



# TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Phone: 02 6552 1166  
Fax: 02 6551 2017

Email: [taree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:taree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Web: [www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

School Social

Swimming Carnival



**A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Local Schools Report

It seems that this term is rapidly disappearing. We are very excited to welcome Tara Jeffcoat from Turramurra to the Maths faculty and Terri Patterson from Gloucester to the Science faculty for the start of next term. Both appointments are as a result of merit selection. Thanks to Mick Crotty and Neville Blanch for convening these processes. On the downside we have yet to find a full time counsellor but have our fingers crossed for an announcement early next term. A really big thanks goes to the staff, parents and Aboriginal community members who give up their valuable time to contribute to the process. Selecting staff has been very topical in the press of late.

Local Schools, Local Decisions has been very popular recently. While we are forever seeking better and smarter ways to manage our school and much of what is talked about already happens, we could not commit to the trial that has received so much publicity. A few too many questions remain unanswered, particularly those about funding continuity. While opportunity to consult was extensive during the latter part of last year, there was very little warning prior to expressing an interest in the trial and too little time to have extended meaningful discussions with all stakeholders. To all the staff and community who encouraged engagement in the trial I thank you very much. We will continue to take as much ownership of local decisions as is possible. We engage local business and contractors as often as possible. We will seek out opportunities to employ the best possible staff for our students.

We are always looking for ways to improve our communication. We are working really hard on a new improved reporting system and ask for patience with any glitches that may appear as part of its implementation. I believe our current reports are good but the new ones will be even better.

We encourage parents to maintain contact with the school at all levels as we have a network of people keen to help with your students, learning and welfare. At the same time it is really important that parents and carers follow the protocols of ringing through and making appointments with respective staff. It can be the source of much frustration for you to just arrive and be advised that we cannot see you due to other commitments. It also is disrespectful to those who have made appointments for us to ignore them.

As mentioned in a letter sent to all parents and carers on Monday March 19 2012, Mr Bird is currently in hospital after an accident on his way to school.

Ms Allison Alliston (DP) will relieve in the position until further notice.



Ms A Alliston

## Dates to Remember

27/3/12	P & C Meeting Parent Teacher Interviews Yrs 8-11
28/3/12	Year 12 exams begin
29/3/12	Regional Girls Touch
3/4/12	P & C AGM CHS Swimming
4/4/12	School Cross Country
5/4/12	Year 12 exams finish
6/4/12	Good Friday and beginning of Easter holidays
23/4/12	Staff Development Day
24/4/12	School Resumes for Term 2 School Anzac Ceremony
25/4/12	Anzac Day
27/4/12	Regional Boys Touch
28/4/12	CHS U16 Touch
1/5/12	Zone Cross Country
4/5/12	Boys Touch Regional Netball Athletics Carnival
8/5/12	Boys and Girls Tennis Regional Lawn Bowls
8-10/5/12	CHS Girls Hockey
11/5/12	Regional Cross Country
15/5/12	P & C Meeting

### *Lachlan Young*

*A special thankyou from the Young Family*

*Following the sad loss of one of Jaree's past students the family of Lachlan Young has contacted the school to convey their sincere appreciation to the staff and students of the school who attended Lachlan's funeral. The family was overwhelmed with the large number of staff and students who attended and they found great comfort in knowing that Lachlan was loved and thought of by so many. On behalf of the Young family, I am passing on their appreciation to all.*

*Mrs Judy Hall  
Year 12 Year Adviser*

## DEPUTY'S REPORT

It seems that life is so hectic at school that the term is nearing the end more quickly than I have anticipated. During 2012 I will again be overseeing Project 1 of the National Partnerships for Low Socio-economic Status Schools Communities program. Through this project all faculties will be rewriting their programs for Year 7. Following professional development activities at the end of 2011 involving differentiation of the curriculum, all staff had the opportunity to work with Ralph Pirozzo using his grid to map classroom activities. This is to ensure all learning styles are catered for within the classroom and that a range of activities are offered, from the development of skills and knowledge, through to higher order thinking activities which involve analysing, creating and evaluating. Workshops are organised toward the end of term one where Ralph will work with the program writers over a two day workshop. It is hoped that by the end of the workshop each faculty will have a differentiated Year 7 Course Program ready for the development of resources and teaching aids during the remainder of 2012.

I have also taken over the coordination of Year 10 during 2012. For the first time students will not receive a School Certificate at the end of their Year 10 studies but instead will have their school assessment grades recorded on a Record of School Achievement. This means that there will be no external examinations during Term 4 and that students will be expected to remain at school until the last day of the school year (December 19). More detailed information on the Record of School Achievement will be forwarded to parents as the Board of Studies releases this information to schools.



**Raylene Starke**

## DEPUTY'S REPORT

This year is going so fast. It just seems like yesterday that we welcomed the students back to school and Year 7 arrived and now Easter is rapidly approaching.

One feature of the early weeks of the term was the swimming carnival - great performances in the pool and great school spirit among the sporting houses. We look forward to similar spirit in evidence at the athletics carnival.

It has been pleasing to note that most students who come to Taree High School are interested, focused and want to learn. The majority of students relate well with their peers and teachers and make the most

of the many opportunities which Taree High School can provide for them.

While generally uniform standards amongst the student body is good, sadly there are some students who need to be reminded about uniform. Footwear in particular is a serious issue in practical subjects. Parents are reminded that appropriate footwear is essential in areas like Science and TAS for the safety of students. Also, denim shorts are not school uniform.

Again, while the majority of students conduct themselves well, some students need to know that bullying is not tolerated at Taree High School and that likewise violence and verbal abuse is not acceptable. The school's anti-bullying policy is currently under review and should be complete by the end of this term for consultation.

Parent/teacher evenings are being held currently. These occasions are great opportunities to meet your children's teachers and find out firsthand how they are going. If you miss or missed the opportunity to talk to teachers, I recommend that a phone call to the school can help to put you in contact with teachers so you can learn about your children's progress.

So with just a couple of weeks to go in Term 1, I would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

A reminder that students return for Term 2 on Tuesday, April 24 and the term will begin with the school's ANZAC Day ceremony.



**Christine Gray**

## DEPUTY'S REPORT

Hello everyone!

I manage all curriculum and welfare aspects associated with Years 7, 9 and 11. Do communicate with me if you wish to discuss any educational issues concerning your children. My messages in this newsletter are dominated by direction to Year 11, may be procedural but they are very relevant to all years.

### Year 11

- These 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. The Year 11 Advisor Mrs Salmon and I have had open and honest meetings with all Year 11 to outline expectations.

- Year 11 students are in the process of being given their privilege cards. The responsibilities that they always achieve will allow them to sign in late if they have a study period and leave the school grounds early when they are not on a timetabled class at the end of the day. However these privileges do not extend to driving their cars when they have study periods. Use of cars is only permitted when students are driving to and from their home. In fact, parents and carers are reminded that permission must be given if their child is to travel in someone else's car.
- At times young adolescents do make mistakes because of peer pressure or bad decision making. I am adamant that I do not want a repeat of any past car accidents, where young people have been hurt or even worse. Please do encourage safe driving habits to and from school and remind your children that car usage is not allowed at anytime from the start to finish of their school hours.
- Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about curriculum patterns. If students wish to change their pattern, they are to see me and organise the appropriate paperwork.
- Preliminary assessment programs have just been issued and are on our web-site. I encourage parents and students to be on top of planning and consequent successes with regard to completion of the tasks.
- Year 11 are to be commended for their involvement at the recent swimming carnival. Albeit it is very difficult to swim 50 metres in a yellow dress! Well done, Year 11, your involvement was superb. You are some of the true leaders of our school!

## Year 9

Taree High School prides itself on the outstanding 'duty of care' policy and practices that it puts into place. Do encourage your children to get a leave pass if they wish to leave the school grounds for important appointments. This can be done through Mrs Crozier, who is located next to the A15 offices. Year 9 are reminded about their curriculum pattern, which is dominated by the core subjects and two 100+ hour subjects which may be made up of Year 9 or Year 10 students or both. Students are to see me if they are not happy with their curriculum pattern. At the same time I remind students that there is not much option for students to change electives at this late stage.

## Year 7

- Year 7 is to be commended for its start to the school year. Lots of students are on task with regard to learning, becoming engaged with their studies and producing quality work. The Year 7 Advisor Mr Kelly is happy with what he is seeing.
- There has been some bullying issues reported to staff. I encourage all students to report any harassment issues to any staff so that we can put into place our positive and successful anti-bullying policy and practices.

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

**Michael Crotty**



## CAPTAINS' REPORT

Hey everyone. How's it feel to be in Week 8 already and nearly half way through our last year of school?

Term 1 has been hectic and the time has flown by. We've had our swimming carnival and the first social of the year; both were fantastic events. Thanks to everyone for your donations on our out of uniform day to support Greenpeace. The athletics carnival is also coming up very soon, so let's make our last one a good one!

If it's Week 8, then Term 2 is almost here. And what does Term 2 mean? You got it – SPIRIT DAY! This year we're changing things up like you've never seen before...

Also starting first week of Term 2 will be a marathon Spirit Cup event running right up to the last day of term. Every house competes to see who can collect the most non-perishable food and the winner receives major points toward the Spirit Cup. All the food we collect will be donated to a local charity to help feed people in need. It's really important that we all get involved so stay tuned for more information.

The SRC is constantly planning and organizing upcoming events and we want to make them as much fun as possible. To help us do this, make sure you keep talking to the SRC reps in your year. If there's something that you think should happen in Taree High, the SRC wants to know – and we mean anything. We've been elected to represent you guys, so make sure you keep on bringing those great ideas for us to put into action.

Good luck to everyone with assessments coming up.

Give them your best shot and have an awesome term!

**YEAR 12 REPORT**



**Sam Kellahan and Maddison Rosser**

Hey Year 12!

If you haven't already remembered to pay the rest of the money for our Year 12 jackets do it ASAP! They should be here within the next few weeks. Just before the exams we have the Athletics Carnival. It would be great if you all come to help with the fundraising barbeque for our Formal. The exams are coming up in Week 10, study hard and soon enough it should all pay off.



**Angus McLeod Isabelle Avent**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Welcome back to another great year at Taree High School! 2012 is looking very promising already.

Whilst the school year for 2012 has only just begun, the SRC year began last October and we have been working hard ever since. We have changed our meeting date to Wednesday Week 1 and Friday Week 2 commencing at 8.30 am. In these meetings each year tells us what is going on in their year, so if you have any suggestions or ideas please tell your SRC reps and then they will pass it on to the SRC.

On Wednesday night of Week 7 we held one of our school socials. This was very exciting because they have been struggling for numbers recently, but this last social was booming. Thank you must be given to everyone who attended and the good behaviour that you showed. Also thank you to the dedicated teachers who turned up and supervised because without them there wouldn't be a social. I hope everyone is very excited for the next social.

An initiative that has been brought up by the SRC is the senior line at the canteen. The senior line is open at the side of the canteen at recess and the first half of lunch. But if the seniors abuse this privilege then the senior line won't function anymore.

The sub committees in the SRC are working on a range of activities such as the recycling station, Spirit Day, fun games at the Athletics Carnival and the welfare of the students. Your SRC representatives are all doing an excellent job. I hope that you all are enjoying school in 2012, and that this year treats you well.

Thanks again.

**Patrick Abraham**



**YEAR 11 REPORT**

Hi Guys,

Hope the term has been great so far. Remember to hand in your privileges notes and pay your deposit for the snow. It should be a great week! Thanks to everyone who came to the social. It was a fun night and the turnout was great. Let's keep that up. Hope you have an enjoyable rest of the term. See you around.



**Rebecca Deer Mackenzie Barber**

**YEAR 10 REPORT**

Hey Dudes.

What a wonderful start to the year. We have now reached Year 10. As the first year without the school certificate a little bit of weight is lifted from our shoulders. I hope everyone ordered their Year 10 shirts as they will be a great addition to our uniform. Many student have started a TAFE course this term which will be a great experience for them. As we come to the end of Term I hope you all have a good

time and a fantastic holiday!!

**Ayesha Haeata**



Get keen!

Thanks



**Gabbie Aarons-Burton Abbey Stephen-Nelson**

### YEAR 9 REPORT

Hi Year 9!

Hope you are all having a great term. This is our first report as Year 9ers and so far it's been a fantastic year. All of our year received our laptops on March 12 and they are the best ones so far! Many other exciting activities have happened throughout this term like the Circus, the Swimming Carnival and of course the social!!! Hopefully the rest of our year will be as great as this term has been.



**Nicholas Quinn**



**Miles Thornton**

### YEAR 8 REPORT

Hey Guys,

I can't believe it, we are already in Year 8! This Term's gone so quickly that settling into our year area

was the least of our worries.

The Swimming Carnival has come and gone with great success. Everyone was eager to earn points for their houses even if they jumped in with their clothes on and swam the wrong stroke!

We were very heavily represented at the social, from jumping around to sore calves the next day. We thought it was the best one yet.

I don't think that there was a better way to start the year. Our assignments are so time consuming we are at the stage where we just want to kick back and relax. We're so excited to dress up like dags for the

Athletics Carnival and to show our true house spirit.

This year is going to be a good one.



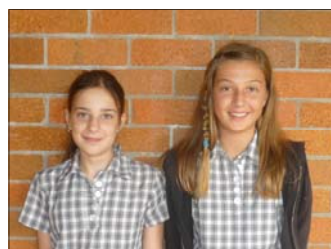
### YEAR 7 REPORT

The Swimming Carnival was fun and exciting. It's funny seeing everybody dress up in their house colours and chant their team song.

The canteen is great. They sell soft drinks and pies and let's not forget the ice-cream. A downside though is that there is never any soap in the girls' toilets.

Vaccinations are always extremely nerve racking. Everybody says they hurt but they don't. Some people's arms swelled and got all red and puffy. The variety of teachers is great and so is the fact that you only have a teacher for an hour at a time.

We love booking the music rooms and making up songs. Overall high school has been great so far!



**Natassia Zapatero and Chloe Crossingham**

## **The National Youth Science Forum**

**My Experience by Vice Captain Edward Eden**

In January of this year I attended the National Youth Science Forum Session B, which was held in Perth. Every year there are three sessions - each of approximately 150 students - making a total of 450 students being selected nation wide (Sessions A and

B are both held in Canberra). It is a 12 day event for those who are thinking of a career path in Science.

The benefits for me from attending are far greater than I ever anticipated and I am sure that it will help me in my studies during Year 12 and later at university. As a result of my adventures I have become acquainted first-hand with the support and generosity of Taree High School's Student Representative Council, our P & C our Science department and the Rotary Club of Taree North. I would like to thank all those who assisted in me in my endeavours. The following is my report based on the incredible experiences I received in Perth, and it is my hope that this will encourage many future students in Year 11 Science classes to apply. More importantly I hope it energizes all those who read it of the intrigues and appeal of Science as a discipline and to encourage you to discuss and discover all of the amazing incredible opportunities that lie in wait for you – go get them!

If you do indeed find yourself seeking more information concerning the National Youth Science



Forum, feel free to come and talk to me in person in the playground. Also, the National Youth Science Forum website has much useful information and interesting recent science news links at: <http://www.nysf.edu.au/>

Science is progressive and we are the most collaborative generation yet. This century will experience the emergence of great scientists, but will they be working alone? Today, teams of people work together at large particle accelerators to provide us with explanations to some of Science's most intriguing questions. This age of scientists will provide explanations of the evolution of galaxies and the mysteries of dark energy and black holes through the joint force of many nations to construct huge scale projects such as the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope. Great scientists are no longer solitary, but rather working and contributing in a group environment.

Developing a combined inclusive approach to Science I believe sums up the value and importance of the National Youth Science Forum. The present generation will need skills in communication and management of group dynamics for effective cohesion of ideas and the undertaking of their implementation. This is why the National Youth Science Forum is so powerful. Imagine 150 of Australia's most avid young scientists together in

one location for 12 days, free to bounce their ideas off each other, but also to be taught the process to successfully utilize their combined abilities. Infuse into this a stimulating program of laboratory visits and presentations from prominent Australian scientists and you have a recipe destined for results. One thing that surprised me was the people that I met in Perth. From whatever factors that had given me a predetermined opinion of who would be attending, my notion of science students was quickly transformed. The people that I met were more or less just like myself. They were interested in other things outside of science such as sport and music and everyone had a strong moral and ethical judgments and concern for the greater humanity of the world. Together we revelled in the sharpness of our wit and the astuteness of our puns. It was stimulating and valuable to hear the opinions of others, points of view I had never considered before, even when they collided with my own opinions. I also valued being able to confer with people who had similar aspirations for future endeavours and being able to consult with those who had already travelled along a road similar to one I have in mind. To hear of the paths which I'd never considered navigating or which I never knew stemmed from the crossroad was most beneficial.

I had the opportunity to visit Sandalford Winery where we received a special behind the scenes tour from the chief wine-maker. Prior to this, the strong influence that chemistry plays in the production of wine was an area unrevealed on my map of knowledge; now I would certainly consider a career in Viticulture.

Another insight for me came from a presentation by a Science Communicator. I'd never have thought that I could choose a career where I could indulge my interest of scientific discovery by consulting with scientists about their experiments. Science Communicators communicate to the public why, how and what the experiment or investigation is about. They show people the importance and value behind the experiment and providing relevance and a reason to care about what it is you're doing - certainly a career path that would appeal to me. To think that I was oblivious to it a month ago is scary but also strangely invigorating.

What else is out there for me to discover? Attending the National Youth Science Forum has given me a drive to achieve something big and to discover all the opportunities available to me. It has renewed my interest and curiosity for science, which in itself motivates my current Year 12 studies.

To explain in detail all the incredible experiences and opportunities I was presented with at the National Youth Science Forum would simply not fit in this report. Instead I hope that I have been able to

highlight what a valuable experience this is for students, but also how this program is beneficial to Australia's scientific future.

Knowledge is powerful and the opportunity I have had is unknown to most students. The National Youth Science Forum involves students who have an interest in science, but science is but one of the many focuses of the National Youth Science Forum. Other benefits are: having an incredible time, making friendships and contacts, building confidence, being involved in discos and bush dances, workshops in public speaking and communication, reading body language and displaying positive open body language, having the ability to work with groups, negotiating skills, utilizing the strength of other people, gaining knowledge on your type of personality and the probable many occasions of deep un-forced laughter. These were my experiences of the National Youth Science Forum.



**Edward Eden**

## **History Extension Study Day at Coffs Harbour**

5.45 am and our unit was assembled on the luxurious front lawn of Taree High School. Composed of a select bunch of students – in all likelihood the hardiest History Extension students to be found within the state, our mission would take us beyond those distances accessible by foot, so we took the Taree High School bus.

We were a collaboration of six students:

Madeline Riley, Jacqueline Hockey, Alexandra Jones, Isabel Avent, Mattsen Yeark and myself (Edward Eden). Accompanying us were two teachers: our leader on the land and co-pilot, Mr Davis, brought with him the brute force of Mr Pickard for phalanx support.

Our system operated so that every man and woman was protected on the right-hand side by the shield of their comrade, except for of course the far right, occupied by no other than Mr Pickard himself. His preferred method of intimidation by sheer size was successful in stopping any flanking enemies in our path. We need not to have worried, for if any fear had made Mr Pickard hesitant, motivation from Mr Davis was readily available.

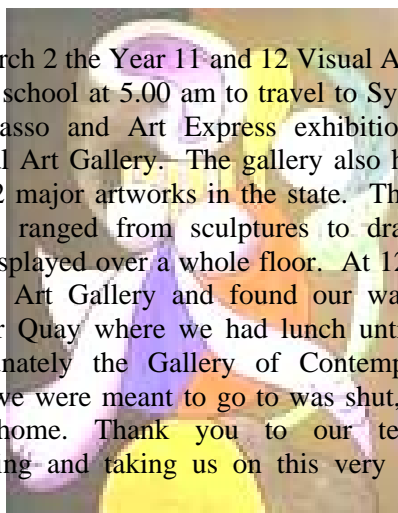
The unfamiliar northern lands were soon to be suppressed by the authoritative control of our phalanx. We ascertained our knowledge of tackling these foreign lands of HSC questions from the horse's mouth, HSC markers. Their strategies were found to be most beneficial and have since been employed. Upon our mission north, we came face to face with a paradoxical core question: What is History?

Surely this area of study can be summed up as the basic accumulation of chronological events from humanity's past. The essence of our history? If you had asked me my opinion on such a straightforward question a few weeks ago I would have quickly agreed.

However now we have been forced to evaluate such a preliminary opinion. How is it that these known facts of history have come to be remembered – what has been omitted? Does this omission of facts compromise our knowledge of the past? What historical facts have been lost into that limbo of once known events, now forgotten by all living memory? Of these events we'll never know. Our knowledge can be thus seen as some sort of jigsaw with an unknown quantity of missing pieces – waiting for the historian to assemble as they wish. Is all history

## **Year 11 and 12 Art Excursion**

On March 2 the Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts students left the school at 5.00 am to travel to Sydney to see the Picasso and Art Express exhibitions at the National Art Gallery. The gallery also has the best Year 12 major artworks in the state. The Picasso's exhibits ranged from sculptures to drawings and were displayed over a whole floor. At 12.30 pm we left the Art Gallery and found our way down to Circular Quay where we had lunch until 2.30 pm, Unfortunately the Gallery of Contemporary Art, which we were meant to go to was shut, so we just came home. Thank you to our teachers for organising and taking us on this very worthwhile trip!



**Zac Collier**



**Lilly Baker**



but one possible historical interpretation of the past, having been assembled by a historian's prejudices? However, despite the relative nature of history, we can perhaps bask in one level of reassurance – the bare historical fact. We know for certain that the



Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066, this can hardly be disputed. But such a history based on pure historical facts: dates and definite figures would be one austere skeleton of humanity's

past. In contrast, our history may be missing a rib or two, yet it is covered in flesh, and this is where the good juices come from. So even though our history may be riddled with the interpretations and omissions of past recorders, it's not such a bad option after all. It may be dripping with the delights of subjective intrigue, bias and propaganda, but honestly, I wouldn't want it any other way.

We emerged better informed, more confident and with the knowledge of a sophisticated approach and analysis of History Extension papers. In essence the day and our mission were a great success. Perhaps one day somebody will find our adventure significant enough to be incorporated into some paper, post, tweet, message, article, recording, photograph, pottery, inscription, token, medal, coinage or school newsletter for those to remember and contemplate on the endeavours of Phalanx Eight, 2012.



**Edward Eden**

## Extension 2 English Trip

The sun was barely peeking over the line of the horizon. It was far too early to be awake. Four travellers gathered themselves and seriously contemplated why they had come. Fending off fatigue, fear of the dark and dull conversation, they commenced their journey with Mrs Hall at the helm. It is always a grand experience to watch the sun rise. Whether you are camped on the summit of a Swiss Alp or struggling to keep your eyes open in the passenger seat of a Mazda 2, there is opportunity to be inspired.

The rest of the day spent at the all-girls school was

very informative. It began with past Extension 2 students reflecting on their experience and sharing their advice, before moving on to separate classes run by English teachers and concluding with a lecture on the reflection statement that is submitted with every major work. The three students accompanying Mrs Hall thoroughly enjoyed each session, with the exception, perhaps, of the reflection statement lecture. It was this lecture that inspired the invention of new techniques to keep from falling asleep. One of the most popular was the "Roy Batty" which involved a Parker pen, remarkable will power and two very steady hands.

Before they knew it, 3.00 pm had arrived and it was time to return to the Mazda and sleep all the way home. Mrs Hall showed expert command in the car park, eyeing off with steely nerve the man who attempted to reverse his Corolla over her bonnet. The car park traffic gradually pushed the four onto the road, where they found themselves facing off against a P plater in a 4WD twice the height of the Mazda. He didn't understand the concept of merging, which is how the adventurers came to be jutting out on the wrong side of the road when the traffic lights changed. Sam was able to witness first hand the confidence of Sydney drivers, noting with quiet fear their speed and proximity. Concern was voiced also for the violin in the boot, which would certainly not fare well in a collision.

But with a keen eye on the road and a steady hand on the tiller, Mrs Hall led them back safely to the familiar turn-off at Hallidays Point. Many thanks for her commitment and generosity in organising and supervising the entire trip.



**Sam Kellahan**

## Year 10 and 11 Excursion to On Stage

The Drama excursion to Sydney on February 7 saw 18 students travel to On Stage to see the best HSC drama performances.

There were 9 acts all up. These included monologues and group performances. Also, set designs, costumes and log books were placed in the foyer and inspired all the students.

At the end of the day most of the 18 kids had an idea of what they want to accomplish for their HSC performances.

**Zac Collier**

## Year 9 LAPTOPS

Of course the big news for Year 9 students has been the arrival of their laptops. Everyone has been waiting excitedly for weeks wondering how soon it would be before they got their hands on them. This is because they are so keen to improve their educational opportunities, right? Yeh right!

The truth is that most students will probably use their new toys sensibly, eventually - after the initial excitement anyway. When the novelty wears off they still have to be carted to school and back fully charged each day. Forgetting your laptop can be like forgetting a book and pen for some lessons. The agreement is that students bring their laptops charged ready to go for every lesson. It becomes a responsibility that is sometimes shirked by students. Excuses like, there's not enough room in my bag, or I forgot to charge it, can become commonplace. Other arrangements need to be made to address these issues before they become a problem at school.

Then there are the other students, usually boys, whose laptop can become an extension of their body. These students want to be connected to their new machine as often as possible for as long as possible. They are probably playing games or watching movies and film clips. This is OK, until they start to do this in class or at home until late at night. Appropriate use of these computers can be very much up to individuals but excessive use, gaming etc can cause its own problems. Moderation is the key. So good luck everyone and let's hope our kids get real benefits from this new addition to their schoolbag.

**Mr Steve Foxwell**  
**Year 9 Year Advisor**

## SOLID STATE CIRCUS

On March 8 a group of three performers from Solid State Circus came to the Taree High gym for a performance given to drama students and any students in Years 7-9. The event was extremely entertaining as they performed amazing acrobatic manoeuvres, combined with presentational acting

and a very humorous story line. They engaged the audience extremely well and the show was enjoyed by all.

After their performance Solid State had organized to do a workshop with all the drama students. In this workshop we learned very cool acrobatic and balance moves, juggling and trampolining flips etc. The workshop was a lot of fun and also valuable for drama performances. I would like to thank the performers for their excellent performance and what they taught us, and also Mrs Cotton for organizing the whole day.

**Patrick Abraham**



## CANTEEN NEWS

**Don't forget to order your  
lunch as you may miss out  
on your favourite food**



# SRC Environment Committee Report



## Recycling



With some hard work and patience last year, the SRC Environment Committee launched the Recycling Station. Our station is set up next to the canteen to raise recycling awareness. We have also installed a Recycling Station noticeboard which has information about what's recyclable and what's not.

Along with encouraging students to recycle their appropriate goods, we also installed a recycling system for the staff. We bought a number of medium-sized plastic bins and put one in each staff room, at the offices and in the print rooms. As a result of the staff's terrific recycling, these bins are unfortunately beginning to fall apart.

The Committee held a very successful cake stall to raise some money and we plan on putting the funds towards new staffroom recycling bins.

And now to recycling on a different note... Taree High is now doing a 'mobile muster' which involves recycling old mobile phones. But why? Well, it turns out that over 90% of mobile phones can be recycled, including the battery, circuit boards, handset housings and casings and other accessories. Mobile phones also contain a precious metal that can only be found by cutting down certain rainforests, so by recycling our old mobile phones we are not only protecting the rainforests but the rest of our environment too. So please, if you have any old mobile phones lying around bring them in and put them into the big box sitting outside A15. This box has been painted and decorated with "Mobile Muster" so you won't be able to miss it!

That's all for now. Happy recycling!



**Madeline Heron**



# SWIMMING REPORT 2012

Another successful and enjoyable carnival, even if it took two attempts to get it up and running!

Thank you to all those seniors who not only participated in dives but more importantly managed to inspire the junior years (some with positive lolly rewards) to do the same. Also a big thank you to the staff who helped set up all the gear needed to run a successful day.

The first event of the day was again the "**Captains Relay**". This has become a vital part of the program as it is a true test of leadership and role modelling. Congratulations to all the house officials for their inspirational efforts in the water.

The staff team was decimated by illness this year with Mrs Cotton and Ralston both having to withdraw from their favourite event. Their places were more than ably filled by Mr Curtis (senior) and Mr Eady who, combined with the Lean Machine Harper and Mr Curtis (junior), took out this blue ribbon event, soundly thrashing all the other teams.

Congratulations to Jason Arens of Hooke house who broke the 17+ 50m Breastroke record and to our new junior fish, Brock Van Kampen also from Hooke house, who broke the 13 years 50m Freestyle record and the 13 years Backstroke record. As one leaves another rises up to carry on the tradition in the water. Overall, it was a great day with lots of action in the pool, cheering in the stands and school spirit.

**Champion House:** You are all champions in my eyes but Murray looked fantastic in their purple. A great way to start a new era!

<b>Hooke</b> 302 pts	Jack Swan, Kasee Whatson, Ben Boyd, Lauren Townes
<b>Peel</b> 298 pts	Madeline Riley, Korey Christie, Micaela Hagan, Nick Searle
<b>Murray</b> 277 pts	Laura Neale, Mitchell Jobson, Tiana Pitman, Adam Whyte
<b>Manning</b> 200 pts	Rachel Hinton, Matt Wright, Rebecca Deer, Jotham Young

### **ZONE and REGIONAL SWIMMING**

Even though our competitors were fewer in number this year, those that represented our school did so with great pride and enthusiasm. We arrived at the venue in our impressive school bus wearing our coordinated black and gold sports uniform. '*We perform as a team, therefore we travel as a team*' is our new motto. This was highlighted in the relay events with everyone keen to contribute to their

team's performances. We were placed second overall with Great Lakes College again taking out the zone honours. We think it has something to do with their name... 'Great', maybe we should be renamed as 'The Greater Taree High School'..... or they can be renamed the 'OK Lakes College' or, better yet, they should compete as three separate schools??? Never mind, we will just keep on trying and have lots of fun as we do so!

Congratulations to Brock Van Kampen, Chloe Arens, Courtney Ryan, Korey Christie and Lee Angwin who all posted impressive individual performances at the zone carnival which then allowed them to compete at the next level of competition at the Hunter Regional Carnival. They were all sooo close to being selected to compete at the state carnival.

We wish Brock all the best as he heads off to Sydney to compete at the NSW CHS carnival in the 50Free, 100Free, 100Breastroke and the 200Individual Medley. A fantastic effort Brock, well done.

### Mrs Phillips



## U14s Boys Cricket

On Thursday March 8 Taree High's U14s boys contested their first round match of the Baker Shield Knockout against Wingham High. Newly appointed skipper Kyle Extrem lost the toss and we were sent in to bat. We made a very competitive total of 161 largely due to a quick-fire 62 from Mick Blanch and excellent contributions from Callum Bartley, Max Le Messurier, Bayley Weaver and Sean Pole-Cini. Wingham had been set an incredibly tough task in chasing this formidable total. The task was made even tougher after Kieran Green's ferocious first

spell, taking figures of 4-1 off his first two overs. To Wingham's credit, they rallied with a big middle order partnership and looked like they might pull off an unexpected victory with two overs to go. However, Green and Blanch came back into the attack to clean up the visitors for a respectable 143, with the assistance of an absolute screamer of a catch from Harry Wallis to add to the highlights reel.



Overall, the game was played in high spirits with the boys representing Taree High School proudly.

A big thanks to all the parents who came along and helped out with scoring and organisation, Mr Harper for assisting with the transport of gear to the ground, and most of all Mrs Phillips for her expert knowledge and organisational skills. Without her the match would not have gone ahead.

We now wait eagerly to find out who our next victim will be, whether it is Chatham High School or Great Lakes College. Great work boys!

Full Team List: Kieran Green, Cooper Jobson, Kyle Extrem, Jarrod Vine, Michael Blanch, Callum Bartley, Sean Pole-Cini, Bayley Weaver, Tahj Wood, Damon Curtis, Max Le Messurier and Harry Wallis.

### Mr Curtis

## **TAREE SHOW TEAM AT NABIAC**

Taree High School's Show Team attended the NABIAC Centenary Show last Saturday. The team, Danica Berg, Madison Brenton, Telisha Ford, Steph Harrison and Natarlya Hennessy did a great job on the weekend. We won the School Bred division. Madison Brenton came second in her age group for paraders. In seniors, Danica Berg came first and Stephanie Harrison fourth out of a field of about 20 entrants. We also came first and second with our Murray Grey heifers.

A number of patrons commended THS on the display and the conduct of the students. I also took a



call this morning from a member of the NABIAC Show Committee congratulating the students on their conduct and efforts in the show.

A round of applause must go to Chloe Hogno and Rochelle Field for putting much time and effort into the team - Rochelle won a parades ribbon at Camden Haven Show. These girls are doing a lot of hard work and deserve every success.

## **Open Girls Netball Team** **Zone Champions**

Saxby's Stadium was the venue for this year's Open Girls Netball Zone Gala Day. Four teams fought it out for the Zone Championship with our girls coming out on top. The first game against Chatham HS was a nice warm up with a comfortable win 49-6. Gemma Bylos was on fire in goal with an awesome 28 for the game.

The second game against Great Lakes was vitally important as the team who finished first gets the easier draw at the Hunter Regional Knock Outs. Great Lakes have long been our nemesis and beat us to first spot last year by 5 goals.

This year, however, our talented and determined girls showed grit and great skill to come out winners by 8 goals. New girls in the team, Bianca Litjens and Georgia King added class to an already formidable line-up.

A huge thank you also to Alex King who umpired for us and did an outstanding and highly professional job.



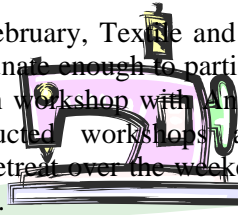
**Team:** Gemma Bylos, Kasee Whatson, Megan Stacey, Laura Neale, Ashley Northam, Amy Bonsor, Emma Croker, Chloe Arens, Bianca Litjens and Georgia King.

**Ms Burton**  
**Team Manager**



## **Textile Workshop**

On 28 February, Textile and Design students were fortunate enough to participate in a fabric colouration workshop with Anne Mitchell who had conducted workshops at the Tinonee Artisans Retreat over the weekend and Monday previously.



Seventeen Year 8 students participated in the two and a half hour workshop in the morning and eight senior students participated in the afternoon session.

Students were fully engaged throughout the session, producing some colourful fabric samples.

Students are to be congratulated on their behaviour and participation in the workshop.

**Ms Tate**

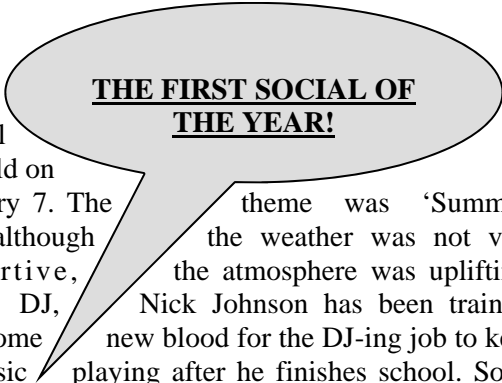


Our first social

was held on February 7. The and although supportive, Our DJ, Nick Johnson has been training up some new blood for the DJ-ing job to keep the music playing after he finishes school. Some new and younger people had a go and played a few songs with Nick's help. This wasn't the only collaborative effort by the SRC though - in sport time we decorated and set up ready for the night and draped fairy lights around the hall. We sold 240 tickets, which has been the biggest social in a very long time!

Our 'Summer' theme worked well with people coming as dolphins, life guards, sharks, picnic goers and many other creative ideas! All in all it was a big success with a massive turn out.

**Amani Jensen-Bentley**



**THE FIRST SOCIAL OF THE YEAR!**

the theme was 'Summer' the weather was not very the atmosphere was uplifting!

Nick Johnson has been training up some new blood for the DJ-ing job to keep the music playing after he finishes school.



# STS Student Exchange



Why host an exchange student?

STS Student Exchange are seeking typical Aussie families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family.

Aussie families come from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds. That's what makes up our country. Our exchange students are keen to live in a typical Aussie family and join in your family lifestyle while going to the local high school. Therefore we welcome all families willing to offer one of our exchange students a bed to sleep in, their meals each day and treat their host son or daughter as a member of their own family. Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance. While your exchange student is learning about Australian culture, your family members will learn about theirs. What a great way for your children to learn about another country!

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STS Student Exchange, PO Box 666, Hornsby NSW

1630 ABN 35 095790177

STS is registered with the Department of Education of NSW.

## LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF !

As Marcel Proust, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes". Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2012 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our booklet of international student profiles, and capture the

spirit of family and friendship.

Thanks and kind regards,

Robert Lindsay

National Business Development Manager

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Tel: +61 (0)3 9775 4711

Fax: +61 (0)3 9775 4971

Toll Free: 1800 500 501

Post: Locked Bag 1200, Mt Eliza, Victoria, 3930

Web: [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au)

email: [robert.l@scce.com.au](mailto:robert.l@scce.com.au)

## Congratulations

Edward Eden Yr 12	Lion's Youth Winner of the Year Public Speaking Section Winner
Alex Sheather Yr 12	Lion's Youth of the Year Winner overall
Battle of the Bands 2011	Kavit - highest score Cityscape 2 <sup>nd</sup> Believe the Hype 3 <sup>rd</sup> All fantastic work guys!
Lee Angwin Yr 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Australia in Shot Put. Well done Lee!
Brock Van Kampen Yr 7	Swimming - NSW CHS
Open Boys' Cricket	Won first game
U14 Boys' Cricket	Won first game
Hook	Won Swimming Carnival
Miles Thornton Yr 9 Joey Jeffrey Yr 10 Alex Eden Yr 10 Portia Rennie Yr 7	NSW All Schools Triathlon 34th out of 139 competitors
Thomas Gilbert Yr 9	Nationals Australian Juniors - Shot, Discus and Hammer
Eve Foxwell Year 9	SRC Member of the Month February, 2012
Open Girls' Netball	Zone Champions
Spirit Sport Kids Term 1	Enthusiasm organisation and beautification of Taree High

**Free Community Education Seminar**  
Presented by the **Black Dog Institute**

# NAVIGATING TEENAGE DEPRESSION

For parents, teenagers and people who work with young people

**Come along to find out....**

- What is depression?
- How to spot early warning signs
- Understand the role of personality
- How to build resilience
- What to do



**WHERE:** Taree High School - School Hall (cnr Albert and Macquarie)

**WHEN:** Wednesday 4th April 2012. 6.30pm - 8.30pm

**RSVP:** 2 April 2012

Register online at [www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/rsvp/taree\\_resilience](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/rsvp/taree_resilience)

For more information, contact: **Chris Rule, Black Dog Institute, Project Manager -Rural Initiatives**, on 02 9382 8203 or at [c.rule@blackdog.org.au](mailto:c.rule@blackdog.org.au)  
Website: [www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)

This event is proudly supported by the:  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service  
(a member of the Manning Mental Health Network) and  
Taree High P&C



BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

# ARTS



**2012**

**YEAR OF THE  
DRAGON**



**8CV B**





Students using  
our new desktop  
painting easels.

YR 9/10 2D  
Painting –  
Van Gogh’s  
“Starry Night”  
"Starry Night”

