

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 4

P & C Meeting	26 November
MADD Concert	29 November
Year 10 Celebration	5 December
Year 7 Parent Information night	10 December
Year 6 Orientation Day	11 December
School presentation Assembly	16 December
P & C Meeting	17 December
Last of school	20 December
School resumes	
Staff	28 January 2014
Years 7, 11 and 12	29 January
All students	30 January



Alex Eden VC Eden Gonfond C Madeline Heron C Amani Jensen-Bentley VC

2014 SRC INDUCTED

On Tuesday September 17 the new SRC was inducted and our Captains and Vice Captains were announced for the next term of office. After a formal assembly including parents, staff and most importantly the student body, Eden Gonfond, Madeline Heron, Alexander Eden and Amani Jensen-Bentley led our student leaders and guests to the library for the annual morning tea and signing of the SRC catechism.

THIS LAUNCHING ON FACEBOOK

SHORTLY TAREE HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE LAUNCHING OUR OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE. BOTH PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO 'LIKE' OUR PAGE IN ORDER TO STAY INFORMED OF UPCOMING EVENTS. ONCE ACTIVATED WE WILL EMAIL ALL PARENTS WITH A LINK STRAIGHT TO OUR PAGE.

www.facebook.com/tareehighschool



*Merry Christmas to staff,
students and their families.*

TAFE/TAREE HIGH SCHOOL PEER LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM

The Peer Literacy Tutoring Program for 2013 has been very successful yet again. Taree High School has been running this program since 2010. The aim of the program is to assist the Year 7 students in their transition to high school by helping them improve their reading skills and to become more confident and independent learners.

The Year 10 students have been working with their buddies since the end of Term 2 and have continued to work with them on a mentoring basis for this term as well. They are supervised and assessed by TAFE Literacy teachers Kate Fazio. The school co-ordinators are Mrs Trish Webber, Ms Annette Gleeson and Mrs Heather Abbott.

A big thank you to our Year 10 students! At the end of the program the Year 10 students will gain a TAFE Certificate in Peer Literacy Tutoring.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I have been recently appointed as the Executive Principal, Connected Communities at Taree High School. This appointment comes with a touch of sadness as I replace Peter Bird, who suffered a terrible brain injury after an accident riding to work in March 2012. Peter and I started our teaching careers together in Walgett in 1982 and remained good friends before we were reunited at Taree High School in 2009.

Peter set many targets and goals and shared aspirations for Taree High with community, staff and students. This foundation has given me a great start to my new role and allowed a very smooth transition from Deputy Principal to Relieving Principal after Peter's accident.

I take on this role with pride and honour to ensure Taree High maintains its high standards and excellence in education for all students.

Connected Communities – What does it mean for Taree High School?

Taree High School has been selected as one of fifteen schools in NSW to participate in an exciting new initiative which will become an essential part of the school. It will see greater opportunity and break down barriers for success for Aboriginal students. I will work in close collaboration with parents, local governance groups, the local Taree AECG, P&C and school communities to set targets, make decisions and align school and community resources, with a view to removing any obstacles to students' engagement at school so their needs can be better met.

Connected Communities complements and builds on a number of key reforms in education including:

- the *Local Schools, Local Decisions* initiative, which enables greater authority and flexibility for principals to make decisions about the best use of school resources to improve teaching and learning outcomes.
- the *Early Action for Success* program, which focuses on improving literacy and numeracy, and
- the *Every Student, Every School* initiative, which strengthens support for students in all public schools, including for those with disabilities and learning difficulties:

The key features of Connected Communities include:

- cultural awareness (*Connecting to Country*) delivered locally for all staff by the local AECG
- teaching Aboriginal language and culture as part of the broad curriculum
- Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) for all students
- student support and mentoring for individual students, and
- greater partnerships with the Aboriginal community, TAFE and Universities

Taree High will benefit from additional staff with a Language teacher and Leader, Community Engagement specifically employed to drive Connected Communities in conjunction with the Local Reference Group, made up from parents, community agencies, Principal from Taree High and P&C President. They will work closely with the Aboriginal Education staff to support students in the classroom, as well as charting a pathway towards post school options including meaningful employment.

Whilst there will be some changes to structures at Taree High School the rigorous and broad curriculum offerings, the pursuit of excellence, the high quality teaching and learning and the many extra-curricular activities currently offered will continue. This strategy will enrich Taree High school and provide many new opportunities for student success.

There are already wonderful programs at Taree High School, which enable students to pursue their goals. This strategy will build on those and facilitate more opportunities. These are exciting times.

As part of this strategy all staff will engage in Connecting To Country, cultural immersion on the 18th, 19th and 20th of December. To enable all staff to participate, the permanent staff will be offsite on the 18th, which is the last official school day of the year, thus creating a third School Development Day. The school will remain open with classroom activities for all students in attendance; the canteen open and sporting activities at school as they would normally run on the last day of the year – limited but well supervised. Parents can be assured that staff will be supervising at all times. The normal bell times will apply. School will finish at 3:15pm

AMANI – YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

Our Vice-Captain Amani Jensen-Bentley has been recognised by the NSW Government as the Myall Lakes Young Person of 2013. She won the award ahead of two other very strong finalists from Great Lakes College and Chatham High. Upon being told she was a finalist, Amani humbly asked, "What did I do?"

Well, this is what she's done:

An SRC member for three years and leader of the SRC Public Relations Committee 2013, Amani's outstanding efforts within the school have been recognised recently through her election as 2014 THS Vice-Captain.

In the wider community, Amani is a very pro-active member of the 'Africa comes to the Manning Valley' Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development International (GLAPD); a non-profit, non-religious and non-political humanitarian agency which aims to promote peace, harmony and development amongst refugees and migrants from the Great Lakes regions of Africa, both locally and internationally. In her capacity as a youth member, Amani has organised and hosted three Taree High School 'Friendship Field Trips' for young African migrants. Amani organised and hosted a youth movie night earlier this year in the THS Hall to further promote understanding of diverse cultural groups and welcome those who enter our local community.

Earlier this year, Amani was selected to be one of fifty young women across NSW and Victoria to attend a one week course at the UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy at Sydney University.

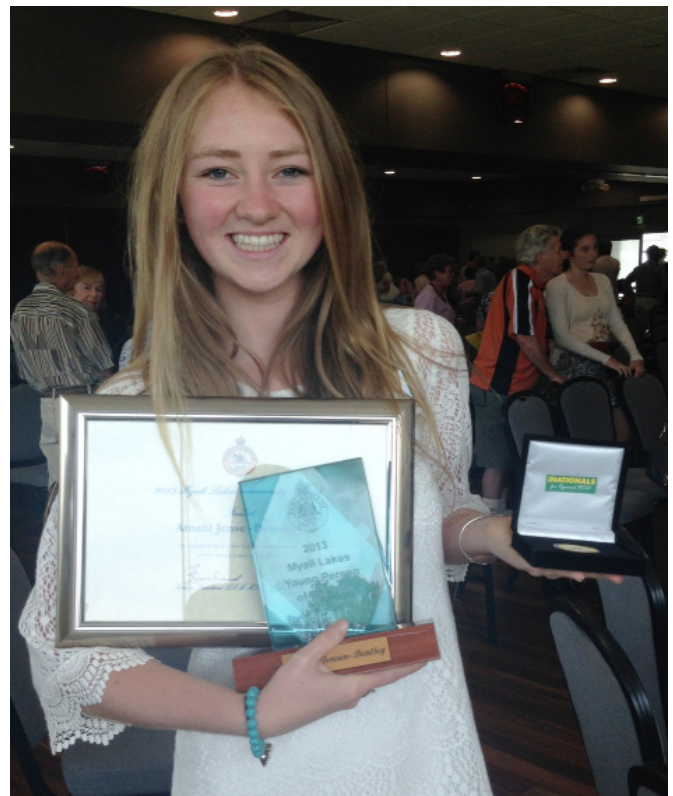
Amani has been the driving force behind the Vampire Shield (now entitled Youth Blood Ambassadors) – a competition between local schools to donate plentiful blood to the Red Cross. This position has involved presentations at SRC meetings and chairing past Welfare meetings, delegating responsibilities and liaising with the local Red Cross Blood Bank.

After three years of participation in World Vision's 40 Hour Famine, Amani recently performed as team leader for this charity and successfully coordinated Taree High's student group.

For three years Amani has been part of the organisation and running of Taree High's annual Spirit Cup. She instigated the purchase of a new school camera and for the first two years was the chief school photographer. She is now training younger students in this important Public Relations role.

In 2012, she received the Gertrude A Richardson Memorial Prize for Junior Leadership and Proficiency.

Congratulations to Amani and her family. She thoroughly deserves this public accolade for her achievements in our school and community.



LAST WORDS FROM CAPTAIN DEER

As the 2014 school year fast approaches it is timely to reflect on Year 12's last year of school life.

It has been both a pleasure and an honour to be School Captain of Taree High School.

The year seems to have gone by so fast. However, there have been many highlights including: meeting the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir AC CVO, at Government House in Sydney, and the successful organisation of Spirit Day which was a whole school experience and our recent school social.

I would like to wish my fellow Year 12 students good luck with your Higher School Certificate results, as well as in your future careers.

It has been an extremely rewarding time – a memory which I will always treasure

May I extend my congratulations to Madeline, Eden, Amani and Alex on their elections as 2014 Captains and Vice Captains. I am sure they will find the experience as fulfilling and rewarding as I have.

Rebecca Deer – Year 12

School Captain 2013



POSITIVITY FROM THE DEPUTY'S OFFICE

Isn't Taree High School the most positive and vibrant of places! It is inclusive of all sorts of young people and totally comprehensive in its nature. The positive outcomes that are enjoyed at Taree High School are typified by those achieved during the extra-curricular activities of:

- Spirit Day
- The "Circus" Social
- Agricultural Excursions
- Regional Athletic Titles and Futsal Championships
- The Year 11 Snow Excursion
- Spectacular NAIDOC full school assemblies when special guests, like Uncle Phil Saunders and Ray Hurst, were invited and the assembly showed absolute respect and interest.

But what about the achievement levels attained when the current year 12 cohort achieve absolute successes when:

- completing major works in Textiles, Industrial Arts and Design subjects
- beating the many massive Independent Research Projects
- attacking their HSC Trials with the gusto and enthusiasm of consummate students, even though many of them have exhibited high anxiety levels
- finalising the Creative projects in Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Music.

On a not so positive note Peter Bird remains in rehabilitation, albeit he is very proud of the achievements of the school.

Michael Crotty - Deputy Principal

NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY 2013

A small group of very dedicated Environment Committee SRC members and invited students gathered at the front of the school on Friday 26th July. Our mission was to plant 40 trees and shrubs in and around the school grounds.

We started in the gardens at the front of the school. Rubbish and weeds were removed and about 15 shrubs were planted into areas that were a bit bare. Once that area was tidied up we moved to the science walkway. Here we planted out the garden with shrubs from the school green house, filling gaps in the existing plantings and removing weeds. Before the garden was mulched, the rubbish was picked up. Our school assistant has put up a small barricade to give the plants a chance to get established.

The last area to be planted was between the basketball courts and the back fence. We felt this space would benefit from shade trees in summer for the students who play ball games in that area.

The five students involved worked tirelessly for the entire morning to plant over 50 trees and shrubs that will benefit the students of Taree High in the long term. The SRC would love the students of the school to make sure these new plants are not trampled so they will grow and beautify the places we sit in during our recess and lunch times.

Greater Taree City Council supplied the native trees and shrubs. We would like to thank them for their support.

Eve Foxwell

Yr 10 SRC Environment Rep

THS CANTEEN – THREE CONSECUTIVE “5 STAR” RESULTS FOR FOOD SAFETY

Dana Jowett, Sandy Croker, volunteers, assistant staff and students are to be commended after Council officers awarded the canteen their third consecutive “5 Star” result during their most recent food safety inspection. A “5 Star” result indicates the canteen has received an “excellent” food safety result. Council officers conduct inspections of food businesses including restaurants, cafés, takeaways, bakeries and canteens to monitor compliance with food standards either every six months or once per year if the premise receives three consecutive “5 Star” results. During an inspection officers inspect correct food handling practices, cleanliness of premises, correct storage of food, cleanliness of equipment and appliances, temperature control; personal hygiene, pest control and the construction and fit out of the food premise. Congratulations Dana, Sandy and all the volunteers and assistant staff and SRC students.



Joshua Smith – Environmental Health Officer

SCHOOL UP-DATE DETAILS. PLEASE REMEMBER TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL IF THERE IS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS AND ANY MEDICAL UPDATES.

Welfare - Marilyn Crozier

CIRCUS CARNIVALE!

Our Term 3 social had a great turn out of around 250 people. For Year 12 it was an awesome last social. The night overall was a success that everyone enjoyed. Our DJ, Joey Jeffrey and the music were great and made the night so enjoyable for all years.

A massive thanks to the teachers and SRC reps that helped run the night and allowed it to go ahead. I look forward to the next social and hope that it will be as successful. There wasn't a better way to have a last social for the year!

Gabbie Aarons-Burton



REFUGEE WEEK!

As part of Refugee Week, a group of Newcastle students who were once refugees visited Taree High School. The Newcastle students and our SRC students each made a video montage illustrating our lives. Everyone explored the school. The main quad soon became the centre of attention as a world class soccer match took place! After lunch, each school showed off their talents with dances, both traditional and hip-hop and singing. The day was massively successful and lots of new friends were made. Old friends were reunited from the year before. I can't wait for next year!

Amani Jensen-Bentley - Year 11



THINK BIG! DARE TO DREAM! TAKE RISKS!

These are just three examples of the themes thrown around during the Luminosity Youth Summit in July this year. Each year, Luminosity aims to provide young leaders with the confidence and power to challenge themselves and further their passion and dreams - to take things to the next level. This year, I was fortunate enough to be sponsored to attend this three day event. Surrounded by the attendance of around 300 youth leaders, there were plenty of enthusiastic people to talk to and discuss relevant topics with. Each day of the Summit introduced new ideas, new keynote speakers and new challenges. I'm so glad that I was able to be a part of the Summit and I gained a lot of information and had a lot of fun at the same time! A great experience; can't wait for next year!

Jake Davey – Year 11

“IF YOU EAT, YOU’RE A PARTNER IN FARMING!”

On the 16th of June a group of Agriculture students stayed at Tocal Agricultural College near Maitland. Over two days we participated in a range of activities including a tour of the original homestead, milking the dairy cows, horse riding, throwing sheep, watching the beef cattle get artificially inseminated and listening to students' experiences at different farms around Australia. The speeches about the different farms the students went to were really interesting - their experiences on the farms helped them learn what they needed to improve on. We met heaps of people, all of whom were friendly and polite. While walking around the homestead we learnt about the history of the house and the people who had lived there. It was a fun two days and well worth the long bus trip, although I know there were many who wished it had been longer than just a two day excursion!

Kiah Curtis, Yr 10



A NOTE ON GRADING - FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

As the National Curriculum begins, it is a good time to remind parents and students of what the grades 'mean'

- A= Outstanding (a student is working in the top few percent for students in that year across Australia-not just in our school)
- B= High (a student is working above expected outcomes for students in that year across Australia-not just in our school)
- C= Sound (a student is working at the right level for students in that year across Australia-not just in our school)
- D= Limited (a student is still attempting to achieve the outcomes but may struggle in some areas –grades are determined against what is considered appropriate for students in that year across Australia-not just in our school)
- E= Elementary (a student is either not submitting tasks and therefore cannot be marked/have any result recorded or has only grasped the basic concepts for students in that year across Australia-not just in our school)

FROM SCHOOL SRC TO STATE PARLIAMENT!



On Monday 17th June, I attended the NSW State Constitutional Convention which was held in NSW Parliament House. I met with about 100 other students from across NSW in the Legislative Assembly Foyer before moving into the Legislative Assembly Chamber where most of the day's events took place.

There were two main discussion topics for the Convention:

Proposition 1) 'Should the Senate be restructured so that states and territories have representation in proportion to their population?'

Proposition 2) 'Should the role of the Senate be further restricted in its ability to prevent passage of the budget or supply (money bills)?'

After listening to two keynote speakers and splitting up into groups to discuss the propositions we returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber and participated in a referendum to vote on each proposition. We concluded the day with the results of the referendum - a resounding NO vote to both propositions.

Thank you to Ms Walker and Ms Alliston for giving me the chance to experience such a worthwhile day!

Madeline Heron – Year 11

SPIRIT HIGH!

Halfway through each school year, the SRC holds our annual Spirit Day. Spirit Day encourages students and teachers to participate, cooperate and support each other in a variety of activities while competing in their House groups. More importantly though, Spirit Day is a day for FUN! This year, students and staff participated in ball, drama and video games as well as a trivia quiz. This year's obstacle course involved an adult-sized jumping castle – this was a big hit! War cries from passionate and enthusiastic house groups were added to the tally of various Spirit initiatives throughout the year. Hooke was victorious in winning the annual Spirit Cup!

2014 SRC ORIENTATED

On Friday October 11 the new SRC participated in their annual Orientation Day. This day encourages team bonding and gives our new student leaders time to plan fundraising goals and other initiatives for the term of office ahead. Thank you to our new Executive Principal, Ms Alliston, who attended and delivered an inspirational presentation on effective leadership.



Taree High's Spirit Cup - An Overview



In 2008, the SRC established Taree High's ongoing annual Spirit Cup competition. Its aim is to foster more positive and harmonious relationships and break down the barriers between students and teachers as well as students and their peers and barriers between different year groups. During whole school events on the THS calendar, our student leaders award points to individual students in each House for embodying the school's core values of Cooperation, Participation, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Excellence.

Our 4 Houses are: **Hooke**, **Manning**, **Murray** and **Peel**

The victorious House who is awarded the Spirit Cup at the end of Spirit Day demonstrates the most consistent embodiment of our core values in the SRC activities over the entire school year during the annual –

- **Swim/Pool Day** – This year, for the first time, the SRC will occupy students with optional fun activities during our annual day for socialising and relaxation. Students who participate earn points for their House. These points will be recorded by our SRC leaders during the day and added to the tally on Spirit Day 2014.
- **Food Drive** at A15 for the Salvation Army (all year)
- **Recycled Mobile Phone Drive** at A15 (all year)
Both of these drives encourage students to donate food items and old phones. Each item placed in the 4 coloured House boxes at A15 earns a point for the House chosen by the student. These items are counted and tallied by the SRC Welfare and Environment Committees and the results are added to the tally on Spirit Day 2014.
- **Athletics Carnival** – The SRC runs novelty events (Tug 'O' War, Sack Races and 3 Legged Races etc) between formal events. Students who participate earn points for their House. These points are recorded by our SRC leaders during the day and are added to the tally on Spirit Day 2014.

Spirit Day – On the last day of Term 2 each year, the SRC endeavours to create a more enjoyable environment within the school. Spirit Day encourages students and teachers to participate, cooperate and support each other in a variety of activities while competing in their House groups. Cleanliness is observed throughout the day by the SRC so rubbish does not get out of hand; points can be deducted for littering. Points are also awarded throughout the day for various things including: cooperation of houses, getting organised, the support and spirit shown throughout participation in the activities, how clean each house keeps their area and also at the conclusion of each activity, winning/participating in activities. Overall cooperation and creativity culminates in the House War Cries after lunch.

All points are tallied from records of these 5 annual initiatives into a Grand Total and the Spirit Cup is announced at 3pm on Spirit Day 2014.



TAREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL 2014 (in alphabetical order according to duty)

School Captains

Eden Gondfond and Madeline Heron

Vice Captains

Alexander Eden and Amani Jensen-Bentley

Year 11-12 Representatives

Caitlin McLeod, Holly Pole-Cini, Rebecca Turra, Jake Davey, Joey Jeffrey, Nathan Somerville

Year 10-11 Representatives

Ella Blyth, Tayla Calabria, Emma Croker, Eve Foxwell, Lily Minihan, Thomas Fletcher, Nicholas Quinn, Nicholas Starr, Miles Thornton, Matt Triance

Year 9-10 Representatives

Gabbie Aarons-Burton, Jamie-Lee Carter, Emily Cocksedge, Isabella Murray, Noah Kircher, Max Le Messurier, Lucas Mephram, Sean Pole-Cini

Year 8-9 Representatives

Kirby Border, Samantha Litjens, Quinn Patch, Sampson Hillyard, Banjo Hunt, Cam Le Messurier

Year 7-8 Representatives

Tahni Walters, Olivia Williams
Lachlan Bryant, Lachlan Greenwood

Koori Representatives

Tamika Browne (10),
Jannahli Brandford (8)
Khiaecia Martin (7)

Support Unit Representative

Sophie Powick (9)

SRC Coordinator

Ms Melanie Walker

Assistant Coordinator

Miss Kimberley Gurr



YMCA SWIM CLASSES

Seven students from Taree High participated the swim program offered by YMCA at the Manning Leisure Centre for 10 weeks of instruction. The seven students have excelled in the improvement of their swim strokes, in freestyle, backstroke and breast-stroke (well there was a similarity to frogs in the breast-stroke to be truthful). Jackson Tisdell (Yr9), Parris Greene (Yr 7), Rhys Welsh (Yr 8), Lauriel Cooper (Yr 8), Jacob Klump (Yr 7), Julian Visintin (Yr 7) and Luke Mackay (Yr 8) have swum and represented Taree High in a most outstanding manner. Lauriel is swimming her backstroke with ease, even though she started like a fish out of water. She now confidently swims the length of the pool. The star of the pool has to be Rhys, who continually makes gains in his swimming skills



SNOW SNOW AND MORE SNOW

The Year 11 snow camp has to be, hands down, the best excursion ever. It all started when we got on the bus at 4 am. Everyone was tired as it was 4 am so the boys and I (sitting on the back seat) decided to play music as loudly as possible.... we quickly found out that Mrs Phillips didn't like that idea at all!!

It took a staggering 12 hours to get to Jindabyne, but we eventually got there. When we arrived it was about 4pm and we unpacked and got all of our ski equipment.

The next day we woke up at around 7 and had breakfast and then got ready to go on the slopes. It takes around 30 minutes from Jindabyne to Perisher. Once we got to the slopes we arranged ski groups from experienced to non experienced. The day was cloudy and during the afternoon it was snowing but it was wet snow so everyone was cold and stayed inside.

The second day arrived and the weather had cleared and the day was a lot better. The night before we heard it had snowed about 22mm of snow. Everyone was having a great time except for Joey who crashed so badly he hurt his knee for 2 days!!

Wednesday was a great day as it had again snowed an additional 22mm. The snow was perfect. In the morning we skied at Smiggins and then nearly everyone went to Perisher. The last day had to be the best day. I was allowed to ski with the teachers. At Perisher there were jumps that had to be over 40ft so I decided to let the boys watch me jump them..... All in all, the entire snow trip was a blast from everyone crashing and wiping out, to Joey getting injured for 2 days. To Kooper getting almost knocked out on the last day and making the teachers freak out! But all in all the snow trip is a once in a life time experience and we wouldn't have missed it.

By Nathan Somerville

