

NEWS LETTER

Safe Respectful Learners
TERM 2 | Week 6 JUNE 2020



Wow!

The increased use of disposable items in our everyday life is creating a huge environmental challenge for both industrialised and developing countries. The materials used, such as plastics, paper and cardboards, highlight the need to rethink our choices as consumers, and our waste reduction strategies. While learning from home, Year 7 and 8 Technical and Applied Studies classes were set the task of designing and creating a product using mostly recycled materials from around the home. Mrs Sharkey's 7Tech1 class had an opportunity to design an upcycled home decor piece. Other classes had the opportunity to design spacecraft, desk organisers and bird feeders. This unit focused on students developing knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and properties of a range of materials that can be recycled or upcycled. Some great examples are demonstrated in the photos, from left Jayden and his upcycled bird house, below Stephanie's desk organiser, on right Noah's bird feeder, Tiahna's mosaic birdbath and Arla's hanging plant pots.



We like to introduce staff members to our school community via a small questionnaire...



Name...**Vicki Fletcher**

THS Position...School Administration Officer

The high school I attended was...Archway School, U.K.

On weekends I enjoy ...any outside activity - hiking, cycling, running etc.

I love...the beach!

I don't like...I absolutely hate snakes and spiders but I hate the cold more, so, that's why I moved to Australia :)

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... how ACTUALLY important it is to listen to teachers, parents and elders.



Name...**Rick Burton**

THS Position...School Learning Support Officer

The high school I attended was...Orara High School

On weekends I enjoy ...getting together with family and friends.

I love...my wife, family, surfing, travel and karate.

I don't like...narcissists and missing out on fun!

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... how I could get to and complete a university education as my family were not financially successful.



Name...**Audrey Gillingham**

THS Position...Casual Teacher

The high school I attended was...Toormina High School

On weekends I enjoy ...being outdoors, bike riding, surfing, walking, catching up with friends and laying in the sun reading a good book.

I love... AFL, any sport really.

I don't like...CORIANDER.

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... ife is too short to worry about what other people think, be yourself!



Name...**Dearne Beadle**

THS Position...Casual teacher

The high school I attended was...Tamworth High School

On weekends I enjoy...getting in the water.

I love...the water.

I don't like...not being in the water.

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... 'if you are passionate about something you are half way there'.



Name...**Beth Lynch**

THS Position...Casual Teacher

The high school I attended was...Coffs Harbour High School

On weekends I enjoy ...running with my dogs.

I love...coffee!

I don't like...dark chocolate.

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... do not book any holidays for 2020!



Name...**Megan Wilson**

THS Position...School learning Support Officer

The high school I attended was...Toormina High School

On weekends I enjoy ...spending time with my family.

I love...chocolate.

I don't like...birds.

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... how important education is.



Name...**Therese Purton**

THS Position...Casual Teacher

The high school I attended was...Dorrigo High School

On weekends I enjoy ...relaxing with my family, art, craft, sewing and gardening.

I love...celebrating special occasions and roast dinners.

I don't like...negativity.

When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me...about the choices available in life!

Please ensure ALL laptops and paper copies of workbooks re returned to school.

Our school canteen is back to normal menu and operating hours.

Please download the FREE Skoolbag communication app to your phone. We use this app for reminders and alerts. Instructions are on the Toormina High School website. Follow Toormina High School on Facebook (look for the school logo).



National Reconciliation Week,
As part of #InThisTogether year 8 student, Lily, read the Acknowledgement of Country on our school Facebook page in the Gumbaynggirr language. We are also very happy to have our Aboriginal Dance Groups back in action at school!



Life Skills

The Support Unit Work and the Community Life Skills class from Room 25 do a fantastic job organising all the recycling and distribution of photo copy paper within the school. Teacher Mrs Rebecca Lawrence facilitates this initiative. Photo on right shows teacher, Natalie Zegers, with her students in the Unit's vegetable garden which students use in their cooking classes.

Principal's Column

I am writing to share the exciting news that next week we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning. We will be using a system called Yondr to achieve this goal. Yondr is currently used across the world in over 1,000 schools, as well as at concerts, comedy shows, weddings and special events of all kinds. The goal is to encourage people to engage with each other and their surroundings.

The Yondr Program employs a simple, lockable pouch that stores a mobile phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school each morning. They will maintain possession of their phones, and will not use them until they are unlocked at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

We are encouraged by the effects of this system in learning institutions. In 2019, Yondr surveyed over 400 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 69% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 84% of schools saw an increase in student engagement in the classroom
- 80% of schools saw a decrease in behaviour referrals

In an effort to best assist your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Paul Humphrey, Principal

Mobile Phones YONDR Pouch - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Contact the office, 66 533 077, to reach your child.

What if there is an emergency?

In case of an emergency, we direct our students to safety first. School staff will be able to unlock a Yondr pouch in a matter of seconds for students once they are in a safe and secure location.

What if the pouch gets damaged?

The Yondr pouch belongs to Toormina High School. If a student damages a Yondr pouch, he/she will be held responsible. Replacement pouches will cost US\$12 (approximately AUD\$18 at current exchange rates). The student's phone will be confiscated and a parent/carer must come to school to retrieve it.

What if my child refuses to put their phone into the Yondr pouch?

The child will be asked by the teacher/head teacher/deputy principal to comply with the request. If the child continues to refuse, the phone will be confiscated or parents contacted. Continued refusal to follow instructions may lead to further disciplinary action or withdrawal of the child's permission to bring a phone to school.



ROBOT!

The Support Unit has a robot! Photo on the left shows year 8 student, River Maxwell at the computer. Adapting the controls allows each student to direct the Telepresence robot.

Even if absent from school, students can use technology to access their classroom in new and innovative ways. We would like to thank @Technology 4 Learning, a unit of the NSW Department of Education and Ms



Year 8 Technology



TAS teacher, Tanya Crough's year 8 Technology Mandatory class are upcycling denim jeans and also learning about cyber security through Grok Learning. This program involves completing three challenges while exploring topics including personal information security and data sharing, cryptography and network security. Each challenge involves investigation, deduction and programming.



The Nextwave Youth Film Competition returns for 2020!

The search is now on for the next wave of young regional filmmakers, with short film entries open from May 1st – Sept 21st.

Nextwave, presented by the Screenwave International Film Festival (SWIFF), now in its sixth year is host to Australia's largest regional youth short film competition and is free to enter for young people aged between 10 - 25 years, living outside a metro area.

Short films can range from a variety of genres, including comedies, dramas, thrillers, sci-fi, animation, documentary and personal essays. All that is needed to enter is to make a short film under five minutes (including all credits) and to creatively include the phrase, 'What's Next?'

Along with an array of awards and prizes across a variety of age categories, short film finalists will have their films premiere at the 2021 Screenwave International Film Festival (SWIFF) in Coffs Harbour in January. Lucky creatives will also have the opportunity for their films to screen at venues across Australia for Youth Week in April 2021.

The SWIFF team are also working on broadening access to their Nextwave filmmaking workshop program by offering a series of online workshops for teachers and students across Australia. Nextwave's redesigned workshop program is launching as an online learning experience to be delivered to regional, rural, and remote students across Australia, with the learning program supported by teachers and home-schooling parents available from June. For more information, visit www.nextwavefilmfest.com.au.



The **Whitecard** course has been rescheduled for Thursday, 23rd July, for further information see Mrs West in the Careers Office.

The year 9 Food Technology class learning how to make Anzac biscuits with Ms Sharkey above.

Toormina High School has its own CAREERS WEBSITE <https://www.toorminahighcareers.com>

This is a "One Stop Shop" for information relating to Careers, such as; Work Experience, Resumes, Higher School Certificate, Record of School Achievement, University Admissions Centre, career videos and pathways, gap year options, Defence Force information and much more.



2020 COFFS COAST YOUTH AWARDS



SCAN ME

The Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of young people, and the professionals and community members who work with them. The Award winners will be announced mid June and each winner will receive a voucher - see below for amount.

Submissions close 5pm on Friday, 12th June 2020.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

To a young person who excels in multiple categories and inspires others with their actions

Sponsored by: Coffs Harbour City Council and Blue Sky Community Service (\$500)

RESILIENT YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

To a young person who has achieved success and personal growth through adversity

Sponsored by: headspace Coffs Harbour (\$200)

CREATIVE YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

To a young person who shows exceptional achievement in art, music, literacy, video or dance

Sponsored by: Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) (\$200)

COMMUNITY-MINDED YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

To a young person who has made a positive impact in their community

Sponsored by: Galambila Aboriginal Health Service (\$200)

YOUTH WORKER OF THE YEAR - YOUNG PERSON'S CHOICE

To a person who has made a valuable and positive contribution to the lives of young people

Sponsored by: Service for the Treatment & Rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) (\$200)

YOUTH WORKER OF THE YEAR - PEER'S CHOICE

To a person nominated by their peers who is a leading advocate for young people

Sponsored by: Uniting Coffs Harbour (\$200)

Interested in nominating a young person or youth worker/community member?

For guidelines and application forms visit Blue Sky Community Services website (Groundworks Youth Centre page) <https://blueskycommunityservices.org.au/young-people-and-families>

Or contact Zena | P: 02 5632 4020 | E: zenakeidge@bluesky.org.au



NSW Services for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors

