

NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 4 | NOVEMBER 2016



YEAR 7 2017 'TASTER' LESSONS AT THS

Our incoming Year 7 2017 have been very excited over the last few weeks as they attended our 'Taster' lessons. Students from Boambée Public School began on Wednesday, 19th October and enjoyed time in Timber work where they created a wooden pencil holder and in History where they worked as detectives to find out how Tollund Man died. In Drama they learned some stagecraft and explored improvisation.

Last Wednesday, students from Sawtell Public School cooked up a storm with Ms Parbery, did some hands on science or made music with Mr McGeary. All students left with a smile and Ms Parbery commented on how engaged her group had been. In Week 4 students from William Baydon Public School expanded their artistic skills or experimented in Science. In Week 6 students from Toormina Public School will have a taste of Timberwork, Art or Creative Writing classes.

Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers who have volunteered their time to make our Year 6 students feel so at home at Toormina High School.

Julie Roberts, Head Teacher - Teaching & Learning



SCULPTURE BY THE SEA AND SYDNEY ARTS EXCURSION

Mr Francis and I recently took the new year 12s and year 10s on an excursion to Sydney to see Sculpture by the Sea, Aladdin and the Frida Kahlo exhibition. It was an amazing trip with some fantastic art, a great show and lots of smiles all around.

The trip was so amazing that it is hard to pinpoint an actual highlight Aladdin? Frida? Sculpture by the Sea?

For me as a teacher having the students come back feeling inspired to start their major works is incredibly uplifting.

The student's presence in Sydney was received warmly. Staff at the White Rabbit Art Gallery commented that our students are such a wonderful group of people and complete strangers on the train expressed to us how wonderfully polite our students were.

Thank you to Marilyn Schneider from the Art Gallery of New South Wales for making this possible, to Leanne Carr for guiding the year 12s into their major works, to Pat Grant for showing us that everybody has a chance to chase their dreams and to Phyl Rowlinson from the White Rabbit Art Gallery for allowing our students to understand the meaning behind art.

Rebekah Schafer, Teacher - Art



Article on Sydney Art Excursion by Kirrily Newman

When we boarded the train at quarter to ten on Wednesday night, I was dreading the thought of three days away from home, missing major syllabus points in science and who knows what in English. Standing in the wind on the platform the only place I wanted to be was curled up in bed, but a carriage full of students and teachers bursting with excitement quickly rubbed off on me. After a henna session courtesy of Miss Schafer; the travesty of Lainey's missing camera battery and not quite four hours of sleep, we finally stopped at Central Station.

With the first glimpse of Sydney I was struck by how the buildings were so unlike anything in Coffs, it was something grand and if we weren't so tired would have explored further. Sydney has a really interesting mix of modern and antique architecture that gives it a feeling of being new and updated but still full of history and class, which is exactly what it is.

On our way to the Art Gallery of New South Wales we walked through the Botanical Gardens, this is when the cameras came out and stayed out until we left Sydney on Saturday. It was refreshing to walk through the gardens and be able to appreciate the natural beauty. I think it reminded us all that art is in everything and we often don't notice. Inside the gallery I was amazed by the architecture which had a very natural feel and still combined modern and classical themes. I am not a 'building nerd' but you just can't help but notice these things, as they were very impressive. The contemporary "art" I saw on the walls encouraged a lot of critical thinking and discussion from our group.

The Frida Kahlo exhibition was amazing. I am so glad I knew a little about her before I got to see her work. In that gallery we could see the immense detail of her confronting subjects, her strength and vulnerability, and mostly her determination to do something meaningful in spite of her constant pain.

We were given a very special opportunity to be part of an artist workshop with Leanne Carr (Curator of Art Express) and Marilyn Schnieder (a former Toormina High School student) to help prepare us for the HSC. They were definitely worth listening to, especially if you want your major work displayed in the Art Express exhibition at the Gallery. I wish we'd had more time because I missed half of the works in the gallery.

On the same morning we visited the University of Technology in Sydney, also known as the "Ugliest Building in Sydney". There we met with another former Toormina High School student, Pat Grant, who teaches the Master of Design. Pat marched us up seven flights of stairs to see all of the creative labs, while trying to convince us all to go to Uni.

We finally got to rest our feet for a couple of hours, then we all got dressed up and caught the bus to the Capitol Theatre to see the much anticipated stage show, Aladdin. The Greek themed architecture in the theatre was a highlight and the musical itself was impressive, with a great deal of attention to detail. "This is mind blowing," said Zion in the interval.

Day two felt like day four and with calloused feet we visited the White Rabbit Art Gallery. The meaningful work and it's context was presented to us by the very enthusiastic curator, Phyl Rowlinson. Phyl clearly loves sharing his knowledge and helping people understand the confronting pieces which dealt with important issues that most people never think about like; Parkinson's disease, the westernisation of Asia and also about major philosophical questions like the 'God debate'. The works were odd and confronting and a little hard to look at, which is what made them so powerful.

After having lunch with the teachers I discovered, and this trip was all about discovery, that I like jasmine tea but not when it's boiling hot and all over me. We all discovered that art can be found in limitless forms and everyone was inspired a little. Wandering the harbour at night to see the rainbow projected over the water at the top of the Sydney Opera House in a storm was my favourite part of the excursion.

The vibe of the city built of art as well as being surrounded by all kinds of artistic people encouraged us to capture and create at every opportunity, especially those subjects that seemed so mundane at home.

On behalf of all of the students who continued to walk cold, wet, sore and tired just to get the most out of the time we had, I want to thank Mr Francis and Miss Schafer for organising and taking us on this huge and awesome excursion. There is so much I've forgotten to mention and please can we go back in exam week?



Image above by Zion Connors and below by Molly Tomalin



Quotes from students on the excursion:

"I feel like my mind has just been opened up after the time down there."

- Zion Connors

"An amazing trip, three days well spent." - Laine Gow

"Best trip ever." - Caitlin Thomson

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EALD) STUDENTS THANK MR RAWARD



The English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) class held a special lunch to thank Mr Richard Rayward for his efforts in helping them for the past three terms. Mr Raward has moved on to a different teaching position within Toormina High School. All students brought in some of their traditional foods to share and some wrote speeches which they presented. They also shared some of their cultural ideas of honouring their teachers, one of which included popping balloons full of glitter over them! The room was decorated and a wonderful atmosphere was created for all who attended.

Gaye Devoy, Teacher - English/EALD



GIRLS CHOICES SUMMER SCHOOL

Danielle Tate, Destiny Grills and Angela Grills of year 9 have been selected to attend the Girls Choices Summer School in December at the University of Newcastle. The girls will live on campus at Evatt House at the university during their five day visit. They will experience various hands on activities which showcase what university is like and what type of careers are available for a uni graduate. The activities focus on mathematics, engineering, and health careers. This will be such an exciting time for Danielle, Destiny and Angela.

Adrienne Gillingham, Teacher - Library

Principal's Column

Over the next week our year 12 students will have brought to a conclusion their secondary school studies as they complete the last of their Higher School Certificate examinations. We are very proud of the manner in which the students have managed their school, home and work commitments throughout this time. Congratulations to all of the parents and carers who have assisted their children through the senior years of school, and for helping them to prepare well for the exams. Students will now pursue different pathways, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Some significant building works are currently being planned for the front of Toormina High School to make a more visible and accessible entry to the school for all. As part of the planned works there will be a bus shelter, meeting circle, ramp access for entry to the front foyer and a redesign of the front office space. The plans have been ratified by Director Jenny Murray, Relieving Principal Joanne Bellette, Staff Representative Daniel Laing and P&C President Michele Bake. It is hoped that the works will begin in late 2016 but they are not anticipated to end until after Term 1. This will necessitate changes in access points to the school which will be communicated to you as soon as possible. I'm very excited to see Toormina High School receiving a 'face lift' and look forward to the end result.

Dr Joanne Bellette, Relieving Principal

REGULAR ATTENDANCE = BETTER LEARNING

Often students and parents do not see that regular and punctual attendance at school is important. Nothing could be further from the truth. Besides missing out on valuable content - students miss out on information, discussion and skill development that is the pathway to success and the development of high self-esteem. The following chart highlights the impact of non-attendance and partial attendance over time. Viewed in this context, the implication of regular absenteeism is startling.

The table shows the cumulative effect of persistent non-attendance over the period of schooling from Kindergarten to the end of Year 10.

DAYS ABSENT	TOTAL DAYS	NUMBER OF TERMS	NUMBER OF YEARS MISSED
1 day per week	451	9	2 years 1 term
1.5 days per week	676.5	13.5	3 years 1.5 terms
2 days per week	902	18	4 years 2 terms
3 days per week	1353	27	6 years 3 terms
5 weeks per term	1127.5	22	5 years 2 terms
Average 5 days per term	220	5.5	1 year 1.5 terms
Average 10 days per term	440	8.8	2 years 1 term
PARTIAL ABSENCES			
1 hour late per week	75 days	1.5 terms	
1/2 hour late per day	188 days	3.75 terms	almost 1 year
1 hour late per day	376 days	7.5 terms	1 year 3 terms

BOLT Program for Term 4 kick-starts atop Triple Peak

The Boys Outdoor Learning Program has kick-started in term four with the usual challenging hike to the top of Triple Peak. Any student who has been to the top of this amazing hill will testify to the difficulty of the climb, not to mention the tricky descent. Some students who have been involved in the Kokoda Challenge have also been to the top of this peak in constant preparation for the gruelling challenge ahead of them. The views from the top make it well worthwhile with the chance to see as far as Taree, Gloucester and the Barrington Tops to the south and Walcha, Ebor and Point lookout to the west and south-west. The view over Bellingen, Dorrigo and Gleniffer Falls make this a peak-baggers must!

Enthusiastic students absolutely enjoyed this experience, loved the view from the hill and rainforest below and can't wait to get back there again.

For most students, staying awake on the journey home was also a challenge!

Andy Robb, Teacher/Leader - BOLT Program



Great Kathmandu Discounts for students and staff of Toormina High School

Until this Sunday the 6th of November the Kathmandu store in Coffs Harbour is offering substantial discounts (up to 70% off) for all of us. Simply choose your items, get a price check, mention that you are a student or staff at Toormina High School and enjoy the savings. Student ID Cards are needed as proof of enrolment at school. Staff will also need to prove their employment at the school to receive discount.

Toormina High School

30 Year Reunion

(Yr 7, 1982—Yr 12, 1987)

Coming in
June 2017

Contact Megan on 0447 236 350
for more information and to
RSVP with numbers

IMPORTANT DATES

FRI	14/10 - 4/11	Year 12	HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS
WED	2/11- 11/11	Year 8	VALID Science testing
MON	7/11- 11/11	Year 7/8	Examinations in class
MON	7/11	Year 11	Hospitality Coffee Shop 9:00 - 11:00am
WED	9/11	Year 9	'Love Bites' - All Day
FRI	11/11		Lions Youth Leadership Awards Training 1:00 - 3:00pm
MON	14/11- 18/11	Year 9	Examinations in Hall

Premier's Debating Competition State Semi-Finals



Our year 9 debating team competed in the State Semi-Finals of the Premier's Debating Competition on 19th October. The topic for the debate against Sydney Girls High School was 'That juveniles should never be incarcerated' and THS was given the affirmative side.

Danielle Tate set up the debate as 1st speaker. Oriana Watts supported the case as 2nd speaker. Ryan Gilchrist came out as 3rd to summarise the case and disprove what the negative team had put forward. It was a tough debate and unfortunately the THS team were pipped at the post by another talented team.

The competition started with 384 teams from across the state. Our team remains one of the top 4 teams in the state!!! They are to be congratulated for their outstanding efforts this year. They are exemplary students of Toormina High School.

Sally Johnson, Teacher - English/Drama

LIONS YOUNG LEADERS IN SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



Lions Clubs International and our local Lions club are recognizing young people for their service to the community. The Lions Young Leaders in Service Award gives formal recognition to young volunteers within the community, aged between 12-18, who have completed 50 or 100 hours of community service, within a 12 month period. Nomination forms for the award are available from Ms Winsor at school. Receiving an award for your contributions to society is a fantastic achievement and will be an asset to your future

endeavours. I encourage those who volunteer their time outside of school to apply. Further information is available on the Lions website at the link <http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/serve/youth/young-leaders-service-award.php>

Susan Winsor, Relieving Head Teacher - Welfare

COURSES AND CLASSES COMING UP IN CAREERS

Work Experience - The next year 10 Work Experience is scheduled for 5th December - 9th December. All paperwork must be in to Mrs West by Friday, 25th November.

School-based Traineeships - There are opportunities in Retail and Business Services available for students going into year 11 in 2017. Contact Mrs West in the careers office for more details.

Whitecard Course - Due to popular demand a second Whitecard course is being offered for only \$50 on Thursday, 1st December. Numbers are limited so if you missed out on the last course let Mrs West know now and get your name on the list. Paperwork available from the careers office.

Queensland University Excursion - Full payment of \$140 is due to the front office by 18th November.

Smith Family Financial Literacy Course - 28th-29th November. All paperwork due to Mrs West by Friday, 11th November.

Girls in Trades - Industry Visits Day on Tuesday, 8th November. Permission notes are due back by Friday, 4th November. Places are still available so see Mrs West in the careers office.



Jasmine Savka and Hayley Drazic with an elephant (a symbol of Mental Health Week) while at work experience at Baringa Private Hospital.

YR 10 OUTWARD BOUND 2017 EXCURSION CANCELLED

Due to lack of interest from Year 10 students this excursion scheduled for February 2017 has been cancelled. All parents have been notified. If you have any further enquiries please feel free to contact Sue Winsor, Relieving Head Teacher - Welfare at school.



Check out the new THS Facebook page!

Look for our school logo!



SAVE THE DATE

The incoming Year 7 Parent Information Evening will be held on
TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER in the THS Library.
Further details still to come!

THS UNIFORM SHOP

OPEN EVERY MONDAY
during term, 8am-4pm

Enquiries - Karina 0468 436 217

**Please note that THS Uniform Shop
will be CLOSED ON**

MONDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER

**but will re-open as normal
the next Monday**