FAREWELL 2015 YEAR 12

Congratulations and best wishes to our class of 2015!
YEAR 12 FAREWELL ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to the 2015 Class on completion of their high school education and good luck in the HSC and with future goals and dreams. Elizabeth Ross was named the Caltex All Rounder. The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award was presented to Justin Pryce. Trung Bui and Brian Adam received Principals Awards for students who demonstrated endeavour, engagement and determination. Brian Adam was also awarded the Reuben F. Scarf Award for persistence & dedication.

Emily Taylor received the Coffs Harbour City Council Award for ‘consistent effort & application’. Ben Sonter was awarded the Pierre de Coubertin & the Premier’s Sporting Challenge medals in recognition of his excellence & commitment in the sporting discipline. Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards were presented to: Grace Autry-Hall, Trung Bui, Connor Cheers, Jye Fisher, Jaden Keenes, Jason Lieschke, Justin Pryce, Chrystal Ridgeway, Elizabeth Ross, Benjamin Sonter, Nikki Stacey, Darcy Tees, Indira Watkins-Wright and Nathan Watt.
Gonski – it’s making a difference in our school

In 2015 Toormina High has experienced an increase in available student needs-based programs. This is a result of Gonski funds that are starting to flow into our school, so that staff and resources are available to assist students achieve positive outcomes. With these funds Toormina High School has built upon the excellent results our students are achieving through the introduction of new programs to address the educational and wellbeing needs of our students. Below is another example of how Gonski funding is improving the outcomes for our students.

Over the past three weeks, a total of 27 students from year 7 to year 11 have participated in the ‘EALD Swimming and Water Safety Program’. This program, which is a totally new initiative led by the PDHPE Faculty, has delivered on its objective to improve the confidence and ability of our EALD (English as Another Dialect or Language) students in a variety of different aquatic environments. Mr Schwartz, one of the teachers responsible for the program, stated ‘Gonski funding recently made it possible to conduct an EALD learn-to-swim program at Toormina High. It was fantastic to watch the students’ water confidence develop and their swimming techniques improve. The program was extremely rewarding to be a part of and the students gained skills for life.’

The feedback from the EALD students on the success of the program was a universal ‘two thumbs up’. Many of the students had few, if any, swimming skills prior to the introduction of the EALD Swimming and Water Safety Program but their confidence and skills in the water have improved greatly. Seyed said ‘I love Toormina High. What a great place this is. I now know how to swim!’ Aliakbar was also very proud of his achievements and stated ‘I have had a lot of fun while I have learnt how to swim. The swimming teacher was great and made me feel at ease. It helped that my friends were there too!’ Finally, Pim was full of enthusiasm for where her new skills could take her ‘It has been awesome. Now, I would love to learn to surf!’

This Gonski-funded program has provided a great result for our EALD students as many find it difficult to acclimatise to Australia’s culture of ‘water worship’. Their confidence around water is just one barrier that EALD students experience on a regular basis, as many of our EALD students are from regions of the world that don’t have access to oceans, lakes, pools and rivers, that are used for recreation. Overcoming this barrier is an important step for EALD students to develop as they build their confidence to connect and interact with Australian society at large. Ms Watkins said, ‘The program was a very rewarding experience to be a part of. The students thoroughly enjoyed it. Students overcame fears and challenges and most of all had a great time! Thank you to Toormina High School, Toormina Swim Centre and Gonski funding for making this opportunity happen.’

As an EALD teacher, I have experienced firsthand how much more confident and at ease the EALD students have become at finding their place at school. This Gonski-funded program has meant our EALD students now feel they have more commonality with mainstream students because they, too, can now participate in Australia’s cultural love affair with water.

Daniel Laing - EALD Teacher

LAPTOP WINNERS! Congratulations to...

Reuben Donnelly-Lindsey
Damon Myers
Mia Auton

each of whom received a laptop in our recent promotional draw for all students who had paid their annual student fees.

Thanks to all of the families who have paid their annual contributions, by doing so you are ensuring that the resources your child needs to excel are made available in the school.
It has been a busy term at Toormina High School with our students continuing to excel in a broad range of areas from the sporting field to the classroom. Congratulations to all of our Year 12 students who have completed their schooling this week. It has been a pleasure to educate you at Toormina High School. Congratulations must also go to Mrs McRae and her team of helpers, including the Student Executive Team, for their outstanding efforts in organising the Year 12 Farewell Assembly and Formal, and to all those students and staff who supported the ‘Wear it Purple’ day. I am always impressed by the warmth and generosity of our staff and students at Toormina High as we embrace people of all abilities, cultures, religions and sexualities in our endeavours to fulfil our school motto of ‘Creating Our Future’.

Next term we will have an eye to the future as our Year 12 students begin the rigors of their HSC exams and we welcome Year 6 students from across the local schools into Toormina High for their transition lessons. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage current and prospective parents to engage with the school, and most especially our P&C. A robust P&C plays an important role in the consultation processes that exist between school and parents, they also provide essential support for the school through fundraising and promotional activities. So as the year draws to a close I ask that all parents and caregivers consider what more you can do to engage with and support the school and our P&C. If you can help please contact Michele Bake, P&C President, on 0468436217 or email her on shell.bake303@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Dr Joanne Bellette

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Our intrepid SLSO, Barb White, photographed above, takes the THS newsletter everywhere, even to Machu Pichu, Peru!!!

Last year we received a photo of Barb reading the newsletter in Hanoi, Vietnam!

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Parents - when replying to SMS absence messages please be sure to provide a reason for your student’s absence otherwise it will be entered as ‘unjustified’ in your student’s attendance records.
At THS, we believe that every person is unique and important. No one should be subject to bullying or belittlement. Wear It Purple Day is about ensuring that every young person can thrive, irrelevant of gender, sexuality or gender identity. By wearing purple we are letting others know that we can all feel safe, supported and empowered at THS.

Laura McRae - Head Teacher Welfare
YEAR 12 STUDENTS VOLLEYBALL WIN

Traditionally the staff beat the Year 12 students in the annual volleyball game but this year the students comprehensively won, two games to one! The staff team went down despite Mr Hendry and Mr Harrington putting their bodies on the line and risking injury by throwing themselves literally into the game. The students had double the number of team members, with their own group of cheerleaders incorporated within the team on field.

BOUND for UNIVERSITY

Uni Bound is an outreach program run by Southern Cross University to help students learn about life at university. Year 8 students are informed about opportunities, experiences, choices, and, also hear first-hand from current university students, who inspire and inform them about what to expect and what can be achieved at university.
Market Day for subject selections
Students in Year 8 and Year 9 were recently involved in a market day for subject selections. Students had the opportunity to view displays and discuss with teachers the different electives they could choose for next year. This included a variety of new elective subjects.

Students in Year 9 and Year 10 will study three electives in 2016.

Students will only be able to change their electives in the first five weeks of Term 1, 2016.

REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS!!!
THS HOMEWORK CENTRE IS OPEN
EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY
3.30PM - 5PM  THS LIBRARY
This is a wonderful asset and a great opportunity for students to receive extra tuition!
For further information, phone Gaye Devoy, 66533077

Skoolbag is a FREE app for your smartphone, ipad or tablet which allows you to receive alerts and information 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.
CREST Update

As our Year 12 students prepare for their HSC exams over the holidays I’d like to congratulate those who have been part of the CREST Senior Mentoring program. These students have shown the determination to improve their skills which will be a valuable tool, whether they choose to go on to tertiary studies or enter the workforce. They have been a lovely group of young people and are a credit to themselves and our school. I wish them all the best for the HSC.

Beginning in Term 4 our current Year 11 will enter their HSC year. For those who have already been part of the CREST program this will just mean coming to see me with their new timetable and scheduling mentoring sessions. I also encourage other students to come in and discuss CREST or organise to join up. Mentoring sessions will fill up quickly, so please try to come and see me over the first couple of weeks next term.

It has also been wonderful to see the interest in this beneficial program from the current Year 10. I already have a list of names for those going into Year 11 in 2016.

Julie Roberts
Head Teacher – Teaching & Learning

The QBE Sydney Swans Academy is a ground-breaking coaching and training program which recruits and develops the best young athletes in New South Wales, shaping them into potential AFL players. The Academy was established in 2010 as part of a plan by the Sydney Swans to develop and draft home-grown talent into their playing ranks.

Tyke Kemp and Damian Dickson, photographed above, have been selected for the Swans Academy and attend regular training in Port Macquarie. Congratulations boys!

The Academy is also successfully growing the national talent pool for the AFL, and all clubs in the AFL competition have the opportunity to recruit graduates of the program.

The Academy identifies talented boys from the age of 11 years old, and nurtures them through a long-term elite development program under the guidance of expert coaches.

THS EXPO

Toormina High School hosted a Disability Expo organised by our Careers Adviser, Robyn West. Post-school options and services available were presented. An ex-THS student, Brian Bolt (photo below) was one of the staff members on the CHESS stand.

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'Costume Box' SOCIAL
THS WEBSITE

We are always looking at ways to enhance the quality of communication between our school and our parents.

One of the key communication channels is our school website www.toormina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. The department is looking at enhancing the quality of our school website and would really like to get your feedback as a parent about the type of functionality on the website that would help improve the communication between the school and you.

We would really appreciate if you could take a couple of minutes to complete the following online survey.

The survey is located at: -
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSVSCXG

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback and help us make our school website even better.
At the meeting held this week we had only 4 P&C members attend. Due to this we were unable to hold a formal meeting. We need a minimum of 5 parents to form a quorum. This means we couldn’t address issues raised by parents, couldn’t pay sports assistance requests and we couldn’t hear Dr Bellette’s Principal report. Our next P&C meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21st October. If at that meeting we still do not have enough interested people, we will be in the very real position of losing our P&C. Please think about attending a meeting. It doesn’t have to be every month but we need your support to keep going. If the P&C does fold, we as parents, lose the invaluable ability to have a say in our child’s school: we won’t have a committee to raise funds which means no financial help with sport, there will be no funding for buses for rewards trips and it will mean we as parents won’t have a representative on selection panels for staffing positions. These are just a few of the consequences.

To put things into perspective, if one parent per family attended 1 meeting during the entire 6 years of your child’s time at Toormina High school, we wouldn’t be in this situation. That means just one meeting out of the possible fifty meetings. Please consider giving up an hour to support THS P&C so we can continue to support your child.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Michele Bake

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Victorious DEBATING TEAM!

On Thursday, 17th of September, as Zone winners, our year 7 Debating Team went up against Nambucca High School in the regional quarter finals of the Premier’s Debating Challenge.

The topic was ‘That voting should be voluntary’. Both teams were equally matched and worked hard to present a case for this challenging topic. Toormina were victorious in this debate and will now go onto compete in the regional semi-finals. Congratulations to Aimee Lawson, Bella Paunovic, Ryan Gilchrist and Zack Gillett for their excellent efforts.

Sally Johnson - Debating Coach

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Toormi Thunder Team THE TOP FUNDRAISING TEAM for the school section of the Kokoda Challenge!!

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P&C

ARMSTRONG DRIVE, TOORMINA NSW 2452 026653 3077 toormina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au www.toormina-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
As John Steinbeck, Nobel Laureate in Literature, wrote: “No man really knows about other human beings. The best he can do is to suppose that they are like himself.”

Getting to know another person, especially one from a different culture, can be exciting, challenging, and has its unique benefits. Department of Education-registered and approved Southern Cross Cultural Exchange (since 1983) is providing such a unique experience to help your children and family learn through bridging cultures, grow closer with one another, understand one another better and see the world in a new light.

International exchange students from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada and the USA are arriving in Australia to live as a local with volunteer Australian families and attend a local secondary school. The students, aged 15 – 17, arrive from February 2016 for 3, 5, or 10 months and are fully insured, with their own pocket money. If you have a spare room or bed, and a place at the family table, why not be the “heart” of cultural exchange by becoming a volunteer host family?

Expand your world for the whole family – all without any air tickets. Call S.C.C.E. now on 1800 500 501 or email scceaustralasia@scce.com.au or visit www.scce.com.au and ask for our incoming student profiles, choose the nationality you prefer, and start having fun matching up your hobbies and interests.

Capture the spirit of fun and friendship, and build your global cultural network. After all, it is different cultures that “make the world go ‘round” at the end of the day.
Invitation

Free Information Sessions

In Person – City

24/7 On Demand

LIVE Online

(please turn over)

Coffs Harbour

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand holds over 100 free information evenings across Australia and New Zealand each year.

- Come and meet our staff
- Hear comprehensive information on all aspects of exchange
- Ask questions
- Listen to questions asked by other students and parents
- Meet other students who are considering going on exchange
- Discounts and Scholarships available!
- Both students and parents are all welcome to attend.

The Professional Centre

9 Park Avenue,
Coffs Harbour

Tuesday, 15th September

7.00pm

“My exchange has given me so much more confidence and a hunger for travel. I made amazing friends and had incredible experiences and would definitely recommend an exchange to anyone.”

Georgia Bryers, Te Aroha College, New Zealand, Indigenous Scholarship, Canada Semester Program

“My whole experience so far has been absolutely amazing! 10 out of 10. I could not have been more fortunate. The people I’m surrounded by at school, my friends, my host family and just in general the people of Turin are very inviting and warming.”

Francesca Maslin, St Peter’s College, Gore, New Zealand, Indigenous Scholarship, Italy Semester Program

Feedback from students and parents who attended our Information Sessions

“Interesting. Informative. Reassuring!” Jess (Sydney)

“It covered everything that I wished to know.” Tom (Auckland)

“Very motivating and informative.” Joshua (Sydney)

“Informative, comprehensive, well presented.” Melissa (Wellington)

“Open, well presented, informative.” Tom (Canberra)

“The information session was fantastic - very friendly and informative.” Susie (Melbourne)

“Well organised, honest, up front, helpful.” Hannah (Melbourne)

“Very, very good, especially hearing from someone who has been on exchange. Really did cover everything.” Caitlin (Brisbane)

“Interesting. Makes you aware of the challenges.” Tui (Cairns)

“Good presentation. Questions answered thoroughly.” Jacqueline (Adelaide)

“Very interesting. Clear and concise.” Ellen (Perth)

“Covered all bases.” Mitchell (Hobart)

For more information please phone 1300 135 331

e-mail info@studentexchange.org.au or

visit our website http://studentexchange.org.au/info-sessions
Bongil Bongil Community of Schools

MUSICALE 2016

An Opportunity to shine like a STAR!

Audition Now!

@ TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL

VOCAL AUDITIONS: Mon 12th Oct 3.30-5.30pm
Music Rooms
Callback Tues 13th Oct 3.30-5.30pm

DANCE AUDITIONS: Mon 19th Oct 3.30-5.30pm
Hall
Callback Mon 26th Oct 3.30-5.30pm

DRAMA AUDITION: Tues 20th Oct 3.30-5.30pm
Drama Portable

GYMNASTICS/CLOWNS/POI/OTHER

AUDITIONS:
Tues 27th Oct 3.30-5.30pm Drama Portable

MUSICIANS/BAND AUDITIONS:
Mon 2nd Nov 3.30-5.30pm
Callback Tues 3rd Nov 3.30-5.30pm Music Rooms