



TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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2012 Captains and Vice Captains



Edward Eden
Vice Captain

Alexandra Sheather
Vice Captain

Maddison Rosser
Captain

Samuel Kellahan
Captain



2012 SRC

A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Another HSC has come and gone and we farewell another group of students. This particular group has excelled in a broad range of academic, cultural, leadership and sporting pursuits. One thing that has stood them apart is their citizenship. They support each other at every opportunity and see no need to express themselves via vandalism or any other childish endeavour. They are simply really nice people who at least will turn into strong citizens in our community, or wherever they choose to settle. We are often quick to criticize our adolescents and the media seem to find this important. I just wish the naysayers could have the opportunity to spend some time with this group. In saying that, I wish you well Year 12 in all your endeavours and long may your qualities prevail.

There is not long to go in the year but there are still many important things to do. Please send your kids off to school ready to go each day. We will be working hard to provide meaningful learning experiences for everyone right up to the last week. The last day of school for students is Friday 16 December.

The school bus has rarely had a down moment since its purchase. Students are gaining access to a whole range of activities that had previously been out of reach. As a rough rule of thumb; local trips are free, trips to say Forster, Port Macquarie will be \$5 per student, Newcastle or similar \$10, and Sydney \$20. This is an enormous saving to the sometimes stretched household budget. These prices are based on a full or near full bus and will vary if numbers are down. Are there any people in our school community with light-rigid driver's licenses who have some spare time to do the odd trip?

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas.



Mr P Bird

A Big Thank You

Thank you to Cameron Richardson, Year 12, Karen, Cheryl, Josh and Caitlin for their efforts over 26 ½ hours of the HSC.

Dates to Remember

22/11/11	P & C Meeting
24/11/11	Out of Uniform Day
28/11/11	CHS Boys Water Polo
30/11/11	Social
2/12/11	Hunter Blues
7/12/11	Beach Day Year 6 Orientation Day
8/12/11	Year 10 Graduation Assembly Year 10 Social
12/12/11	Presentation Evening/Captains Induction
15/12/11	Year Presentation Assemblies 7, 8 and 9
16/12/11	End of Term 4, 2011 for students
19-20/12/11	Staff Development Days



DEPUTY'S REPORT

Hello everyone!

I have nearly finished another year as Deputy Principal at Taree High School. I am very proud of the role that I play at Taree High and I am very proud of the roles that the students of Taree High play as well.

- The new Year 12 students have just been given much information about what Taree High School demands from our senior leaders. We want them to set the parameters with regard to doing their best in class, being role models for our younger students and setting the standards as high as they can.
- Our former Year 12 students have just finished their Higher School Certificate examinations and I wish them all the best when the time comes to receive their results. I do sincerely say, "I hope you get what you deserve!"
- At times young adolescents do make mistakes because of peer pressure or bad decision making. Over the upcoming party period of the year and as the Christmas holidays get closer, I hope that our young men and women of Year 12 make great decisions for themselves and their safety.
- Year 12 are to be commended for the common sense and maturity that they displayed as they farewelled Taree High School as a student. They participated in the pomp and ceremony of official farewell assemblies, enjoyed their beach day and

as this newsletter goes to print had a lovely night with their peers, teachers and parents at the official Formal. Well done, Year 12, your involvement was superb. You are true leaders of our school!

Year 10

- Year 10 have finished the majority of their commitments with regard to the School Certificate. Four big examinations in the hall were followed by an on-line computing skills test in the library. Congratulations Year 10 on your discipline as you tackled these big tasks.
- Year 10 are reminded about their curriculum pattern for Year 11. This is a big challenge with the choice of subjects and patterns crucial. Will I go to TAFE? What about the ATAR? Should I be doing Extension English? Why don't I only do a couple of subjects and not a full curriculum pattern? Can I do work experience? Have I seen Mr Bowman?
- This school is superb with its flexibility and course offerings. I encourage all students to use this flexibility.

Year 8

- Year 8 is to be commended for its involvement in all activities throughout the school year. Lots of students are on task with regard to learning, becoming engaged with their studies and producing quality work. Your Year Advisor, Mr Foxwell, is happy with what he is seeing.
- Subject and elective choice for next year is now important. Elective forms have been submitted and now is the time to discuss any problems with myself or Mr Foxwell.
- I take this opportunity to ask all of Year 8 to help the incoming Year 6 as they proceed through the orientation process for high school. I know that many Year 8 students have younger brothers or sisters in Year 6. I am sure that you can help them with any problems that they have in the orientation. Show them where rooms are and help them with their timetables. You can do it as you were there only recently.

Year 6 /Year 7, 2012

- Year 6 is to be commended for its involvement in all facets of the orientation process from their primary school to Taree High School. Many of them have been involved in school visits to their primary schools and some orientation visits to Taree High School.
- The full day orientation process on 29 November will be spectacular. This day coincides with the full Beach Day for the whole school from Year 7 to Year 11. The school grounds will be full of Year 6 students as they meet a new challenge.

Good luck all! I hope that you receive what you are after with regard to Higher School Certificate, School Certificate or school results. I also hope that you have a terrific holiday break and a rewarding festive season.



Michael Crotty

DEPUTY'S REPORT

This semester and indeed this term are both flying by..... and shortly it will be Christmas.

A couple of issues spring to mind and continue to cause angst.

1 Last term, students attended cyber bullying workshops with Constable Brad Barry, looking at the problems that Facebook and mobile phone texting, in particular can cause.

Most students, I am pleased to say have taken on board the messages from that day and are using these forms of technology and communication responsibly. However, some students still think that they can use Facebook inappropriately. I heard recently of a potential employer looking for an apprentice in our local area. She received 47 applications for that position but when she checked on Facebook she was, sadly, able to eliminate 45 applicants because of what she saw and read about the applicants. Students and parents need to be aware that 'once it's out there it's there for all to see'. What seems to be OK at the time can have long term consequences. While mobile phones are great, the texting of inappropriate messages causes a great deal of problems. I have spoken to Year 9 girls about both Facebook and texting and I was impressed with their positive approach. We agreed that 'if we can't say/text something nice then we won't say/text anything at all'. Well done Year 9 girls I think we could all adopt that approach.

A reminder too that mobile phones are not to be used in class time.

2 Around assessment time, the usual problem of plagiarism raises its ugly head. What does it mean? Basically, it means copying the works of published writers and presenting them as your own. At university, students who plagiarise face removal from courses and potentially they can be asked to leave. So..... a valuable lesson to learn is not to plagiarise. Some students think that they can copy a bit, change a few words and that's OK but that is still plagiarism. Year 10 students undertake "All My Own Work"; a program that shows students the problems and pitfalls of plagiarism and how to avoid losing marks as a result. It is something that all

students need to be aware of and understand. So it will be Christmas shortly. I would like to take the opportunity to thank staff, students, parents and the community for their ongoing support of Taree High School and I have really appreciated the support I have received in my job as Deputy Principal this semester. I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. See you in 2012,



Ms C Gray

DEPUTY'S REPORT

How quickly the year has flown by. It appears that Christmas will be upon us before we know it. Planning for next year is well and truly under way and as we speak the timetable for 2012 is almost complete. Students will be able to view their classes in the next week or two and can then be prepared with the correct equipment for the start of the 2012 school year.

There has been a lot of progress in the development of our Year 9 programs across all Key Learning Areas with staff working with mentors in literacy, numeracy and technology to develop learning activities which will improve the literacy and numeracy skills of our students. A focus during 2010 on Year 8 programs resulted in a significant increase across the board for Year 9 students this year. This has only been possible through the tireless efforts of our program writers' fantastic work.

In addition to literacy and numeracy we will also be accessing mentors in Quality Assessment and Feedback, Aboriginal Education and Curriculum Differentiation next year, with a focus on the development of rich learning programs for our Year 7 students.



Mrs R Starke

CAPTAINS' REPORT

Hi everyone.

As the newly elected captains for 2012, we are all keen and enthusiastic for the year ahead. We understand it is going to be a busy year and it will take dedication and persistence to achieve our goals in our role as captains. The SRC is also looking forward to a busy, yet rewarding year with event

planning for Beach Day and Spirit Day already commencing.

In this role we are given the opportunity to communicate ideas with teachers, the student body, SRC and parents and we hope to be involved in many new initiatives to improve the school. Heaps of great ideas have already started flowing and while we're working to put them in action, it's always good to hear suggestions from outside the SRC. We are honoured to be given this position and are committed to fulfilling this role to the best of our ability.



Sam, Maddy, Edward and Alex

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi all.

I have recently been selected as the new Secretary for the SRC 2011-2012. A thank you must go to Nick Johnson for the excellent job he has done in 2010-11 and for showing me how to be an effective secretary.

This is the first term for the newly elected SRC but also the last term for school 2011. Well done everybody for selecting such a great bunch of people to represent your year. They are all very hard workers and will all strive to help you in whatever way you need. Also well done to all that were successful in getting on the SRC.

This term in the SRC we are organizing a social. Our Out of Uniform day will be supporting the charity "life without barriers". Your ideas are always appreciated.

The SRC has four sub-committees - Welfare, Environment, Social and Spirit Cup. These committees meet once a week and set goals for what we want to achieve this year. Enjoy your last term of school for 2011



Patrick Abraham

YEAR 12 REPORT

Year 11-12!

Yes, that's right; the throne has been vacated and left to us, the next of kin, to claim. After thirteen

long, hard years we've finally reached the top of the crop. I mean, sure, we aren't allowed in the Year 12 area yet, and sure, we still haven't officially received our preliminary certificates, but that won't stop us from labelling ourselves the current Year 12.

It's not all enjoyable, however, as this step up in year group seems to directly mirror the step up in workload. The first batch of assignments are just being handed out, and students are starting to feel the pressure. But the current running of the HSC gives us one bit of hope; there's just 12 months to go.



Alex Sheather



Jotham Young

YEAR 10 REPORT

Firstly, congratulations to all the new SRC! We're glad to see we have all settled in and are all putting our hands up to help when needed. Secondly, how did you all go in the School Certificate? Did you all study hard? Regardless were pretty certain we speak for most of you when we say we were glad that's over! Now that's all over and done with, we have formal to look forward to! Oh sorry Mrs Salmon we mean "social". So everybody had better start looking for their dresses and tuxes to look good for their formal partners! Don't forget we HAVE to go to Beach Day to be able to attend the formal, so remember Slip, Slop, Slap! You don't want to look sunburnt in the photos!



Ellise Bowerman



Kenzie Barber

YEAR 9 REPORT

Hello Year 9.

It's that wonderful time of year when we start to celebrate because Term 4 has almost come to an end. But before we go on holidays there are a few things on our agenda. A social is coming up so, once again, if you have any theme suggestions please don't hesitate to come and see one of your reps!

The next exciting event coming up in Week 9 (Wednesday 7 December) is Beach Day! As Beach Day gets closer, I'm sure we will be given more information.

Well, that's all from me for this year.



Madeline Heron

YEAR 8 REPORT

Hey Year 8.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday now we are counting down for the Christmas holidays. Only a few more weeks to go! Hasn't that gone quick! Then finally, we are in Year 9! We have a camp in 2012 at the Gold Coast. Get excited! We need at least 100 people to make sure it goes ahead. Mr Foxwell be giving out a letter, so make sure you bring the permission note in so we can get numbers and we might have a meeting about it.

Beach Day is coming. So get keen.

We also have a social coming up, so if you have any ideas for themes let your SRC reps know! And you also have new SRC Reps; Eve, Nick, Miles and myself. We will try and be great SRC reps like your old ones, Tayla, Tyler, Miles and Billy. A big thank you to them for their work last year.

Stay safe but have fun! Slip, slop, slap!

See you around.



Caitlin Macfarlane

YEAR 7 REPORT

Wow! Can you believe we're nearly in Year 8? It feels like yesterday we were walking through these gates for the very first time. Time really does fly. On Monday 31 October, we had one thing to really be afraid of. No, not the teachers, the needles.

Bleugh. So glad that was our last course of vaccinations. Definitely something Year 7 will be glad to put behind them.

The Social is nearly upon us again. It will be on Wednesday Week 7. Support the school and buy a ticket. I wonder what the theme will be?

And remember, just because we're near the end of Year 7, don't try and get off school work. The more we learn, the more our knowledge will expand. Isn't that a good thing? Have a happy end of Year 7 guys! See you round,



Sinead Haynes

Year 12 Farewell Speech by 2011 Captain Laura Polson

So, how do I say goodbye, because this is, well, quite a big goodbye, I mean look at all of you! There's lots! I could just give you a wave and say later! but Mrs Moody probably wouldn't like that? One thing you may not know about me is that I grew up on a farm. So maybe the best way to explain why I will miss you or why I really won't, is to explain it through something I kind of understand...a cow.

Now being a cow on a farm, you're constantly learning, like which is the good grass and which isn't, and you need trusty farmers to show you the way. That's where the teachers come in. As Year 12 we are the major bulls and heifers of this farm, we pretty much know the way, so be prepared guys while you listen and learn.

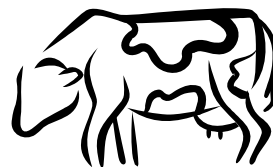
So I'd better start at the bottom of it all Year 7, the hooves.

You're at the very start of the farming lifestyle, well actually a better way to put it, is you're at the very bottom, which makes you the hooves. We have become terrified of you. When you stampede down those halls, you're scary! Nothing fazes you! You're tough as nails. Now back in our day Year 12's were you're right up there grinding with us at the socials I mean you even beat us up. Well we could teach you a lesson or two. In Year 7 we were all taking classes waaaay too seriously, except for Bec, who still doesn't take any

seriously. And in Year 7 we were thinking, big and I'm talking really BIG! In the case of Cameron Barlin that is, who planned to build a huge time machine out of cereal boxes, we're still waiting Cam...

YEAR 8! Wow you've moved up in the world, so far up that I have made you the horns! Now horns on cattle can inflict some serious damage. Once again our younger years are getting more terrifying. Now there's another reason why you guys are horns... because the way I see it, you're starting to get a little bit more attracted to your fellow bulls and heifers... which kind of makes you a bit... horny! Now we've had our fair share of lovin, over the years, so I compiled a list of some of my favourite and least favourite couples:

- Tanaya and Sam
- Brittany and Tyhe
- Tally and Michael
- Gab and Alan
- Billy and Sophie
- Ben and Felicity
- Lewis and Felicity
- Shannon and Cameron
- Jasmine and James
- Kiara and Josh?
- Jake Mills and Phoebe Green, where I'm told Phoebe actually mistook Josh for Jake - awkward!
- Finally Jess Higgins has quite recently developed a harem, where she keeps Jeremy, Sam, Lewis and Elliot. Have fun boizz!



Now that list includes barely half of our couples over time so as you can see we really know how to share the love. We can't really remember much else from Year 8. I'm pretty sure we were all stuck in detention for forgetting our PE uniform...

Now which paddock of this great farm do I look to now - ohhh Year 9 you little lookers. Year 9 is the time when you start to kind of find yourself, you get your own style, start looking cooler, so I'm going to make you the spots for your individuality. Or not so much... as when you think about it as spots, it's all black and white. You may dress cool Year 9, but you all kind of dress the same, so let's not call you individual, let's call you "Indie", something we're pretty sure you adopted from us (namely Tom Crellin). Our style in Year 9, was interesting... we had our scene girls, RAWR! & Luke and Billy totally became trendsetters with their fluro, Supre outfits, so hot. We had camp in Year 9! Luna Park, Aquarium, Sam face planting while ice skating - awesome!

Year 10. Now what would you be? The tail! Swinging around looking cool all over the place,

but in all honestly... you sort of smell This is a really important year for you guys I mean you get your license. You have your Formal, *gasp* sorry Mrs Moody I mean "social". A lot of you are getting jobs, and in the case of our year, half of us work at Maccas who am I kidding! Half of the school works at Maccas.

Finally you start going to parties. We have held some of the best, including the famous Tyhe beach parties featuring Jake Quinton, the fire master, with his own personal slogan 'make it big,

Also in the Torch there was a really cool question and that was who had the best My Space? That prestigious award was given to Felicity Lambert. We hear she's got the best Facebook too, or maybe that's for the amount of time spent on Facebook? Anyway back to my favorite thing My Space, where we got in touch with one of Alan's biggest heroes, the guy that taught him everything he knows, DAN STRAIT. Now Dan sadly left us in Year 10, but we also said goodbye to a lot of great people, and said hello to new ones in Year 11, who we hated, that's you Sam, Sam and Sam. Not really... well kind of...

So that brings us to Year 11, as Year 12 we generally hate you, but this year, our hate has escalated to new levels, that is because you are the ears of the cow. Some how you actually manage to listen to teachers and you end up getting your way with everything. Yes surprise, surprise it's now time for the ultimate Year 12 whinge:

1. Your camp was a whole week, we went for one night, and yeah you can cry and say but it was cyclone weather. Personally we don't care.

2. You got laptops. We didn't get laptops. Sure you can say but mine broke, I lost it. You had one, we didn't, that's it.

3. Somehow you kept your area tidy, while ours was constantly described as a pig sty, and we actually got kicked out. I think we gave the Year 11 area some character, after all... it was a bit of a farmyard... we had kittens, rats and even chickens.

Okay, enough with the whinging, you guys are alright, but you do have some really weird haircuts and pretty stupid jokes. Now in our area we shared some special moments. like you all remember when our beloved Ching got kissed by Emily Moss! Cute! Who can forget when our area turned into a warzone with the famous ball wars, where Kyle reigned as king of balls! One of the things in Year 11 was the snow.. so much to say about it, so I'm going to go through the top moments and great things only we will understand:

- Hot Scotty
- Alan being knocked out on the first day!
- James going down a blue slope and getting tackled to the ground by instructors on his first day!
- Trivia teams — Team Davis, Team Phillips, fouries and no fouries, can we go to bed now please?
- Ice cream Oreos
- Cameron Barlin and his Deep Heat
- Mudgeeeeeee
- Gab, Soph and Kiara getting rescued!

Ahh Year 12. Look at you gorgeous specimens. What is good enough for us to be? We are the udder, because that, that is where all the goodness comes from. We are in fact excellent! Just you wait. We're all going to make it big, but in Cameron's case - HUGE. First Ching will open his hot dog stand that will later become an international franchise. Ben Green's cheese toastie's probably won't go as well... but he'll be helped along by business superstars Kiara and Luke. Remember when the canteen was moved into our area? Some days you were charged to get in, other days you were attacked with water guns fun times. Finally we got our common room, and for our short time in there we really used it. Thank you to Johnno for bringing in the George Foreman. That was used to cook up big steaks, devoured whole by the carnivorous boys of our year.

Further evidence of our brilliance is how we managed to use Facebook for schoolwork! We have numerous class groups.. for Bio — fish kidneys, English —a horse, a horse a kingdom for a horse! And History with THIS IS SPARTA! This always left as asking questions like who is Sparta? And what is a Thennistocles?

So I will leave you with one last bit of advice as frequently supplied by Jye Watson "That's the way it's gonna be little darling", we'll be riding on the horses yeah yeah way up in the sky little darlin, and if you fall I'll pick you up, pick you up'

To all of Taree High it has been a pleasure representing you in the past year. I wish you all the best of luck in your future school years thank you for letting me share it with you.



Year 12 Farewell Speech **by** **2011 Captain** **James Kennedy**

Good morning Taree High! And what a fine morning it is! It's the type of day that you sit in maths class and stare out the window wishing you were at the beach. Too bad we're stuck at school. Oh wait, sorry. I mean, too bad you're stuck at the school! We're going to the beach Year 12! (Cheers)

But before we make our grand exit from the green gates of Taree High, we need to remember all those amazing times had within these grounds. Over the past six years Year 12, this school has been like our home, the students – our brothers and sisters, and the teachers – our parents, aunties, uncles, or even for some, those creepy next-door neighbours that you avoid conversation with. It is with these people that we have journeyed through our years of high school, and it is these people we will remember years down the track when we think back to our glorious high school days.

So when did it all begin? Well kids, the year was 2006. We had been recently installed with a fresh dose of self-esteem and boasting rights after graduating from Year 6 and being previously known as the big kids at school. We came here with our hopes and dreams. The most common of those was to simply meet new people and make friends. Others were a bit drastic – Cameron Barlin proposed to make a time machine out of nothing but cereal boxes. We were all individual, but we all had much confidence in ourselves. But all that was soon to be flushed away, going instantly from being the big kids to the little ones that got trampled on every day. Especially in the canteen lines! We were all so envious of the senior line at the canteen, only bearing the hurt in knowledge that we could do the same one day. But of course, just our luck, the senior canteen line was abolished just before we had the chance to use it.

It was a common occurrence that luck didn't go our way. We were, in fact, the last Kindergarten of last century. And as a result, we seemed to always be just that one year out of sync with new changes. We were the final year NOT to be granted with laptops! And not only, like previous years, had we been kicked out of the Year 12 common room, but we were the first year to be kicked out without even having a chance to use it at all! It was a surprise that not a lot of luck came our way, given some of the students in it: Sophie, the daughter of Mr Bird, Sam,

the daughter of Mr Crotty (and I say that intentionally. You should have seen how good he looked in a dress yesterday!), Courtney the daughter of Mrs Starke. If only Ms Gray had a child in our year, we would have had ultimate power!

But in truth, what we missed out on wasn't too excessive really. The senior line in the canteen was gone, so most of us just decided to make every line the senior line, trampling on those little kids in a stampede, led by Aaron Single so he didn't miss out on getting a beef burger before they all sold out. With regards to the laptops, we actually became pretty pleased not to get them. I mean, they were supplied by the Australian Government. How could they be any good? And as for the common room, we were granted it eventually. And although we didn't have many weeks to go, our year certainly knew how to make good use of that common room. Within days, Ben Green was selling cheese toasties out the window for a \$1.50. As a bit of healthy competition, Ching followed with his hot dog sale. Before long, we had a TV hooked up to a PS2, a fridge loaded with food, and a George Foreman Grill. A note to future years though, don't try to cook a frozen steak in one of those grills. It doesn't work Ben Lambert! All you get is a semi-malleable slab of brown and pink meat and a foul smell that we're still trying to get out of that room.

So yes, we did get our common room – not by luck though, but by the annoying persistence of our year. If there is one thing this group needs to be remembered by, it's persistence, and never failing to make their voices heard. Luke Van Lawick somehow always acted as the voice of the year. Even though a whole parade of Year 12 students marched up to Mr Crotty's door to ask him about the common room, Luke was the only one to sit in on the interview with him. So yes, we were and are a very persistent and forceful bunch.

Another thing is for sure though; this year truly knew how to party. Poor Tyhe Reading has had his house trampled on so many times by people in our year. But still he keeps going back onto facebook and making event pages for parties in his house. And don't we all remember the Psycho Beach Party? Yeah, Ben Green, it was psycho! And even though I never made it down, I can say that because I heard about it being on Prime news on a weekend that I was in Byron Bay!

But not just parties, socials were loved by this year as well. Compliments must go to the quad-gang of Sam Crotty, Lewis Martin, Elliot Martin and Jeremy Carr for some amazing costume memories! I could have sworn the KISS band actually stepped into the hall that night. And let us not forget the morphsuits, Power Rangers and Transformers, where they could actually transform!

But of course after a big night out at the social, you might be a bit tired the next day. And being tired was definitely a reasonable excuse for chucking a Sheri-day. A common abuser of the Sheri-day rule was Linden Lewis. I remember a time sitting in the Year 12 area and Tyhe asking Linden, "Man, where have you been? You're never here!" His response was "What?! I'm never not anywhere! What are you talking about?!" Yeah... sure Linden, we know where you've been, and what you've been doing behind that building. Maybe the same thing as Alan? Or was he just hiding from the Wingham boys?

Oh! Before I forget, Rob Gray wanted to make sure I gave the Career Link students in our year a bit of a mention... Well, there you go guys.

Hey Year 12, why is Ben Graham naked?! Oh well, it doesn't matter anyway. There'll always be "no action for Ben". We know he'll always have more cars than he does women! Sorry to pick on you man. It's all good though, just go end your week with an ice cold Corona and you'll feel fine.

Wait! Speaking of cars, how good is Ching for finally getting here early enough to steal

Mr Reynolds' park right out the front?! And another thing - how many of you have had a ride in the Cino this last year? I don't care what any of you say, that is by far the sexiest car in our year. Seriously, look at that cute thing!

But I'll tell you what else is sexy in our year? Cross dressing! And it was done finely yesterday. In the words of Mr Crotty, "niice." I've got to say though, Jye Watson, if you're going to wear a dress, make sure you wear a reliable set of underwear beneath it! That was disgusting mate!

Oh yes, there are some incredible memories of this place. And most of us could speak for the entire six years here. However, we got a fair amount of newbies at the start of Year 11. All from St Clare's High School, we gained Sam King, Sam Larson and Sam Steedman. Poor Sam Crotty started to feel a bit left out. And who could forget Bryce Haffner? For the first few weeks of knowing him, I referred to him as the guy with the ridiculous laugh! It ranged from a high pitched "heh heh heh", to a low "Haa haa haa." Bryce, I wonder, did you guys ever convince Mr Abbot to watch Dorf in health? (Bryce responds in his loud voice.) Thanks Bryce.

And now, thank you so much to all the teachers of this school for putting up with our shenanigans and ridiculous behaviour over the years, and somehow managing to pull us right through to the end of Year 12. A special thanks goes to Mrs Fatherley for not throwing our English class out the window, despite numerous threats. Also, an extremely special mention must go to our wonderful Year Advisor

Mrs Moody, for her absolute dedication and endless hard work for the students in our year group. She has been truly outstanding! Could everyone please give her a huge round of applause.

And now, to Year 12, thank you for being the incredible people that you are. You have all brought something to this place and have each contributed to making high school a wonderful experience. And although we are all individual, with different dreams and ambitions for the future, don't forget the one common link we share - that we all graduated from Taree High School in the year 2011. We will all go our separate ways, but we will never forget that we are all a part of this special group. Year 12, good luck with the HSC and all your future endeavours! I love you all!

Peace out, Taree High! Year 12 will miss you. To its students, love these years at high school! They are, no doubt, the best years of your life!

Before we leave, I need to cash in on a deal I made with Mr Crotty yesterday. He promised me a man-hug.



YEAR 12 BEACH DAY FAREWELL SPEECHES

YEAR 11



Year 12 the bigger, older, smarter, cross dressing version of Year 11. Even though they're only one year older than us, or five years in my case, it's unmistakeable

the difference in maturity one year makes...apparently none!

All jokes aside, it's not often that you get such a close group of people like Year 12; it seems like they've just got the balance right. I mean, it's hard to imagine what your year would be like without the metro cuts, without the Toyota Celicas and without Cameron Barlin's classic jokes. Imagine the boring nights had there not been Jake Quinton to start that fire, or had there not been the slumber parties in Ben Green's backyard. Even imagine if you hadn't gotten a full year's use out of your common room.

In all seriousness though, I think I speak for the entire school in saying that you will be missed, and good luck in whatever your next adventure may be. I'd just like to leave you with a quote from Darryl Braithwaite - "That's the way it's gonna be little darlin', we'll be riding on the horses yeah yeah"

Jotham Young



Carrying on from what our little Dobby had to say..

This year is loving, caring and always look out for one another - along with not drinking alcohol or experimenting with any drugs. This year could be summed up as a giant group of angels.. but then I guess everyone has their downfall, right? Well in reality this group has thousands of downfalls, and don't worry I'll be sharing some with you today.

I am going to start with your year's most renowned V8 supercar driver Ben Graham. When he is not at Bathurst 1000 you will often find him washing his car or putting more Holden racing stickers on his windows. Come on Ben Graham, I think its about time those stickers got a rest don't you think? I mean didn't you have to call NRMA to change your tyre?



Anyway whilst we are on the topic of cars I heard Year 12 drive really well. I mean Tom didn't you buy a car and the first day you had it you reversed into someone? And Billy, what happened to the side panel of your car? And finally I think one glance at the back of Saiya's car at the moment gives a pretty good indication of her skills in this bunch of angels.

More recently I was disturbed by something from the year and it wasn't the cross dressing, the mass amount of dribble on Felicity's Facebook or the creepiness of Jye Watson; it was Sam King's haircut. People say that he may have been attacked by the lawn mower, but I honestly think King has become victim to a farm tractor.

Apart from the verbal diarrhoea that has just came out of my mouth, I have established many good relationships with this bunch of talented, smart and most importantly, fun people. This year is far off being angels, but they are unique and I am sure that every single one of them will accomplish great things in years to come.....



Nick Johnson

YEARS 9 AND 10

It is a bitter sweet situation that we face today. Bitter for us because we are losing a group of such great people, but sweet for you as you are now leaving Taree High to move on to bigger and better things out in the wider community. You all have made a difference to the quality of our lives at Taree High, and for that we say thanks. We would also like to commend you on how close your year is. You are like one big family, and if we could be half as close as your year by the time we are in Year 12, we will be satisfied.

There are many things we will miss about you guys when you leave but there'll also be some things that we won't miss. We have asked around Years 9 and 10 and have come up with some positive and negative things relating to your departure.

We will miss the variety of bright personalities throughout your year, your unique style and sense of humour.

We won't miss the constant reminders of how you have been ripped off throughout your school life.

"NAPLAN 3 years in a row, having to wait so long for your common room because of the canteen, no free laptops, no Year 9 Gold Coast camp"....NO ONE CARES!

Your year has been a very musical year, ranging from Kumari's breathtaking voice to Struk being professionally recorded. So we will definitely miss your music.

We respect the intimidation that you impose however. We won't miss it.

Your year as a whole is generally very attractive and we will miss the attractiveness that you bring to Taree High. One thing that we won't miss, the promiscuous dancing from Sam King that we unfortunately had to witness at lunch time yesterday. All in all, there are so many things we will miss about you. We wish you luck at whatever you choose, and we all know you will succeed in your chosen field. You have created big shoes to fill for all upcoming Year 12s and thank you for being such excellent role models to all of us. Goodbye, good luck and good riddance!!



Madeline Heron Yr 9



Patrick Abraham Yr 10

YEAR 8

Good morning teachers, students and Year 12. Today Year 12 will be leaving this school forever. How sad. Hopefully you guys will grow up to be decent people. I don't really know all of you guys, but I do know a few of you from the SRC and they all are great. Whatever jobs you guys choose to do, hopefully you do very well and I wish you the best for the future and that you have some fun. And to finish the speech I will hand over to a new SRC Year 7 member Max. ...



Billy Yogathasan

YEAR 7

Hi guys,
I also wish all the "big people" the very best for the future and that you all live your lives happily and have the most fun you possibly can! You have all been great role-models for me in my first year of high school and you have taught me some very valuable things. I hope you all do well in your HSC and go on in life achieving great things. I hope you all have fun today at the beach and enjoy your last day of high school.
Rightio, good luck to all the Year 12s out there and I wish you all the best.
Thanks...



Max Le Messurier

Year 12 Advisor's Farewell Speech

Official guests, parents, carers, teachers and Year 12 students. I'd like to welcome you to the Year 12 Presentation Assembly.

Congratulations Year 12!

This evening, we are here to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of this impressive group of students –the class of 2011.

As their Year Advisor, the past six years have been an exhilarating, exhausting and, in the main, a most enjoyable experience for me. It has been my pleasure to watch this group mature into the young adults we have here tonight and I will miss them dearly.

Year 12: You came in the year 2006 from many different primary schools – some big and some small. You came with different expectations and attitudes. Squabbles, mischievousness, name calling and other misdemeanours were all a part of your high school life, as, more importantly, were friendships, loyalty and learning. From such experiences came cooperation and bonding into the cohesive unit you are today.

I hope that you take these ties with you into your future lives. They have been hard won. You have shared many experiences together and, while it is only right and natural that you now embark on new and different paths, please don't neglect the friendships you have forged with your peers, your teachers and indeed, with Taree High School.

The talents of this group are obvious in the wonderful Visual Arts, Design and Technology and Industrial Technology major works and the Drama, Dance and Music HSC performances. Over the years they have been extremely successful in many competitions, especially Mathematics, Science, Debating, the Science and Engineering Challenge, Tournament of the Minds and the Connected Learning Awards.

I may be biased, but I can honestly say that the class of 2011 is an exceptional group of students. I read all of their reports and it was possible to find very positive comments about virtually every student.

There is, of course, a large number of successful sportspeople who I won't mention here.

Mrs Phillips will be distributing the sporting awards later and will pay our sportsmen and women due homage. One sportsperson, Teegan McCloy, competed internationally, representing Australia at the World Championships in shooting.

But the strength of this year is beyond the high flyers. It is in the great majority of students who over the years developed a positive work ethic and although being competitive, showed that cooperation, and willingness to help others is necessary for a group to achieve to its potential.

Here I must pay tribute to the Work Studies and Hospitality classes. These are the students who frequently go out into the community as representatives of Taree High School, and they have done us proud. They have helped forge stronger links between the community and the school and such open communication is always beneficial.

We recognise tonight the high achievers, but to me the roll call later this evening is the most important part of this assembly. Each of you will receive the

same graduation certificate and in a few months time will receive the same Higher School Certificate. The results will be different, but the certificates will be the same. Just getting this far is a major achievement in itself, and I would like to congratulate each of you on your success.

At the end of last year I spoke to you about choices and consequences. I hope that you have made the right choices to achieve the consequences that you richly deserve.

There are many people who need to be thanked.

I would like to thank the various members of my many committees over the years; committees for the jackets, the Year 10 Social, fund raising, the Formal. Also thank you to the many students who contributed to our fund raising ventures, and to the presentation assembly helpers – there are too many names to mention individually, but all are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those who have helped with the organisation of this assembly.

Thank you to the Captains, Vice Captains and all the SRC Representatives, both past and present for the excellent job they have done as leaders of their year. Thank you to all the parents and carers, school executive and teachers for the support and help you have given me and Year 12.

More importantly Year 12, whom should you thank? You should thank your parents for their patience and encouragement, for putting up with your tantrums and self-centredness. Without their support, you would not have made it to this point. Without them, some of you may not have made it here this evening. You should thank your teachers for their support, guidance and their efforts in facilitating your education over the past six years. For the countless hours they have spent preparing, marking, reporting and ensuring that you have the best chance of success.

And you should thank your friends. They play a very important role in your life. They are patient, tolerant, understanding, considerate, good listeners, non-judgemental and are generally just there for you.

The end is near, but the job is not yet done. Over the next six weeks you should commit the majority of your time and efforts to your studies, so that you maximise the opportunity for you to achieve your best results in the HSC exams. I know it is difficult to maintain a positive frame of mind and work ethic, but it would be a shame not to use this time to realise your potential.

Finally, I would like to wish the graduating class of 2011 all the best in their HSC examinations and for the future. Most will be leaving Taree, but when you are home for a few days, come up to the school and

let us know how you are going.

It has been a privilege to know you all and I have really valued your friendship.

COULD ALL PARENTS, FRIENDS AND STAFF MEMBERS JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING YEAR 12 – 2011.



Mrs Moody's Beach Day Farewell Speech

Today we are here to farewell – the Class of 2011.

I first met this group of students in 2006, when they arrived at Taree High, bright eyed and bushy tailed, ready to meet the challenges of high school. Some were excited and ready to spread their wings, others were a little less confident and concerned that they wouldn't know what to do or that they would get lost.

Now, six years later, they have matured into the wonderful young men and women you see before you today.

Year 12 are a talented group, evidenced by their wonderful Visual Arts, Design and Technology and Industrial Technology major works and their Drama, Dance and Music HSC performances.

Last night, at their presentation Assembly, we applauded their considerable academic successes. Their achievements uphold Taree High's excellent reputation in this field.

We acknowledged their numerous sporting achievements. Members of this group have represented at school, zone, regional and state levels. Over the years, Year 12 have been extremely successful in many competitions, especially Mathematics, Science, debating, the Science and Engineering Challenge, Tournament of the Minds and the Connected Learning Awards.

They have also displayed their various musical and dramatic talents, by successfully competing in eisteddfods, by being involved in the Singers, Fellas and the school band and by performing in the wonderful MADD concerts and musical evenings.

Everyone, no matter which field they have been involved in, deserves to be congratulated for their participation and achievement. The class of 2011

have made great contributions to Taree High School and the wider community.

Year 12, you have finally made it!

You have survived thirteen years of school, but gained thirteen years of memories – some wonderful, others maybe not so great, but all are learning experiences and character building.

It has been said that when you close one door, a thousand others will open.

When you walk out of these big green gates today, you will be closing the door on your time as a student at Taree High, but you will be opening the doors to a world full of opportunities. No matter which path you choose to take, further education at university or TAFE or joining the work force, make the most of the opportunities presented to you.

Aim high and do yourself proud.

I wish you every success in the HSC examinations and your future endeavours.

It has been a privilege to have been your Year Advisor.

I am very proud of you and will miss you all.

Goodbye and Good Luck.

your teachers and indeed, with Taree High School.

SRC Orientation Day Thursday 13 October

On the first Thursday of this term, the forty SRC representatives attended an orientation at the Uniting Church.

The day started with a few icebreakers to get any nervous students well and truly out of their shell; much laughter could be heard resonating down the hallway as students young and old tried their best to arrange themselves into various patterns, such as bicycles, clocks, houses, and planes lodged in Ferris wheels (too soon?). Ms Walker and Mrs Burton treated then famished students to a fantastic serving of fruit, crackers and the Mrs Fatherley world renowned dip. With the 'formalities' over, it was time to get to the nitty gritty, and this included an awe inspiring speech on what it meant to be a leader by Mr Machon, the District Office Assistant Principal of Behaviour Management.

After a quick bite of pizza for lunch, it was time for the inaugural meeting of the new SRC.

Patrick Abraham was voted secretary. Well done Pat! Overall the day was a smashing success.

Everyone walked away just that little bit more knowledgeable about how to be a leader of Taree High 2011-2012.

Jotham Young



REMEMBRANCE DAY

11.11.11 AT 11AM

Each year on Remembrance Day, Taree High School remembers and represents those in our armed forces who gave their lives for Australia. Our school and the nation pause for one minute of silence to reflect on the courage and sacrifice that our armed forces and their families contributed and continue to contribute in defence and peace-keeping campaigns.

This year our Captains, Maddi Rosser and Sam Kellahan and Vice-Captains, Alex Sheather and Edward Eden attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Club Taree's memorial fountain. Sam and Maddi were guest speakers and gave a poised, empathetic and moving address about Remembrance Day and what it stands for. Alex and Edward laid a beautiful wreath in the school colours at the fountain.

Our four leaders were exemplary ambassadors for our school, community and country at 11 am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the eleventh year of the century.

The following is a transcript of Sam and Maddi's address:

Sam Kellahan:

The 11 November 2011 signifies ninety-three years since the signing of the armistice that officially ended World War One. Since 1918, Australia has been involved in five additional wars and numerous peace operations, which have claimed the lives of thousands of Australian servicemen and women.

Australians have fought all over the world and have been noted for their stout, disciplined and brave fighting. Today they continue to show their commitment to bringing peace to the countries of Afghanistan and East Timor. Their presence overseas is vital in providing protection for civilians and bringing about much needed change.

It has been sixty-six years since the last world war, which rocked the foundations of millions of lives. This was a war that further opened our eyes to the dark side of humanity. However it was also a time of great discovery. We came to know the strength, courage and pride of Australian soldiers in action. Today we celebrate that steadfast character which enabled Australia to stand strong through two world wars and several other conflicts.

The youth of my generation cannot possibly understand the magnitude of the impact that war has on everyone it touches. Wars that consume the globe leave few people untouched. What a luxury it is to grow up in a family where our fathers and brothers are not stolen by conflict. What a luxury to grow up in the security of a country not threatened by imminent attack. My generation has been fortunate enough to grow up without witnessing a world war, and we owe this to those who came before us.

New wars have begun in my lifetime. A war on terror that strikes blows in different ways. But no matter the adversity that faces us, we can take security in the knowledge that Australians will stand strong to defend what is ours. That inheritance that we protect has been the same since we fought our first war, and will remain for as long as we are Australia; Freedom.

Right now, Australian servicemen and women are putting their lives at risk for the benefit of others and many who have passed before them have given their lives as the ultimate sacrifice.

We have come together today to join with people all throughout the Commonwealth in remembering the sacrifice of the fallen individuals who have fought for our safety and our freedom. It is because of their efforts that we enjoy the luxury of Australia as it is today.

Today, we acknowledge the contribution of Australian soldiers and commiserate with those who have lost loved ones in conflict. But alongside our sadness remains an overwhelming sense of pride in knowing that we are part of a great nation, built by

selfless men and women, without whom we would not be here.

Today, we will support the tradition to pause for one minute's silence to remember the servicemen and women who gave their lives while serving Australia in wars, conflicts and peace operations. However, while we do so, let us consider the privilege that we have as free, safe and proud Australians. Let us make the decision to honour those who have fallen in a way that extends beyond the tradition of Remembrance Day. Let us take each and every day as an opportunity to honour the fallen by living in the richness of respect, diligence and integrity that they fought for.

Maddi Rosser:

Good morning distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Remembrance day... The eleventh hour of the eleventh day, the eleventh month 1918 was the official ending of World War one. It is at this time each year, we commemorate all who have fought for peace, freedom and their country. It is impossible to estimate the death, grief and destruction that wars have caused worldwide but Remembrance day provides us with an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the sacrifices made by our service men and women.

Earlier this year, I visited the Somme and the Fromelle battlefields in France, the scene of the fierce battles of World War 1 and 2. It was here, on the now peaceful open fields 1.2 million were killed, wounded or missing in action. It was hard to imagine the battle fields where the sun glistened to be the place of so many dark days and nights. To walk through the trenches where the soldiers once stood, knowing that each step they took was potentially their last only began to make me realize the courage and their commitment to fight for their country and ultimately a world of peace. The reality of trench warfare, explosions, gunshots, commands, cries for help seemed merely impossible with only the tweet of a bird breaking the silence. It was



difficult to believe that this tranquil green landscape was where for over four long years soldiers endured incessant torrential rain that turned the ground into a morass in which men, animals and weapons were trapped. The battlefields became a foul brown mush which swallowed everything.

The feelings I experienced when looking along row upon row of white headstones and final resting places are indescribable. These feelings only heightened when reading the thousands of names of unfound soldiers that lined the imposing white stone walls of the Australian memorial building. Was he a father, a son, a brother? Every headstone and name, signifying a grieving family and the greatest sacrifice one could ever make. In the Somme, Australia provided the greatest military contribution of all the British Dominions, 331 thousand volunteers out of a population of 4 million 875 thousand, however we also suffered the greatest losses. The final total of casualties reached 215,000 including 59,000 dead, It was Australia's participation in the First World War and these terrible losses which became a contributing factor in the birth of this new nation.

Today as you look around, you will see many people wearing the red poppy.

The significance of this is during the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. Poppies adorn the panels of the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, placed beside the thousands of names as a small personal tribute to the memory of a particular person. On Remembrance day, we wear them close to our heart as a reminder of the sacrifice of these service men and women.

Like the peace and silence of the soldiers final resting place, today it is only befitting a minutes silence will honour the bravery of those soldiers as their sacrifice came at great cost and should not be taken for granted. The eleventh day of the eleventh month is Remembrance Day for All Australians, however for many each and every day is Remembrance Day.



THE CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS GAIN STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF LEADERSHIP AT AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT

The 2011 Impact Student Leadership Conference (ISLC) for secondary students came to NEWCASTLE on 1 November.

Over 200 students from 18 secondary schools attended this interactive, hands-on and practical day that aimed at preparing the students for their roles and responsibilities of leadership, encourage them to be leaders who make a difference in their schools, and equip them with the tools to do so.

Impact Leadership will see more than 1500 secondary school students from across VIC, SA, NSW, QLD and the ACT over two weeks as school attend the ISLC at one of 9 regional and capital city locations. The overall goal that students would leave these conferences with a clear vision, a solid understanding of leadership and dozens of ideas for their time as a student leader.

The day went well. Thank you to Ms Burton for taking us. Our overall leadership skills have been enhanced by the Impact experience.



U/15'S CHS BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT

On Wednesday 1 September Taree High hosted the second round matches of the U/15s' Boys and Girls CHS Basketball Knockout.

The Girls' team played against Maitland High School and consisted of Jessica Bergantin, Sarah

Smith, Georgia McCarthy, Zoe Laird, Kaitlyn Ellem, Chloe Holdom, Zoe Williams and Caitlin McLeod. The first half was a close match-up with both teams trading several baskets with the team from Maitland, leading 9-8 at the break. During the second half the Taree girls lost pace with their opponents and the more experienced visitors clamped down on defence, making it difficult for Taree to advance the ball and eventually Maitland came out on top. The top scorer for Taree High was Caitlin McLeod who also provided some strong rebounding and defence. Jessica Bergantin was also strong in defence and Georgia McCarthy lead the team well with some good direction on the offensive end. Considering the young age and inexperience of the Taree squad they performed well against a much older and experienced team.

Nick Croker, Brock Kinnear, Brandon Betts, Troy Knutson, Jack Paine, Jared Thompson, Jacob Straub, Nathan Smith and Jordan Nowlan made up the Taree High Boys team and their opponents were Maitland Grossmann High School. After getting off to a good start with an early basket to Brandon Betts the team from Maitland took control of the game and went into quarter time with a five point advantage.

Taree then rallied in the second and third quarters to be level with their opponents with 10 minutes to play, led by Troy Knutson and Nick Croker on the offensive end and some good team defence and rebounding. Unfortunately Maitland Grossmann proved too strong in the final quarter winning 24-20 in a close fought match.

A big thanks must also go to Mrs Croker for running the score table and also Mrs Straub for the team photos.

Mr Abbott



OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

At the end of Term 3 (8 and 9 September) the 9/10 Outdoor Education classes embarked on a two day camp at Crowdy Bay National Park. The group comprised of 24 students, Mr Abbott, Mr Bowman and Miss Godfrey.

After packing all the equipment in the bus the group left Taree High on Thursday morning and travelled through Laurieton to the Diamond Head camp ground.

Setting up camp proved a challenge for some but we all managed to get our tents and shelters up before lunch.

Surfing was next on the agenda with the Diamond Head Surf School. All of the students opted for the rash shirts instead of the wetsuits on offer which proved a slight error in judgement. I must say the decision for me of taking a wetsuit over a rash shirt was definitely the right one as most students didn't last too long in the cooler water. It still proved a lot of fun and most managed to find their feet a number of times. Rebecca Deer and Micaela Hagan enjoyed the conditions and once the majority of the group had made their way back to the beach they caught some nice clean waves.

The group then had a bit of time around the camp ground with some opting for a game of Touch on the beach. Others went for a walk to the headland, while the rest just relaxed around the camp site.

A couple of camp fires were made in order to cook dinner and later became the focal point as the light faded. Luckily the rain held off before everyone retreated to their tents.

We were not so lucky the next day.

The rain set in in the early hours of the morning (**most** tents seemed to be waterproof!!) and any hope of cooking bacon and eggs or pan cakes over a fire quickly disappeared as students opted for the fuel stoves and shelters after some close encounters with the local wildlife.

The bushwalk around to Kylie's Hut was hampered by showers and cooler weather with those that didn't come prepared with wet weather gear hopefully realising that the equipment checklist was



given to them for a reason.

Once back at camp the mission was very simple. Put on some warm dry clothes; cook some lunch and pack up camp for the arrival of the bus. The cooperativeness, team work and camaraderie shown amongst the group was fantastic to see. It was also good to see that the group morale remained high despite some of the weather conditions faced. Well done campers!

Mr Abbott



Taree High Fun Fitness for Staff

There is something going on with the staff at Taree High. It is very exciting, energetic and fantastic for us. Quite a few staff are getting fit by attending fitness sessions in the school gym. Beau Harper smiles and gives encouragement as he 'harps' on at us. We thank Mr Harper for his expertise, efforts and encouragement by making sure we stick to it all. We have had, and continue to have, a huge amount of fun.



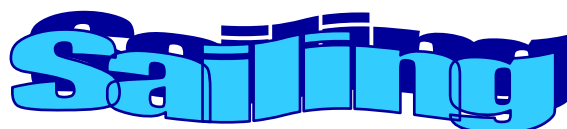
"The Many Rivers Diabetes Prevention Project"

"The Many Rivers Diabetes Prevention Project will be at Taree High School on Wednesday 30 November from 9.15 am to 11.15 am conducting surveys and weighing and measuring the children. Could the Years 7 & 8

students please bring in their green consent form if they haven't already done so".

Jaqueline Pree

Administrative Officer
Many Rivers Diabetes Prevention
Project
University of Newcastle
Ph: 49138125
Jacky.Pree@newcastle.edu.au



Learn to sail at Manning River Sailing Club

**'Try Sailing Day' Sunday 6 November
10 am-4 pm pm come and have a go! We cater for
all ages and also have sailing boats especially
designed for disabled members.
Sailing every Saturday from 11 am - 4 pm**

Contact: Sue Clarkson 6557 0912

Mobile No. 0412461525

TAREE HIGH SCHOOL'S RIDE TO WORK DAY

During a misty morning; the early sun's rays peeked above a tree line in the east, but did not deter Taree High School's carbon dioxide minimalizing A-team. Like Optimus' auto-bots, we rolled out for the bunch ride destined for work (also known as school). Our legion grew as the town's veterans joined our ranks to the point where we rode two abreast and twenty deep along the roads of Taree. We cycled to the smoothness of the criterion circuit for a skill session in bunch riding, led by our leader and captain on the road, Mr Harper. From his diaphragm he released commands: "single-file" and SNAP we had a pace line, "double-file" and BAM a full charging attack. Next to come was the most dreaded drill of all, the one lap dash for cash (minus the cash) a grueling event where the brave could show their true worth. Fatigued but strong willed we departed for the

hydration station, Raw Sugar Café for smoothies, compliments of these generous sponsors to the Manning Valley Cycling Club. Here Sam's retro outfit demonstrated its command amongst unwary citizens.

Sufficiently hydrated, we completed the last stretch of our journey to the welcome grounds of Taree High School. We met our comrades from neighbouring legions (teachers) for egg and bacon muffins and orange juice with the option of fancy lettuce courtesy of the Student Representative Council. Some members had arrived an hour and a half before school to make sure all riders were properly nourished.

A HUGE thank you to everyone that made the day such a success, from the setting up of the barbecues to making the epic expedition from distant towns on aged and weary beasts (Mr. Blanch). We have seen this event grow over the years to become renowned amongst the school's many activities and I'm certain that it'll continue to grow in the future. Once again many thanks to everyone involved.

Edward Eden



AGRICULTURE REPORT

We've had an exciting year in Agriculture. After a long absence, our cattle and chicken Showing Team was resurrected. We competed in Taree sSow with great results. Each of the six students who competed got a ribbon, with Chloe Hogno and "Big A" scooping the pool as Show Champions in their class.

Connor Leslie's four poultry exhibits earned three first places and one second. Congratulations to all students from Years 8-10 who made it happen.

Sadly the calendar interfered with the Royal Easter Show excursion..This will return in 2012, however Years 9 and 10 students did have an overnight trip to Tocal College to get a hands on appreciation of life on the farm – including the need to dance in the dairy when cows answer the call of nature!

Back at home, half the farm went under when Browns Creek flooded in June, which distressed all except for the pig and a couple of ducks!

Bryce Eulenstein



Spirit Sport

At the end of last term students from Years 7 to Year 10 were offered a new sport called Spirit Sport.

In this sport we help out around the school, helping teachers and helping the environment by planting our own vegetable garden and making the school a better place. We have moved tables to the new sewing room, planted plants out in the garden in front of the school, cleaned out filing cabinets and moved Mrs Cotton's files down to the Drama rooms. We have also made a sculpture around in the Year 12 area. Mrs Hutchinson has told us that we have done months of work in such a short time. It's a very enjoyable sport.



Caitlin MacFarlane



Vietnam Veterans' Visit



On Thursday Week 9 Term 3 the Year 10 History classes had two Vietnam Veterans, Roger Mika and Col Peter Diddums visit the school. They spoke about their experiences in the war and shared many interesting stories about their time in Vietnam.

For Year 10, this was a great opportunity because it gave us first hand knowledge which helped us in our assignment and in the School Certificate.

We would like to thank them for coming and hope that it becomes an annual event for Year 10 History in years to come as it was a very valuable experience.

Patrick Abraham
Caitlin MacFarlane

P & C NEWS

THS P&C on Facebook... and now looking for friends!

While our main communication points will continue to be the THS School Newsletter and the P&C webpage on the School website, our idea for the Facebook page is to be able to put quick messages out there of P & C related events, and use the page to collect ideas and comments from the school community.

If you are a Facebook fan, have a look at the page (Taree High School P & C) Your feedback is most welcome.

Cheers,

Beth Fuller

THS P&C President

Keeping Kids on the THS campus

(also available on THS P&C webpage)

One of the most overlooked issues facing school canteens (ie maintaining profitability) is the competition from local businesses.

A study by Dr Clarie Drummond (senior Lecturer and Course Coordinator, Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University) reported that students frequent local takeaways and shops not only because they prefer the range of food on offer, but because it provides an opportunity for SOCIAL INTERACTION outside the school community.

Students interviewed in the study held a perception

that school canteens were not an important part of the school service.

The study also drew attention to some schools where the school canteen was not regarded as important.

The article points out that allowing students to exit the school grounds may be a problem with duty of care responsibilities.

The study reported some approaches used by participating schools in the study who acknowledged that students had the "munchies" due to not eating/skipping breakfast.

The THS P&C and Canteen Manager are looking into ideas that will extend the supportive environment available to students attending THS. These ideas include implementing extra access to senior students to the canteen, inclusion of pasta/noodles on the regular menu, student menu "tastings" to involve student decision making in menu choices and providing privileged access to Year 12 students during study periods.

Prepared by Beth Fuller, President THS P&C (October 2011)

WELFARE

The staff at THS have noticed the increased consumption of energy drinks amongst our Year 7 and Year 8 students, particularly early in the morning. We currently have a policy which bans these drinks at school and we encourage parents and carers to be aware of trends. These drinks contain a great deal of caffeine and are not conducive to effective learning or positive behaviour.

Marilyn Crozier



CANTEEN NEWS

THS Canteen runs a specials board, offering something different each week which is very successful. A new range is Quiche Lorraine or Florentine with a cup of salad for \$4.00. Look out for this!

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Congratulations

Maddie PertzleYr12	Miss Taree Showgirl
Maddison Rosser Samuel Kellahan	School Captain 2012
Alexandra Sheather Edward Eden	Vice School Captain 2012
Patrick Abraham	SRC Secretary 2012
All new SRC Members for 2012	
Lee Angwin Yr 7	Won gold medal at All Schools Athletics for Shot Put. Now going on to compete at Australian All Schools Carnival in Brisbane
Manning Express Manning Regional Art Gallery Yr 7 Emily Cocksedge Josh Hammond Yr 8 Aleta Burke, Jay Wood, Gina Debreceeny, Sarocha Mason, Natalie Brien, Claire Davies Yr 9/10 Nikala Palfreyman Yr 10 Fabian Pertzle Yr 11 Jessica Watson Yr 12 Sam Crotty Yr 12 Chelsea McLean	
Beau Harper	Staff Fitness Program Junior Cycling
Spirit Sport	Well done in completing school projects around the school on Wednesdays
Rodney Griffin Yr 8	Assistance in Late Roll Call
Nathan Tisdell Yr 11	Participating in the mainstream Roll Call
Jacob Davey Yr 9	Teenage Division Winner
Gabbie Aarons-Burton Lucy Bird Yr 7	Duet Section and Old Bar Idol overall winner
Gabbie Aarons-Burton Yr 7	NSW 14 Girls Squad for National Soccer Championships

Madd about You 2011

Adults
\$15.00

Pensioner
\$12.00

Student / Child
\$12.00

Friday 25 November
7.30 pm

Manning Entertainment Centre

Tickets available on the web at www.gtcc.nsw.gov/mec , or from Video Ezy in Victoria Street (6552 5699), or at the door unless sold out.