2016 Toormina High School SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

12 years - Charlotte Young (absent from photo) & Gwillum Jones
13 years - Sarah Stevens, Holly Ratcliffe, Emily Buckle & James Hill
14 years - Bella Paunovic & Zac Paunovic
15 years - Kate Bowles & Thomas Anderson
16 years - Catarina Gordon & Percy-James Avuri-Williams
17 years - Shaylee Poole & Nathan Pollitt & Jesse Kirkman

Winning house for 2016 is NANNYGAI!
Year 7 Parents & Teachers Afternoon
THE MUSICALE begins...
Rehearsals have commenced for this extravaganza! Please see Mrs Ward for information.
FABULOUS DRAMA EXCURSION!

On Friday the 4th of February, 12 young, ambitious and fabulous drama students began the Onstage excursion to Sydney and we start, with the year 9 girls desperately trying to grapple for reception on the train. It wasn’t the most pleasant trip for some, but it certainly was great for Gyspy Musimeci, who stole the entire blanket and slept for six consecutive hours, will we ever know her secret to falling asleep on trains? Probably not.

At 7am on Friday we arrived in Sydney, bleary eyed, but ready to go….little did we know that we would end up walking over 14 kilometres that day (according to Ella’s smart watch)

Our first stop, breakfast, and let me tell you, that white mocha frapachinno was exactly what this girl needed to kick start her day.

We then proceeded to trek to the Sydney Opera House...which was put on hold when Mrs Ward left her phone at Maccas. Way to go her!

Two of my favourite moments of the day were when we posed IN the water fountain, and when we entered the State Library, the quietest place in New South Wales, and the biggest library too, it was book nerd heaven! A lot of the rest of the day was a delirious blur of sushi, lush stores, escalators and moving feet. But a moment I will never forget is MATILDA.

I don’t know if I can exactly explain how phenomenal it was with words, the details, the lighting, sound, stage and focus was incredible, it was such an inspiration. Even if at that point I was exhausted beyond belief, I couldn’t look away, amazing show.

The next day brought a fresh start, we rose bright and early…meaning we didn’t leave the YHA until 11am.

For those who don’t know, Onstage is a showcase for all of the 30 Group Performances and Monologues from the Drama HSC (the year before). We also saw outstanding projects in design.

This year’s performances were incredible, from the family who were brainwashing us with advertisements, to the woman in the cupboard, the deadly war against a cockroach and the story about women being imprisoned. Each performance was just as inspiring as the next, and had all of us on the edge of our seats while watching, and talking about them all in detail after the shows.

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As our final day started we all dreaded the thought of going home, the past few days had been so incredible, from Rayne getting her free vegan food, to Chloe in high heels looking amazing in Darling Harbour. I got chills when we passed the 7 News building, as it’s the place I want to work in one day!

We all have created great memories during this trip. We ended the day on the train, singing at the top of our lungs to Justin Bieber and High School Musical, clearly, the only way to finish a school trip.

Thank you so much Mrs Ward for this opportunity, and thank you to YHA at the Rocks – a great place to stay!

Natalie Hawkins, year 11
CONGRATULATIONS HAYLEE!

Haylee Bowman in year 10, who has been wakeboarding since she was two and a half, has placed 4th in the Inverter division at Lake Kurwongbah in Queensland.

This division means Haylee flips, spins, does 360’s and flies over jumps while travelling at over 20 miles an hour.

This is Haylee’s first year competing and after 5 rounds is through to the QLD State Titles and has also qualified for the Australian and National Titles! Good luck Haylee!

VALENTINE’S DAY at THS!
The year 12 students raised over $300 for the Heart Foundation selling chocolate roses, cupcakes and ‘lovehearts’ for Valentine’s Day. Well done!
This year Toormina High School will be visiting the snow! The excursion is a fantastic chance for students in the junior school (Years 7 - 10) to learn how to ski or snowboard with their peers in the NSW Snowy Mountains.

The excursion will take place from Sunday 21st August – Friday 26th August 2016 and involve a 5 Day Ski Program at Perisher.

The cost per student includes the following:
- 5 nights’ accommodation
- All meals (6 dinners, 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches)
- 5 day lift and lesson passes
- Ski equipment hire including a neck warmer and drink bottle
- Supervision and professional graded lessons with experienced Perisher program staff
- Evening recreation activities
- Secure and private storage facilities at the snow fields
- Transport to and from ski tube terminal including entry and tickets
- Lift, lesson and ski tube terminal passes purchased at Jindabyne

Lift, lesson and ski tube terminal passes purchased at Jindabyne would normally cost over $700 alone without the additional cost of accommodation, meals, ski equipment hire etc.

The cost of the excursion will be $1000 per student. We will look to begin fundraising in the coming weeks to cover the cost of transportation to and from Toormina High School.

As we have limited places available the first 100 students to return their permission notes and a deposit of $200 on Friday 19th February will be allocated seats on the bus with some priority being given to Year 10 2016 students. Beyond that a waiting list will be established.

All Years 7 - 10 students were given an information/permission note on Thursday, 4th February.

Parents and students will be able to make deposit payments to the Front Office from 8:30am on Friday 19th February.

Laura McRae, Head Teacher Welfare

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.

Joint Anti-truancy Sweep
Please be aware truancy officers from the Department of Education in a joint operation with police will be working within this community in the coming weeks. Any young people found unsupervised, on the streets, may be approached by officers and questioned. Young people found to be truantaing will have their names recorded and will be directed to return to school. This operation will be ongoing.

Keeping them safe.

IF YOUR STUDENT NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY
Please have them bring a note to the front office before school to have it signed by a deputy. This enables the student to receive an Early Leave Pass, if no pass, students must be signed out by a parent or carer.
THS SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016 more pics on THS website.
Uniform Shop News

The Junior and Senior girls skirts are at last, in stock. We have all sizes in stock. The Senior girls sleeveless blouse has been replaced with the white blouse but they can still be worn until stock runs out. I have a very limited number of sleeveless blouses left (no size 10) so if you want one get in quick. We have good supplies of all uniforms except Junior girls blouse which will come in later in the year.

I am leaving the Uniform Shop as of 29th Feb and Karina Allen is taking over. Thanks for being so great to work with (students, parents, staff and Daylight Sportswear) and best of luck to Karina. I’m sure you will all make her feel as welcome as you did me.

Bye for now,
Michele

THS UNIFORM SHOP open every MONDAY
8:30am - 4:00pm

A reminder to all parents that our bus bay is regularly patrolled by council rangers, so please observe the ‘No Stopping’ times to avoid costly fines. These fines are imposed even if a car drives through the bus bay during designated bus times, so park further away and walk back to collect your child if necessary. Currently the designated ‘No Stopping’ times are from 8-9:30am and 2:30-4pm.

Principal’s Column

I encourage any interested parents to join us for our monthly P&C meetings on the third Wednesday of the month from 5.30pm in the staff common room. There are fundraising plans ahead and we also value parental input to our school planning and policy development. I would be remiss if I weren’t to recognise the wonderful efforts of Michele Bake in my Principal’s Column. Not only is Michele an invaluable leader of our school parent community but, for the last year, Michele has managed our school Uniform Shop and this week marks her last week in that role as Karina Allen steps in. Thank you, Michele, for all of your hard work in assisting our students and school community.

We ask that parents please encourage your children to be prepared for school, with equipment ready, as well as homework and assignments completed on time. Engagement will be enhanced with good preparation – as we all know, it is good to be aware and on the front foot in life – and our students all benefit from prior preparation and planning in their work and in their lives.

A gentle reminder to parents that our school is a professional workplace where students and staff are expected to dress in appropriate attire, this expectation extends also to parents who enter school grounds for meetings or to collect their children. Please dress appropriately and avoid wearing swim suits, scant attire or clothing with messages and slogans that might cause offence. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

Dr Joanne Bellette