

## IMPORTANT DATES

TERM 1 Week 9-10	
P & C AGM at 6pm	25 March
Year 7 & 12 Parent Teacher Evening	25 March
Vaccinations for Yr 7 & 9	27 March
Athletics Carnival	28 March
HSC Mid-Course Exams	3-11 April
Zone Cross Country	3 April
Year 8 & 11 Parent Teacher Evening	3 April
CHS Swimming	7-8 April
P & C Meeting	29 April
TERM 2 Week 1-9	
NAPLAN	12 May
Zone Athletics	20 May
P & C Meeting	27 May
Vaccinations for Yr 7 & 9	5 June
Year 7-11 Presentation Assembly	26 June
Year 7-11 Sem 1 Reports Issued	27 June
End of Term 2	27 June



## JESSICA NELSON'S SCIENCE ADVENTURE

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a program for students moving into Year 12 who are thinking about a career in science, engineering and technology. The NYSF is about inspiring futures, and meeting scientists and researchers; it's about opening up the world, meeting challenges, facing problems, and finding solutions. But to a NYSFer, it is much more than that. It's 150 friends in the dining hall, it's learning more than twenty different chants in two weeks; it's having so much fun that you forget to call home, and becoming so sleep deprived that you feel like a walking zombie.

The NYSF program is inspiring, motivating and a huge credit to its sponsors. Highlights of the program whilst spending two weeks on campus in Canberra include: John Curtin School of Medical Research, the Australian Institute of Sport, facilities at the Australian National University, the CSIRO, Parliament House



and the University of Canberra.

It is clear to me that my study and career options are almost infinite if I put in the effort, and the NYSF experience has left me feeling motivated to excel in Year 12 and to participate in my community more actively.

I'd like to thank both the Rotary Club of Taree North for supporting me throughout the selection process and the amazing Beth Fuller, the Rotary chairman for the district, for being an invaluable link with the NYSF. I look forward to future NYSF endeavors and promotion of the 2015 program.



## PRINCIPAL CONCERNS

As principal of Taree High School, I have an expectation that all people who enter the school grounds do so in a non-confrontational, non-aggressive manner.

Parents/Carers have every right to express their concerns about issues they may have with the school as they arise, but should be mindful of the manner with which they do so. The office staff should not be the sounding board for these frustrations or complaints, and may terminate telephone calls if they become abusive.

Taree High School is a workplace where all staff adhere to the Work Health and Safety Charter of Dignity and Respect in the Workplace, where all interactions are conducted in a respectful manner.

Staff will not ignore requests for interviews/discussions, but parents should be mindful that they may not be available immediately at the time of the request. All that is required at the time of the request is a contact number and suitable time to follow up, all done in a calm and civil manner.

**Allison Alliston**  
Principal

## CAPTAINS OUT AND ABOUT

School Captains Eden Gonfond and Madeleine Heron received the GTCC Mayor Plaque for Leadership at a special ceremony at the GTCC Council Meeting on Wednesday evening.



## DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

The 2014 school year is well underway, but I would like to formally welcome everyone back to Taree High School - it is already shaping up to be a great year! I would also like to welcome all new families to our school community. This year 165 fresh faces have commenced in Year 7, along with over 35 other students across Years 8 to 12. Personally, I am looking forward to working with the great kids, families, and staff at Taree High School over the coming years.

There have been a few changes to our staffing for 2014 as well. Congratulations to Mr John Deehan on his permanent appointment as Head Teacher Special Education. We also welcome Mr Paul Dickson to the English Faculty and myself, as Deputy Principal. Ms Chris Gray and Mrs Raylene Starke have returned to their substantive positions as Head Teachers HSIE and TAS respectively and I'm sure, with me, the school community appreciates the work these staff members have done and congratulate them on their commitment and professionalism while relieving in Deputy Principal positions over the past years.

This term has seen many great events which are only made possible by dedicated people putting their hands up. My first Taree High School highlight was the Swimming Carnival – what a fantastic showcase of our schools' core values: Cooperation, Respect and Participation (CPR). An amazing job was done by Mrs Gail Phillips and her team. Our core values are also making news. Our involvement with the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) strategy, which is gaining momentum across the school, is being led by Ms Ariana Cormie, Head Teacher, Science. Students are being caught in the act doing POSITIVE things in and around the school. All members of our school are proudly wearing their wrist bands – a constant reminder of our house structure, CPR Values and school spirit.

A thank you to all the Year 7 parents who came to the meet and greet with staff. Starting high school can be daunting for everyone, especially the parents and carers, so I hope you gained some reassurances from your visit. The long anticipated "Jungle" social was also an impressive success. We held it outdoors under the new COLA. Without the dedication of many staff members and enthusiastic Student Representative Council these things don't happen. So well done, and thank you, to our organisers!

I encourage all parents and carers to stay in touch with what is happening at Taree High School. Please add our website to your favourites tab ([www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.taree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)) and like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/tareehighschool](http://www.facebook.com/tareehighschool)). Knowing who to contact is also important. Our office staff are welcoming, friendly and knowledgeable, so don't hesitate in detailing your concerns or questions – they will point you in the right direction.

As this goes to print, our Year 12 students need to be thinking about what's ahead... Ongoing, repetitive revision and seeking teacher feedback is what will help.

**Nigel Reece**  
Deputy Principal

## Taree High School – Executive Staff - 2014

**Executive Principal**  
Ms Allison Alliston

**Deputy Principals**  
Mr Michael Crotty – Years 7, 9 & 11  
Mr Nigel Reece – Years 8, 10 & 12

**Head Teachers**  
Mrs Jowen Hillyer - English  
Mr Daniel Proctor - Mathematics

Ms Ariana Cormie- Science  
Ms Christine Gray - HSIE  
Mrs Gail Phillips - PDHPE  
Mr Gary Curtis – Creative & Performing Arts  
Mrs Raylene Starke - Technological and Applied Studies  
Mr John Deehan – Special Education  
Mrs Marilyn Crozier - Welfare  
Ms Lisa Burton – Administration  
Mrs Sue Hindmarsh - Administration

## BLOOD AMBASSADORS UNITE!

On Tuesday February 18 at the Manning Valley Visitor Centre, six girls from the Taree High SRC, Gabbie Aarons-Burton, Emily Cocksedge, Isabella Murray, Amani Jenson-Bentley and Holly Pole-Cini and myself joined together with other school representatives around the district as Taree's Blood Ambassadors of the Red Cross Foundation for 2014.

The day was spent brainstorming and developing ideas to promote blood donations, talking about the benefits of giving blood, and setting goals to support Red Cross within their school and community. The girls participated in many fun and educational group challenges, working both with each other and with other local school reps.

**Jamie-lee Carter – Year 10**



## ANCIENT PHAROAHS IN 3D

After an early start, we arrived at Sydney University. Gazing at the beautiful old campus, thoughts of Hogwarts arose for the Harry Potter fans amongst the Year 11 Ancient History group... We first went into the Nicholson Museum, at the heart of Sydney University, with a tour guide who lectured us about the Egyptian mummies and their history. After this, it was time for some hands on history experience! Students were able to get up close and personal with artefacts from ancient times.

Our time at bustling Sydney University came to an end, and it was time to journey to the surreal world of the IMAX Theatre. Pharaohs from Ancient Egypt came to life right before our eyes through 3D goggles!

After taking in the sights of Darling Harbour, it was time to board the cosy bus once again and return to the modern world of Taree High after a brilliant day experiencing the Ancient World.

**Lily Minihan – Year 11**

## DISABILITY PROVISIONS FOR HSC NEWSLETTER REPORT - TAREE HIGH SCHOOL

### Help for students sitting the HSC Exams

Disability Provisions [formerly Special Examination Provisions] are arrangements that make it possible for students with permanent or temporary disabilities to fairly participate in the HSC examinations. 'Disability' in this context involves a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental health or learning issue/s that prevents a student participating 'on the same basis' as other students. Issues may include diabetes, vision difficulties, anxiety conditions, dyslexia or difficulties with handwriting

'Reasonable adjustments' may include special furniture or lighting, coloured paper, a reader, a writer, separate supervision and extra time. Applications are made to the Board of Studies with evidence gathered in the form of medical and therapist reports and reading and writing tests. Reading and writing tests are administered in school time. There is no guarantee that the BOS will grant Disability provisions.

Submissions are best submitted as early as possible.

Students who become ill or injured during the HSC exam period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure appeal.

For more information, please contact Ms Gleeson [Wednesdays and Fridays] or Therese Sullivan [Learning Support Teachers]

## ONSTAGE

At the beginning of term, a group of Year 11 and Year 12 Drama students travelled to the University of Sydney to watch the Board of Studies' OnSTAGE. This event showcases some of the highest ranked 2013 HSC monologues, group performances and set and costume design.

OnSTAGE was a wonderful experience for senior Drama students who are preparing for their HSC. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Cotton (and Mr Williams for driving!) for giving us the opportunity to see what makes for a great Drama major work.

**Madeline Heron – Year 12**

## AGRICULTURE SHOW TEAM IN FULL SWING

This year, our Agriculture department has kindly been donated two Murray Grey steers from the Mid North Coast Murray Grey Society. This generous donation was also accompanied by an education opportunity at GlenLiam Farm Open Day in Clarence Town. Nine students, one parent and three staff members attended the Sunday sessions run by Bryce and Diane Whale on preparing cattle for Royal Shows, breaking and leading cattle, cattle judging and jargon, and selecting breeding stock. Students were given hands on experience at estimating cattle condition and fat scores, and mingled with some of the industry's best local breeders.



Selecting a winning steer from birth



Discussing steer's qualities

## CANTEEN NEWS

**VEGI BURGER \$5.00 COMES WITH FRESH BUN AND SALAD (MUST BE ORDERED)  
HAMBURGER \$5.00 ON DAILY MENU**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS. EVEN SPARING TIME AT RECESS IS A GREAT HELP.  
IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER PHONE DANA ON 65521407**

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## YOUTH WEEK: 4-13 APRIL

'Like' the Manning Youth Facebook page to stay posted with upcoming community youth event.

## MR REECE IS IN THE BUILDING!

**Gabbie:** What subjects were you good at, at school?

Mr Reece: PE, and that was really about it.

**Gabbie:** You played a lot of sports?

Mr Reece: I did going through school. I was a swimmer and I played a bit of tennis

**Gabbie:** Cool!

Mr Reece: Yeah they are my sports, I tried a lot of other things, wasn't really good at them, (chuckles).

**Gabbie:** What subjects did you teach when you were a teacher?

Mr Reece: I taught Maths and PE. So I'm qualified to teach 7-12 Maths

**Gabbie:** What school did you come from?

Mr Reece: I've come from Tumut High.

**Gabbie:** And where is that?

Mr Reece: Its up in the Snowy Mountains. Up in the Kosciuszko National Park

**Gabbie:** So what was that school like?

Mr Reece: It was good, well it was a fairly small school compared to here.

**Gabbie:** How many students attended?

Mr Reece: About 570, so it was a nice size

**Gabbie:** How does Taree High compare to your old school?

Mr Reece: Huge!!! It's much bigger, obviously but you guys have impressed me with your swimming carnival alone and the SRC all that kind of stuff, it's just pretty amazing. Especially your social the other night!

**Gabbie:** Did you enjoy that?

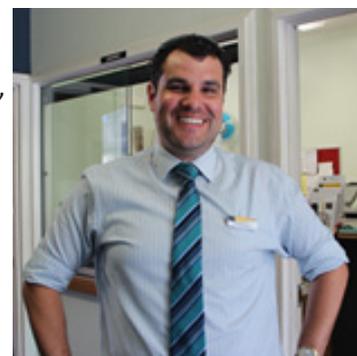
Mr Reece: Fantastic! Yeah it was good. It was lovely outside. It was really good, especially that COLA with the soundproofing in the roof.

**Gabbie:** What do you like to do in your spare time?

Mr Reece: In my spare time? I don't really get any 'laughs' I have three children under four, so I don't really get much spare time.

**Gabbie:** And now the final question, favourite food?

Mr Reece: Well, hmmm, that's a tough one, but probably a nice juicy steak! None of that pasta stuff, just a plain juicy steak.



## OUT OF UNIFORM DAY

On Friday March 14 we held our first Out of Uniform day for 2014 – and it was a great success! We have raised a total of \$688.80 for the Humane Society International (HSI).

The HSI work closely with the United Nation, international governments and with various other organisations to find practical, culturally sensitive, and long-term solutions to common environmental and animal problems.

In particular, the Australian arm of HSI has a particular emphasis on:

- Creating and implementing policies to protect habitats critical to the survival of our native species
- Climate change and the protection of areas of high biodiversity (including our rainforests)
- The 'Humane Choice' food label to improve the lives of farm animals and address the unsustainable practice of intensive farming;
- Disaster relief support in developing countries to rescue stricken and abandoned animals
- National and international marine campaigns against whaling, and seeking greater protection for sharks, turtles, albatrosses and threatened fish species.

The SRC are proud to be raising funds for such a worthwhile cause – thanks again to everyone who supported our OOU day!

## PBL AT THS

This term students at Taree High School have engaged with the new behavioural support model, Positive Behaviour for Learning, or PBL. The model allows for students who 'do the right thing' to be recognised for their persistent excellence in behaviour. The model has three key components:

1. Students are explicitly taught behaviour expectations associated with different areas and activities around the school; in short, 15 minute lessons.
2. Students are rewarded with a raffle ticket when they are observed doing the right thing around the school.
3. Through the introduction of the new assembly model, which seats students according to their house groups and coloured writsbands, students are encouraged to support each other across year groups. There are also 'surprise' activities at assembly, where students work as a team to earn their houses bonus points towards their totals.

The winner of the raffle is drawn weekly on our Tuesday morning assembly, with the lucky student drawn receiving their choice from the prize pool located outside the office at A15. Prizes on offer include a range of stationary items kindly donated by Officeworks Taree, as well as vouchers for Saltwater Wine, iTunes and EB Games and 'Pizza for you and your mates' tokens.

Raffle tickets also contribute points to the students' house totals and towards the merit system, where students can receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold level, based on their individual totals. The winning house group with the highest total point score at the end of the year will receive the PBL shield at Presentation Night.



## PEER LITERACY PROGRAM

Aims:

- To enable Yr 7 students to access better written texts from all subject areas
- To provide Yr 10 students with TaFE accredited skills in tutoring.
- To facilitate proven successful outcomes of cross age tutoring.

This looks like:

Yr 7 students will be allocated to a Yr 10 tutor. Tutors and students will work with written texts from all subject areas. Support can be given for assignment and exam study. They will attend a special roll call in the library on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

AND IT'S A LOT OF FUN!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT JUNGLE FEVER!

Every term, the SRC aim to put on one school social where students to dress up to a theme and dance like there's no tomorrow. The social scene for 2014 has kicked off in fantastic style, with the Term 1 Social roping in over 260 jungle theme students. Costumes varied from leopards to giraffes - one ensemble came as the jungle itself. Notably, this summer social was run outside for the first time in over five years - a change that proved massively successful amongst those dancers who find the indoor socials far too hot. Hopefully the rest of the socials this year are pumping with the same enthusiasm and spirit as was displayed on March 5.

### Eden Gonfond – Year 12



## YEAR 12 GET ENLIGHTENED!

On March 3, Year 12 (very first!) Society and Culture class embarked on not only a very early, very tiring physical journey, but a spiritual one as well! We visited the Murugan Hindu Temple in Mays Hill. One of our case studies is Belief Systems and Hinduism is our main focus. We were guided around the temple and taught about the beliefs of each God and rituals that are performed. We were enriched with knowledge from the Temple's library and treated with sweets. We went on to visit the Chinese Friendship Garden in Darling Harbour and explored the food and shops there!

I'm sure we all came away feeling 'enlightened'! Seeing a religion in practice is definitely more valuable than reading about it from the textbook.

### Amani Jensen-Bentley - Year 12

**RAIN PREDICTED? NO!**

Our school Swimming Carnival was a great success on what turned out to be a lovely day! Everyone was well behaved and it was good to see all the House Captains and peers encourage everyone.

Many of our Year 7 kids attended – I hope you all had a wonderful time! Congratulations to the swimmers who made it through to the next stage. Good luck!

Thank you to Mrs Phillips and our PD/H/PE teachers for a wonderful day and all staff for a great day of involvement.

I can't wait for the Athletics Carnival

**Emma Croker – Year 11**

**RESULTS**

<b>1st</b>	<b>Peel</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Murray</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Hooke</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Manning</b>

**FISH, POWERBOATS AND SWIMMING SPIRIT**

Spirits were high as many of us once again made the trip to the Taree Aquatic Centre for the Zone Swimming Carnival. Maybe this year would be ours... maybe we would defeat the tyrannical reign of Great Lakes College...

Our performance was stellar. Everyone brought out their 'inner fish', with the exception of the Van Kampen siblings- they seemed to be channelling part power boat! However, despite our outstanding level of racing, we once again fell to the Lakers in speed, but they will never take our spirit.

Next year will be ours... hopefully!

**Joey Jeffrey - Year 12**

## SWIMMIN', CHUCKIN', SCORIN'!

On February 25 two brave teams from Taree High embarked on a journey across town to the Aquatic Centre to show the district how to play the 'grand old game' of Water Polo.

The girls' team, young and eager, were up first against the hardened warriors from Wauchope. They played fiercely but, sadly, were defeated. The girls went on to play Wingham whom they vanquished. Unfortunately they did not proceed to the next round.

The boys then took to the pool to regain THS glory. They managed to defeat every team that threatened their position as Number One and are now off to trounce the next level of opponents. Good luck!

**Eve Foxwell – Year 11**

## OPENS CHS BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT

During Term 1 the Boys Open Basketball team competed in the CHS Knockout. The squad comprised of James Corben, Brandon Betts, John Cook, John Baker, Troy Knutson, Nick Mann, Jack Paine, Nathan Smith, Jacob Straub and Jordan Nowlan. Their first round match was against Wingham High School at Saxby's Stadium. After a slow start to the game and facing a twelve point deficit the boys gained momentum towards the end of the second quarter to cut Wingham's lead to five at the half. With an outstanding third quarter from Jacob Straub on the offensive end and Nathan Smith getting a number of steals, the Taree boys took control of the game and held on for a 42-34 win.

The boys then had to travel to Maitland for the Hunter finals. They played Maitland Grossman High School and began the game with confidence jumping out to an early lead. With good contributions from the entire team, Taree won 44-20 to move into the final 8. Next up was Warners Bay High School and another good start for the Taree squad. Warners Bay turned up their defence mid-way through the first quarter and the boys found it difficult getting the ball in the basket with the defensive pressure of the opposition. Eventually the Warners Bay squad got the better of them. Once again the boys played with great sportsmanship and team work.

Congratulations to the boys. It was our best results in the open boys for a number of years. Thanks to Ryan Thompson and Chris Small for assisting with the games and also to the parents that assisted with transport and support.

**Mr R Abbot**



**Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to?**  
**Learn what it is like to live in another country?**  
**Learn a new language and experience a different culture?**  
**If you are 15-18.3 years in January 2015**  
**Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more**  
**Contact: Jan Crombie 6584 7882, 0401 149 858**  
[www.rotaryyouthexchange9650.com.au](http://www.rotaryyouthexchange9650.com.au)