2016 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Kaitlyn Bland, President
Nadine Hughes, President
Joy Ngongo, Vice President
Isabella Pitt, Vice President

Cooper Bake-Smith
Emily Chisolm
Abbie Zammitt
Bree-Anna
Adams-Atkinson
Ryan Gilchrist
Ee Ee Nuon
Billy Briggenshaw
Amanda Casey
Melanie Hughes

Georgia Elliot
Jaime-Lee Buck
Meg La Macchia
Zyla Steele
Liam Taylor
Iraia Connors
Finley Lewis
Hayden Castle
Erykah Kitchener-Waters
Anna Minton
On Monday, February 15, the SRC students took part in a training day at the Toormina Guide Hall. We took part in skill and team building activities. The presidents and vice-presidents were elected in formal voting procedures. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Bland and Nadine Hughes for becoming presidents and to Joy Ngongo and Isabella Pitt for becoming vice-presidents. Zyla Steele was voted in as secretary, Bree-Anna Adams-Atkinson as treasurer and I became the publicity officer.

We learnt how to conduct a formal meeting and discussed future events to be run by the SRC.

The day was fun and will help us work better as a team and become a better SRC.

Ryan Gilchrist, SRC Publicity Officer
Year 7 BONDING DAY

On Thursday the 18th, all of year 7 and many intrepid staff journeyed to Sawtell Reserve for our Bonding day. The aim of the day was for students and staff to create new relationships. Little did we know that we were entering the largest sauna in the area. The students completed activities such as: house of cards, tallest paper tower, pair talk, connected lives, sport, and Cinderella at the Ball. We were also privileged to have Senior Constable Snow and Mr Michael Gibbs our HSLO officer speak to us. The lamingtons for morning tea and sausage sizzle for lunch were a great hit.

Thanks to the wonderful staff who went above and beyond to make this a successful day. In the extreme heat conditions the students were terrific, complying with all requests cheerfully and making new friends.

Leanne Firkins, Year Adviser
Panning for sapphires at THS!
The year 10 Earth and Environmental Science class spent the lesson sieving dirt from the Inverell area for sapphires and other semi-precious gemstones. The Inverell region is known for having the highest concentration of gem quality sapphires in the southern hemisphere. The students were lucky and several very nice gemstones were found.

Dr Andrew Willhoite
Science Teacher

Toormina High School
has
LOCKERS AVAILABLE!
$20 refundable deposit,
$20 hire per year.

What’s new on the THS website?
• Online booking instructions for Parent Teacher Interviews
• Year 7 Bonding Day photos
• SRC Induction Ceremony photos
• 2016 Swimming Carnival photos
• Youth friendly Mental Health websites are listed under the ‘News’ tab & also under ‘Caring for Students/Student Counselling’
Principal’s Column

We have had a busy start to our school year at Toormina High and as much as I enjoy celebrating the successes of our students in the classroom and out, I also understand that we occasionally need to revisit our larger school goals in terms of our 2015 – 2020 school plan.

Last year marked the introduction of our new five year school plan and the beginning of a range of new programs to support student learning across the school. After twelve months we have had a number of notable outcomes from these programs, some of which have garnered us state-wide recognition for the outstanding work being done. This week an article was published in the Education magazine entitled ‘Stunning Literacy Results Spur Students On’ which recognised the success of Toormina High School’s Intensive Literacy Program. Established as part of our first strategic direction – Creating Our Future Learners – the Intensive Literacy Program provides one-on-one support to students in developing core literacy skills. Students are assessed as they enter the program and at regular intervals throughout. In 2015 an analysis of this data indicated that on average the reading age of students increased by 1.9 years over a 15 week period in the program. The new-found confidence and skills students are gaining from this program are then being transferred back into classrooms across all key learning areas, and participants often bring friends to self-refer.

The Intensive Literacy Program was only one of many new programs introduced under this strategic direction and some of the others, which have garnered equally impressive outcomes, include: the Aboriginal Boys Horticultural Program, the CREST senior mentoring program, Project Based Learning and the EALD learn to swim program.

Our second strategic direction – Creating Our Future Leaders – has also resulted in some new opportunities for our students and staff in the area of leadership development. Amongst other things, it has resulted in the establishment of the Student Executive Team, the revitalisation of our SRC and the establishment of Professional Development Plans for staff.

Our third strategic direction – Creating Our Future Community – recognises the importance of school and community engagement. As part of this strategic direction we have introduced Gumbaynggirr as our mandatory Stage 4 language study. We have also begun broadening our communication methods with our community through the introduction of Skoolbag, a Toormina High School Facebook page and we will soon be updating our school website.

Whilst there is always more that needs doing, I’m pleased with our current progress toward our school goals and look forward to sharing with you more positive news about student outcomes in the future.

Dr Joanne Bellette
We like to introduce our new staff to our school community...

**Name...Karina Allen**  
THS Position... SASS & Uniform Shop Manager  
The high school I attended was...Alfred Deakin High School, Canberra.  
On weekends I enjoy...family time.  
I love...family & reading.  
I don’t like...brussel sprouts.  
When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... I didn’t need to be told anything, because I was a good girl!! :)  

**Name... Anita Milne**  
THS Position... English Teacher  
The high school I attended was... Wingham High School.  
On weekends I enjoy... sleeping in & going to the beach.  
I love... baking bread & eating it!  
I don’t like... when people are sarcastic & I don’t notice...  
When I was a teenager I wish someone had told me... that the HSC wouldn’t dictate my whole life.

**Support Unit COFFEE SHOP**  
Last week another successful Coffee Shop was held in the Support Unit, with great staff, such as, Willy Iraokeze and Adrian Smith below right, delicious food supplied by Amanda Clifford & team and jazz played by Head Teacher, Chris Browne and THS parent, Tony Harvey.
7 World JOURNALISTS & EDITORS

Sally Johnson’s 7 World English class have created ‘newspapers’. The standard of articles were so high we had to include some!

TOORMINA HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

It was the end of the holidays with the late nights and the sleep-ins, and time to get back into early mornings and heavy school bags. Leaving the house at around 8:00 and then getting back home at about 4:00 in the afternoon. We have 6 periods in a day with 6 different teachers. Which was a bit scary because we are only used to having one teacher teach all your lessons at primary school, but it is good having a variety of teachers. The subjects are maths, science, English, geography, music, art, history, PDHPE, PE, technology and language. Toormina High School is also a great place to make heaps of new friends as well as your primary school friends.

There are so many opportunities as well, like going to high level sporting events, joining the SRC, debating or public speaking team. You also get to experience working with some pretty cool stuff in science, like lighting a Bunsen burner and mixing chemicals together to make a reaction or learning gymnastics and many other sports in PE.

All of the teachers and students are helpful, and for the first couple of days it was just year 7 students in the school so it was not so overwhelming because it is a large school. The teachers even took us to our classes for the first couple of days.

Toormina High School is a great school with good education and many opportunities.

Freya Laidlaw

PERIOD 3, THURSDAY, WEEK A

Sewing for some is like breathing or sleeping, but for others it can be the hardest thing to do.

First, you have to pick colours and no-one can ever just pick two colours. What if you want blue, green and pink? What are you meant to do? Just choose blue and green? But when you decide, the next challenge awaits you, threading the cotton, there are so many steps - up through this, around & down that, how do you remember all of this? But those steps are just warming you up! The real challenge is a real test of concentration! You have to navigate two pieces of material through a machine that could make your finger a third piece of material.

In my sewing class we are making monsters. We have to draw our monsters, then choose which one, after that we draw the features, mouths, eyes, noses and any other features that you may want to ribbon. We then pick out fabric. We draw out the front & back view and cut them out. But remember to allow for the seam (allowing for the seam is when you measure something you have to put an extra 2cm of material, because, it might be the exact measurements but you can’t connect the two pieces of fabric).

There is a lot to remember as we all found out, but I really think we can do it! Imagine having to do all of this in just 10 weeks! This is what year 7 have to do!

Emily Buckle

Ella gets lost at THS

On Monday the 8th of February, I, Ella La Macchia got lost at Toormina High School. It all started at home, Dad was taking forever to get ready whereas Meg (my sister) and I were already ready. He finally came downstairs and said “let’s go”, but then my little brother wasn’t ready and it was already 8:45. After about 10 minutes of waiting my brother was at last ready and we finally got in the car and dropped my brother at school. Then my dad realises that he forgot his phone so we have to go back home and get his phone then when he gets it he keeps contemplating whether or not to put his surfboard on the car, Meg and I said “NO” and he listened to us.

Finally we get to school at about 9:00am and we walk into school and everyone is already in class. Meg goes to her class and I try to find my class. I thought I had tech first so I went to the tech rooms and all these seniors were there so I checked my timetable and realised I had PDHPE first but I didn’t know where the room was. I walked around to try to find Room 6 and whilst looking I saw my friend, Ellie’s head pop up in the classroom, luckily Mrs Johnston hadn’t called the roll yet.

Ellie La Macchia
MNC Reps

Fifteen Toormina High School students have been successful in making the Mid North Coast 15 and under Zone Touch Football team. Over 60 students tried out for the team across all schools in the MNC, with 24 student in total being successful. This is an outstanding achievement for our school to have such a large percentage of players in the team.

Congratulations to Jacob Robinson- Mackay, Ziggy Connors, Jordan Chapman, Alikkan Jerrard, Kyah Hope, Malakai Donovan, Ben Sinclair, Kai Kovalskis, Jenna Stevenson, Shavannah Boota, Jada-Lee Brunton, Ee Ee Ewon, Thomma Lockyer, Katie Shields and Talirah Patterson.

Adam Berrada, PE Teacher

Absent from photo below: Jacob Robinson- Mackay, Ziggy Connors, Alikkan Jerrard, Kyah Hope, Kai Kovalskis & Jenna Stevenson.

SPirit of Toormina Award

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

Taylor Hargraves-Lord
Nathan Pollitt
Gypsy-Lee Musumeci
Shaylee Poole
Zoe Melklejohn
Layne Murphy
Tristan Smith
Jesse Kirkman
Tyler Eather
Breanna Ballinger
Anna Minton
Bella Pitt
Tylah Semenikow
Danielle Thomas
Marley Dungay
Britney Bellingham
Bryce Britton
Tunai Tarrant
Aidan Loveday

Congratulations to year 10 student, Hunter Bake-Smith on his recent selection to the North Coast Baseball team!
Next game for Hunter will be the State Cup in March. Good luck!
EVER WANTED TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

You've Got The MUSIC IN YOU

Musical Instrument Tutoring

If you are interested in taking the next step, you can find out more from Mr McGeary and Miss McAuley in CAPA.
Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Tuesday 15th March. Bookings must be finalised before the 14th of March at 4pm, when bookings for this event will close.

For parents that do not have internet access, send a note to school with the approximate times you require, or phone the school on 66533077. Our friendly Front Office staff are happy to help with this process. Interviews are strictly 5 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact the school to make alternative arrangements.

Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit your family.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

1. Enter your details

2. Select the teachers you wish to see

3. Select the appointment times that suit your family best

When you click FINISH, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately – Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on 14th March at 4pm

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 66533077

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.