



# TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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SPRIT DAY



**A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Otherwise entitled : 'Through hell and high water'

Any regular reader of this newsletter will know how proud I am of our school spirit and our remarkable sense of community. Our fund raising efforts when other parts of the country fall victim to natural disasters are well documented. The efforts of staff and students during recent high waters was typical of a powerful sense of community. When the emergency services needed an evacuation point Taree High put its hand up, while battling with its own day to day issues. There was no problem for our school in helping out others.

Two hardy senior boys turned up in the height of the flooding, hoping to get some help with HSC studies. They found that their Maths teacher was flooded in at Harrington. This teacher was immediately forthcoming in teaching a lesson on-line.

This is only one of many stories that typifies the commitment to teaching and learning that is evident at Taree High School.



Mr P Bird

# Dates to Remember

26/7/11	P & C Meeting at Taree High School at A20 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm
27/7/11	Hunter Athletics Brainstorm Productions Yrs 7 & 8
28/7/11	Hunter Athletics
11-12-13/8/11	Musical "Little Shop of Horrors"
15-19/8/11 15-26/8/11	Yr 11 Snow Excursion HSC Trials
23/8/11	Hunter Boys Tennis P & C Meeting at Taree High School at A20 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

## DEPUTY'S REPORT

Cyberbullying – an important and growing issue not only in society but in the school as well. Senior Constable Bruce Gauld and Senior Constable Brad Barry will conduct workshops for students on Tuesday 2 August where they will explain what constitutes cyberbullying and the consequences for those who cyberbully.

At 7.00 pm on 2 August there will be a parent information evening in the school library on Cyberbullying. All parents are welcome.

The school is abuzz at the moment with rehearsals well under way for the school musical "Little Shop of Horrors" to be performed during Week 4 (August 11, 12 and 13) in the school Hall. Mrs Cotton, Ms Ralston and Mr Bull (as well as many support staff) have been putting in many hours of their personal time to ensure the quality of the production. Tickets will go on sale shortly from A15.

Spirit Day once again was an outstanding success. Congratulations must go to Ms Walker, Mrs Burton, Laura Polson, James Kennedy and the SRC who worked diligently to ensure the day was filled with fun and participation. What a great sight to see the whole school doing the Macarena, The Chicken Dance and The Madison...and what a dance off between Mr Kelly and Miss Gurr!!

Term 3 sees the school musical performances, the Year 11 Snow Trip and of course the Trial HSC and Preliminary final exams.....the end is nigh for Years 11 & 12.



Ms A Alliston  
Deputy Principal (Yrs 7,9,11)

## DEPUTY'S REPORT

How good was it to watch and participate in the chicken dance, led by school captains James and Laura, on the *Spirit Day* of last day of Term 2 with 600 students! This was a big buzz and a super day for THS!

*Year 12* students are about to be challenged by Trial HSC Exams which start in Week 5 of Term 3. In-class tasks will finish soon and Trial Exams will be the biggest challenge so far with 3 hour exams being common. To prepare for these exams, I offer this advice:

Summaries should be revisited.  
Students should strive to achieve one hour study on most of their subjects each night.  
Past exam papers are a great source of practice and

revision.

**Year 10** have submitted their preferred senior curriculum patterns for years 11 and 12. During the next few weeks, students are encouraged to remain open to the advice from school deputies, curriculum advisors and careers advisors. THS is extremely lucky to have high quality people in these crucial roles. Innovation and professionalism describe their advice.

Good luck to Year 10! Your decisions will influence your career path and lifelong pathways!

**Year 8** is to be commended for its start to Semester 2. Lots of students are on task with regard to learning, enjoying their new curriculum package, becoming engaged with their studies and producing quality work. Your year patron [Mr Foxwell] is happy with what he is seeing.

Enjoy your work, produce positive outcomes and look forward to the great choices that will be available to you in Year 9.

Good luck all! I look forward to helping anyone who needs my expertise!



**Michael Crotty**  
**Deputy Principal (Yrs 8,10,12)**

### **DEPUTY'S REPORT**

As this newsletter goes to print, Mark Fenton (our Technology Support Officer) is in the process of collecting all Year 10 student laptops. Over the July holidays all of these will be checked to ensure they are in good working order and updated to the same format as the 2011 student laptops. This means that students will not have their laptops over the holiday period and for the last week of Term 2.

At some point during Term 3 all Year 11 student laptops will need to be collected for the same update process. There have been a number of issues with battery clips and hinges breaking. Each laptop collected will have these issues fixed and all screens checked. This is a one-off upgrade and repair to these units. Students who do not hand their laptops in when asked will not be given a further opportunity to have these issues fixed for free.

They will need to pay for repairs to these issues in the future.



**Mrs R Starke**

### **CAPTAINS' REPORT**

Since our previous report, the two of us have had the incredible pleasure of attending a leadership day at Sydney to visit NSW Government House and meet the Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir. On the morning of Friday 13 May, we flew from Taree airport down to Sydney and made our way to NSW Parliament House. There we met with over 100 other school captains from around the district and got the chance to speak with our own State electorate representatives. We spent the morning at Parliament House, getting to know the building and learn about political procedures at State Government level. We sat in the seats of the Legislative Assembly (green room) and the Legislative Council (red room) and learnt about the different decisions made in these rooms. After lunch we were escorted down to Government House where Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir spoke to us about her role as NSW Governor. She is a truly remarkable woman, with a number of roles and professions attached to her name as well as a wonderful and inspirational personality. We are both very grateful for this experience.

Apart from having fun, the captains have been working to organise the next senior social. We have held meetings with school captains from Chatham High, Wingham High, St Clare's, MVAC, Taree Christian College and Great Lakes College, Tuncurry Senior Campus to plan this event. We have collectively decided that it will be held at Club Taree on Wednesday 27 July

(Week 2, Term 3) from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of Term 3 for \$8 each. The theme is "Anything But Human". We hope most of our senior students can make it to this event; senior socials are a lot of fun! For Year 12, this will be held a few weeks before our trials begin, so don't stress about study time. Take a break and have a good night!

On Tuesday Week 5 of last term (third time lucky, Mrs Phillips) we were finally able to run our Athletics Carnival. Although the day was cut slightly short by the huge downpour of rain, we were able to get through almost all of the day's scheduled activities. Year 12 ran their BBQ at lunchtime and sold drinks, chips and lollies throughout the day. The two of us would like to thank Mrs Moody for her fantastic organisation and also, the huge number of Year 12 students who helped out on this day. Thanks to the team effort, we were able to raise around \$600.

Also on this day, the SRC ran their Spirit Cup novelty activities. Showing their skills at tug-o-war, sack races and 3-legged races, Hooke house managed to obtain the most points at the carnival,

leaving them in the lead for the Spirit Cup. The school's annual Spirit Day was held on Friday 1 July to conclude Term 2. This year's activities were trivia, drama games, computer games, obstacle course and the balloon game. We also saw the addition of the "surprise activity", in which the entire school gathered in the main quad for dancing and screaming for their houses. The enthusiasm and involvement of the students and teachers during this activity was astonishing and ensures that it will be revisited in the future. Unfortunately, the day was mostly clouded in rainfall, meaning we had to run by our wet weather plan. However, the entire day still functioned effectively and was enjoyed by all. We would like to thank the SRC for their motivation on this day, and also the many students and staff that lifted the spirit of the day by actively participating, despite the bad weather. Congratulations to Manning House – the Spirit Cup winners for 2011.

The two of us are now within our final term of captaincy. It's now time for the Year 11 students to start thinking about who they would like to see in this role next year. Feel free to come and speak to us with any questions or concerns you may have to do with the SRC or school captains for 2012.



**James Kennedy**



**Laura Polson**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Hey guys,  
We're checking in once more. All this rain has been a bit depressing I know, but remember to stay off the grass and try and keep this school looking good. On a good note, you can probably see that the canteen renovation is coming along very nicely. So remember to be patient with the canteen ladies they are doing a brilliant job for you. Word on the street is that there MAY be some nicer additions to the canteen when they move back in.

There are also a lot of events coming up for the SRC. Firstly there was an a Out of Uniform Day supporting the World Wildlife Fund. This is a very worthwhile fund. Thanks for giving generously and come out of the uniform on Thursday of Week 9 we raised \$780.35. Well done!

One of the biggest days for SRC this year was SPIRIT DAY which was on the last day of Term 2. Everyone dressed up in their house colours to

support their house and played games like trivia, computer games, guitar hero, and sing star. So it didn't matter what your level of academic achievement or your sporting ability was - good on everyone for showing school spirit and having a go!



**Nicholas Johnson**

**YEAR 12 REPORT**

Hope you had a good holiday and did a little bit of study. Our Trials are coming up so best of luck everybody!

The Senior Social is in Week 2 this term. It would be great to see everyone there dressed as "Anything but Human". The final countdown is on... best of luck with your studies.



**Sophie Bird**

**YEAR 11 REPORT**

Hey guys,  
We have one term of Year 11 left! It has gone so quickly, so get ready for Year 12! For those who are going on the snow trip and didn't go to the sale at ALDI, you missed out! The sale has now ended. Get keen. It's only two weeks away! We got our reports last term; I hope they were good enough to be displayed on the fridge.

Spirit Week was in Week 10 last day of Term 2. It was good to see lots of spirit.



**Isabelle Avent**

**YEAR 10 REPORT**

Hey guys,  
Hope things are going well and you had a great holiday. Great turn up for Spirit Day - you all looked great. Look out for School Musical tickets. The Musical performances are being held in Week 4. Any ideas for school improvement are always

welcome - bring them to the attention of your SRC reps.



**Zoe Collier**



**YEAR 9 REPORT**

Hey everybody,

Term 3 has just begun. Last term Year 9 campers packed up and went to the Gold Coast. They visited theme parks and all things between. Almost a week was spent in Queensland touring the theme parks. These included Wet 'n' Wild, Dream World, Movie World and a night spent at Time Zone arcade. On behalf of Year 9, we'd like to give a big thank you to Mrs Silcock, and all supporting staff for planning such an enjoyable week.



**Eden Gonfond**

**YEAR 8 REPORT**

Term 2 was a very busy but exciting term for us. We had the Athletics Carnival which was a blast! We had an Out of Uniform day on Thursday Week 9 to raise money for the World Wildlife Foundation. We also had Spirit Week in the last week of school....woohoo!

Finally the day we had all been waiting for....SPIRIT DAY. You came dressed in your craziest clothes you could find but made sure you were in your house colours. There was plenty of fun activities running during the day.

I hope you were all safe and sound during the floods. Hope you had a great holiday!

Catcha later!

**Tayla Calabria**



**YEAR 7 REPORT**

Hi Year 7,

Wow, it has nearly been two terms since we began high school! Did you enjoy camp? I thought it was fun. We especially liked the Power Fan Drop; the

Giant Swing was great too.

How was the Athletics Carnival? I thought it was great. We didn't like how high the high jump was. Congratulations to any Year 7s who made Zone Athletics and Cross Country. Well done to the bands Rockestra, Fellas and Singas for the effort in the Eisteddfod. Who liked the rain... 'cause we didn't'!

Here is a photo of the floods....



**Thomas Coleman**



**Jacob Ryan**



**Whitehouse Institute Fashion Drawing Workshop**



On Thursday 19 May Year 11 and 12 Textiles and Design students from Taree, Wingham and Great Lakes High

Schools were given the opportunity to participate in a 'hands on' fashion drawing workshop with a representative from the Whitehouse Institute of Fashion.

The girls had a great day learning how to draw and render fashion figures to create the illusion of different fabric types and textures, using a variety of pencils and markers. A one week scholarship to attend the Foundation Illustration for Fashion workshop during either the July 2011 or January 2012 holidays was awarded to Kaswyn Hunt, who showed the most promising fashion drawing skills and a genuine interest in clothing design.

# SPIRIT DAY

July 1 2011

Spirit Day's presence on our annual calendar endeavours to create a more enjoyable environment within the school. It seeks to achieve this by breaking down the barriers between students and teachers as well as students and their peers, the support unit and mainstream students and barriers between different year groups. The aim of Spirit Day is to encourage students and teachers to participate, cooperate and support each other in a variety of activities while competing in their House groups.

Spirit Day is always a day for FUN!

Continuing a proud tradition since its inception in 2008, Spirit Day 2011 was the direct result of many months of work by our current Student Representative Council, particularly James, Laura and Nick. It takes planning and attention to detail to coordinate a potential 1000 students and 70 staff participating in activities around the school. Especially as wet weather made its annual appearance.

In order for our obstacle course to go ahead, special assemblies were held in the gym and hall for our four houses to organise their groups. A special thank you must go to Ms Alliston and Mr Crotty for their leadership at the beginning of the day.

Once sorted, students and staff participated in such activities as Trivia, Singstar, Guitar Hero, the Obstacle Course, Drama Games, Balloon Games and Dodge Ball.

Just before recess some Surprise Activities were planned for the whole school in the main quad. Thank goodness the rain retreated for a brief time; this event was a great success. Everyone danced more or less successfully to the Macarena, kept huge beach balls aloft in house groups and screamed in Mr Bird and the Deputy Principal's ears as to who would win the most house spirit. Ms Gurr and Mr Kelly deserve a special mention for their enthusiasm, school spirit and classy dance moves!

A scrumptious sausage sizzle was held by Year 12 at lunch to satisfy everyone and the festivities continued in a drizzly quadrangle. The weather didn't affect enthusiasm and many danced to Nick Johnson, Andrew Bowman and Patrick Abraham's DJ'ing.

The war cries were held in the gym after lunch. Everybody piled into the hall and awaited the judges. Some highlights of each house effort were: Manning's drop-and-give-us-twenty push ups, Hook's clever segway between tunes, Peel's heavy metal drummers and Murray's captains leading a very loud cry from a smaller group.

At 3 pm, the Spirit Cup was presented. The Athletics Carnival and Spirit Day points were totalled. The results were:

**Murray – 891 points**

**Hooke – 1083 points**

**Peel – 1301 points**

**Manning – 1470 points**

Congratulations Manning on your spirited team effort and on your victory this year. Congratulations must also go to every student and staff member who supported and participated in this great enterprise. The SRC are already looking forward to running Spirit Day 2012!

**M. Walker**  
**SRC Coordinator**



# Vampire Shield



Hi everybody,  
Lately over the news, TV advertisements and in the local papers the Australian Red Cross Blood Service has asked for urgently needed blood donors as they are experiencing blood shortages nationwide. We especially need blood types O, A+ and A-.

To help our local blood service we are organising several blood days before the end of Term 3. There are still vacant spots, but we are filling up fast. We are organising several more appointments soon.



Please be generous and donate. It's not scary and you save three lives with each donation. Also getting your family donating is a good thing as well. You MUST be 16 years or older, 50kg or more, drink plenty of water and eat lots of food before arrival. This is ideal!

If you need to ask any questions, feel free to ask your SRC Reps or even myself your 2011 Vampire Shield Representative. Don't hesitate to ask.



**ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND DONATE!**  
**Britt Johnson**



*Memories for the rest of your life!*  
**Day 1**

The tension is mounting, and at last 105 students and six adults board the coaches to leave. We're even early at a 7.50 am departure! Our first stop is Coffs Harbour for lunch, even though it's only 11 am! Who cares what time we eat? We're off to camp! We have an hour to eat here and then leave for the next stop at Ballina for a break and stretch. There is only an hour to go to Tallebudgera. Are we in Queensland yet? Are we there yet? Is this the border? No-one needed one of the little sickie bags!

We crowd out of the coaches to be given a few rules from Queensland Sport and Recreation. Everyone

leaves to find the cabins and unpack before our first meal in the mess room. There are three other schools



at Tallebudgera, but the staff in the kitchen area are accustomed to feeding 400 students! Great scraping of the plates guys! Thanks to the teachers for serving your helpings and seconds. The food

was great, scrumptious, delicious and plentiful.

Our night activity is a walk up the beach to the breakwall and back, just to use a bit of energy after the long trip. I must admit, the staff are hoping that everyone will tuck up in bed and go to bedibyes, but this is just dreaming! Anyway, to cut a long story short, it was quiet at midnight, so we were happy enough. The Sport and Recreation staff organized great activities each morning from 9.00 am - 10.30 am. These included surfing, building catapults, beach games and team building games. We were so impressed with our names: Starfish, Mulletts, Stingers, Wobbygongs and Dolphins. It took a fair bit of persuasion to participate, but those who did surf were rewarded with chafing just to prove their own ability.

It just goes to prove that some students do not have their phones permanently attached to their ears, because some kids did not use their phones all week. They simply forgot about them. Congratulations for that, you can do it; live happily without your phone.

## Day 2

We're off to Wet n' Wild and the day is OK, no rain and plenty of excitement. Which ride first? Quick, leave the bags! Run! We'll do this one first then that



one and run faster! Come on, we'll ride this one and then come back for that one. I'm trying to type faster because I'm trying to pass on the excitement of the group. You should see the teachers, names starting with H and B. They were great role models on the rides where you can lose your head rolling down at maximum speed. The fast rides contributed to loss of voices from the screams.

Day 2 night activity was a dance night in the gym. Again, there was a fair bit of lack of motivation. Some students didn't turn up. There was a search and rescue operation for these students. Everyone was accounted for. Thanks to all who were keen and danced and played the games.

### Day 3

We participated in the activities at camp, morning tea and “Operation Get Your Food into Movie World and Don’t Get Caught”. Tallebudgera supplied a great lunch and snacks, including a bun, popper, sultanas, muesli bar, fruit and cake. Food was plentiful and each day we took food back to camp base. Movie World was fantastic. I have the proof when you see

the faces and people screaming as they hang upside down! Amazing! I must tell you of one very brave teacher who was convinced by a group of four lovely young ladies to risk her life



by going on the Scooby Doo! This is such an innocent name that reminded her of a cartoon character! **Not so!!** Death defying, backward action with bone rattling left, right, up, down directional moves!!!! Mr Harper and Mr Blanch are just not the people to trust! They even go on those drop rides where you sit on a chair and the chair drops out of the sky. This is a chair that could be used if ever they bring the death sentence back in.

A pleasing thing happened on the way to the Wild West Ride (true story so don’t LOL). I was called over by the young lady who runs the Ring the Dinger (true terminology). She said that the group of boys that I had been with, had been really well mannered. PHEW, no complaints! She wanted to talk about the really tall boy with the grey t-shirt. He was taller than the other boys. She said he was a boy with absolutely beautiful manners and a most pleasant disposition. Well done Dalen. You made us proud!



We get to Wednesday night and Time Zone. This was absolutely fantastic!! We received a voucher ticket to use for two hours on the rides and games. I know everyone enjoyed this, because you

should see the photos of excited faces full of concentrated looks as they rode motorbikes, horses, cars, and you name it!! For the people who needed to rest from the world, there was a chair to sit in that spoke to your back. It was fantastic! In fact everything in Time Zone was fantastic and we didn’t want to leave. Can you imagine Mr Blanch, Mr Webber, Mrs Webber and Mr Harper driving a racing bike round the corners, up the hills and finishing at the line and they hadn’t left the room yet? It leaves a lot to the imagination and a lot to the technology!!

### Day 4

Morning activities were followed by placing (I actually mean hiding) our lunch packs in the bags ready for Dream World. There were some serious rides happening here right from the front entrance. The most visible sight was the “BIG DROP”. How many times can you shake your brain and survive? There were a few kids saying that they had a headache and it could possibly have been from **looking** at the ride, not even **dropping** from crazy heights! This was the coldest day ever recorded on the Gold Coast!!

The night was also freezing and we survived the s u b z e r o temperatures just to say we had been on the



White Water rides. Congratulations to those students and teachers, you have my admiration.

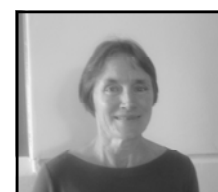
This was a great day, but we were keen to get to Trivia on Day 4 night. Now who can remember the funny wobble walk, the Weetbix eating UGH! Nearly choke UGH!!

### Day 5

Parents, you will not believe how well your campers packed up their bags and actually got them on the coach before departure time of 8 am. It was simply amazing! We had the inspectors do spot checks and the nerves were mounting. We are off! Warm and comfy bed. Going home today! The coaches really wanted to get home as well and got us to Taree High very early. Everyone was excited to see Mum or Dad or Carer, or Grandma, or Nana or Pop, anyone to take you home to a warm and comfy bed. Camping is over for 105 students and 6 teachers!

Thank you so much, on a very serious note to Mr Blanch, Mr Webber, Mr Harper, Mr Silcock and Mrs Webber for being the great campers you were at camp. Your organizing and general assistance was invaluable. Mrs Webber even came for three days on the camp, without being paid!! I am waiting to return a favour one day.

**Happy Camper,**



**Mrs Silcock**



## Mountain Bike Team

Taree High Mountain Bike Team came 2nd place in all schools State championships. The team consisted of Oscar Watson-Sutherland, Adam Cooper, Todd Sullivan and Hayden Wadsworth. Thanks to all parents for supporting this great event.

By Peter Bird



*“Outstanding Performance against all schools”*

## Year 7 Camp

Wow! Wasn't camp a lot of fun?!

On 17 May Year 7 went on their camp to Coffs Coast Beach School in Bonville. Not only did we test our bravery when we swung high on the giant swing and dropped to the ground on the power fan drop, we also had great fun with archery and canoeing. We paddled hard in the canoes and hit bullseyes with archery. We got a bit wet canoeing but it was definitely worth it. We also tried our hand at Circus Skills with stilts and spinning plates and we scrubbed the decks with Inner Limits.

We played night games like trivia and we watched an awesome movie – Despicable Me. We had great dorms with loads of bunk beds and every night after dinner we had some yummy desserts including mousse.

We were sad to leave but the fun wasn't over. We had a lovely picnic lunch at Port Macquarie and after that we had about two hours to shop in Settlement City!

Year 7 Camp was so much fun and definitely worth the bus trip.



**Sinead Haynes**

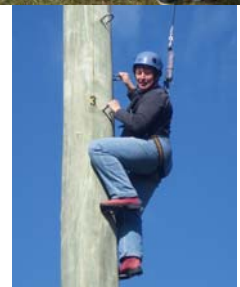


**Lucy Bird**

## Year 7 Advisor's Camp Report

The students who went on the camp were all well behaved and enjoyed the activities, as seen in the photos. They were very excited and managed to push the limit for sleep to well into the early hours of the morning. All the meals and the accommodation were first rate, and all hands were on deck on all occasions to make sure that the place was kept clean and tidy. The staff at the Coffs Coast Surf School were most impressed by the students' involvement and positive attitude towards all activities. All in all, a great trip was had by all.

**Ian Reynolds**



## DEAS SCHOOL UNIFORMS

DEAS has moved to Shop 12  
Pulteney Arcade (opp Car Park Deli)  
TAREE

# Lawn Bowls



Dalen Hilton (Yr 9), Brendon Romeo (Yr 9) and John Russell (Yr 11) competed in the second round of the Combined High Schools Lawn Bowls competition on Friday 3 June at Taree Railway Institute Bowling Club. The boys played very well with a convincing win of 27 to 12 over Muswellbrook High School. They now compete against Kurri Kurri High School at Kurri Kurri for Round 3. Good luck boys.

**Raylene Starke**

## Legal Studies Excursion

The annual Year 12 Legal Studies excursion to Sydney started on a very slow 24 May. By 5.00 am, we were so far down the highway to Sydney. The chirpiness of everyone after the bus trip soon faded as we walked into the Surry Hills police station. Soon, everyone had caffeine withdrawals and were trying to get their fix. At the police station, everyone experienced the different parts of policing, including the cells, the central radio centre and the difference between regular police cars and the ones that have speed cameras attached.

After this, we moved on to our next rendezvous; a district court in the CBD of Sydney. If you were lucky enough, you saw a really interesting case. Others, weren't so lucky and were stuck listening to the legality of post stamps on letters. And then there were a few other individuals who were caught taking

a nap in the waiting areas outside the courts. It was unanimous that it was time to get some lunch and re-energize.

After lunch at Pitt Street Mall, we stopped over to the Supreme Court of NSW. After being denied entry several times by different cases because "there were too many new developments for the courts to entertain school children", we negotiated by going to the cafe on the top floor of the supreme courts. After a few lattes, we all went back down onto the street. Some of us got rained on, while the others got in trouble for singing "Barbara Anne" too loud in public. After an unsuccessful Day One, we retired to our accommodation. To our surprise, we discovered our accommodation had a sauna. Luckily though, we all had packed swimmers, and had a swell night sweating off the day.

That night, we went to a mall on Darling Harbour for dinner.

After a bit of food and a bit of shopping, nine of us united to form a laser tag team (Pickard's Power Panel) and had two matches against a German/Swedish/French backpacker team. Unfortunately, we lost. Both times. After a good three or four hours spent at the mall, it was time to leave. Back at the accommodation, we all had a quick sauna before hitting our beds for a good night sleep for Day Two of our excursion...

Day Two began rather fast. We had to be fully evacuated from the YHA before 8.00 am. This was a struggle for some people, as they could not decide what was more important, showering, packing or breakfast. In the end, we all made the right decisions and none of us were smelly from lack of bathing. Although, on this day, we didn't have much luck; one of our activities were cancelled on us due to the unavailability of a Judge at the Children's Court. The morning did however see a two hour session at the Juvenile Justice Headquarters in Surrey Hills. Lots of interesting information regarding young offenders and how the Legal system responds. To compensate for this lack of activities we went back to Pitt Street Mall to grab a bite and do a bit of shopping. After a while, we discovered that on the top floor of Myer there were iPads. Which you could play with. Which had internet access. Which included Facebook. A good portion of our time was used up there.

We had one more final activity; a museum based on the history of the Australian legal system. We had a lot of fun in this place. We were put into a mock trial, were told a story from 1938 about one of Australia's most important cases which reformed laws on child abduction and we got to look at some heavy disciplinary methods. We were soon rushed out of the museum because it was a race to beat the clock home so we could all catch the Origin. We made it home in time and were all satisfied with how

the excursion went.

**Did you know...** there is a special room in the police station at Surry Hills where representatives from different organisations can come and review their surveillance cameras of all different places within Sydney? It was created for the Olympics but now they use it for big events such as Big Day Out and World Youth Day.

**Did you know...** it is considered rude or inappropriate if you do not bow to the judge when entering or leaving a court room.

**Did you know...** whenever you have your name taken down, or when you are a victim, witness or do something wrong, this will go on a record which can be tracked instantly if your name is typed into the police intranet.

### NAIDOC 2011

Taree High School celebrated NAIDOC 2011 with a formal assembly that launched an acknowledgement of country that will be displayed within the front office foyer of Taree High School. This art work acknowledges the Biripi people as the true custodians of the land on which Taree High School is established. To support this acknowledgement of country Lance Hickey represented the Biripi community and Taree High School with an Acknowledgement of country in Gathang language which is the traditional language spoken by Biripi and Woromi people. Never before has a student of Taree High School taken on such an honourable role in acknowledging his own people and country in such a manner. Lance's efforts displayed a proud moment for Taree High School and the Biripi community. Lance's acknowledgement was also proudly translated in English by Kyeesha Clarke who stood on a lower platform than Lance to symbolically place the Gathang language above English. Acknowledgement and respect for the Biripi Community was further supported by executive staff members including Deputy Principal Michael Crotty and Principal Peter Bird who passionately described his respectful approach towards supporting and promoting Aboriginal culture in education and particularly at Taree High School.

The formal assembly was followed by a concert in the Hall to celebrate Aboriginal culture. This concert was opened with a powerful welcome to country by respected elder Uncle Phillip Saunders followed by a welcome dance from Chatham High School's Indigenous boys dance group who had the audience captivated from the first click of the clap sticks.

Taree High Schools Aboriginal dance group then put on a spectacular performance that put a contemporary spin on the celebration whilst still promoting traditional culture. Kelle Nicholson, a senior Koori student from Taree High School, then sang a song to support the NAIDOC theme 'Change' which hosted a band line up consisting of staff members including Brad May (Eng), Johnny Deehan (Sp.Ed), and Benn Saunders (AEO) followed by a special appearance from Jaycent Davis who then performed 'Treaty' by Yothu Yindi. NAIDOC activities continued throughout the day with Didgeridoo workshops hosted by Sam Mehan who took the boys on a cultural journey and enlightened everyone involved to the world of the Didgeridoo followed by Boomerang painting with guest community members .

### **Ben Saunders**



### **Manning Support Services Inc.**



**ABN 88845915950**  
**PO Box 759**  
**78 Wynter Street**  
**TAREE NSW 2430**  
**Phone: 02 6551 1800 Fax: 02 6551 5700**  
**[www.mssinc.org.au](http://www.mssinc.org.au)**

### **Has your washing machine or fridge broken down and you don't know how you're going to replace it?**

Manning Support Services No Interest Loan Scheme may be able to help you. We are a not for profit organisation which provides interest free loans, from \$100 to \$1000, to people on low incomes and/or Centrelink payments, for

new household appliances,  
furniture  
medical equipment  
driving lessons or  
some educational expenses,

subject to eligibility criteria. By using these loans, people are able to avoid the interest rates and debt traps of other forms of credit (however, we don't lend for rent arrears,

bills, second hand goods or to pay out other loans).

The money for the loans comes from donations and grants. As people repay their loans, the money goes back into the loan pool for other people to borrow. Therefore the local community benefits, as well as local businesses. You can also borrow again six months after you've repaid your previous loan.

For further information and to discuss a loan application, please call the Manning Support Services office in Taree on 6551 1800.

## P & C News

### Getting your ideas:

*At the May P&C meeting I suggested to the group that we focus on four main areas in 2011:*

- *Canteen related projects – including the grand “opening” of the newly outfitted premises*
- *Identifying funding ideas and projects that we can support*
- *promoting the P&C to parents*

and web-based ideas, continuing to add content to the P&C page on the school website

If any of those areas strike a passion with you – we'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

### Mailing list:

Would you like to be added to the P&C mailing list? Just send an email to

[thspandc@gmail.com](mailto:thspandc@gmail.com) or [beth@tsn.cc](mailto:beth@tsn.cc) and we'll add you to the list to receive the minutes of the P&C meetings and updates on projects.

We are trying a new approach to P&C meetings this year, with presentations from key areas of the school to start the discussion. The presentations are aimed at giving a brief snapshot of “what's happening” in key areas, giving us an insight on how the P&C might be involved.

At the May and June meetings we heard from Ms Crozier (welfare related), Ms Hillyer (building literacy across all subjects) and School Captain/ SRC update with Laura Polson and Nick Johnson. The dates for the 2011 P&C meetings follow – pop them in your diary, come along, or send an email and let us know any issues you'd like us to act.

Month	Presentation (30 minutes)
26 July	Mental health promotion: Hunter New England <i>Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)</i>
23 August	Science: “ <i>the universe and beyond</i> ” <b>Mr N Blanch</b> PDHPE: <b>Ms G Phillips</b>
25 October	VETAB and National Partnership <b>Ms R Starke</b> HSIE & the Shared Curriculum <b>Ms C Gray</b>
22 November	Numeracy <b>Ms M McCallum</b> “wrap up for the year” <b>Mr P Bird</b>

### **So how can parents help keep kids healthy and happy?**

There is a vast amount of information that provides information for parents aimed at keeping kids happy and healthy. A few that we have found useful include:

**Youth Beyond Blue**

<http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info/>

This website provides fact sheets on a range of topics including:

- Depression in young people
- Dealing with anxiety disorders
- Helping a friend with depression or anxiety
- Staying healthy
- Getting the sleep you need
- Making the most of studying
- Understanding eating disorders
- Bullying
- Information for parents

**ReachOut**

<http://au.reachout.com/find/issues/family-friends-relationships/>

This site includes useful information for parents and students, with topics including:

- Communication
- Friendships
- Managing family relationships

If you have the time to join us on July 26, come

along and hear from the experts in child and adolescent mental health how we can work to keep kids healthy and happy, and pick up the signs when things are off the path.

**Note: We'll be meeting in A17 for the July meeting.**

Happy to hear your thoughts on any matters you'd like discussed at the P&C, or ideas that we could consider for future topics.

Cheers!

**Beth Fuller**  
Taree High P&C President (2011)



## CANTEEN NEWS



Our newly refurbished canteen is up and running. We are still setting up so please be patient

\*New Menu Boards on their way!

\*There is now a Teachers Only line

\*New Items on menu

Ham and Cheese toasted sandwiches

Spaghetti Bolognese

Butter chicken and Rice

Chilli Con Carne and Corn Chips

Thank you  
Dana & Sandy

Congratulations

Kaswyn Hunt Yr 11	Whitehouse Institute Foundation Illustration for Fashion Workshop
Sophie Bird Yr 11	SRC Member of the Month (June)
Jordan Worboys Yr 12	Open CHS Touch Team
Maddi Rosser Yr 11	NSW Hockey U21's Team



# Library News



**This month we have available for loan a number of books from the 2011 Childrens' Book of the Year Short list . Take time to come up to the library and have a look.**

Here is a selection of some of these books we have for you to read.

*Book of the Year : Older Readers*

**The Piper's Son by Melina Marchetta** Melina Marchetta's brilliant, heart-wrenching new novel takes up the story of the group of friends from her best-selling, much-loved book Saving Francesca - only this time it's five years later and Thomas Mackee is the one who needs saving. Thomas Mackee wants oblivion.

**The Life of a Teenage Body Snatcher by Doug MacLeod** Thomas Timewell is sixteen and a gentleman. When he meets a body-snatcher called Plenitude, his whole life changes. He is pursued by cutthroats, a gypsy with a meat cleaver, and even the Grim Reaper. A very black comedy shows what terrible events can occur when you try to do the right thing. 'Never a good idea,' as Thomas's mother would say

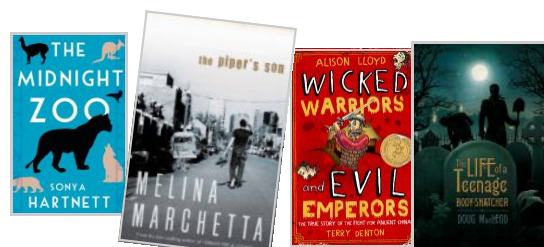
**The Midnight Zoo by Sonya Hartnett** Under cover of darkness, two brothers cross a war-ravaged countryside carrying a secret bundle. One night they stumble across a deserted town reduced to smouldering ruins. But at the end of a blackened street they find a small green miracle: a zoo filled with animals in need of hope. A moving and ageless fable about war, and freedom.

*Eve Pownall Award for Information Books*

**Wicked Warriors and Evil Emperors : The True Story of the fight for Ancient China** Imagine you're made king at the age of twelve. You have plenty of enemies. You have a million soldiers armed with all kinds of awesome weapons; you have tons of gold and a network of spies. What would you do with all that power? It happened to a real boy, who made himself China's first emperor. He was brilliant and brutal. His legend, and the stories of his wicked warriors, have lived on for thousands of years

Let's all keep reading

*Malcolm Peisker* .. Relieving Teacher Librarian





**CAUTION!**  
DON'T FEED THE PLANTS

Taree High School Presents

The

**LITTLE SHOP OF  
HORRORS**

Book and Lyrics by  
**HOWARD ASHMAN**

Based on the film by Roger Corman

Music by  
**ALAN MENKEN**

Screenplay by Charles Griffith

A tale of an ordinary  
man whose quest for  
love leads to deadly  
consequences...

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday  
13th August - Taree High School Hall

Evening Performances from 7pm

Adults \$10 | Students/Seniors \$5  
Family \$25 (2 Adults and 3 Children)

Tickets Available From School Office (A15)  
During School Hours

# Taree High School



## Process for Missed Preliminary/HSC Exam or Assessment Task

1. Student submits an Application for Consideration of Illness/Misadventure/Variation (see attached form) to their Deputy:
  - a) as soon as they know they will be unable to submit/complete the task on the set date, or
  - b) as soon as possible after missing a set task.
2. Supporting evidence must be supplied with the application, eg. medical certificate.
3. A form must be completed for each affected task.
4. The Deputy determines if the application is supported and notifies the relevant Head Teacher.
5. The "Determination" section of the application is completed by the Deputy and Head Teacher. Students are notified of the determination as soon as possible.
6. A copy is placed in the student file.

### Students whose Application HAS been Approved

Students must still complete the task.

Missed Exams: If possible, the Deputy, in consultation with the Exam Supervisor, will reschedule an exam within the exam period. If not, the Head Teacher, in consultation with the class teacher, will determine the process for completing the missed exam. Reasonable notice must be given to the student if the task is to be completed under exam conditions and the mark used for their report. If the student cannot complete the exam within a reasonable time frame of the original date, an estimated mark will be used for their report.

Other Tasks: the Head Teacher, in consultation with the class teacher, will determine the process for completing the missed task and the student will be notified as soon as possible of their responsibilities regarding the task.

### Students who miss an Exam or Assessment Task without Approval

Students will receive zero for the task.

Students must still complete the task.

The Head Teacher, in consultation with the class teacher, will determine the process for completing the missed task. The student will be notified as soon as possible of their responsibilities regarding the task.

Students will also be issued with a "Course Warning Letter".



# TAREE HIGH SCHOOL

Albert St,  
TAREE NSW 2430

Email: taree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
Phone: 02 6552 1166  
Fax: 02 6551 2017

## Application for Consideration of Illness/Misadventure/Variation Affecting a Preliminary or HSC Assessment Task

<b>STUDENT NAME</b>	
<b>COURSE / SUBJECT</b>	

<b>TASK AFFECTED</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>

### Reason for Application (brief description)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

### Please attach any supporting evidence to this Application (eg. medical certificate)

Student signature: .....

Parent /Carer signature: .....

Date: .....

Submit this form to your Deputy Principal.  
You must complete a separate form for each task that you are applying for.

This section will be completed and returned to the student as soon as possible.

### Determination re Application for Consideration of Illness/Misadventure/Variation

Date Application received: .....

The Application has been approved: YES / NO

The following arrangements have been made regarding this task:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Deputy Principal signature: .....

Head Teacher signature: .....

“...fostering a safe and friendly learning environment...”



## Assessment & Reporting at Taree High School

Over the last year, the Curriculum Committee has conducted a review into our assessment and reporting practices. We have ensured that our policies, procedures and report format meet the Department's mandatory requirements and support the following philosophy:

*"The fundamental purpose of assessment and reporting is to improve student learning."*

Following this review, a few modifications have been made to our assessment and reporting practices. The purpose of this document is to explain our updated procedures.

### Assessment Tasks

- All tasks will be listed on an Assessment Calendar that is distributed to students at the beginning of the year. These calendars are also available on our website. Reasonable notification must be given to students if the scheduled dates are changed.
- The details of each task will be documented on a yellow Assessment Task Cover Sheet, which should be distributed to students at least two weeks before the task date.
- On completion of the task, students will be given feedback on how they performed and how they can improve.

### Reporting Years 7 – 10

- Students will receive a comprehensive written report at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.
- Parent Teacher interviews will be scheduled in Terms 1 and 3.
- Written reports will include the following features:
  - Overall course achievement, rated from A to E (PTO for descriptors)
  - Achievement on specific course components, rated from A to E
  - Information on student social development and commitment to learning
  - Teacher comments which will highlight student strengths and weaknesses, as well as provide advice on how the student can improve their performance in that course.
- As mandated by the Department's reporting policy, information about the student's achievement compared with other students who studied that course will be provided on request. This data will be in the form of the percentage of students from the group, in each of the achievement levels, from A to E. Consequently, percentage marks and position in class will no longer appear on junior reports.

### Reporting Years 11&12

- Students will receive a comprehensive written mid-course and end of course report.
- Parent Teacher interviews will be scheduled at appropriate times.
- Written reports will include the following features:
  - Overall course achievement, rated from A to E (see below for descriptors)
  - Achievement on specific course components, rated from A to E
  - Student achievement relevant to other students in the course will be provided through a Percentage mark from 0 – 100 and indication of the student's position in the course.
  - Information on student social development and commitment to learning
  - Teacher comments which will highlight student strengths and weaknesses, as well as provide advice on how the student can improve their performance in that course.

Overall course achievement and student achievement on specific course components will be rated according to the following five-point scale:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| A / Outstanding | The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations. |
| B / High        | The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.                               |
| C / Sound       | The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.  |
| D / Basic       | The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.  |
| E / Limited     | The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.   |

**Please note - the expected overall level of achievement for all courses is C / Sound.**

Taree High School is committed to ensuring that our assessment and reporting practices support and encourage student learning, as well as lead to improved outcomes for all students.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.