



TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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SPIRIT DAY 2010

WINNERS FOR 2010 - HOOKE



A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Woohaaa!!!!!!!!!!

That is the way it feels most days at Taree High. So many good things happen each day that there is barely time to celebrate. I hope that Year 12 feel the same way - more on that later.

We have had a look at next year's Year 7. Numbers are up a little on recent years and incoming 2011 students all seemed to enjoy themselves immensely at the 'mini open day' held in Education Week.

Students are having their work awarded in the areas of Technology and Science at State and National levels. Staff and students are still talking about Spirit Day and NAIDOC Week celebrations. Staff are showing wonderful commitment to their own professional learning, particularly in the areas of Aboriginal Education and Technology.

Many staff and students who have practical submissions for the HSC have been working hard during the holidays, at weekends and after school. I would like to recognise the efforts of the students and express my most sincere gratitude to the staff who go beyond the call of duty to support students in Textiles and Design, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Extension 2 English, Music and Drama. Many of these projects will be marked around the time this news letter is published.


The focus of all students from now on should be their work; not the associated social events. Students need to be reminded that, largely, they get one go at the HSC. If they choose, they can party for the rest of their lives. There is no such thing as 'muck up day'. We have beach day and the formal as social events to celebrate the end of Year 12. Muck up days have proven to be dangerous and counterproductive,. A number of students who took it upon themselves last year to 'muck up' ended up missing the formal and beach day. Any behaviour that breaks the law or the school's code of conduct will result in exclusion from end of year activities. Students have a precious few months to prepare for their HSC. Make the best of them!



Mr Peter Bird



Dates to Remember

16-27/8/10	HSC Trial Exams
1/9/10	School Social in Hall 7 pm - 10 pm
6/9/10	IMPORTANT Trial School Certificate English Exam
8/9/10	 7-10 Parent/Teacher Interviews at Library 3.30 pm - 7.30 pm
9-10/9/10	CHS Athletics
13-24/9/10	Yr 11 Exams

DEPUTY'S REPORT

First Semester reports were distributed to students on the last day of Term 2. While the school report is an important tool for students to reflect on their learning and achievements, it is more effective if this self reflection occurs on a regular basis, ideally at the end of each month.

Areas for self reflection should include:

Organisation:

Am I planning well?

Am I prepared?

Am I sticking to my study timetable?

Strategies to support improvements in this area are:

Use of a term or semester planner - post it in a prominent place at home.

Enter ongoing commitments such as work and sport onto planner.

Enter study times onto planner (not just times for completing homework!).

Have a diary & use it.

Effectiveness:

Are all my habits efficient?

Am I giving learning my best efforts?

Am I completing all set work on time?

Strategies to support improvements in this area are:

Post the school assessment calendar up in a

prominent place in the study area.
Highlight all assessment dates and exam dates for each subject.
Develop study methods using a variety of the senses.
In this way the storage of information is deeper and its retrieval easier.

Commitment:

Am I focused and enthusiastic?
Are my efforts going to help me achieve my goals?
Is my learning a high priority?

Strategies to support improvements in this area are:

Develop habits that support good planning and effectiveness such as packing your school bag the night before by looking at your timetable.
Give priority to completion of assessment tasks over social events.
Become a good listener (listening is a shortcut to success!!)

Goal setting:

How can I improve my efforts?
What do I want to achieve in the next month?

Strategies to support improvements in this area are:

Be a part of a team with your teachers and parents
Set specific goals based on your school report eg. Improve my Maths result in the next test by five marks or move into the top ten in the next Science assessment.



Mr Mark Thomson

DEPUTY'S REPORT

“Switched on Teens”.....Just another article or is there something in it this time? Forever thus, teens have deprived themselves of sleep due to factors such as phone calls, TV, game consoles and the like. Yet it seems there is no switch off point in a young person’s day. They have so much access to technology and socialising with their friends that they don’t have “down time”. They go straight from school where they have emailed, texted, twittered and called their friends... to home where they email, MSN, Facebook, MySpace, Bebo, text, twitter, call and Skype their friends. This activity can occur concurrently and many friends can be contacted at any given time. You can “feature” a friend while you are online...so now we have a “party line”. All this may be great for keeping in contact, but it can also have some damaging effects on the health of the

participants.
In recent weeks a number of staff members have had to deal with many cases of cyber bullying amongst students, not through the DET Portal email but through private email accounts. These bullying incidents have spilled into the school and resulted in discipline concerns.

Phone messages/calls to students from other schools have resulted in conflict after school and in a number of cases the police have been involved.

Having access to technology does not necessarily mean all users have the maturity to use it as intended. Bullying, intimidation and harassment is still just that... regardless of the mode by which it is delivered. Parents need to educate their children about the responsibility that goes with access to technology. Having a mobile phone switched on or computer awake when you go to bed is “nonsense”. It promotes communication and disruption, rather than relaxation and winding down for a break. The world will keep turning and the sun will come up and it can all be switched back on.

Young people need to rest, relax and switch off...be bored for a while and enjoy the silence.



Ms Allison Aliston

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Quality in education.

This is a term that we often associate (and quite rightly so) with the teachers and their delivery of learning experiences in the classroom. What we often fail to recognise is the students’ responsibility for their own learning.

I often describe in coaching situations that the coach/ teacher is merely a road toward their learning destination. The actual driving, walking or efforts to arrive at that destination still lie with the student. Here at Taree High School we are investing heavily, trying to move from this “road map” to being just a sketchy outline to one that reflects a fully blown “turn by turn” interactive GPS!

Some students will take to this new experience and run with it. It is obvious in the outcomes that students are achieving around the campus. Our academics, creative inventors and athletic performers are provided with great opportunities and continue to impress. This is reflected in our teaching staff at the school. Never has there been such a drive for staff to be involved in professional learning for a range of new and different teaching experiences.

Encouragement of our students to become involved and challenge themselves is crucial for their ongoing personal success. It is important that we recognise this responsibility and praise and encourage the little successes. This applies to the whole school community including parents at home!



Mr Paul Ivers

CAPTAINS' REPORT

SPIRIT DAY 2010

Spirit Day was born in 2008 and has since been an ongoing tradition of the School Captains and SRC. Spirit Day 2010 was bigger and better than ever before. After months of lunch time meetings, planning and games-testing, Spirit Day has come and gone for another year. There was some anxiety about the gloomy weather forecast, which appears to be permanently set to 'RAIN' for any Spirit Day. However, with the immense spirit that enveloped Taree High School, nothing could ruin the day.

The SRC arrived nice and early to set up the day's fun filled activities. It wasn't long before crowds of red, yellow, green and blue began to swarm into the school like a locust plague.

Throughout the day, Houses competitively duelled in a variety of activities. Singstar was an obvious favourite, with many trying their best to stay in tune and hit the high notes. Miss Piggy was interesting to watch as Houses carefully passed a balloon filled with water and dipped in detergent. For the intelligent and wacky, Trivia was the activity of choice, as students brainstormed facts about Silverchair and tore newspaper into the longest chain possible. The Obstacle Course required different skills - from being able to pretend to ride a horse, jump through tyres and hoolahoop as fast as possible. The drama students fitted in well at Charades, playing a variety of fun games.

Mrs Phillips refereed Dodgeball in the gym where the aim was to throw balls at goals and at the other team.

It was great to see the involvement and spirit that each House displayed at every activity throughout the day. The point scores at the conclusion of the activities were:

Hooke: 2149
Peel: 1665
Murray: 1444
Manning: 2184



During recess, Year 12 supplied everyone with the most scrumptious cakes, cookies and sweets ever tasted and at lunch cooked one of the best barbeques Taree High School has ever devoured. The ladies in the canteen served yummy hot dogs and a variety of lollies and drinks.

Lunch was extended to one hour - every student's dream come true! DJs Nick and Tom played music in the quadrangle. Everyone bobbed along to the music, demonstrating a few original and interesting dance styles. However, it was obvious that Mrs Ralston had all the moves.

At the conclusion of lunch, the Houses were split into their House groups and allocated an area to rehearse their war cry. The war cry has become a Spirit Day tradition where Houses have one last chance to win points towards the Spirit Cup. Each House was led by their Captains in a spirited, unique and exciting cheer. Murray was first off the ranks, followed by Hooke, Manning and Peel. Performances had to meet a criteria, based on how unique the choreography was, teamwork, lyrics and spirit. Hooke won the war cry, adding a bonus 200 points to their tally, followed by Manning with 100 points, Peel with 50 and last but not least Murray, gaining 25 points.

The total and overall winner of the Spirit Cup was dependent on points gained from the Swimming Carnival Volleyball competitions, Athletics Carnival novelty events and finally from the activities on Spirit Day.

In 2008, Hooke were successful in claiming the first title on the Spirit Cup and in 2009 Manning dominated to claim their position on the Cup. Following the War Cry, the judges tallied up the overall points for 2010 to reveal:

1st place: Hooke on 2349
2nd place: Manning on 2284
3rd place: Peel on 1715
4th place: Murray on 1469

Congratulations to Hooke, Manning, Peel and Murray.

On behalf of the SRC, a big thank you goes out to all the staff who patriotically supported their Houses

and helped make everything run smoothly. A special thank you also to the wonderful Mrs Fatherley and Ms Walker. Without their support and help the day would not have been possible. We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors and extend our thanks for their generous donations.

Finally, thank you to the students of Taree High School. We leave Spirit Day 2011 in the safe hands of next year's School Captains.



Caitlin Rosser



Billy Pitt

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A lot has happened in the SRC since the last newsletter.

We had our senior social at the PCYC on 23 June with the theme "If I could be anything". This was attended by senior students from our school as well as Chatham, Wingham, Great Lakes, MVAC, Taree Christian College and St Clare's. Thanks to hard work in preparation and organisation by our School Captains, the event was a success. Well done also to Nick Johnson, who was our DJ for the night.

Of course we had our marvellous SPIRIT DAY on the last day of last term (2 July). It was filled with excitement and joy as the many students who attended competed in House groups for the Spirit Cup. All students who came along contributed to the fine spirit in the air. However, there could only be one winner. Congratulations to Hooke House for winning the Spirit Cup for 2010. Well done to all of the SRC who worked hard in preparation for the success of this event.

Back for Term 3 and straight to work. We had an Out-of-Uniform day on Friday week 1 (22 July) to raise money for Fragile X. Altogether, the school raised over \$760. This was a great effort considering it was so soon after the holidays.

On Wednesday in Week 7 we will have our next school social. This will be Year 12's last ever Taree High social, so let's make it a good one.

Coming up also, is the end of the SRC year of office. Students of Taree High will soon nominate and vote for next year's SRC who will represent the school for the final term of this year and until the end of Term 3 next year. If you are happy with the current members of the SRC, make sure you support them

and give them your vote. If you think you would like to be a part of the SRC, make sure you nominate soon.

New School Captains will also soon be elected. This will be voted on by Year 11, the SRC and staff.

It has been a wonderful year in the SRC and I hope that next year will be the same.

Stay cool, Taree High.



James Kennedy

YEAR 12 REPORT

Year 12..... soon to be Ex-Year 12. Not long to go guys so I guess, for a few, it's time to start to buckle down. For those consistent and diligent students - keep going!

For many of us, the thought of Schoolies is pulling us through. As school gets a little more stressful, we begin to search desperately for time for the things we wished we had done when we had that spare afternoon, but chose other "extra-curricular activities" instead. Unfortunately, before we can go sun-baking on the Gold Coast, camping at Byron or partying in Bali, we must tackle the Trials head on. Then we need to sit the dreaded HSC, which is not really that hard... just a few multiple choice questions, a couple of lines of writing and you're done. If you would like any study tips, I'm sure Brett or Picky would be happy to lend a hand.

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to see Mr Bowman to work out your life. He is pretty good at working out a plan of attack for our departure into the real world!

Now, onto the more important stuff... Our Year 12 Formal! The organisational meeting was pretty successful and there was a good turn out of people. Thanks to everyone who came. From the meeting we decided:

- Venue:** Club Old Bar
- Date:** 18 November
- Food:** Entrée, a Main and a big Year 12 cake.

The entrées and mains will alternate between two dishes for each.

Entre 1- Satay chicken sticks and rice

Entre -2 Caesar salad

Main 1- Porterhouse steak with pepper, mushroom or Dianne sauce

Main 2- Chicken breast filled with Feta and

Sundried Tomato served with Pesto cream.
** Mains will be served with either salad or vegetables

Theme: a theme was suggested like 'red carpet' so any feedback would be good for a theme or colour options.

Decorations: most people liked the idea of balloons and a table centre piece.

Price of tickets: we are unsure yet of ticket prices but hopefully they will be relatively cheap, thanks to all the fundraising we have done and the money refunded due to our jackets being delivered late.

If anyone has any ideas, don't hesitate to let any of the Year 12 SRC know.

Also, a BIG thank you to those spirited Year Twelvers who attended Spirit Day and helped out. We had a few 'master chefs' in our year who shared their talent and baked some yummy cakes, muffins, pikelets and slices. Who could forget the talented bunch of boys who cooked a mean BBQ?! We must also acknowledge possibly the most disorganised, yet fantastic year advisor Taree High has seen. Our Mr May has put in a great deal of unnoticed work for us over the last few terms, organising fundraisers and the Senior Social! Mr May, we are sorry about the stress and having to miss out on golf.

Just one last thing. The Senior Social also went very well. A big, big, big thank you to all the teachers who dedicated their own time and helped to make the night such a success. It was greatly appreciated. We hope everyone had a ball.

Well, I think that's about it for now.

Good luck!

Caitlin Rosser



YEAR 11 REPORT

Hello to all our fellow minions,

For those of you who haven't realised yet, this is our last term of Year 11. Not only are we becoming the leaders of the school, but we are forming the basis of our future lives.

Good luck to everybody who have nominated for School Captain and the SRC of 2011. I'm sure we will represent our year well and do Year 11 proud. We also hope you all had fun at the snow. It was an adventure of a lifetime.

Make sure you apply diligence in your studies and try your hardest for our final exams.



Kimberly Somerville



Emily Ball

YEAR 10 REPORT

Hey Guys,

I hope this term has been awesome for you all so far. We have a social coming up in Week 7 - I hope you are excited!

SRC elections are also coming soon, so if you think you would be a great SRC rep, go for it because it's been a blast for me.



Richard Hottes

YEAR 9 REPORT

Hey Year 9!

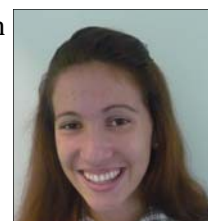
So is everyone back into the swing of school after our two weeks of holidays? I hope everybody had a great two weeks and you are all enjoying Term 3. The most exciting thing about Term 3 is that we are so very close to the highly anticipated Queensland camp! I sure know I'm excited! The month of November is looming closer and closer!

Before that though, we have some homework and a few tests and assignments to look forward to....that probably isn't as appealing as our camp, but let's just hope the time passes quickly.

Is everyone having a good time with the laptops Great to see that so many Year Niners supported the Out-of-Uniform day and helped to raise money for the charity, Fragile X.

Have fun at school and I'll see you around!

See Page 16 for information on Fragile X.



Georgia Braude

YEAR 8 REPORT

Hi all!

It's Nathan. All is going well only about seven weeks left until holidays. We played a good game in 7-8 Union, but we lost. Hope everyone likes their electives and don't forget to hand in next years electives. See ya all!!



Nathan Somerville

YEAR 7 REPORT

Year 7 was a new start at a new school. It was challenging saying goodbye to primary school and hello to high school. We went from being the big kids to the babies again. It was hard to read a whole new timetable and find all the classrooms.

This year we have had plenty of opportunities to get involved with things around the school. We also had a school camp at Castle Mountain. In the last few weeks we were chosen to help out with the Transition Mini Expo for next years' Year 7. We had to set up lots of different tables for different subjects so that they understood a bit about how things work. There was also some entertainment set up; a Year 7 band and a few solo singers.

Year 7 is so far has been a great year and we hope future years will be the same.



Lily Dibley



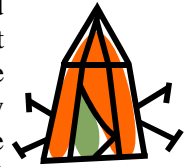
Tiarra Campbell

Year 7 camp

As I sit and watch the full moon rising, it is hard to believe that a month has passed since I watched the same moon rise over the steep valleys of the Hawkesbury River. The 2010 Year 7 camp was at Castle Mountain on Webbs' Creek, a peaceful and secluded piece of bushland with beautiful creek frontage.

At first, the campers ran about excitedly checking

out the accommodation and facilities. However, as the sun went down and the valley darkened, the cool night air rolled in. A heavy mist also drifted in making a game of Spotlight challenging, yet exciting. By the second night keeping warm became the main priority. In fact it was so cold that most campers shivered their way through the nights, as huge frosts descended onto the cabins and froze everything in sight. Luckily though, frosty nights meant sunny days and the weather was perfect for hiking, abseiling, archery, orienteering and paddling. The eager campers enjoyed challenging themselves and each other physically, psychologically and socially by learning to conquer their fears, to trust others and work collaboratively. Students discovered their personal strengths and overcame their weaknesses. Each student learnt that they were able to achieve greatness, particularly during Sock Hockey.



'Taree High has Talent Night' was another highlight of the camp, with both teachers and students showcasing their singing, dancing, acting and puppetry talents. Students particularly enjoyed laughing at the teachers' performances and were mesmerised by the talents of their peers.

The camp unfortunately had to come to an end with many students quick to discuss where their Year 9 camp should take place. The campers climbed to the top of Castle Mountain to admire the beauty of the Hawkesbury and reflect on their great week. It was great to see the camp had encouraged new friendships to form and old friendships to strengthen. The Castle Mountain staff were thrilled with the manners, energy and attitude of Taree High students. A big thank you goes to all of the students who attended the camp and made it an enjoyable experience for all involved. An honourable thank you must also go to the lovely Year 10 Peer Support students, who mentored, encouraged and entertained the Year 7 students. A huge thank you is due to Steve Foxwell, Melissa Loundon, Mark Thomson, Kim Gurr, Natalie Stanfield and Col Husband for their organisation, supervision and energy which made the 2010 Year 7 camp possible.



Steve Foxwell



Melissa Loundon

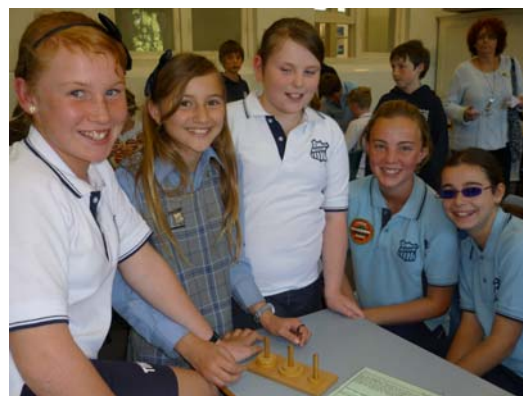


all involved for a great show of what makes Taree High School a leading part of this learning community.

Ian Reynolds
Year 7 Coordinator 2011



YEAR 7 CAMPERS



Students from Tinonee Public School
Sarah Dunston, Madison Piercy, Katelyn McHarg,
Chloe McGowan & Samantha Macleod

TRANSITION MINI EXPO..

Wednesday afternoon saw a sea of excited and smiling faces as our Year 7's for 2011 came to inspect their soon to be new school. Over one hundred and twenty students came through the door in three waves from Taree, Taree West, Oxley Island, Mitchell's Island, Old Bar and Tinonee Primary Schools as well as a few students from the smaller schools.

Our departments and the student helpers did a fantastic job of showing them some of the activities that lie in waiting for them in the future. Year 6 were serenaded by the Fella's, the girls, soloists and musicians. They had their minds dazzled by the scientists and they were fed by the chefs. They were confounded by the Maths, were flexed and bounced in the gym and folded themselves into LOTE. Incoming students sculptured themselves in Art and literally expressed some ideas in English. In Industrial Arts they constructed letter holders, then observed special learning and went around the world in Geography. All said and done, a big thank you goes to to



Lachlan Nesbitt



Year 8 Debating Report

On Wednesday 28 July the Year 8 Debating team had a debate against Forster. The debate was adjudicated by Mrs Hall and the topic was "That computers hinder our education" Our team was the affirmative.

After an hour of preparation, we started our debate. Both teams put up a good fight and were quite persuasive. In the end Forster won, consequently knocking our team out of the Premier's Debating Challenge.

Congratulations to my fellow debaters, Jessica Nelson, Milly Pitt and Jillian Hammond.



Madeline Heron

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC means National Aboriginal Islander Day Of Celebration.

NAIDOC week is held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year Taree High teachers and students celebrated NADIOC week by organizing fun outgoing group activities held around the school at lunches to bring everyone together and to experience Indigenous culture.

On Monday at recess and lunch, DEADLY photos time was held. This gave a chance for students to come to the Koori Room and have photos taken by themselves or with a group against a back drop of painted Koori boards, anyone was welcome. Period two of Monday there was also a "Deadly Dollars live play. "Deadly Dollars" was a performance which was also performed. Outlining the issues which surround finances and young people. The play consisted of three performers who gave

their best to display live performing talent.

On Tuesday indigenous games were held for any classes interested in learning about and playing traditional style games. For example, the name of the games were 'Mipu Goorang Ball', which means blind ball. Also there was 'Koolchee' which was a traditional game based on hunting skills and accuracy, 'Yongar Ngardongin' is based on spear accuracy; this game comprised of a mobile kangaroo and balls to substitute the spears. We also played a game which was a variation of 'Yongar' 'Ngardongin' where we had placed approximately ten students in the centre of a circle and students on the outer edge of the circle would try to hit the students in the centre as they mimiced animals. It was like a modern day Dodge Ball game.

One of the highlights of Tuesday was the performance of our guest comedian Andrew Saunders, who enlightened the students with his witty antics and huge presence. Thank you, Andrew, comedy is one of the best healing remedies.

Also, for students that were confident with a football who could throw a ball accurately, there was a game for them. It was time for Year 9 and Year 10 girls and boys to participate in the Football Hole cChampionship. There were prizes given out. Congratulations to winners Kayla Bird and Liam Beckett.

On Tuesday at lunch time for those who wanted to bust a beat and move and groove this was the day for you with Hip-Hop, Beat Box and Dance championship with MC Token J and Big Boy Bass Benn. On the day, the Boy Champions were Jace Spicer and Jay Smith. Good job boys and Emily Cassidy the female Hip-Hop Champion woo hoo go girl!

Half way through the week on Wednesday short films screened in the hall on the big screen.

On Thursday Indigenous Games were held again for classes able to attend.

Year 11 and Year 12 also had a chance to participate in the Football Hole championships for girls and boys.

The last day of NAIDOC Week was Spirit Day, a fun day for teachers and students to enjoy the last day of term, bond and have a great day full of activities.

During this busy and fun-filled day Year 7 and Year 8 had their chance to play the Football Hole

Championships.

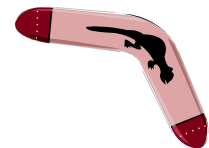
A special thank you goes to all students and staff of Taree High School for their respect and participation during NAIDOC week celebrations. A huge thank you also goes to the BET Biripi Education Team and the Koori Room for organizing the NAIDOC Week events.



Special awards throughout the week:

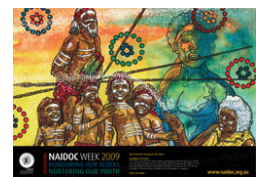
Students

- Beau Hickey-** Beat Box extraordinaire
- Jace Spicer-** Hip-Hop Championship winner
- Jay Smith-** Hip-Hop Championship winner
- Mitchell Herrero-** creative Hip-Hop
- Emily Cassidy-** Hip-Hop Champion winner
- Liam Beckett-** Football Hole in One Champion
- Kayla Bird-** Football Hole in One Championship and Indigenous Games instructor
- Jayden Dunn-** Indigenous Games photographer
- Tamika Bridge-** Indigenous Games instructor
- Shaun Williams-** Indigenous Games photographer
- Jemma Ridgeway-** Indigenous Games assistant
- Tomi Langdon-** Indigenous Games assistant
- Natika Ridgeway-** Indigenous Games assistant
- Ali Hunt-** Indigenous Games assistant
- Brittany Cruickshank-** Indigenous Games assistant



Staff Awards

- Benn Saunders-** for providing Funk
- Jay Davis-** for providing Funk
- THS music department-** excellent contribution
- PD/H/PE department-** excellent contribution
- THS art department -** excellent contribution
- Industrial arts department-** excellent contribution



Local businesses

- Jay Jays -** excellent contribution
- Bing Lee -** excellent contribution
- Leading Edge Music-** excellent contribution
- Sanity Music -** excellent contribution
- Saltwater Wine-** excellent contribution
- Leading Edge Music-** excellent contribution
- Ridgey Didge Pies -** excellent contribution
- Darrell Lea -** excellent contribution



State SRC Conference

On 2 August, I started my long journey through Taree, Wingham, Gloucester and then eventually onto the Pacific Highway to Vision Valley, where the 2010 State SRC Conference would be held.

The camp didn't start until Tuesday, but being a rural student meant we got there a day earlier due to travel. After a good five hours in the car, I finally reached my destination to be greeted with so many smiles and faces that greeted me, and within five minutes of sharing names it felt like I had known them for five years.

Monday night consisted of getting your room sorted and eating McDonalds for a third time that day. After dinner came a "mingle" session. Then it was off to the rooms for a massive sleep in preparation to greet the Metro Kids the next day and a big week ahead of us.

On Tuesday the Metro Kids arrived awkwardly, but within another 5-10 minutes everyone was acting like we were the oldest and greatest of friends.

The next two days would consist of building leadership with workshops, giving regional and school reports and most importantly meeting some of the most amazing people every day.

On Thursday was the day of the Forum where each region from the State would try and get their recommendation passed for next years' State SRC to work on. I was representing the North Coast, along with others, and our motion was one of the only two to be passed out of the possible nine at the conference.

On a last note, I would like to give a special mention to Mr Harris who drove me down and offered assistance where needed. Also I encourage anyone interested in this conference to look out for announcements' It was one of the most rewarding and amazing experiences I have ever had, not to mention meeting the amazing people I have met and will stay friends with for a very long time.



Nick Johnson Yr 10

Published Photos

If any parent does not wish their child's photo published in the school newsletter please let the school know or fill out a Published Photo form.



Taree High Students Make a Difference on National Tree Day



On Friday 30 July, thirty five students from Years 7 to 11 walked down to Browns Creek at Saxbys Park accompanied by Ms Burton and Ms Last to participate in a National Tree Day event in conjunction with Taree Landcare. An ongoing partnership has been established between Taree High and Taree Landcare to work on restoring this area over the next few years.

Throughout the day we worked tirelessly in very muddy conditions planting over one hundred trees, weeding a large area and collecting around two ute loads of rubbish this included a truck tyre, a large concrete culvert and several shopping trolleys. Rod Rixon and Helen Hannah from Taree Landcare were on hand to provide assistance throughout the day.

Even though it was really hard work, we enjoyed the day immensely. There were many muddy and sweaty smiles at the end of the day. We are looking forward to our next visit to the site to continue our work.

I would personally like to thank the following people for the support and running of the day:

- Taree Landcare and the Greater Taree City Council for providing the trees.
- Rod and Helen for teaching us how to properly plant trees and helping with any queries.
- Saxby's Soft Drinks for providing refreshments for the day.
- Ms Burton for organising the day and Ms Last for being a fantastic help particularly with the clean up.



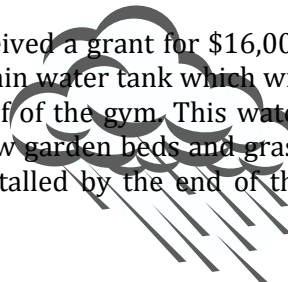
Andrew Bowman Yr 9



Environmental Grants **Awarded to Taree High**

Rain Water Tank

Earlier last term we received a grant for \$16,000 to install a 20,000 litre rain water tank which will collect rain from the roof of the gym. This water will be used to water new garden beds and grass areas and should be installed by the end of the term.



Recycling Station

The Environmental Committee of the SRC were successful in gaining a grant for almost \$1000 through the Holiday Coast Credit Union Community Grants program. This money will be spent on establishing a recycling system that includes a centralised station near the canteen with specific wheelie-bins for mixed recycling (paper, cardboard, plastics), cash-for-cans and organic waste. The station will also have a large noticeboard for information about recycling and other environmental issues.

A school-wide paper and cardboard recycling system will also be established incorporating the print rooms, staff rooms and many classrooms. A team of volunteers will be responsible for emptying these bins on a regular basis.



Ms Burton

Environmental Education Coordinator

Taree High Joins Waterwatch



During Term Two, Kylie Hughes from Mid Coast Water and Erin Masters from the Greater Taree City Council ran a Waterwatch Workshop with Ms Burton's Year 9 Science and Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science classes.

The students were taught how to use specialist chemical monitoring equipment to test levels for temperature, pH, salinity, phosphates, dissolved oxygen and turbidity.

Monthly tests will be carried out with the data collected being entered online at the Mid Coast

Water website, forming part of their database. Taree High is responsible for sites on the Manning River at the Sailing Club and on Browns Creek at Saxby's Park.

Participating in Waterwatch gives us an opportunity to learn more about our local waterways and to share in the responsibility of looking after them.



Patrick Abraham

Taree High School on Tour!!!

On Thursday 12 August a number of extremely musically talented students and teachers left Taree High School to go 'on tour' to St Josephs Primary School. After making such a great impression at the eisteddfod earlier this year, the Principal of St Josephs asked if some of the musical acts would come and play for her students. The Music staff jumped on this idea and went about organizing which acts they would perform.

A huge thank you to Fellas, Singas, the combined band, the Year 11 music class, the Brodie bunch, Struk and Kavita who all performed extremely well. All of the items were very well received by the younger students. The excursion was a huge success for the performers and audience who both enjoyed the experience. A huge thanks is also due to Mrs Ralston, Mr Bull and Mrs Coffee (St Joseph's Principal) who all did a great job organizing the day. Also those who helped transport all the equipment and, of course, our reliable bus driver, Jim.



Pat Abraham



All these titles are available from the library

The library is in a state of change and rearrangement at the moment with the goal of adding ten more computers and expanding our services in this area. The greater use of Web based resources, Web2 activities and the issuing of lap tops to Year 9/10 students has meant that we use our library in different ways and this has necessitated a re-evaluation of our functions and the space we allocate to them in the library.

We aim to complete these adjustments by the end of the year. The trick seems to be to turn our limited spaces into multi-task spaces. Stay tuned for more developments in this area.

Although formats and activities change our main focus is still literacy in all its many forms. A traditional celebration of literacy and reading is:

Book Week: 21st—27th August “Across the Story Bridge”

As always there are some great books shortlisted.

Stolen Lucy Christopher

The Winds of Heaven x Judith Clarke

Liar Justine Larbalestier

Jarvis 24 David Metzenth

A small free kiss in the dark Glenda Millard

Loving Richard Feynman Penny Tangey.



Two particularly engrossing reads are *Stolen* and *Liar*

Stolen is a story of survival bound up in the psychological interplay between 16 year old Gemma and her abductor Ty. It's a letter from Gemma to Ty and it makes for exciting reading. (F CHR)

Secrets, lies, murder and betrayal are at the heart of the story *Liar* by Justine Larbalestier Micah Wilkins is a liar. But when her boyfriend, Zach, dies under brutal circumstances, the shock might be enough to set her straight. Or maybe not. Especially when lying comes as naturally to her as breathing. Was Micah dating Zach? Did they kiss? Did she see him the night he died? And is she really hiding a family secret? Where does the actual truth lie

Liar is a breathtaking roller-coaster read that will have you up all night, desperately seeking for something true. (F LAR)



If you are struggling trying to encourage and motivate your boys to read you may find this list useful. Its not so much a list of things that our boys can do but some adjustments and attitudes that we as parents and carers can adopt. In fact it seems to me that some of these ideas can be applied equally to both boys and girls!

- ✓ Our Attitude—must be free of stereotyped views that reading is for girls.
- ✓ The right book. We all like to read about things that interest us
- ✓ We should be the kind of parents and carers who expect their sons to read widely and regularly
- ✓ Regular, pro-active exposure to suitable reading material
- ✓ Time to read without distraction. Turn phones, TV's, computers off.
- ✓ Acceptance by adults of the boy's choice of reading material.
- ✓ A supportive teacher of either sex
- ✓ The example of a father (significant male) who reads.
- ✓ A house where books and reading are discussed, valued and evident.
- ✓ A place to read without distraction.

Finally on a more mundane note could you please encourage students to return resources that they have borrowed from the library. It seems that we are always trying to encourage them to read but if resources are not returned then it is difficult to share them round with other students. Please return resources to the circulation desk in the library. It does not matter how overdue they are, no questions will be asked.

Lets all keep reading

Heather Abbott Teacher Librarian

Under 14's Girls Futsal Champions

Taree High's Under 14's Girls Futsal Team are the Northern NSW Champions after a very exciting competition held in Taree. The team were up against not only teams in the age division but to have more experience, they were pitted against two Under 16's sides.

The team consisted of Holly Pole-Cini, Sarah Soars, Brooke Shaw, Rebecca Deer, Zoe Cutts and Melanie Armstrong. They were outstanding ambassadors for THS and displayed sportsmanship beyond their years. Whilst waiting for games they all actively encouraged other teams and players to do their best by cheering them on.

In the first game against Chatham High, the girls showed their skills and blended together as a team quickly. Holly and Sarah have had a great deal of experience at Futsal, representing at numerous levels. The other girls showed skill and tenacity and delivered a 7-0 victory at the end of the game. Brooke Shaw scored two goals, Sarah one and Zoe netted the other four. In the two games against St Phillip's 16's and Rutherford Technology High 16's, the girls held their own and developed some strategy in their attacking raids. They lost both games narrowly but learned a great deal from the experience.

Their final game was against Rutherford Technology High's 14's who went into the match quite aggressively. THS were relentless in defence with Melanie Armstrong breaking down play continually and Holly being super strong in the goals. The game went into the final minutes without a goal but then Sarah stepped up the pace and score a magnificent goal from the "red zone". Final score 1-0.

The final saw a repeat of the game vs Rutherford, with both sides giving nothing away. Zoe, Brooke and Rebecca were relentless in their attacking raids and Holly, Sarah and Melanie were strong in defence, repelling many scoring opportunities. The game remained a scoreless draw to the end. Extra time was called and the deadlock remained. Down to penalty shoot outs.....what did that mean?? After a brief explanation, our five players stepped up. THS missed the first two attempts...Rutherford scored two...it was now up to Holly to save the next three and for THS to score three.....Each shot brought the stadium down with cheers and cuddles....Holly saved

three from three and we scored three. However the game was still a draw. Golden goal shootout.....Melanie Armstrong strode to the spot and with an almighty kick scored.....jubilation reigned...but it was not over....the Rutherford player came to the spot.....shot....saved by Holly Pole-Cini...now we had won!!

The girls are to be congratulated for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship. They were a pleasure to be with and did THS proud.

Allison Alliston
Manager



Sarah Soars, Mel Armstrong, Brooks Shaw, Zoe Cutts, Rebecca Deer, Holly Pole-Cini & Ms Alliston

Rock the Schools

On the first day back at school this term, Tuesday 20 July, we were lucky enough to host the kick off for the Rock the Schools Tour.

The band 'The Violet Flames' and the touring roadies showed up bright and early and the Year 11 Entertainment and 9/10 music classes joined in to help tow their equipment into the hall and set up. After recess their sound technician treated us to a work shop on how they do their sound checks on their high tech mixing board. It was very interesting but most of us were intrigued abychow the buttons and dials on the mixing board seemed to move by themselves.

When lunch came, the students filled the hall and moshed to The Violet Flames, scrambling to get as many free items as they could (to whoever got the Facebook tee, well done).

After lunch we were further treated to a workshop on the career pathways in the music industry, and an interesting chat with the band members.

Overall, it was an enjoyable experience, so a big thank-you to The Violet Flames, the technicians, the roadies and AIM (Australian Institute of Music) in Melbourne who run the Rock the School Tour.

By Jasmine Minns

INTERVIEW WITH BRAD ASHE



This week Fred and I were given the task of interviewing one of the Learning Support Officers, Brad Ashe. We had a bit of trouble finding him at first, but that is only because he is so dedicated to his work. He managed to find the time in his busy schedule to answer a few questions for us. Brad is an 18 year old self confessed Sudoku fanatic, who enjoys the thrill of teaching and has a great passion for learning.

What school did you go to before you started teaching here?

Taree High School.

What made you want to come back and teach?

Unfinished business.

What is your favourite part about teaching at Taree high school?

Just the satisfaction of knowing that I have made a difference in peoples' lives.

What is your favourite food?

Anything from the canteen.

Do you have a police record?

Not at this stage in my life.

What are your favourite subjects to assist in?

Most definitely Mathematics.

If you had to have one super power what would it be?

Invisibility

What is your perfect date?

Long walks on the beach during the sunset, a bit of poetry by the fire side, with a nice glass of red on hand whilst listening to a little bit of acoustic guitar, finished up with a nice romantic peck on the cheek before we part.

Thank you for your time Brad!

Fred Pitt & Alan Abraham

INTERVIEW WITH JOSH DOUST



An in-depth interview with Learning Support Officer, Joshua Doust.

How are you enjoying working as a Learning Support Officer at Taree High School?

I'm really enjoying being back at Taree High and being able to do a job that interest me and that I really like doing.

How do you like being back at Taree High?

Feels like I never left. Except I don't have to wear a uniform anymore.

How did you find switching roles from student to a TSL?

Pretty easily. It was made easier knowing teachers and students around the school. I would recommend it to anyone else interested in doing it.

Do you enjoy working with the kids?

It is really rewarding. The satisfaction of helping kids really makes you sleep easy at night.

Any particular subject you enjoy?

Recess!

Do teachers treat you different from being a student?

No, not really. Depends on how ell they knew me before.

What's your favourite part of the job?

Home time and pay day are always nice... but mainly caring for kids in a supportive manner.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Long walks along the beach, reading poetry, candle lit dinners for two. Listening to the soothing sound of Hungarian Rap. You know just your average stuff.

What are your future plans?

Going to Uni to become a Wood Work/Design and Tech teacher.

Thank you for your time Josh!

Britt Johnson

SES NEWS

The I Can **RULE** (I Can Read, Understand, Learn and be Engaged) Reading program commenced this term with a group of thirteen students covering eight sessions per fortnight. It is a program written for all ages, stages and levels of learners from both English and non-English speaking backgrounds.

This is an intensive "Teaching" model with a huge emphasis on the effective teaching strategies of review and rehearsal.

This program is specifically designed to teach reading with a combination of phonics and sight words, target grammar, sight words, sentence structure, developing vocabulary, comprehension and story writing.

Our aim is to give these students the opportunity to gain greater literacy skills and to promote 'good habits' using the English language.

We would be pleased to receive any feedback from you as parents/carers as this program progresses.



Yours in Reading
Stephanie Brown

Fragile X Syndrome

Fragile X Syndrome is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability but is hardly known.

There will be a free half day seminar at the Manning Uniting Church, Taree on 26 August at 9.00 am to 1.00 pm (Registration 8.30 am).

*Spaces are limited so early booking is advised.
Phone Jocelyn Selwood - Ph. No. 02 9977 0074*



COLOUR MY WORLD

Schools 2010 Spectacular 2010 celebrates the Spectacular's 27th anniversary and reflects the energy, enthusiasm and excitement of everyone involved. The 2010 Schools Spectacular will capture many of the experiences and influences that colour each of our lives.

Friday 26 November 1 pm preview and 8 pm

Saturday 27 November 2 pm & 8 pm
At Sydney Entertainment Centre

www.schoolsspectacular.com.au

SPECIAL EDUCATION SEMESTER 1 2010 AWARDS

Congratulations to all these students for this achievement and for striving to reach their potential.

7	Jesse Thompson	Enthusiasm for learning
8	Tyson Duckett	Cooperation and diligence in all KLA's
9	Cody Roberts	Excellence in all KLA's
9	Daine Burns	Outstanding improvement in Literacy skills
9	Joseph Bennett	Improvement in Literacy skills
9	Drew Fraser	Enthusiasm for learning
9	Megan Blakey	Improvement in Literacy skills
10	Andrew Clarke	Excellence in Maths
10	Colby Harris	Excellence in Maths
12	Jonathon Srbnovski	Cooperation, diligence and improvement in all KLA's
12	Dustin Von Hoff	Cooperation, diligence and improvement in all KLA's



Keep up the good work.
Diana Silcock

SPECIAL EDUCATION – ABORIGINAL SITE STUDY



On Tuesday 8 June, twenty Special Ed students had a very informative and educational day. They firstly visited the Cundletown Historical Museum to view the history of the Manning Region. Students saw the old photos, shipwrecks, record players, shoe and boot making articles, tools and recorded history items.

We then visited Saltwater, walked around the lagoon and imagined what life was like for the ancient Aboriginal people and their culture. We listened to a Dreamtime story while sitting in the silence of the bush.

Students enjoyed the snack and barbeque lunch, before hearing Jesse's Dreamtime story of the fighting tribes and Jesse is now very willing to develop this legend and present the concept using modern technology.

All students and staff enjoyed the day and are planning another similar excursion.

Mrs Silcock



Hi all,

I would first like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who were brave enough to donate blood. You have all helped Taree High to win the Vampire Shield. Out of the two hundred and eighty two students that we have in Year 11 and 12, one hundred and ninety one people donated. This gave us 67% which was just enough to beat the Anglican College on 61%.

In Week 7, representatives from the Blood Bank will be venturing over to our school for a special assembly, where they will present us with the Vampire Shield. The people from the Blood Bank are also going to be kind enough to give us a pizza lunch. Those that donated in the past financial year will be lucky ducks and receive some pizza. We have to try and win again this year, so if you are keen to donate blood, just tell someone on the SRC.



Kimberly Somerville

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

A SURVEY HAS BEEN ISSUED TO STUDENTS TO TAKE HOME TO THEIR PARENTS TO FILL OUT AND SEND BACK WITH THE CHILD.

- Do you read the newsletter?
- Since it has been on the internet has your reading of it increased or stayed the same?
- Would you prefer the newsletter to be online or a hard copy which is then sent home with your child.

All surveys returned with a name on it will go in the draw for a \$10 canteen voucher.

Thank you from the SRC

CONGRATULATIONS

Taree High School celebrates National Recognition Week for all School Administrative and Support Staff

From 16 – 20 August students, parents and staff at Taree High School will acknowledge the hard work done by School Administrative and Support Staff (SAS staff) as part of National Recognition Week.

National Recognition Week, which this year is themed “SAS Staff ...keeping schools afloat.

SAS staff face new challenges every day and are constantly adapting to change.

Public Service Association President, Sue Walsh, said “We are very proud of the magnificent work all School Administrative and Support staff do, whether it is maintaining school grounds, assisting students with learning difficulties, or ensuring the smooth running of the administrative and financial matters in the school”.


“National Recognition Week is the time to reflect and say thanks to those staff members,” Ms Walsh said.

SAS staff at Taree High School play a vital role in students’ learning by assisting teachers with implementing educational programs, maintaining records and assisting in producing newsletters, and maintaining the playground to make our school safe.

National Recognition Week is a great time to thank all our SAS staff for their hard work and dedication this year.



**NEXT P & C MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
24 AUGUST AT 5 PM IN THE SCHOOL
LIBRARY. ALL MOST WELCOME TO
ATTEND**

Teegen McCloy	14 th in the World Championship Shooting Silver in the Junior Womens’ Team held in Munich, Germany
Bailey Pitman	U13 Boys’ Hockey NSW Squad
Jon Lam	Applied and accepted to attend the prestigious National Science Camp in Perth
Boys U16’s Futsal team	Regional winners – to compete in the State/ National Titles
Girls U13’s Futsal Team	Regional winners - to complete in the State/ National Titles
Girls Hockey Team	Regional (Hunter) Champions
Spirit Day Winners	Hooke
Ryan Hunt	Competitor in the State Titles – made it to 2 nd Round
Ben Wynter	Competitor in the State Titles – made it to 2 nd Round
Kumari Lamotte	<u>Eisteddfod</u> 1st in Pop Song 2nd in Song in costume Highly Commended - Folk or Traditional Song Highly commended - Song by an Australian composer Won “Denva Bird Memorial Perpetual Trophy” Won a Smile Scholarship Chosen to perform in the Grand Concert  <u>Starstruck</u> Chosen as a soloist to perform at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre in June 2010
Mr Ian Reynolds	Year 7 Year Advisor for 2011