, shame photos don't capture sound!



YEAR 10 EXCURSION 2015 Moreton Island





The Christmas Helpers - just some of the enthusiastic helpers from this year! Photo shows from left Willy Irakoze, Amanda Clifford, Iraia Connors, sue Flick, Mikayla Barry, Justin Elliot, Daniel Ryan and Hayden Castle.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Amanda Clifford on a very successful year in the Support Unit Coffee Shops. Amanda encourages students from the Support Unit and mainstream to build their skills and confidence through this valuable school community activity. Her team of helpers, staff and students, work tirelessly on these days and we all appreciate their work!



Spotted on the notice board
FREE POSITIVE THOUGHTS!

RRISK

On Thursday 19th November, Year 11 students attended the RRISK (Reduce Risk, Increase Student Knowledge) seminar. The program aims to reduce adolescent risk taking associated with alcohol and drug use, driving and celebrating. RRISK builds resilience by providing students with knowledge, skills and attitudes to help them make responsible decisions. Picture shows Bradford Sinclair in the process of being placed in the recovery position.

Laura McRae, Head Teacher Welfare



Defence Force Recruiting

Below is the list of information sessions being held by Defence Force Recruiting up until the office closes on 18 Dec 2015 (reopen early January 2016). Unless otherwise stated, these will be held at DFR Newcastle, 528 Hunter Street, Newcastle.

18 November at 6pm – Trades

25 November at 6pm – ADF Fitness

01 December at 6.30 / 7.30pm – Army Reserve (at Adamstown, Muswellbrook, Tamworth and Armidale barracks)

02 December at 6pm – ADF Careers

03 December at 6pm – Health roles in the ADF

If you have any interested students, all these are advertised on the Defence Jobs Facebook page or they can register interest via cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au

BONGIL BONGIL COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS 2016 MUSICALE



A huge thank you goes out to all the students who auditioned for our 2016 Musicale!

What an incredible group of talented students! Over 5 weeks, more than 200 students from across our schools - including over 100 from Toormina High, auditioned to be chosen as part of the Vocal and Drama Leads teams, Elite Dance Team, Elite Gymnastics Team, Cloning Team, Vocal Ensemble and Band. Thank you to all students and to the parents who chauffeured them here over the many weeks.

All students should have received their Cast Contract by now. If not, please see Mrs Ward in the CAPA Staff Room.

We have an awesome creative staff team including members from across all our Bongil Bongil Schools that have been attending our Creative Team Meetings all term! The team is joined by Year 10 Drama students and several parents and teacher's aides who are also helping to make the creative decisions on music and plot line. Truly a community undertaking! Rehearsals commence next year and it will be such an exciting show!

On Monday, 30th November we held a day for Vocal and Drama Leads Teams and the Elite Dance Team, to enjoy meeting each other and to help finalise the characters, roles and groups within the story! What a fantastic day!

Congratulations to all Musicale students and see you all next year!

Cheryl Ward, Drama Teacher
Musicale Director

P&C get behind Gonski

In my role as President of the P&C I often have parents and carers commenting on how Toormina High School is meeting the needs of their children. In my experience, parents are extremely interested and concerned about adequate school funding and targeted programs to lift the educational outcomes of students. For this reason Toormina High School's P&C actively supports the Gonski reforms as an investment in the future of our children. As Gonski provides more and more resources over time, every hard-working student will have the same real prospect of success, and this is important not only to our students but our community. Increasingly I am having parents approach me commenting on student improvements in areas such as English and mathematics as their child has been supported by additional programs in the school. **The P&C community are noticing the difference and young lives are being changed by quality education at THS. Well done Toormina High School and lets look forward to more positive reforms in the future.**

Michele Bake, P&C President



WHITE RIBBON AMBASSADORS



White Ribbon is Australia's only national, male led Campaign to end men's violence against women.

Intimate partner violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30 per cent of women worldwide. And Australia is not immune - as violence against women is a serious problem in our country too. Our Year 12 2016 male student leaders (Jesse Kirkman, Nathan Pollitt and Tyler Eather) represented Toormina High School in taking the oath to put a stop to violence against women at the local Coffs Harbour event.

Laura Ryan, Head Teacher Welfare



Photo on left shows a group of students who have decorated 'their' tree in the playground with Christmas baubles and beads!

Year 7 TAKE HEART



All year 7 students took part in the Take Heart Day which is about teaching people to save lives.

On the 30th of November Take Heart Australia hosted multiple events across NSW in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most people trained in CPR within 24 hours.

Toormina High School had local doctors come and train our whole Year 7 cohort.

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.



**Sawtell Uniting Church
and
Sawtell Golf Club Ltd**



invite you to attend

SAWTELL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

when

Thursday, 17th December 2015

where

**Join us on the 18th fairway of the
Sawtell Golf Club from 6pm**

*Bring a blanket, a chair and a picnic dinner or there will be
food and refreshments available from the club.*

Parking is available on the Oval in Bayldon Road,

**Santa will be arriving at 7.15pm
to start the Carols**

"For the information of members and their guests"