



TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2010



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

So much of it is about happiness.

People who are happy have high levels of resilience and cope with difficult situations better. Happy kids perform better at school. I have spent some time recently looking over some research about what makes people happy. Apart from the obvious of good diet, exercise and loving caring relationships a 'new' notion has come to the forefront of research. That is, that people's happiness has an extremely high correlation to time spent in green spaces, not just outside, but at the park, in the bush or at the beach. It goes without saying that these happy people are probably walking, surfing, riding or getting some form of exercise. The research, however, suggests that by just being 'out' you will feel better. To put this in the context of our students and their welfare is a very interesting proposition; by the time they go to school, do their homework and assessment tasks, visit friends, go their part time jobs, practise and play sport and spend 'a 1000' hours a week on social networking sites, there can only be limited time to get outside and enjoy nature. Scan these activities and pick which one is most disposable. I come up with social networking.

As the HSC and other serious events draw closer, rather than think the world is ending or making the doctor or the counsellor the one stop solution to those periods of stress, try the local park, the river, the beach or one of a number of the beautiful places we are privileged to share in the Manning Valley. Talk to family and friends and then seek advice.

We work really hard every day on supporting student welfare in an attempt have our students feel safe and happy. Some things that are increasingly difficult for us to negotiate are disputes brought in from the outside, particularly the family disputes. We are swimming upriver when differences are fuelled from home or stem from differences between adults. When parents work with us as a team differences are resolved swiftly and amicably. The notion that the 'school' is the problem is preposterous.

A parent described the cable connecting her daughter's earphones to her phone as an umbilicus, life threatening once severed. As more and more students 'get connected' using a range of tools and sites to stay in touch, the social ills are more and more evident. Most high school age students do not have the social skills to manipulate the largely uncensored and unaccountable styles of communications that our 'gen Y' covert. At least half of the arguments that manifest themselves in our classrooms and playgrounds stem from inappropriate use of communications technology. I fear this is having a significant negative effect on students' happiness and learning. I am prompting discussions with our Deputies (those largely charged with the responsibility of resolving disagreement) in generating some policy to push back against this trend. Banning mobile phones across the board would be easy but would also punish the greater portion of students who manage the phones responsibly. Rather, I am proposing that as part of the discipline outcomes for those students involved in disputes of a nature that seriously disrupt the learning of others or that warrant a deputy referral and have misused a phone they will undergo a period where they will not bring their phone to school. Cooperation of parents and carers will be needed if this 'user pays' type system is to have any effect. To have a mobile phone and bring it to school is a privilege not a right. Students who abuse these privileges will have them withdrawn. Phones will be confiscated and parents will be asked to come to school and negotiate a suitable withdrawal period. Maybe some kids will realise that their phones are not a life line and go for a walk in the park and be happy.



Mr Peter Bird

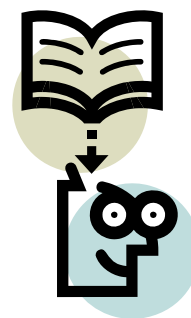
DATES TO REMEMBER

25/5/10	P & C Meeting	26/5/10	Zone Athletics	28/5/10	Regional Cross Country
1,2,3/6/10	CHS Girls Hockey	4/6/10	Yr 12 Business Excursion	8,9,10/6/10	CHS Boys Hockey
14/6/10	Queens Birthday Holiday	17/6/10	Vaccinations - Yr 7 HPV 2nd dose, All Yr 7 Chicken Pox, All Yr 7 Hep B 1st dose.		

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Did you know that the qualification levels required in the Australian workforce are :

University 24%
VET 64%
Unqualified 12%



However currently Australia is only producing :

20 % entry to University
30% attaining Vocational Education (VET) qualifications
50% achieving no qualifications other than HSC or SC.

So what are we doing about it? I'm glad you asked.

Each year approx 75% of our HSC students receive an ATAR (tertiary entrance score) that opens up doors into tertiary studies, between 40-50% receive offers to enrol at a university or college to pursue higher qualifications. This does not necessarily mean that others don't progress to uni via other pathways such as mature entry after a few years in the work force, or via certificate IV & diploma qualifications through TAFE.

Recently the number of students accessing VET courses either at school or TAFE has doubled. We have also expanded participation in early commencement and acceleration of stage 5 students (Yrs 9 & 10) into TAFE training and Traineeships for both Stage 5 and 6 (Yrs 11 & 12). Our ever popular 'career link' program has expanded to allow students to access more of the stage 6 electives and participate in work placement, TAFE and achieve a HSC.

Students caught in the increase in leaving age to 17 have commenced participation in Skills Pathways for Youth programs and as a bonus have been invited to participate in a "Job Action Group" partnership with Breakthru Employment where the students are given professional work skills training and work placement support so that they emerge as 'work ready' at the end of Year 11. We are the only high school in the Manning Valley to offer such an opportunity.

Another strategy to address the lack of qualifications of youth who have completely disengaged from school is another partnership we have formed with Breakthru Employment and distance education (Camden Haven High) for Stage 5 students. These students who would otherwise be not attending school and not achieve a School Certificate, are now participating in an innovative curriculum delivery which will lead to the award of the School Certificate enabling them to progress into further vocational training at TAFE, traineeships, work or re-entry to school.

As you can see, we are doing our bit to address the needs of the community and our students by delivering what is acknowledged as best practice in delivering a broad and challenging curriculum.



Mr Mark Thomson

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Hot on the heels of the Principal's column this month is the theme for me...Resilience. This has been described as the ability to "bungee jump through life". Resilience is part of our emotional intelligence. When faced with a problem, people who are resilient focus on finding a solution rather than getting depressed and feeling like victims. It really can be translated as emotional strength. Resilience can be determined by a number of factors including temperament, life experiences and modelling from other people's experiences. As parents and teachers our role is to help our kids respond positively and with strength to day to day situations.

Being resilient assists students not to "sweat the small stuff" but focus on **what** and **who** is important to them. They are more likely to be able to address issues with their friends in a positive manner and less likely to attract bullying and harassment from other students. How parents deal with the issues their children bring home from school or from other social groups also impacts on their resilience. Children should be encouraged to seek help for problems they cannot deal with positively, by utilising school staff

networks – Year Advisers, Counsellors, Head Teacher Welfare or Year Deputy Principal. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have concerns, but equally should try and allow their child to address the issues themselves. Parents becoming involved through direct contact with other students personally or via social networking, may in fact, inflame the situation more. Advising your student that there are many options they can do, respond or feel and that the other party may have a different set, allows them to see things from other people’s perspectives.

Taking time to reflect is important before acting...asking questions such as Is this worth it? Can I ignore this situation? What do I want to happen? Who can help me resolve the issue? Acting impulsively can often exacerbate the situation and result in negative consequences for students. Never make decisions whilst you are angry...and take time to collect your thoughts and formulate a strategy.



Ms A Alliston

DEPUTY’S REPORT

Year 7 and 9 students have just completed their NAPLAN tests. All students have been complimented on the way in which they carried themselves throughout the test period. They have given themselves the best possible opportunity to do well. There has been a lot of media coverage and a political tug-o-war surrounding NAPLAN and the My School website. Taree High continues to support the NAPLAN and the important data it provides. The funding and support that we have received through National Partnerships has a strong reference to the results of our students. This will be one of our yardsticks for measuring performance, but more importantly to identify where we need to pool resources for improvement whilst celebrating and continuing to improve where we do well.

We are moving ahead in our programming with our National Partnerships where students in year 8 will be undertaking revamped learning experiences. They will serve as our evaluation tool to ensure that future works cater for all needs and enable successful learning experience.

Year 9 students will be receiving their laptops probably as this goes to print. It is an exciting time for the students and staff to have this technology available to them. A big thanks to all those parents who gave up their time to attend the Parent Information Meeting on the new laptops. Students will go through an exhaustive process and receive a great deal of information when they receive the laptop. Students will have the ability to access the internet from all learning spaces within the school which opens another door to learning opportunity. There is bound to be problems and concerns here and there so please contact the school’s Technical Support Officer (TSO) Mr Fenton with any inquiries. At the very least parents should have a bit more access to their home computers now!



Mr Paul Ivers

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The SRC has been busy the last two months, having regular meetings and regular sub-committee meetings. Along with a great turn out for the ANZAC March, the SRC has been undergoing some projects.

The Environment committee have been undergoing some self-analysis, and have agreed that there needs to be a larger, more enthusiastic group. The way they have decided to achieve this goal is to open to THE committee up to any member of the school community. In this, we will be working closely with Ms Burton from the Science Faculty. Mr Burton has expertise in environmental concerns and has many great ideas which we are keen to put into practice. If there is anyone keen to help reduce the carbon footprint of Taree High, listen to roll call notices, and in the near future we will be holding a meeting.

Another committee that has been hard at work is the Spirit Cup Committee. They have been busy preparing for our Spirit Day at the end of this term, trying to make this Spirit Day the best yet. For those students who do not know what spirit day is, it is a day at the end of Term 2 when classes are cancelled, uniform isn’t worn and games are played all day to earn sports house points, to earn prizes and to win the coveted Spirit

Cup. It's a day of excitement and adventures, and you do not want to miss it.

Out of Uniform Day was a success! We were raising money for Stewart House, and it was great to see everyone so enthusiastic about it. We don't have a figure for how much we raised yet, but good luck to everyone who got an entry into the \$4 000 holiday.

Our Term 2 social theme was Recycled Material. This saw many creative costumes where recycled materials such as shopping bags or cardboard were put to use. It was a great success.

The Senior Social is being organised very well by our two female captains, Caitlin and Nicole, under the guidance of Year 12 Adviser, Mr May You will hear some news soon regarding where, when and ticket sales. Stay tuned!

This is the second last term for the SRC. Anyone who is interested in electing next year should listen to the roll notices. Year 7 students will be invited to come visit a meeting in the near future.



Tom Crellin

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The countdown has begun for Spirit Day 2010! Preparations for Spirit Day have become the SRC's main priority this term, hoping to make it a very successful day. Back up plans are currently underway just in case the weather is not kind, and considering that we have not had a full day of sun on Spirit Day, a back-up plan is a MUST! We have been busy thinking up some new, fun activities for this year. The activities for 2010 will consist of; Sing Star, Trivia, Dodge Ball, Charades, Miss Piggy and the Obstacle Course. Year 12 will run a BBQ and lolly stall and the canteen will open. Taree High's very own DJ's Nic and Tom will be playing live music during lunch which will run for one hour in the quad. The day will conclude with the infamous war cry, where houses have one last chance to prove they really do have the most spirit!

The SRC is also hoping to introduce Spirit Week. We are hoping to have various performances from the music and drama department, as well as running sporting competitions between houses during the lunch breaks leading up to Spirit Day.

Letters have been sent out to local businesses seeking sponsorship for the day which will help provide prizes, and various equipment for the day. For just \$30 businesses will receive an advertisement in our school newsletter.

The day will be a lot of fun for everyone, including the teachers.

Dress up, and bring your spirit along.

See you then.



Bill Pitt



Caitlin Rosser

YEAR 12 REPORT

Howdy!

So, we've crossed the halfway mark, and now only have one and a half terms to go. It's kinda scary, but also exciting. We've survived our half yearly exams, and the trials will be here sooner than we know it, followed by the dreaded HSC. Speaking of which, if you haven't looked already, our timetables are up on the students online website, so check it out so you can possibly start planning your studying, but more likely everyone's 18th parties.

Also, being Year 12, we finally got the privilege of getting our own common room, and it got taken off us! So please guys, keep our area tidy and hopefully we'll get it back. And PLEASE refrain from putting unmicrowavable stuff in the microwave. Some people would like their nice hot food without a side dish of hair.

The Year 12 jackets, although suffering immense delay, will hopefully be here by the time you read this.

It's been a long wait, but with the tick of approval from the Chinese Emperor, they will hopefully all be in tip top condition, and we will all look spiffy as ever. So keep your fingers crossed.

Well I can't think of much else that's happening at the moment, so any spare time you have now take advantage of, because I can guarantee there'll be a limited amount of it over the next 5 months.

Yours truly



Gab King

YEAR 11 REPORT

Hey Year 11

We just had a blood day so thanks to all those people who helped out and donated blood. We had a social in Week 5 where the theme was Recycled Materials. It was great to see everyone looking their best. School is starting to get a bit more hectic so on that note I'm out.

Take care now.



Alan Abraham

YEAR 10 REPORT

Hi Guys!

How're all your shirts? Do they fit?

Hope you all enjoyed the social and spent big on the Out of Uniform day!

Year 11 subject choices will be coming up soon - better start thinking about what classes you want to choose.



Fred Pitt

YEAR 9 REPORT

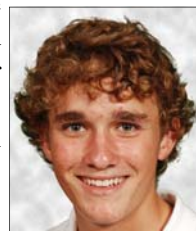
Hi!

There are a few things happening this term that you should know about. First of all, for those who went, I hope you had a great time at the last social, I sure did.

There is a new environmental committee being formed by Ms Burton to help with the organizing and running days such as Clean up Australia Day and to work with Mid Coast Water to help keep local rivers clean. So if anybody is interested see Ms Burton or your SRC rep.

Finally Spirit Day is on the last day of this term so turn up in some crazy costumes and be full of spirit to help win the spirit cup for your house.

If anybody has any suggestions or aren't sure about an upcoming event just ask Zoe, Pat, Georgia or me.



Andrew Bowman

See you around,

YEAR 8 REPORT

Hey guys!

The social was a success. I hope everyone had lots of fun. There were some very interesting costumes which was good to see. It's also great to see the year eighthers in their own area! Spirit Day is coming up, so that's something we can all look forward to.



Madeline Heron



ATTENDANCE

Why is regular attendance important?

Parents and /or carers have the legal responsibility of ensuring that their children attend school.



LEGALLY

The Education Reform Act of 1990 stated that:

In 2010 this legislation has been changed and students are required to attend school from 6 years to the completion of Year 10 or 17 years. Minimum requirements for students who have completed Year 10 but have not yet turned 17 will be either to complete 25 hours of training a week, be employed for 25 hours a week, or a combination of both.

Parents/ caregivers MUST provide the school with an explanation for each absence. This can be in the form of a written note, a phone call to the school, or a personal visit to the school. Most schools prefer notes as it provides a record for them to keep.

WILLINGNESS, ENTHUSIASM, ENERGY

Would you like to live a longer life? Be healthier? Have better self-esteem?

We'd all like to have these! And volunteering can be a way to gain these positives – especially if you are a willing, enthusiastic and energetic Year 9 or 10 student at Taree High School...

Recently, Ms Tate and I attended a DET course in Port Macquarie on the NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards Program.

When we think of volunteers, we often picture older retired people with time on their hands. Is this assumption really the case?

Well, no!

We should of course, always value and commend our older Australians for their volunteering contributions. According to census statistics however, more and more of our young people are 'bringing it', giving their time and skills to benefit others in our schools and communities.

With this reality in mind, Ms Tate and I are very excited to be coordinating these Student Volunteering Awards for Years 9 and 10. We encourage any student from these years to become involved. We would love to acknowledge what our students are doing for Taree High and the wider community.

Whether it's library monitoring, serving in the canteen, marching on ANZAC day, Surf Life-saving or walking your elderly neighbour's dog, you all should be acknowledged and rewarded for your generous unpaid contributions to the quality of peoples' lives.

We would also like to encourage those of you who are interested in becoming a volunteer, but just haven't known how to become involved. We envisage that there will be ample opportunities throughout this year and next for our Year 9 and 10 volunteers to share their skills, values and time within the school and out in the community.

You may be asking, *how will I be acknowledged?*

Ms Tate and I will help you log the time you spend volunteering. Once you reach twenty hours you will receive a bronze NSW Premier's Student Volunteer certificate of achievement. But it doesn't stop there. At forty hours, you'll receive a silver certificate. At sixty...gold. And at eighty plus hours, a diamond certificate will be yours.

Of course we know students don't volunteer in order to receive certificates. You guys do it because it makes you feel good to help others. The certificates are presented to show our government's appreciation and acknowledgement of what our young people contribute to our country. And it looks fabulous on your CV as well!

Ms Tate and I would encourage parents and carers to let us know if your child volunteers in any capacity – we are well aware that often our young volunteers are humble, quiet achievers and therefore are reluctant to blow their own trumpets and promote themselves to us.

So student volunteers of Years 9 and 10... 'Bring it!'

Ms Melanie Walker

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION REPORT

ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY CLASSES FROM TAREE HIGH AND WINGHAM HIGH MADE THE TRIP TO SYDNEY TO STUDY URBAN DYNAMICS OF CHANGE.

WE LEFT TAREE AT 1.29 AM ON THE XPT; PEOPLE WERE SLEEPING ON THE TRAIN UNTIL OF COURSE WE GOT ON!

IT WAS A LONG TRIP WITH NOT A LOT OF SLEEP. WHEN WE ARRIVED WE WERE ALL KEEN FOR BREAKFAST AT THE YHA AT CENTRAL.

THE FIRST DAY INVOLVED A LOT OF WALKING FROM THE SYDNEY FISH MARKETS TO THE ROCKS LOOKING AT EXAMPLES OF URBAN DECAY AND URBAN RENEWAL.

IN THE LATE AFTERNOON WE HAD AN EARLY DINNER AND HEADED TO THE IMAX THEATRE AND WATCHED AVATAR IN 3D.

THE SECOND DAY WE WERE ALL KEEN ON CATCHING PUBLIC TRANSPORT. BUT MRS CROZIER INSISTED WE WALK AGAIN! THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TRIP WE WOULD HAVE WALKED "100 KMS" (WELL IT FELT LIKE IT). PERHAPS ONE OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES WAS TRAVELLING ON THE MANLY FERRY ON A GLORIOUS DAY.

OUR TRAIN DEPARTED SYDNEY AT 4 PM, WE ARRIVED BACK IN TAREE AT 9.30 PM.

THE TRIP WAS FUN, WITH LOTS OF EXERCISE.

DEFINITELY WORTH DOING AGAIN. THANKS TO MRS CROZIER FOR HER ORGANISATION.



JESSICA KELLY

Years 11 and 12 Music Excursion

On Thursday 29 April Years 11 and 12 Music students from Taree High travelled to Newcastle for the HSC Music Day at the Conservatorium of Music. The participants included hundreds of students from various schools around the Hunter and Mid North Coast regions and the day provided an excellent display of performances, advice and teaching from professionals in these areas.

It was an early waking for the keen musicians, leaving the school on the bus at 6 am on Thursday morning to arrive in Newcastle for the 9 am start. At the start of the day, all the attending school students packed into the large music hall of the conservatorium. The day began with an encore performance by a HSC student on violin. From this outstanding performance, we could already see that it was going to be a full day of excitement. After this inspiring performance, we listened to Rod Glassop as he gave expert advice for performing music in the HSC with his workshop "Maximising your outcomes". Following this great advice, we were once again treated with another two astonishing performances – "Castles" by the Hunter Singers choir and "Superhero" performed by a wind octet from the Hunter School of Performing Arts.

Soon after a short recess break, each student had the choice of attending two separate workshops from a list of eight. For our first choice, Taree High students attended the aural skills preparation workshop, which supplied students with great information about how to deal with the HSC written exam for music. For our second option, we had the choice between workshops for Music Composition, Musicology, Viva Voce, and performance anxiety. Each of these workshops was outstanding for the students who attended them. They were all enjoyable and gave students a great deal of knowledge about these



different areas in the HSC music course.

To conclude the day, all students returned to the music hall to view the Performance Master class. This involved eight outstanding current Year 12 students performing and being commented on by HSC markers. The skill level of every one of these performers was almost indescribable! From piano to saxophone and guitar, each performance displayed a huge level of originality and great ability! This was a wonderful experience to be a part of, to not only be treated with the outstanding display of music, but also receive great advice and feedback from the HSC markers.

Overall, the day was a marvellous experience for all of those who attended. We all received a great deal of advice and enjoyed the constant display of music performances. It was an extremely rewarding trip and we will definitely reserve seats for next year!



James Kennedy

MOOT REPORT

WHAT IS A MOOT? THIS IS MYSELF, FELICIA, AND SEVERAL OCCASIONS. A APPEAL, WHICH ORIGINATED IT EMULATES A COURT MOCK TRIAL. MOOTING IS FOCUSES MORE ON THE RELATION TO THE CASE.

THIS YEAR, MR PICKARD SCHOOL 'S TEAM INTO THE SCHOOLS' MOOTING CONSISTED OF FELICIA COUNSEL, SONIA ELLEM AS OUR INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, AND MYSELF, BILL PITT, AS JUNIOR COUNSEL.

THE MOOT TOOK PLACE IN THE APPEALS TRIBUNAL ON MARKET STREET, IN SYDNEY, WHICH WE TRAVELLED TO. WE HAD PREPARED THE CASE BEFOREHAND, AND WERE EAGER TO GET IN THERE AND HAVE A GO.

OUR CASE WAS RATHER HEAVY AND INVOLVED A DUTY OF CARE OWED TO A STUDENT BY AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN QUEENSLAND. OUR JOB WAS TO HAVE THE RULING BY THE JUDGE IN A DISTRICT COURT QUASHED. WE WERE 'WORKING' FOR THE APPELLANT. AS PART OF THIS, WE HAD TO RESEARCH PRECEDENTS, OR LANDMARK COURT RULINGS, PUT INTO SIMPLE TERMS. OUR INSTRUCTING SOLICITOR, ELLEM (AS SONIA WOULD BE REFERRED TO WITHIN THE COURT), TOOK TO THIS TASK WITH GREAT GUSTO, RESEARCHING, READING AND HIGHLIGHTING THROUGH CASES SUCH AS R V. CLARK (SAID THE QUEEN AGAINST CLARK, AS WE LEARNT), R V. BBD.

ELLEM'S ADVISORY ROLE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED, AS MY LEARNED COLLEAGUE BARDAN AND I, NOT ONLY HAD TO STAND UP IN A COURT AND ARGUE OUR CASE, WE HAD TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM ONE OF THE TWO JUDGES PRESIDING OVER THE COURT.

NOTE WAS MADE BY THE JUDGES OF OUR INDIVIDUAL SPEAKING STYLES, OF BARDAN'S "AGGRESSION", AND MY, "SLOW RAMBLING". ALL THREE OF US FELT WE HAD DONE REALLY WELL, AND WOULD LOVE TO DO ANOTHER MOOT. IT WAS SOMETHING WE HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE, SO WE WERE A LITTLE (VERY) ANXIOUS TO SEE HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WON, AS THERE WERE 13 OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE REGIONAL COMPETITION. IF WE PROGRESS TO THE FINALS, WE WILL BE FLOWN TO THE GOLD COAST AND HAVE ALL OUR ACCOMMODATION PAID FOR. FINGERS CROSSED, WE COULD DO WITH A HOLIDAY FROM OUR BUSY LIVES WHICH WE'VE SPENT AS BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO MR PICKARD, FOR ORGANISING THE EVENT, AND TAKING US TO SYDNEY, ALONG WITH MRS PICKARD. WITHOUT YOUR DEDICATION, AND EXTRA EFFORT WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME, AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTAKE IN THIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

ALSO, OUR COACH, GABI WATTS, FROM STACKS FORSTER MUST BE MENTIONED. GABI IS AN EX-TAREE HIGH STUDENT WHO NOW PRACTISES LAW. HER EXPERTISE, KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE HELPED US DEVELOP OUR CASE. THANK YOU GABI!



THE QUESTION POSED TO SONIA ON MORE THAN MOOT IS A FORM OF IN 8TH CENTURY ENGLAND. SCENE BUT IS UNLIKE A AN APPEAL, WHICH APPLICATION OF LAW, IN

ENTERED TAREE HIGH BOND UNIVERSITY HIGH COMPETITION. OUR TEAM BARDAN, SENIOR



BILL PITT

YEAR 7 SCIENCE

As part of the Year 7 Science topic Living Things, Mrs Polsons class had to make a model of an animal and deliver a small speech. The quality of the models were AMAZING with many models looking like they could be sold as gifts! Mr Bird was equally impressed and awarded a Principals award to twomembers of the class – Tiarna Wills for her outstanding wombat made of foam, fur and faux leather (which represented the nose) and Jai Collins for his fabulous kangaroo which was constructed of wire. The models were photographed and displayed in the library for other students in the school to admire and enjoy. We had a huge range of animals which students decided to make. These was a: lepeord, red back spider, platypus, koala, earthworm, lizard, chicken, duck, pig, panda, bird, red bellied black snake, caterpillar, wombat, kangaroo, puffer fish, glamour puss, butterfly, and turtle. So if you want to see the absolutely jaw dropping creations from 7P head to the library and check them out!



SES READING

The English language is challenging to say the least – rules, exceptions, ‘sight’ words and all those words imported from other languages....

As our students are progressing through the reading program, we are extending it to include spelling, sentence work, homophones and specific meaning of words to further expand their understanding - we are giving your children an additional opportunity to further their English skills to assist their progress in all other subjects.

We are seeing the improvement with the students using these skills and developing the confidence that comes with achievement.

With all of us (school, home and the student/s) working together, encouraging reading (in an area of their interest) at home as well as at school (Drop Everything And Read {DEAR} – during roll call and any other time), monitoring homework and positive reinforcement they will be the winners!!

Keep up the good work.



Yours in Reading



Stephanie Brown

Special Education Faculty

This term, Special Ed students will participate in a variety of activities including snack making and purchasing ingredients from the local supermarkets, using their skills from PD/Health/PE classes. Healthy food will be the main focus and the students will be making nutritional snacks and working independently to produce a tasty, healthy snack for themselves in the PD/H/PE lesson. We have already made a delicious snack of corn relish dip, carrot sticks, fruit platter and crackers, toasted tomato and cheese sandwiches, crumpets and fruit juices. As much student involvement as possible is practised for each activity.

Police liaison officer Brad Barry will be speaking to Special Ed students on the role of the police in the community. The areas that will be covered will include respect for other’s property and possessions, appropriate speech (no swearing), drugs, alcohol and juvenile detention centres. This visit will occur on 20 May at 9.15 am.

Another activity will involve travel to Saltwater Beach on 8 June, to incorporate the study of Aboriginal history being studied in History this semester. This will involve building a fire to cook the barbeque lunch, walking the beautiful bushwalk around the lagoon, studying the native flora and fauna and generally having a social day with their classmates.

There will be other highlights to look forward to in this very busy term due to an improvement in some students’ behaviour, along with educational outcomes to match the involvement of students and staff. Students are looking at their education in a very positive manner and realising their talents, such as drawing and designing. The level of academic studies has improved immensely for some students and the students are proud of their improvements.

The NAPLAN tests were conducted and we will be very interested in the results..

Happy Learning!!!!



Diana Silcock

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

On Thursday 6 May, Mrs Salmon's Year 10 science class headed to the Taree racecourse for the Science and Engineering Challenge. We arrived early in the morning, the only school not in school uniform, to be shunned by the other schools, but as the day went on we proved that we were not the "also rans" they thought we were. After all the schools had arrived, we headed into the main hall for an explanation of what would happen during the day and then headed off to our different activities in groups of four.

Word spread quickly that we were going really well in our various challenges. Soon everyone had high hopes of heading to Newcastle to represent the region. Lunch was spent sussing out how the competition had gone after quickly devouring our poor excuse of a sausage sandwich. After lunch, some went back to their uncompleted challenges and some went to new ones. By the time we were headed into the hall to watch the testing of the bridges, the goal of heading to Newcastle to represent the region seemed to be well within our reach. The testing of the bridges was the most exhilarating, overwhelming, suspenseful challenge of the day.

Our rivals Wingham were leading the points tally at that point, followed by Gloucester. We were coming in third, still with a strong chance of taking the gold. The aim of the bridge building was to make the lightest bridge that would hold the most weight out of the materials provided. Erica Thornton, Sam Kellahan, Tyler Parker and Lara Angwin were up, with their incredibly light bridge and were hoping the bridge could hold the 'mighty bridge buster'. After four ingots it collapsed, but we still had an enormous number of points because of the feather like weight of the bridge, a miniature 33 grams!

Wingham was next up, hoping to keep their eight year winning streak for the bridge. Their bridge held the 'mighty bridge buster' and their smug faces showed that they were sure they would win. Suspense was high as the announcer started to call the place list. Gloucester came in third and everyone waited in anticipation for the announcer to call second. An explosion of applause came over the racecourse as Wingham High's name was called. Sparkling grins took over the faces of the Taree High students as the realisation of the road trip to Newcastle hit. As we headed for the bus, Edward Eden was seen running along beside the Wingham bus holding the first place medal high in glory. We had broken the winning streak of Wingham High. They were crushed.

A big thanks to Mrs Salmon for taking us out there and to Mr Blanch and Mrs Armstrong for coming out and visiting us during the day.



Madeline Riley

WELCOME TO THE 8TH EDITION

SCHOOL parents

Helping mums and dads with school life

In this edition you will find:

- How to recognise if your child is gifted
- Matt Moran's secrets to lip-smacking lunches
- Andy Griffiths top tips on creative writing
- Teen angst experts on supporting your daughter to say no to peer pressure
- Top reading and number games to help your young learner succeed at school

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Taree High School Joins the Premiers Student Volunteering Awards



About Student Volunteering

NSW Department of Education and Training schools develop Student Volunteering and Service Learning activities to allow students to explore local issues of concern and make a difference.

By participating in community volunteering activities, young people have an opportunity to learn, demonstrate care, respect and responsibility. Service learning activities link this experience to curriculum to enhance and deepen student understanding and skills.

Volunteering will enable students to participate and interact in their community in a positive and meaningful way. The experience may help them to develop skills and confidence in communication and team work. Students will be encouraged to talk about their participation in volunteering activities, and to reflect on the impact of their contribution.

Volunteering is relevant to all students in NSW government schools and all levels of ability.

The NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards

Students will be encouraged to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering activity over the period of enrolment in Years 9 and 10. Those who achieve this target will be eligible to receive a Premier's Certificate.

This Award will be a useful inclusion in a young person's resume, demonstrating to prospective employers that they have a sense of responsibility and a willingness to give selflessly to participate in their community.

Some volunteering activities may be organised as group, class or school projects. However, many students already participate in voluntary community service activities outside school.

Students involved in voluntary service activities with Scouts or other youth groups, surf lifesaving, assisting parents with Meals on Wheels and many other community oriented tasks like these can be acknowledged through the Premier's Awards program. Parents assist by encouraging their child to talk to the school's Student Volunteering and Service Learning coordinator about the activities they do outside school that may contribute to their Premier's Award.

The NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards program has various levels with certificates issued to reflect greater voluntary contribution:

Awards	Volunteer hours
Bronze	20
Silver	40
Gold	60
Diamond	80

Please note: **Volunteering activities organised by parents and students outside school i.e. external activities (e.g. surf lifesaving) are private arrangements. As such, the NSW Department of Education and Training is not responsible for monitoring and ensuring the child's safety.** Parents and carers should make enquiries to ensure adequate public liability insurance arrangements are in place.

What types of activities might students undertake?

Some students might participate in **school-approved activities** such as:

- organised school programs that help younger students to develop reading skills
- coaching younger students in sporting teams at lunch time
- assisting others in an after-school tutorial or homework group.

Your child's school will be able to advise on available and suitable volunteering activities within the school.

Others may participate in **external activities in the wider community**, such as:

- reading to the elderly at an aged care facility
- cleaning up local waterways
- re-vegetation of cleared bush lands or sand dunes
- assisting with gardening, under supervised instruction, in a park or other public space
- care for animals at a local animal shelter
- coordinating a community news website/newsletter.

There are many more possibilities that may allow your child to combine their passion, interests, skills and enthusiasm to take part in a project that benefits others.

Your child will learn more from the Student Volunteering and Service Learning school coordinator about how the program will operate in their school.

How can parents and carers help?

Our school is seeking your support for our Student Volunteering and Service Learning Program in a variety of ways:

- firstly, by encouraging your child to participate and follow through on any commitment they make to a volunteering activity
- secondly, by letting the school know of any volunteering opportunities you are aware of that would be suitable for our students.

For further information about your school's Student Volunteering and Service Learning Program, please contact: Ms Walker or Ms Tate

Netball Report

On 27 April the Taree High Open Girls Netball team travelled to Taree Rec ground. Our 2nd round was against Mt Seaview High School. We all looked GREAT in Taree City body dresses. In the first half of the game we were down by a few points, but Mt Seaview were very good we went down in the second half. The score was 66-22. Mt Seaview High School were a great bunch of girls to play against and they also had good sportsmanship. Congratulations to the girls; Elise McCarthy, Britt Johnson, Jasmine Wheeler, Ashlee King, Gemma Bylos, Cara Stephens, Sarah Evans, Emily Crook, Laura Neale and Megan Stacey for playing a good round of netball and being supportive of each other. And I must not forget to mention we had a great time after our game too!

We will all miss not playing together again. Thank you to Mrs Pellow for being an amazing coach in both rounds.

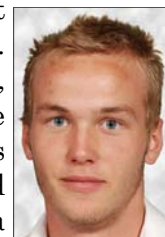


Opens Boys Touch



Britt Johnson

On Thursday 29 April Taree High Taipans Open Boys Touch team took on the Chatham High boys at Chatham High School. The team consisted of Jordan Worboys (C), Adam Gillies, Jordan Lee, Sam Steedman, Corey Wheeler, Tyson Lewis, Matt Wright, Mitchell Saad, Liam Beckett, Joel Campbell, Sam Mitchell and Josh Crocker who was unable to play due to injury. This was the second round of the state knockout after the Taipans' convincing win over Hunter River High, in which the Taipans' led 5-2 at half time went on to a runaway lead of 14-2 at full time. However, even after this solid win the Taipans came in to the game at Chatham as underdogs, due to Chatham being runners up in the State Knockout last year. From the tap off both teams were playing to win and it was hard to split the two. The Taipans' relentless defence frustrated Chatham's skilled attack. Taree was unlucky not to score in the first half with the combo of Worboys, Lewis, Steedman, Wheeler and Gillies all showing their touch experience. Late in the first half Chatham crossed twice to lead 2-0 at the break. The Taipans came out with the same strong defence as seen in the first half and looked certain early in the second to score of 'Worboys' break but were denied after a very dubious touch call by an ex-Taipan player from Chatham. Chatham ran in two late tries to seal the match at 4-0, but was not an indication of closeness of the encounter. Chatham's coach was quoted after the game saying that his team had "dodged a



Athletics Report

bullet". Taree High, although out of the knockout now, will have a high quality team for next year's knockout, with the majority of this year's team consisting of Year 10 and 11's. All in all a solid performance by the boys.

Sam Mitchell

Well Done!



Hey everyone!

First congratulations to everyone who made it to the Athletics Carnival on the last day of school, amazing effort! Real good school spirit being shown there. Talking about spirit, the SRC held the Spirit Day Novelty events that counted towards the Spirit Cup. There were a few new events and a few oldies on the day. The SRC have had evaluations on the events and the timetable for the day, and are going to make changes for next year,

including having more time to hang with your friends and have a bit of down time. Also new activities that we may be able to run on the day. Special thanks to Caitlin Rosser and James Kennedy who is the face behind this great event, also to Billy Pitt, and Nicole Howard. There was great effort by all participants on the day, and was great to see everyone getting in and having a go for their house groups. Other than effort, there were some real competitors there on the day, and the talent from Taree High was shining.

There were a number of records broken that day including Thomas Gilbert from Murray who beat the 13 Yrs discus record by almost a metre with 32.19 m, Korey Christie from Peel also beat a discus record for 14 Yrs boys by a matter of centimetres with 34.01m and Sam Mitchell who made the biggest statement on the day breaking two records, first in the 100m sprint where he broke a record by 0.5 of a second with a time of 11.25 seconds. The other record that he smashed that day was for long jump with a 6.24 m jump, which broke the previous record of 6.14 m.



The point score for the day was Hooke 485 points in 4th, in

3rd Lawn Bowls Report

was Murray on 505, in second place was Peel on 635 points and the winner on the day was Manning with 727 points.

Congratulations to Peel who won the Finals race but Manning were victorious overall because of the number of participation points. This is House Spirit at its best.

Nick Johnson

Midway through last term, the Taree High Lawn Bowl's team consisting of Jaimie-Lee Leslie, Lauren Townes and Mitchell Jobson took to the green of Taree West to play Kurri Kurri High, aka "those big giants"! With Taree High keen to get the game over and done with, we set to the green to answer the question as to why we are playing.



Kurri Kurri proved that they were here to win after the first end, but with Jobbo's skipping and Jaimie's leading up skills, we weren't going down

Open Boys Rugby League

without a fight. Neck and neck after several ends, as the crowd started rolling in the nerves of Kurri Kurri were showing. Playing in exhausting heat with the crowd on our side, unfortunately Taree High was demolished by the some what giants.

Kind regards to Jobbo. We didn't know you'd never played skip.

Thanks to Parko for your organisation and coaching

Jaimie Lee Leslie Lauren Townes

On Thursday 15 April, the Taree High Open Boys Rugby League team travelled to Tuncurry to compete in the University Shield Rugby League Competition against Great Lakes Senior Campus.



When we arrived via bus we stepped off to catch a glimpse of the field. The vegetation was diverse and green in texture. Perfect for playing high quality rugby league. Taree High Taipans won the toss and elected to run in the opposite way of the opposition and thus creating a situation where both teams would be running against each other.

The first few sets were full of high energy tackling and raw passion, as exemplified by Jarrod Avery. Taree High was the first to score through a well crafted play capped off by Brenton Streeting. Great Lakes quickly hit back with a converted try of their own to make the score 6-4 against us. However, Taree High responded with another try to Brenton to make the

score 8-6 in our favour. Pat Carle's running was inspirational. Unfortunately Great Lakes scored in the dying seconds of the half to go into half time with a 4 point lead.

At half time, Mr May gave us a motivational speech, reminiscing about the days he played for New South Wales. The Taree High Taipans were fired up, ready to prove themselves to their coach.

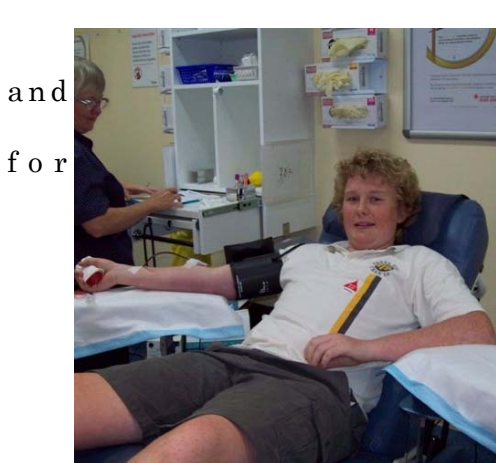


The 2nd half began. There were plenty of big hits including a brute big hit by Sam Mitchell which resulted in the opposition's left knee suffering a 3rd degree grass burn. Great Lakes crossed the line first to extend their lead to 16-8. Moments later they crossed again as the score line began to look ugly at 20-8.

With the fighting Taipan spirit, Taree High quickly regathered through a try from Joel Seguna. The score was 20-14 with only a couple of minutes to go. The match was getting intense.... Shortly after the restart, Adam Gillies managed

to step **VAMPIRE SHIELD** w h a t seemed like 29 players t o score a try f o r

Taree High. Corey Wheeler converted the try to make the scores level at 20-20. In the dying seconds, Taree High received a penalty right in front of the posts. After some quick mathematical equations by Brady Minett, he realised that if we were to convert the penalty then we would get 2 points, thus resulting in a win for Taree High. Corey successfully converted the penalty to give the Taree High Taipan's a miracle win. Everyone was ecstatic, as if we were about to meet Justin Bieber. It was one of Taree High's greatest sporting



achievements. Many thanks to our super rumoured ex-State of Origin superstar Mr his inspirational



enthusiasm and his brewed Gatorade.



coach May,

home

Michael Pickard Yr 12

CONGRATULATIONS

Yr 10 Science 1 class	Won Science Engineering Challenge. Progresses to Regional Finals in August
TAREE EISTEDDFOD	
Madi Heron Yr 8	2nd & 3rd place in Taree Piano Eisteddfod
Caitlin McCleod Yr 8	2nd & 3rd place in Taree Piano Eisteddfod
Abigail Johnson Yr 8	Two 1st places in Taree Piano Eisteddfod
STRUK- Jacob Border, Eddie Munnings, Ben Lambert, Luke Lightenberg, Cameron Blyth	1st in Secondary School Rock/Modern/Folk Bands Yrs 10 to 12
BROS'D- Andrew Bowman, David McLeish, Brody Christie and Timothy Boad	1st in Secondary School Rock/Modern/Folk Bands Yrs 7 to 9
KAVIT- Harry Brown, Brandon Northam, Jacob Coote, Caitlin Brown	Highly commended in Secondary School Rock/Modern/Folk Bands Yrs 7 to 9
Combined Band Rockestra	1st in Secondary School Brass/Concert Band or Ensemble Group
Felicia Barden	Merit Award for Advocacy - Bond University Moot Competition
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL CHAMPIONS	
12 Boys - Kurt Davidson	12 Girls - Sarocha Mason
13 Boys - Miles Thornton, Warwick Priest	13 Girls - Zhoe Marshall
14 Boys - Korey Christie	14 Girls - Shaylee Gaudron
15 Boys - Jake Graham	15 Girls - Laura Neale
16 Boys -Rhys Whitton	16 Girls - Erica Thornton
17+ Boys - Cameron Piggott	17+ Girls - Sarah Evans
Winning Athletics House	Manning
Winning Spirit points at Athletic Carnival	Manning
Dillon McIntosh Yr 10	Selection U16's Top Squad Hockey
Thomas Gilbert Yr7 -	13 Yrs Discus Record
Korey Christie Yr 9 -	14 Yrs Discus Record
Sam Mitchell - 17+	100 m Sprint Record, 17+ Long Jump Record
NSW ALL SCHOOLS SAILING	
<p>Cody Waring-Smith (Yr 12) and Rebekah Dodds (Yr 10) Boat: North Bridge Senior 'That's Gold' Overall Australian Placing: 34th place All Schools Division 2: 4th place Combined High Schools Division 2: 2nd place NS14 class: 4th place Australian All girls crew: 3rd place</p> <p>Jay Waring-Smith (Yr 10) and Bryce Haffner (Yr 11) Boat: Taipan 4.9 'I'd Python' Overall Australian Placing: 54th place All Schools Division 3: 3rd place Combined High Schools Division 3: 3rd place Taipan 4.9 class: 1st place</p>	<p>Cody, Rebekah, Jay and Bryce along with Josh Marks and Iain Wood from Wingham High came 2nd overall in the Australian All Schools teams event.</p> <p>Jeremy Dodds (Yr 8) and Ben Ferguson (Yr9) Boat: Flying Ant 'Insanity' Overall Australian Placing: 47th place All Schools Division 4: 19th place Combined High Schools Division 4: 6th place Flying Ant class: 1st place</p>

