

# NEWS LETTER

TERM 4 | WEEK 6 | November 2017



**CREATING OUR FUTURE**

It was with great pleasure that I attended the International Teachers Day Awards for 2017 last week where two of our outstanding teachers received recognition for their outstanding contribution to education. The awards are offered by the Australian College of Educators and awarded across Australia, recognising outstanding educators. James Holbech, former Australian Rugby Union International, delivered the keynote address recognising the important role that teachers play in meeting the changing needs of society. Mrs Jennifer Bryant, Head Teacher Science, was recognised for her outstanding contribution to Toormina High School through her leadership of the Science Department. Under Jennifer's leadership, this faculty has grown to be the largest faculty at Toormina High School, covering all of the sciences including exciting elective classes in Years 9 and 10.

Ms Sally Johnson was recognised for her outstanding teaching in English and the leadership of debating at Toormina High School and across the North Coast Region. Thanks to Sally's commitment and drive, Toormina High School has risen to be a recognised powerhouse for debating across the region, with Sally running regional debating camps and working with partner primary schools.

**Congratulations to Jennifer and Sally who are both worthy recipients of the International Teachers Day Award for 2017.**

**Paul Humphrey, Principal**

## Brilliant THS teachers!





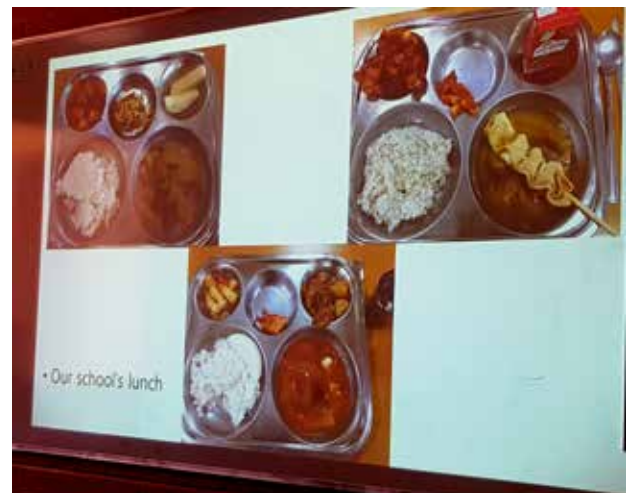
## “Anyoung Haseyo” Hello from South Korea

Students in Year 10 International Studies had an exciting opportunity to engage with students on the other side of the world this week. The class took part in the first of two video conferences with students from Hyanglim Middle School in South Korea. Students from both schools made presentations about life in their respective countries. This included visuals and discussion of our local areas, school life, cultural celebrations, food and clothing, leisure activities and youth culture. They were able to ask questions of one another in real time, and even saw a demonstration of traditional clothing.

The class were aghast to learn that students go to school longer in Korea than Australia, but were jealous of the food that they get to enjoy at school. Students came to observe that despite our different locations, they have far more in common with one another than they imagined.

The students were all enthralled in the activity, and what was meant to be a one hour exchange quickly turned into almost two. The class enjoyed a number of laughs overcoming language and cultural barriers. We are all excited and looking forward to the next video conference in the coming weeks.

**Cheryl Cutter, International Studies Teacher**







## CONGRATULATIONS Meg!

The goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program is to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs by recognising a commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Congratulations to Meg La Macchia who was awarded the Zonta Club of Coffs Harbour, Inc Pat Funnell Award for 2017. Meg underwent a rigorous application process, interview and a speech. The Zonta Club described Meg as a natural leader and a quiet achiever who has shown initiative and commitment in the school community and beyond. As part of her award, Meg will be invited to speak at the Coffs Coast IWD Breakfast on 8th March 2018.

**Laura McRae, Head Teacher Wellbeing**

## Another congratulations Meg!

Meg La Macchia was also nominated to be one of a hundred NSW Year 11 students selected to participate in a Student Convention at Parliament House. This one-day convention is part of a national program for Year 11 students to consider issues relating to the Australian Constitution. A keynote address is followed by facilitated small group discussions. Participants then vote in a referendum on the issues discussed. Students peer-select 30 delegates to attend a national convention held early next year, in Canberra with delegates from all other states and territories.

Meg was one of these students voted to attend the Canberra Convention, congratulations!

This is a free, easy way to promote the diverse activities and opportunities that Toormina High School has to offer. We like to celebrate success so please 'like' and 'share' our Facebook posts so we can show the world how great our school is!

Our page has the school logo.



**THS UNIFORM  
SHOP**  
open every  
**MONDAY**  
8am - 4pm,  
Karina  
0468 436 217

Please donate any  
unwanted uniform  
items to Mrs McRae,  
Head Teacher  
Wellbeing  
All donations gratefully  
received!



## Robotics CHAMPIONS!

First Lego League is a Lego Robotics competition held this year at Lake Cathie Public School.

Even though this was the first time Toormina High School was competing, our team won the robotics section (in photo on left receiving their trophy).

The team of Year 9 students: Tarsha Brady, Clayton Bridges, Zac Clark, Matthew Ford, Hayley Judson and Anastasia Miley chose Mind Games for an elective with teacher, Sean Harrington, which led to their participation in this competition.

Congratulations to students and staff involved!





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Our Support Unit students and the Year 10 Peer Support students had a wonderful day experiencing a variety of sports at the **ACTIVATE INCLUSION SPORTS DAY**, thanks to Sport NSW and Variety.



## Love Bites 2017

Year 9 participated in the Toormina High School Love Bites Program in weeks 4, 5 and 6 of this term. The maturity and level of participation displayed by Year 9 throughout the program was excellent. Love Bites is a respectful relationships program that focuses on identifying characteristics of a healthy relationship. Our Year 9 students developed the skills to ascertain what a safe, equal and healthy relationship is; developed respectful conflict resolution skills and problem-solving abilities.

The Love Bites program consisted of a morning session involving two interactive educational workshops on Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault. In the afternoon the students participated in an art workshop where they were able to express their ideas on a canvas. These paintings will be on display around the school over the next few weeks.

A huge thank you is extended to our wonderful Mid North Coast Health workers and educators and Senior Constable Snow for presenting Love Bites.

Thanks also to Laura McRae, Kyah Schwartz, Andy Robb, Sheridan Johnston, Jane Franke and the art and music staff for supporting this wonderful event.

**Adrienne Gillingham, Love Bites Coordinator.**



### Some quotes from students in their evaluation:

- It helps us know where to get help if we have problems in a relationship.
- I thought it was interesting and helpful with everyday life.
- I learned a lot about stuff I didn't know to do with love.
- How to handle things and what to do.
- There are a lot of people to go to for help and support.
- We went over all the important things about abuse and got a good understanding of the issues.
- There are a lot more types of sexual assault than I thought.
- I liked how upfront and honest the workshops were.
- There are a lot more people getting assaulted than I thought.





- I learned abuse usually happens from someone you know.
- I liked that we got to discuss the topics cause it happens in real life.
- I liked talking and having your own opinions and being able to say them.
- I learned about consent.
- I liked how we got to be creative with all the knowledge we learned.
- Consent is so important.
- Respect others, both male and females.
- It clarified a lot of things for me.
- I liked that it is informative and wasn't sugar coated.
- It taught us life lessons.
- Males get abused too.
- It taught new things that we don't do in everyday class.
- You need to seek help if you need it.
- I would not change a thing about the day.
- I loved how they taught us about sexual assault and abuse.
- Loved doing the art work and expressing our feelings.
- I wish we had more time to learn more!
- I wouldn't change a thing, it was really educational.
- I learned relationships can change.
- It was very informative and educational in a fun way.
- It was educational but fun at the same time.



## ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP



During Term 4, a number of our Aboriginal students in Years 9 and 10 have had the opportunity to engage with their culture by learning both contemporary and traditional Aboriginal dances. These girls will be training hard, hoping to be able to perform a dance in front of the community in the near future.

**Kate Williams,**  
PDHPE Teacher

## Toormina High School 2018 Year 7 Parent Information Evening



Tuesday, November 21, 5:30pm - 7pm  
Toormina High School Library

Meet the Principal, Paul Humphrey & Year 7 2018 Year Adviser, Adam Berrada & teaching staff.

Also available at our Information Night: scholarship applications, book packs (\$70 with calculator, \$50 without), the Uniform Shop will be open, demonstrations and displays from all THS faculties, tours of the school, student musical entertainment & external agency stalls including NSW Health, bus companies & mental health providers.

A 'creche' & light refreshments will be available.





## Far out Science

On Thursday the 9th November, Year 7 students travelled to Armidale to the University of New England for "Far out Science!" The first session explored the microscopic world of nematodes. This was followed by a session in the nursing department learning how to take their pulse, listen to their heart beat, anatomy and bandaging snake bites. The third session was on chemistry and included unpredictable explosions and colourful reactions with flames. The final session was on computer programming and a trip through the archaeology section of the university where they saw life size skeletons of dinosaurs and taxidermy animals.

**Michelle Nicholls, Science Teacher**



## Year 9 Agriculture student chicken farmers

The year 9 agriculture students have begun their weekly weigh in to monitor the growth and health of the baby chickens as part of their Poultry topic. Students will learn how to handle the chickens, to observe their behaviour for signs of illness or stress and will perform experiments to see how different feeds affect the growth of the chicks. At the end of the term, the pullets can be taken home to mature and will eventually begin to lay eggs for the student's families.

**Dr Andrew Willhoite, Agriculture Teacher**

### Now available after school at THS .....

Monday - Homework Centre, 3:30 - 5:00pm

Monday - Active Arvos, 3:30 - 4:30pm, fun, supervised, physical activities

Tuesday - Makerspace, 3:30 - 5:00pm, electronic & robotic projects

Thursday - Mathematics Homework Centre, 3:30 - 5:00pm

Take advantage of this opportunity to get one-on-one assistance from highly experienced, specialised teachers, all **years and abilities are welcome!**





## Visual Art HSC

This year our Visual Art HSC students completed their major works in a variety of different art mediums including video, graphic design, charcoal drawing, painting and ceramics. The students strived hard all year round to create a body of work that meant something to them. They say 'every artwork is a self-portrait' and I tend to agree. Each body of work is a reflection of the vivacious, meticulous, caring, thoughtful and kind hearted students that I have come to know and I commend you all for creating artworks that are full of meaning and self expression.

**Congratulations Visual Arts Class of 2017 for creating such interesting and diverse artworks. I am honoured to be your teacher and have seen you through to the finish line as my first official HSC class, and I am so very proud to present your artworks to our community. Thank you for everything!**

**Rebekah Schafer, Art Teacher**



TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS THE ANNUAL  
**MADD CONCERT**  
*featuring*  
**MUSIC, ART, DANCE & DRAMA**  
TUESDAY WK 9 DECEMBER 5TH P3, P4 & LUNCH  
IN THE LIBRARY

*Poster artwork by Anastasia Miley*



Girls Get Active Day



Recently a group of 40 students from Toormina High School were able to attend a Girls Get Active day presented by Sport NSW. Our students had the opportunity to meet with 5 elite athletes and discuss the importance of female participation in sport. Students also had the opportunity to learn a range of new sporting skills with the help of various elite athletes.

**Kate Williams, PDHPE Teacher**

## IMPORTANT DATES

TUES	21/11	2018 Year 7	PARENT INFORMATION EVENING 5:30 - 7:00pm
TUES	21/11		2018 7 World Orientation Day
WED	22/11		P&C CHRISTMAS DINNER All Welcome! See advert below
TUES	28/11 - 1/12	Year 9 & 10	EXCURSION Blue Mountains
THURS	30/11		Support Unit Coffee Shop 10am - 2pm ALL WELCOME!
TUES	5/12	2018 Year 7	Orientation Day
THURS	7/12		School SOCIAL 6:30 - 9:30pm Theme: Black & White
TUES	12/12		Merit & Encouragement Awards Assembly
THURS	14/2		MAJOR AWARDS ASSEMBLY
FRI	15/2		Last day Term 4 2017

## P&C Christmas Dinner

Wednesday  
22nd November, 6pm  
Toormina Hotel  
RSVP to Michele  
0417542849 by Monday  
20th November  
Please bring wrapped  
gift to value of \$5  
for gift exchange

## School Social Thursday, 7th December

(not Wednesday)  
6.30pm to 9.30pm.  
Theme of the night  
is Black & White,  
prizes available!  
DJ Brock has  
a huge sound  
system coming  
so it's going to be  
loud!

## SPIRIT OF TOORMINA AWARD

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

Ziggy Connors  
Tyler Anderson  
Zenoha Morvant  
Jenna Stevenson  
Kimberley Duck  
Bayleigh Lawrence  
Jasmine Lockhart  
Ashton Rose  
Tori Rose  
Danielle Tate  
Crystall Wark  
Oriana Watts