

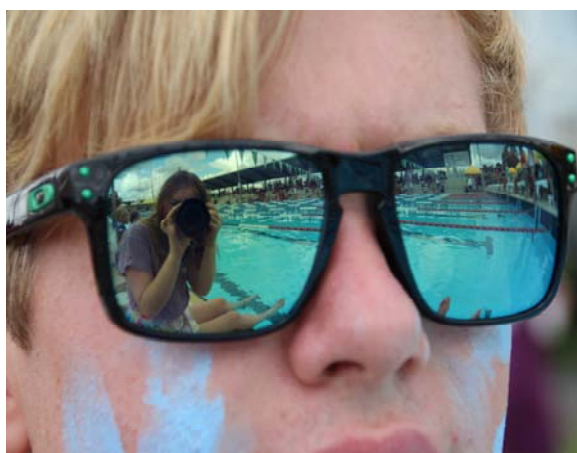


# TAREE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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2013 SWIMMING CARNIVAL



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 1 is well underway at the school with many changes to staff and of course, the arrival of the new Year 7. All seem to be settling in to the school and contributing positively to class activities.

With every new year comes the dreaded AGM of the P&C. Our very hardworking team in 2012 achieved great things for the school including the establishment of a Community Garden and the electronic notice board. They conducted parent workshops on Teenage Depression and Drivers Licence supervision as well as overseeing the canteen which generates a substantial income that is then passed onto the school for the students. Having a say in your child's education is very important and the P&C is the perfect forum to do so. Over the years parents have requested guest speakers from the staff to talk on specific areas eg: technology, literacy strategies and science programs. These meetings are well organised, run for a maximum of two hours, and are parent driven. In the current climate of change within the Department of Education and Communities many changes are occurring. The P&C is a great forum to stay informed of the impact of policy change on our public education system and the impact these policies may have on our school. I would urge you to be involved in the P&C and to come to the AGM on the 26th March at 5 pm in the school library. Have your say in your son or daughter's future.

Mr Peter Bird is still in hospital as we approach twelve months since his terrible accident. He continues to improve, gaining strength and greater movement and is buoyed by the continued well wishes from students and parents. Peter's family thank the THS staff, parents and students for their support over the past year.

### Technology

It is a very exciting time at THS with new technology being rolled out around the school. As 2013 is the last year of the Laptops for Learning program, schools were given the opportunity to roll the computers out literally...in 7 trolleys of 30 laptops situated around the school in class sets. This strategy gives all students greater access to technology, without the worry of remembering to bring their laptops to school having them charged and ready to go; and downtime if the laptop is damaged. Class sets also give staff a guarantee that lessons requiring technology will be effective as all students will have access. In addition the school still has established computer rooms for classes to access. As well as the laptop trolleys, the school has two iPad trolleys for classes to access specific Apps which staff have identified which will enhance the learning of students and compliment the programs in each faculty. Staff are undertaking Webinars in iPad technology over 7 weeks to develop the skills to maximise the use of the iPads in their areas.

### Security Doors

Since the installation of the security doors last year there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of students presenting late to school without a note or a parent to sign them in. Parents are encouraged to continue to support the school in this matter. Notebooks have been distributed to students via roll call which can be filled out by parents and presented. There has also been a significant reduction in truancy by students, which is also a positive outcome. Three more cameras were installed last weekend to improve the security of the school over the weekends and holidays.



Allison Alliston  
Relieving Principal

**A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

## **DEPUTY'S REPORT**

### **Term 1:**

The year began relatively smoothly with our Year 7 students looking resplendent in their uniforms and keen to get started in their first year of high school. It was great to see the enthusiasm for school evident in their bright, faces.

Year 9, on the other hand, being more experienced at high school life could be expected to approach the new school year with less enthusiasm but I am pleased to report that most students this year have returned with positive attitudes and are keen to do well. After some changes of electives and a bit of settling in, Year 9 are hard at work and enjoying the opportunity to explore new and interesting options in their education.

Year 11 students have begun a whole new chapter in their educational experience with students taking up the challenge of HSC studies and the possibility of an ATAR and university at the end of two years of study. Others are looking at building their skills in vocational education to make great employees and workers of the future. Prep is certainly of great assistance to help Year 11 to focus on their work.

Some things are of concern and in particular, footwear which must be appropriate and safe for activities in Industrial Arts and Home Science as well as in the Science laboratories. This is an ongoing issue which can be addressed by parents and carers selecting the right shoes for school for their children. More alarming is the issue of violence and students resorting

to violence to resolve issues. Worse still are behaviours by students who wish to encourage others to fight. Departmental policy indicates that all students participating in and promoting fights will be suspended from school.

On a brighter note, I hope that Year 7 have a fabulous time on their camp. Please don't give Mr Harper too many sleepless nights. We're also looking forward to the school Athletics carnival coming up on 28<sup>th</sup> March. This is a good opportunity to have a great day out and to show school and house spirit.

**Ms C Gray**  
**Relieving Deputy Principal**  
**(Yr 7,9 & 11)**



DATES TO REMEMBER	
29/3/13	Good Friday
12/4/13	Last day of Term 1
29-30/4/13	Staff Development Day
1/5/13	School Resumes Term 2

*More dates for upcoming events, exams and Calenders of Assessments can be accessed on the Taree High School web site: [www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)*

**Hard copies of Assessments can be obtained from Ms Burton HT Admin.**

## **DEPUTY'S REPORT**

I will be involved in coordinating the discipline, student welfare, attendance and learning support programs for Years 8, 10 and 12. Ms Gray will coordinate Years 7, 9 and 11.

### **Curriculum Packages**

It's been a good start to 2013 with timetables being issued and students commencing coursework from the outset. Excursions have started, Year 7 camp is underway and lots of extra-curricular activities work is in place. Some Year 12 students have decided to reduce their curriculum package to the bare 10 units. Since they are locked into their selections for two years, Year 11 students have been permitted to make changes to their original selections but, now that we are well into the term, changes will only be made in exceptional circumstances. Parental contact and support will be needed in these cases. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 were given plenty of opportunities to change their selections last year and no further changes will be permitted for Semester 1 courses. However they will be given the opportunity to make changes to their pattern of courses for Semester 2. Year 7 students will follow their compulsory curriculum throughout the whole year.

Students are advised to make a number of copies of their timetable in case they lose the one they carry with them. Year advisers have copies of timetables if an emergency arises.

### **Supervised Study Periods for Years 11 and 12**

The rules for obtaining an HSC are such that students need

only study a minimum of ten units after studying twelve units in Year 11. There are good reasons for students opting to study the minimum number of units, just as there are many good reasons for opting to study more than the minimum, and many of our students have elected to study 10 or 11 units only. The key factor in determining whether this decision is the correct one is how the students use the spare time made available (seven hours per fortnight in school time alone!). With this in mind, Taree High operates a welfare program in Year 11 and 12 designed to equip students with the skills to use study time effectively, and assist them to make a success of their life at school. This program is known by the students as PREP and will generally run for 1 hour each week. It has been instigated as a preparation for success in the senior years.

In this way Taree High School is developing in senior students sound independent study habits. If students cannot use their time effectively in their supervised study situations then it is unlikely they will make effective use of time in their unsupervised periods. It is important that with so many students now only studying 10 units for their HSC that constructive use of study time at school is taught and emphasised.

Taree High School continues to follow successful practices to eradicate bullying at our school.

### **Anti-Bullying Program**

On a recent Friday in March Anti-Bullying Day was celebrated with staff and students encouraged to discuss any

bullying that is happening at our school and come up with new practices to confront this sort of anti-social behaviour with gusto.

Finally, welcome to all students and staff. I hope your holiday was enjoyable and that you face the coming terms with energy and enthusiasm. I also offer a special welcome to incoming Year 7 students and to other new enrolments as well as to our new staff members. I trust you have been made welcome and that your association with Taree High is happy and fulfilling.



**Michael Crotty**

**Deputy Principal (Yrs 7, 9, 11)**

## **DEPUTY'S REPORT**

While many have settled quickly into their chosen subjects, there have been a number who have made adjustments to their patterns of study, with subject changes keeping us all on our toes for several weeks. The time for subject changes has now ended and patterns of study are now set for the remainder of the year.

It is timely to remind all students and parents/carers that it is a requirement of all Food Technology, Industrial Technology (Metal, Timber, Engineering, and Electronics), Mandatory Technology and Design and Technology practical lessons that students wear protective leather shoes. As I walk around

the playground it is very obvious that the canvas shoe has become very popular. These shoes are not suitable for practical classes under Board of Studies Workplace Health and Safety guidelines and as such students wearing them will not be able to participate in practical activities and as such may not meet course outcomes. Please make sure that the correct footwear is worn, particularly on days when students have lessons in these areas.

Finally, a short reminder about the Vocational Education and Training courses (VET) which are run at Taree High School. It is a Board of Studies requirement of these courses that a Mandatory Work Placement is completed in the Preliminary and the HSC course. This means that the student must complete 35 hours work in each year of the course. Students who for some reason do not complete their Preliminary work placement must make up those hours before they can complete their HSC work placement. These hours also need to be completed before a student is able to drop the VET course in their HSC study year. It is also important to remember that only one work placement per study year is organised free of charge by Midcoast Connect. Students who pull out of an organised work placement will be required to either organise an alternate placement themselves or pay a fee to Midcoast Connect to have a second placement organised. This fee was \$56 during 2012.



**Mrs Raylene Starke**  
**Deputy Principal**

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## **CAPTAINS REPORT**

Hi everyone

I'm pleased to present the second Captains report of the year from Andrew and I. This year seems to be moving so fast with the end of first term quickly approaching. It has been a busy and rewarding time since being elected as captains and we are very grateful for the support that has been shown to us by teachers, the SRC and fellow students.

Since our last report we have seen a very successful social conducted in the Taree High Hall with the theme of 'Outrageously Retro.' It was great to see the event well attended with students from every year and particular many of Year 7s as it was their first high school social. Some of the outfits were certainly imaginative and highly creative.

The initiative to have "inspirational signage" erected throughout the school is well under way, with a quote having been accepted from local supplier Barrier Signs. It is expected that the signage will be completed within the

next few weeks and the signs will be erected throughout the school by the beginning of Term 2. This will be a welcome addition to the school and will provide regular reminders of the importance of having a positive attitude and being motivated in your life.

We are looking forward to the annual school Athletics Carnival which will be held at the end of this term. This is always a great event where the many athletes in our school can compete against each other in friendly rivalry and represent their respective Houses.

We are also very much looking

forward to the honour and privilege of meeting the Governor of NSW Her Excellence Marie Beashir AC, CVO in May at Government House in Sydney along with the other many other school captains who will be attending from around the State.

Finally on behalf of Andrew, Hannah, Jack and myself, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Easter and hope the Easter bunny finds you all.

**Rebecca Deer**  
**School Captain 2013**





## **SRC SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Hello, and welcome back to another year at Taree High School!

The SRC came back from the holidays fresh, enthusiastic and ready for a great year ahead! Already, the SRC have been working hard organising out of uniform days, this term's social and Spirit Day.

We held an out of uniform day shortly after returning to school to raise funds for Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania which suffered severe fire damage. Thanks to everyone's generous donations, we raised \$1015.45! The funds raised for our next out of uniform day will be going to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Our first social this year was a great turn out! The SRC sold 245 tickets and thank

you to everyone who completed their canteen or bag shop duty on the night.

Our next social will be held in Term 3 At the Athletics Carnival, which is coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, the SRC will be running a number of different activities throughout the day as an opportunity to earn extra house points. The points earned will be going towards the Spirit Cup! The Spirit Cup committee are currently working together to organise Spirit Day.

At the moment we are in the process of completing an initiative which last year's Vice School Captain, Edward Eden, started. We are in the final stages of ordering four large signs, each emblazoned with a different

inspirational quote to put up in the hallways at school.

Congratulations is in order for Caitlin McLeod, a Year 11 member of our SRC, for becoming a youth member of the Manning Clean Water Action Group!

Hopefully the rest of the year will be just as productive and positive as it has been so far!



**Madeline Heron**

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## **YEAR 12 REPORT**

Hello Year 12!

The first official term of our final year, a stressful year, a fun year, is upon us. The stakes have been raised, now we have to rise up and work to our potential. I'm sure we have all noticed an increased work load and pressure put on us, just in this first term. We are now the large fish in the small pond that is Taree High School and with that, comes its advantages. The common room has been embraced by many in our year, and with

the state of the art cooking facilities, we can now microwave our left overs.

Note, we are NOT allowed to use the canteens' microwaves, and now we have no reason to anyway. The prep room in our area, run by Hutch, has been a huge success. Many students are productively using this room, and the coffee and tea is an added bonus. Thanks Hutch! Half year exams are fast approaching so the coming weeks will be a stressful time. That's all from me. Study hard.



**Patrick Abraham.**

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## **YEAR 11 REPORT**

After the always fantastic summer holidays, students have returned to begin the next chapter in their schooling career. For most students this means a new area to sit in at lunch, new classes, new teachers and most importantly: electives, the courses we can choose whether or not to do. Aside from these changes, a new year rarely strays from the formula of the last, until now. All the subjects Year 11 students study are chosen by them specifically for their interests. Whether it be a creative arts centric syllabus, or a predominantly physics-maths timetable, never before have we felt this freedom. Another addition to our lives is the concept of a preparation period. These are timetabled classes in which students attend a senior

resources room consisting of textbooks, study space, Internet and printer access, and a teacher always willing to help. There has also been a shift in workload; students are no longer asked to do homework, but are expected to do it of their own volition.

All these changes are the first tiles placed on the mosaic of senior school. While we don't really see how they fit into the larger picture yet, we just have to trust our teachers and be extra active in our schooling to finish these two years. Only then can we step back and embrace what we've achieved. Good luck to all Year 11 students over the next two years, and try to remain mindful of why you're doing this.



**Eden Gonfond**

## YEAR 10 REPORT

Hi all!

Welcome to another year of fun and work that's always getting harder... but the blissful holidays are approaching rapidly! Don't let this fool you though; the time for tests and assignments is now, so be prepared to knuckle down and study hard. You'll thank yourself later! Hopefully everybody is having an excellent start to 2013 and have found yourselves with great teachers and electives. We hope you are all enjoying being

kings and queens of the quad! Year 10 had really good attendance at the swimming carnival at the start of term and the Outrageously Retro social that has just been and gone (everybody's costumes were fantastic!). Both of these events were great fun and remember, the more the merrier, so keep up the good spirit guys and a jolly Easter long-weekend, and stay safe and happy in the holidays!



**Claire Davies**



**Lily Minihan**

## YEAR 9 REPORT

Hey everyone!

Hope you all have had a lovely holiday and are enjoying being back in the swing of things. The social was a huge hit and thank you all for coming and making a special night!

On a less exciting note everyone has been handed many assignments to do. Make sure you get them in on time. Boys have fun with your needles. Sucked in. Hope you all have picked a sport that you like for this term. Team sports at school have also started up

again. These include basketball, netball, touch, soccer and many more. The swimming carnival was another big hit with many people getting involved and supporting their houses. Hope you're all enjoying school and looking forward to the Easter holidays.



**Abbey Stephen-Nelson**



**Gabbie Aarons-Burton**

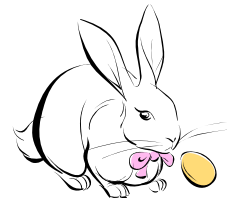
## YEAR 8 REPORT

Year 8 have been very busy lately with assessment tasks and sporting activities. It's good not being the youngest in the school but, unfortunately, we still get called "twelvies" occasionally. At the start of the year we had a bit of an issue with our timetables but that has all been fixed and everyone knows where to go now. Everyone has been going very well in school sports, winning games and being selected to play in school representative teams.

**Kirby Border**



**Siena Hindmarsh**



## YEAR 7 REPORT

We are excited to say from the experience of us being in Year 7 that in our opinion, at first it was scary until we knew where everything was and didn't get lost. This school has been really fun so far and we are anxious for our school camp.

**CAMP** - All Year 7 are thrilled to be going to this year's camp. We've chosen who we're going to bunk with and have been packing all week. We are really excited about camp. We

promise that we'll be there bright and early. We have heard all the stories about how fun camp is going to be and we can't wait to tell you how it all turns out.

**SPORT** - We recently had our swimming carnival. Even though all teams tried hard, Hooke won the most points. We also had our cross country at the bike track. Everyone was in high spirits and tried their very best and had lots of fun.



**Khloe Cooper**



**Tahlia Maddalena**



**Amber Jackson**

***A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT***

## **YEAR 11 YEAR ADVISOR'S REPORT**

We are here! We made it through Junior School and now we are SENIORS! Congratulations to us. We welcome quite a few new students from other schools and hope that you have settled in and are feeling wanted and have been catered for in your choice of subjects. Welcome to Katelyn, Joel, Kai, Olivia, Maddison, Tori, Brielle, Jacob, Shae, Jack, Bailey, Jenni, Daniel and Zayne.

There were quite a few changes for your subjects for HSC, but rightly so because you need to be doing the right subject at the right level. Please take your senior years seriously so you can look back in the future and say, "Yeah, I gave it my best shot!" We are so lucky to have such a strong group of students who stand up for each other.

Just a reminder that the Snowy Camp is looming! Money needs to keep flowing in for this excursion. An added reminder: pay your elective fees for the year. Remember that you

have chosen the subject and you are receiving the best of resources that have to be paid for.

Some good news is that our extra seating and tables is on the agenda for the Year 11 area.

Just a short reminder of my words at the end of Year 10: don't be the show-off that gets your L or P plates and drives like a lunatic. You will be better to get there safely than to arrive in a beautiful box with gold handles. On another serious note, remember to wear school uniform. You ALL look great in the senior dress and our Year 10 2012 shirt BUT the short shorts and tights are not uniform and do not look good. The junior school looks to you all for inspiration and they not need to have these short shorts or tight tights as an example of what to wear!

We have our first of many great occasions this year and it goes to Eden Gonfond who has been awarded the Roads and Maritime Services scholarship. Eden will be participating in 2 weeks' work experience in Newcastle on major road making. At

last, we might find that we get some good roads at least with Eden helping make decisions.

Also, our fantastic SRC secretary, role-model and caring student is Madeleine Heron who won the Lion's Youth of the Year Public Speaking Competition. This comp is usually taken out by a Year 12 student, but this year our Madeline took the honours. We'll be able to say in years to come that we once knew Prime Minister Madeline Heron.

Please find out more from Caitlin McLeod about the Coal, Seam and Gas Fracking. This is a topic we should all be interested in. This will be your future so don't leave it up to the few who are interested in the future of the Manning. Congratulations to Caitlin and the interest already generated.

Have a great year Year 11, 2013! We are off to a better than average start!!

**Mrs Silcock**



## **CLEAN UP DAY**

Taree High School recently participated in Clean Up Australia Day for schools on Thursday February 28 (before all the rain) around the perimeter of the school block, along part of the riverbank and around Johnny Martin Oval. The main purpose of the event was to highlight the issue Year 10 Geography syllabus that students study in class. Most students enjoyed participating and helping out the community and will receive a special Clean Up Australia Day certificate that they can add to their portfolio.

**Joel Kelly**



## **Family Law Network Australia**

We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to the families who attend your school.

We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia at [www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au](http://www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au)

We thank you in anticipation of your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries please contact

## **FLNA**

T: 1300 664 868  
PO Box 10  
Claremont WA 6910



## **MATHLETICS AND SPELLODROME 2013**

TAREE HIGH SCHOOL HAS PURCHASED A SCHOOL WIDE PROGRAM TO ASSIST WITH LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOR EACH STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL. THE PROGRAM IS A WONDERFUL RESOURCE TO ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING AT EACH STUDENT LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT. STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN USER NAMES AND PASSWORDS SO THEY CAN ACCESS THE PROGRAM WITH A COMPUTER AND AN INTERNET CONNECTION. IF YOU WISH TO KNOW YOUR CHILD'S PASSWORD PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL.



## **MADD 2012**

In November last year Taree High School held its annual MADD (Music, Art, Dance and Drama) Concert. Leading up the concert, students and teachers were working hard completing, polishing and rehearsing their performances.

On the night, the dressing rooms and side stage were buzzing with excitement! The team work that the students and teachers had put in was evident through not only the performances, but the audience's reaction. The Year 11 Drama students were fantastic hosts and kept the audience engaged the entire time. Dressed as different clowns, the hosts delivered a number of different performances, ranging from sad to hilarious in tone. As each act took to the stage, it was clear how hard the students and teachers had been working. All of the hard work paid off once you were onstage, with the

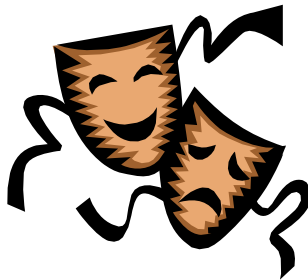
audience reacting and your adrenalin pumping!

A huge congratulations to all of the students who were a part of the success – whether you were onstage performing or in the wings helping out! A HUGE thank you to all of the staff! Without such supportive and motivated teachers, the night would not have been such a sensation. One more thank you goes to those who purchased tickets and were a part of the audience, because without an audience the show would not have happened!

All I have to say now is I can't wait for another MADD Concert this year!



**Madeline Heron**



## S & G Concert

On the 19th of December, just after MADD, the Music students still couldn't rest their talents and so several students who hadn't performed (or just felt like it) performed in the S&G concert. This was fully organized by the lovely Ms Ralston and fantastic Mr Bull. It was an absolute blast and everyone enjoyed their night (even though a couple of lyrics were forgotten here and there!)



## Help for students sitting the

### HSC Exam

**Disability Provisions (formerly Special Examination Provisions)** are arrangements that make it possible for students with permanent or temporary disabilities to attempt the HSC. "Disability" includes physical (eg. vision/irrlen), intellectual, psychiatric, learning difficulties, ADHD, ongoing illness (eg. diabetes) and emergency-related (eg. broken arm).

These arrangements are designed to help students who could not otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in the exam room. These provisions may include Braille paper, large-print papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time or rest breaks and separate supervision for those unable to sit an exam in a large hall

venue (due to anxiety or medical reasons).

Students who wish to apply should see Mrs Salmon or THS LAST (Mrs P Webber, Miss T Sullivan, Ms A Gleeson). Parents please feel free to ring the school if you would like more information. A Board of Studies (BOS) application form is completed online after some testing is done, teacher comments collected and a medical or ophthalmologist certificate is supplied. Submissions should be in before the end of Term 1.

**The idea is to reduce disadvantage in the exam situation.**

Students who become ill during an exam period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure appeal rather than submit a disability provisions application.

**Mrs P Webber (THS LAST)**

# Beach Walking

One of the great sports offered by Taree High is the opportunity to go beach walking at Old Bar. For the cost of \$3 for the bus, you can travel out to Wallaby and walk up the beach to Old Bar on a beautiful day. How much better can it get? Who would live anywhere else than this beautiful Manning Valley?

However take particular note of the beach erosion and the possible future of some of the houses that are at risk of being taken by the erosion. Look at the end of B Block outside B24 at the pre and post posters/photographs. You will be shocked at the erosion of one of our beautiful beaches.



Mrs D Silcock



## HIP HOP DANCERS

Wednesday the 28/11/2012 was like any other. First period, second period, recess and third period all went by as per usual. Come lunch the tables were turned as Taree High students who moved to the hall at lunchtime were met by a very talented group of Koori hip-hop dancers.

Some of these indigenous youths dance to keep themselves out of trouble, as dancing focuses their energy on a positive pastime. Others do it just for the joy of dancing and helping other Kooris. All of the students who attended enjoyed a great lunchtime listening to hip-hop music and watching a great performance.



**Tom Fletcher**



## On Stage

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February, some very lucky drama students had the chance to go down to Sydney.

On Stage. On Stage is a Board of Studies showcase of the best group and individual drama performances from the HSC. There was very impressive line-up this with everything from a look into post-modernism and some very obscure physical drama, to monologues with multiple characters and some controversial views on religion. The students lucky enough to see these performances have been inspired to make some great performances themselves when it comes to their own HSC. Of course no excursion would be complete without an exciting bus trip. On the return trip we managed to make it to air on the Triple J not only to request a song but to give a shout out to our amazing teachers Mr Bowman and Mrs Cotton and to brag about our fantastic school bus. It was a great day for all involved.

**Bronte Coles**

## Out of Uniform Day

### Dunalley Primary School

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of February, we had an out-of-uniform day to fundraise money for Dunalley Primary School on the Tasman Peninsula. This school lost nearly everything in the bushfires earlier this year.

Their school was lucky enough to get portable classrooms to accommodate for the loss of their classrooms, but all other resources were lost, including the library.

Our school raised \$1015 and we hope those funds can help get them back on their feet.

### Leukaemia Foundation

On Friday March 15, we held our scheduled out of uniform day for the Leukaemia Foundation. The SRC also ran a cake stall at recess on the day to raise money to fund our upcoming Spirit Day at the end of Term 2.

Thank you to all students and staff who contributed cakes or money during this very successful day.

## Aboriginal Leadership Day

We, as the three Aboriginal SRC Representatives, travelled to Port Macquarie for the day with Ms Gray.

The day was about networking and learning new skills to enhance leadership qualities amongst the student representatives from Melville, Taree and Chatham High Schools.

Wayne Anderson lead the day and he is the Leader of Learning and Development (Relieving) Aboriginal Education based at the Port Macquarie Education office.

The day started with a Yarning Circle where we introduced ourselves and got to know the other students as well. We had to speak about what we wanted to get out of the day and what we were going to achieve within our school.

We then got back into our school group and worked through different activities. Jameela was the scribe for the day and took down our ideas and then we all reported back to the whole group one each activity was

completed.

We found attending these courses good because it has helped us to overcome being shy, has given more confidence within ourselves and has motivated us to continue being positive role models for other Aboriginal students at our school.

We are on our way to getting started with our idea for a Junior AECG Group at Taree High.



**Kyesha Clarke Jameela Cochrane**



**Aiden Anderson**

# ACMF Music

Each Friday morning there are three groups of students who have been chosen to participate in the Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF), set up by Don Spencer and his merry team of music lovers. Our very own Mrs Karlene Reading has been the person who introduced Taree High in this area and has meetings constantly with NSW Representatives in both local and urban areas. The ACMF has put Taree on the map and Taree is being used as an example of who music can reach. The students participate in drumming to the latest music of their choice and playing the newly acquired didgeridoos, and the ukuleles that are coming very soon. You should hear the sound. It is spectacular!

The funding from ACMF is allocated for three years. Already, our students have been invited to present their music at the huge Manning Music Spectacular later in the year. This will be fantastic and tickets will go fast.

**Mrs D Silcock**



## Taree High School Art Excursion

On February 20 Years 10, 11 and 12, Ms de Reuver and Mrs Finlayson woke up at unearthly hours to be ready and on the bus to Sydney by 4am.

Arriving in Sydney, our first stop was the Art Gallery of NSW where we saw 'Art Express', an exhibit of some of the best chosen HSC artworks from the previous year. We also wandered around the museum and immersed ourselves in the artwork!

Later, our stomachs were all grumbling but our minds were full of ideas of what we will create for the HSC! We made our way through the Botanic Gardens, and for some saw the famous Margaret Olly exhibition. We had a bit of free time so we wandered around the Quay and explored Sydney Harbour.

Last but definitely not least, was the Contemporary Art Museum; we saw pieces by Anish Kapoor, with one of his works being a massive red wax work taking up the entirety of a room! The museum is filled with funny mirrors and concepts that twist your mind (and give you a headache if you look at them for too long) We all had a lot of fun here and I'm sure that every single one of us had a fabulous day – thank you Ms de Reuver and Mrs Finlayson! We feel culturally and artistically enriched and can't wait to put what we observed and learnt into action!

**Amani Jensen Bentley**

## Youth Blood Ambassador Day

On Thursday May 8 we (Holly, Eve and Amani) attended the Youth Blood Ambassador training day at Club Taree. Throughout the day we learnt how to run the Club Red schools appeal including how to organise Blood Days. Holly and I will be in charge of the events this year but next year Ella and Eve will be taking over. Throughout the day we were taught tools to enable us to encourage blood donation and how to successfully run the Club Red appeal (a competition between schools encouraging blood donation; and the school that donates the most blood wins!) So far so good.

We have created an instagram (@TareeHighblooddonating) and a facebook group (Taree High Club Red) and by following/liking these you will receive updates on Blood Donation Days and photos of "blood giver." 1 in 3 people will need a blood donation in their lives, so roll up your sleeves and give generously! If you would like to give blood, contact Holly or Amani either personally, through Instagram or Facebook or through the school. Remember, with every donation you could potentially be saving three people's lives.



**Amani Jensen Bentley**



**Holly Pole-Cini**

## SWIMMING REPORT 2013

Another great carnival, and it didn't take more than one attempt! Perhaps I have finally broken the 'carnival voo-doo curse.' It has only taken 36 years.

Thank you to all those seniors who not only participated in droves 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 and pack away 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 but what a staff team! They have been winners since the event's inception. I sure can pick em!

No records broken this year even though Brock 'The Fish' Van Kampen was soooo close in all of his events. Better luck next year Brock!

Overall, it was a great day with lots of action in the pool, cheering in the stands and school spirit.

Mrs G Phillips

### Champion House for 2013

**Hooke** 385 pts – Patrick Abraham, Siobhan Hegarty, Kelvin Spreadbury, Bonnie Boothman  
**Peel** 368 pts – Korey Christie, Micaela Hagan, Nathan Somerville, Casey Willing  
**Murray** 331 pts – Oscar Watson-Sutherland, Laura Neale, Kooper Hunt, Caitlin McLeod  
**Manning** 302 pts – Joe Jeffrey, Zoe Cutts, Zac Collier, Brooke Shaw



Tasee High Age Swimming Champions – 2013				
Age	Girls	House	Boys	House
112 Years	<b>Sarah Hammond</b> RW – Ebony Bridge	<b>Murray</b> Peel	<b>Angus Davidson</b> RW – Riley Burton	<b>Hooke</b> Murray
113 Years equal	<b>Hamrah Sherry</b> <b>Pontia Remmie</b>	<b>Peel</b> <b>Murray</b>	<b>Lachlan Greenwood</b> RW – Jett Hutton	<b>Manning</b> Hooke
114 Years	<b>Jordana Wandhopp</b> RW – Lucy McKillop-Davies	<b>Peel</b> Murray	<b>Brock Van Kampen</b>	<b>Hooke</b>
115 Years	<b>Emily Cooksedge</b> RW – Isabella Murray	<b>Peel</b> Manning	<b>Thomas Coleman</b> RW – Max Lee Messurier	<b>Hooke</b> Manning
116 Years	<b>Courtney Ryan</b> RW – Chloe Anans	<b>Peel</b> Hooke	<b>Warwick Priest</b> Kye Connell	<b>Peel</b> Hooke
117+ Years	<b>Caitlin McLeod</b> Erica Birkfeldt	<b>Murray</b> Peel	<b>Patrick Abraham</b> Korey Christie	<b>Hooke</b> Peel

## ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

February 20 was the zone swimming carnival. The races began with the all age relay. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places were taken out by Great Lakes College with an admirable effort from Wingham finishing 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The day ran smoothly with almost all the twelve year olds finishing their races.

Congratulations to the few who managed to beat the mighty Great Lakes and well done to everyone who competed. Better luck next year to those who didn't make it.



Caitlin McLeod.

**A SAFE AND FRIENDLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**





## Triathlon Report

On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, nine eager students travelled to Sydney to compete in the NSW All School Team Triathlon. Students were competing in 3 person teams, with a team in the intermediate females, intermediate males and senior males.

The first event for Taree High was both intermediate squads. The female squad was made up of swimmer Danielle Jeffrey, rider Averil Thornton and runner Portia Rennie. The male squad consisted of swimmer Lee Angwin, rider Tom Fletcher and runner Miles Thornton. Both teams went extremely well against in excess of 200 teams from around the state. The female squad came in at 49<sup>th</sup> and the male squad at 29<sup>th</sup>.

The last team to compete was the senior boys in the most prestigious division. Swimmer Joey Jeffrey, rider Alexander Eden and runner Nathan Somerville made up the squad. This team also went very well coming in at 47<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to the numerous parents who sacrificed their time to make this possible. Next year Taree High will be back!



Alex Eden



Nathan Somerville

## Opens Water Polo

On Friday 1st Taree High students represented the school in an Opens Water Polo game at Manning Aquatic Leisure Centre. Our first game was against Wauchope. We were able to win the game and the score was 14-1. Our next game was against Chatham. It was a friendly match as we had already made it to the next round which is in Newcastle.

Thanks to Mr Harper, B. Pitman, W. Priest, J. Wood, K. Davidson, N. Somerville, J. Jeffrey, B. Christie, K. Christie, D. McLeish, J. Wrigley, A. Bowman and Josh Moore.

Nathan Somerville

### CANTEEN NEWS

Sushi \$2.50  
Tuna or Vegetable  
(must order before 9am)

Vanilla paddle pops

Look out for chicken nuggets on winter menu

# Touch Report

A group of eleven girls competed in the first round of the NSW CHS Knockout touch competition on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Our first game was against Wingham High School where our girls displayed good skill and speed but unfortunately came away with a 5-0 loss. Our second game was against Bulahdelah Central School. The girls were unlucky on three occasions where we were over the try line but due to bad weather and a slippery ball were unable to score. The game resulted in a nil-all draw. The final game was against Chatham High School and was a close game resulting in a 3-1 win to Chatham. The Taree High Open Girls Touch Team played three commendable games which resulted in third place position in the Manning Zone competition. It was a pleasure to coach the girls as they represented Taree High School with a high level of sportsmanship and pride.

Team Names: Gabrielle Aarons-Burton, Abbey Stephen-Nelson, Amy Bonsor, Chloe Clark, Molly Bridger, Amber Williams, Ami-Lee Kinnear, Bianca Litjens, Casey Willing, Maddison Holborow, Emily Cocksedge.

**Jamie Harris**

## Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!

Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year.

WEP is offering two **\$3000 scholarships** towards semester-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

### Find out more!

Visit [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)

Attend one of WEP's information evenings and open days

Call 1300 884733

Late last year, myself and other students from the Hospitality classes in Year 10 and 11 had the splendid opportunity of being able to participate in a Barista course run and operated within Taree High's refurbished hospitality rooms. The course ran for two days and consisted of a minimum of ten students per session. In those two days, students developed and expanded both their knowledge and practical coffee skills. The operators John and Joni were lovely, passionate baristas who made it their duty to ensure that each student was familiar with their surroundings and the way in which to use equipment correctly. But the most important aspect was overall **quality of the coffee** and those darn extraction times...

It was incredibly insightful to learn of the countless coffee techniques that being a Barista entailed. Together John and Joni shared an enormous amount of information and experiences that all students deemed both inspirational and educational. I would be shocked if no one had, after the course, been interested or considered a further pursuit into the fascinating field of coffee making.

Not often does an opportunity like this occur for Hospitality students. It's truly wonderful to experience the diverse range of industry Hospitality has to offer and I'd like to thank John, Joni and TAFE Australia on behalf of all the students involved for allocating both their



time and patience for this activity to run smoothly. Also thanks can go to the Hospitality staff involved. Without you this would have never been made possible. Thank you.


**Jack Swan**



## Social Report

Last week on March 6th on a steamy Wednesday Taree High held the sweatiest but memorable night of the term. We took a step back in time and visited the retro age. With good music and good spirits the night was an overall success. Thank you to all that attended and were enthusiastic but sensible. Thank you also to the staff who supervised the night.

# Congratulations

Caitlin McLeod	Yr 11	<b>Manning Clean Water Action Group Youth Rep</b>
Brock Van Kampen	Yr 8	<b>State swimming Zone Swimming Champion</b>
Portia Rennie	Yr 9	
Miles Thorton	Yr 10	
Thomas Fletcher	Yr 10	
Averil Thornton	Yr 10	
Joey Jeffrey	Yr 11	
Alexander Eden	Yr 11	
Nathan Somerville	Yr 11	
Madeline Heron	Yr 11	<b>Lions Youth of the Year Zone winner (Public Speaking)</b>
Eden Gonfond		<b>Winner of RMS Engineering Scholarship/ Bell Shakespeare Scholarship</b>
<b>Eleven Eleven</b>		<b>Youth Rock</b>
Harry Brown	Yr 12	
Kaitlin Brown	Yr 10	
Otto Falson Ree	Yr 11	
Tristen Chapman	Yr 11	
Amani Jensen-Bentley		<b>UBS Convention Winner</b>

## THS P & C NEWS

It seems that the year has got off to a brisk pace! It's March already – and we are heading fast towards the end of Term 1. The P&C have started planning meetings and events for 2013, and considering projects that might benefit from funds. The ideas will be part of the discussion at the March P&C meeting: your ideas are most welcome. Either send through in an email, or join us on facebook, and be part of that discussion.

### Our activity has started in 2013 with:

The *welcome gathering for parents* was held **February 26**. While only a few parents took the opportunity to attend, the feedback was very positive. Parents enjoyed the taste tests on offer from the hospitality students, and a guided tour of the school, with thanks to members of the SRC. Those attending were provided with P&C resource folders, and the informal gathering allowed parents to raise issues of concern, meet other parents and share ideas.

**March 26 (5.15 – 6.45pm)**. The AGM will commence at 5.15, and once that business is complete, the regular meeting will follow. The meetings will be held in the Library.

Regular updates of P&C meetings and events and Canteen activities are provided on the P&C webpage.

We've started a weekly posting of school events/meetings/notices on our Facebook page, with thanks to the staff in A15 for sending the information through.

**Beth Fuller**



everyone's family



An initiative by ANZ and the

### \$500 to Assist with Education Costs

**Do you have a child at school and would \$500 help cover your education expenses?**

The Smith Family is running a Taree savings program that can help you save for your children's education. Saver Plus rewards your saving efforts by matching every dollar you save with another dollar from ANZ, up to \$500. It also offers 4 FREE Financial Workshops.

**Many Taree families are already taking advantage of the Saver Plus program and are saving for their educational expenses.**

### To be eligible you must:

be a parent or guardian of a student attending school, or be intending to attend accredited vocational training yourself  
have a current health care card or pension card, and  
have some income from work. (even a few hrs will count)

Saver Plus is giving families a brighter future by providing an incentive to save for education.

For more information contact Mark Norris, Saver Plus Coordinator on 65578284 or 0429 820 9744 or email [mark.norris@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:mark.norris@thesmithfamily.com.au)

## FUNDRAISING TAREE CITY NETBALL CLUB

Under age  
**Dance Party**  
~ DJ 'X' performing live ~  
**2 MAY 2013**  
**\$5 Entry**  
5.30 - 7pm (yrK-6)  
7.30 - 9.30pm (yr7-12)  
Limited entry  
pre-book tickets: 0408 268 461  
**Riverview Function Room**  
(behind Exchange Hotel)  
**Fully Supervised Non-Alcoholic Event**  
Fundraiser organised by Taree City Netball Club

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## **STUDENT DETAIL UPDATES**

Dear Parent/Carer

To keep our records up to date could you please advise us on any changes since enrolling your child by filling out the slip below and returning it to the school as soon as possible.

- **Address**
- **Phone numbers**
- **Emergency contacts**
- **Medical conditions**
- **Authority to Publish (any school communications, e.g. newsletters, noticeboards, media**

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## **STUDENT DETAIL UPDATES**

**Students Name.....**

**Students Address.....**

**.....**

**Phone Numbers.....**

**Emergency contacts.....**

**Medical conditions.....**

**Authority to Publish.....YES/NO (please circle)**

**Signed by parent/carers.....**

Ms A Alliston

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### **Taree High School Newsletter**

Taree High School SRC students put together a newsletter which is distributed throughout the year. The first newsletter for the year is distributed to the eldest child of each family. This copy and subsequent copies can be accessed on the schools website.

**Web: [www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)**

The SRC have been asked to supply a hard copy of every newsletter to any parent/carers who prefers this medium. These will be delivered to the eldest child in their roll call class.

**If you prefer hard copies in 2013 please fill the form in below and return with your child to A15 ASAP**

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### **REQUEST FOR HARD COPY NEWSLETTER FOR 2013**

**NAME OF STUDENT**\_\_\_\_\_

**ROLL CLASS**\_\_\_\_\_

