

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 4 School Resumes SRC Induction/Captains announced	7 October
HSC Exams	13 October to 5 November
School Vaccinations Yr 7 & Yr 9	23 October
Year 9 Gold coast Camp	3-7 November
Year 12 Formal	13 November
Hunter Blues Presentation	3 December
MADD Concert	12 December
Year 7-11 Presentation night	15 December
School Captains Induction Assembly	15 December
Year 7-10 Presentation Assembly	16 December

\$100,000 PER YEAR – NO WAY!

The SRC Environment Committee has been working on the arduous task of auditing the energy use of the school. Our final results revealed we use way too much electricity - approximately \$100,000.00 per year!

Our audit has helped us to isolate a few power hungry appliances and we have developed a strategy to try and reduce our electricity use over the next term and beyond:

- We are going to put timers on the zip hot water systems in the staff rooms, so they only make hot water in school hours.
- We are going to teach the school to 'switch off' at the end of the day, on the weekends and especially before each holiday period.
- Air conditioners are more common in school now, so we will put signs in rooms to educate staff and students about the most efficient running temperature, 20 degrees in winter and 24 degrees in summer. Ceiling fans use 85% less energy than air conditioners. We will keep you posted on any changes we make to our power consumption over Term 4.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The end of Term 3 is upon us and what a fantastic term it has been! Welcome to all the new students and families who have joined us this term and to Ms Ferguson in English.

During the term, Taree High School participated in the 'Tell Them From Me' student survey. 668 students responded online, giving the staff a youthful look at our school and our classroom effectiveness. Staff were delighted to find out that students feel appropriately challenged in the classroom and that students have developed strong friendships throughout the school community. They also reported that they value attendance and feel the majority of students behave appropriately. Unfortunately, most students indicated that they did not sustain productive study and homework patterns. The results of this survey will assist with the 2015-2017 School Plan. Staff will now complete the 'Focus on Learning' survey to further assist in our planning cycle.

The end of term is also something to be celebrated by the senior years. Year 11 will transition to their HSC courses over the holidays and Year 12 are eagerly awaiting their 'fun day', formal and presentation assembly. Frantic revision will then begin for the fast approaching HSC Examinations. The entire school community wishes Year 12 well and hope they achieve to the best of their ability. Winter sports saw many students accomplish great things—our impressive representative athletics team and both boys and girls hockey teams achieved outstanding results!

A changing of the guard is also underway within the SRC with a large number of nominations received, including an outstanding group of candidates for School Captain. All nominees have shown an impressive commitment to Taree High School and to their peers; everyone had a hard time casting their vote given the exceptional choices. The induction and announcement of these students will happen early Term 4.

Even though it has been windy and cold, students need to be here every day. Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. If students are away, a note explaining their absence must be received within 7 days to ensure a justified absence can be recorded.

Lastly, Mrs Cotton has commenced maternity leave. We are all eagerly waiting on the news. We welcome Mr Fitz temporarily during this time and Mrs Harris (PDHPE) will be the Year 7 Adviser until Mrs Cotton returns.

NGARRALBAA

Taree High School has officially opened its new Aboriginal Resource Room, Ngarralbaa, where students, families and the community can meet, learn about local Aboriginal culture and language and receive educational support. The name was chosen by Elders and members of the local Gathang language group and means "Listening, Learning, Knowing Place" in Gathang, the traditional language of the Biripi people.

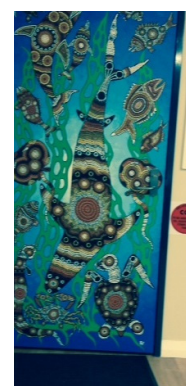
The room was purpose-built in collaboration with the community and the Aboriginal education team and has already been used for classes in culture, land/sustainability and art.

It is furnished with Aboriginal meeting mats and a collection of artefacts, which are used to teach students about their history. The space includes a staffroom for the Aboriginal education team and bi-fold doors that bring the outside inside.

The school's Elder in residence, Uncle Russell Saunders OAM, was commissioned to paint the entrance door of the resource room and his artwork (pictured) tells the story of the Biripi people and their connection with the sea, land and animals. Uncle Russell, a pastor, teacher and artist, is currently carving a sculpture for the new space.

Ngarralbaa was opened by Uncle Dave Russell and his wife, Aunty Melva, during the school's NAIDOC week celebrations.

Allison Alliston



TERTIARY EDUCATION 101

On the rare occasion of seniors being able to miss a day of school, a bus load headed down to Newcastle for the university open day. It was an enjoyable and insightful day overall, consisting of short lectures giving information on the various courses offered at the uni. There were campus and a radio station tours, the meeting of old friends from other schools and the accumulation of more free shoulder bags, pens and stickers. Surprisingly, the mosquitoes were a rare sighting that day, as legend has it there are more mosquitoes on the Newcastle Uni campus than any other location on the globe.

Thank you to Mr Bowman who supervised the excursion and good luck to Year 12 in your future endeavors!

Caitlin McLeod – Year 12

CAREERS EXPO

The Chatham Careers Expo was extremely helpful for any student considering their options beyond school. There were representatives from a wide range of universities and institutions, from the Police Force to Sydney University, giving students from Year 10-12 an excellent opportunity to formulate ideas in regards to tertiary education or a career path. All representatives from the various universities and organisations were friendly and willing to discuss options with students, and as a bonus were handing out sweets and mementos, alongside helpful information booklets. Students from Taree High, St Clares and Chatham High attended the expo, and will benefit from the experience.

Lily Minihan

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY - MONEY RAISED

We made \$216.20 for R U OKAY Day.



PEER LITERACY PROGRAM

A big congratulations to the Yr 10 students who have shown such talent and dedication in tutoring students who need a bit of practice reading. They have all qualified for a TaFE certificate in reading tutoring.

Become A Volunteer Host Family

Gain A Friend From Another Country!

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Imagine the look on your new brother's or sister's face as you introduce him/her to Vegemite for the first time. Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.



Arriving in January:

Ilaria (17) from Italy tells us that she is incredibly fond of animals, and that if she had her own way, she would turn her house into a zoo! She enjoys drawing in her spare time, as well as travel. She believes that living so far away from home will help her broaden her mind, and she can't wait to live with a welcoming family.

Marco (17) from Italy is an animator at his local church group and enjoys playing both football and basketball with his friends. He also enjoys staying active by going to the gym for an hour or so after school. He is looking forward to sharing his Italian culture with you, and hopes you will share your culture with him here 'down-under'.

Find out more!

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager - Inbound Exchange Programs



Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

MID NORTH COAST MURRAY GREY BRED PROMOTION GROUP

DONATION TOWARDS SCHOOLS' CATTLE SHOW TEAMS

The Mid North Coast Murray Grey Promotion Group recently held a fundraiser to raise funds for Wingham and Taree High Schools. Thirty members and friends of the group attended the luncheon, held on a local farm, which exceeded all expectations.

The function provided a three course meal, as well as morning and afternoon teas. Additionally, the group held a raffle of items generously donated by local members and businesses, and auctioning signs kindly donated by the group were also auctioned off for the cause.

Pictured is group member Mrs Kyle Thomas presenting a generous donation of \$500 towards our school Ag Farm to Miss Cormie (HT Science & Agriculture)



A JAUNT TO JYNDABYNE 2014

Whilst New Zealand barely had two snowflakes to rub together, Australia was rolling in its best snowfall for over a decade. During this mega blizzard Year 11 embarked on the iconic yearly snow trip to tackle the world-renowned slopes of Perisher.

After a solid twelve hours on the bus we finally arrived at Jindabyne, where we settled into the rooms we would call home for the coming week. The next morning we were up early and eager to hit the snow. After a tough first day of lessons and out of control snow ploughers, many were keen to return to the slopes the next day. As the week progressed, so too did the abilities of the skiers and snowboarders.

Many friendships were formed, only to be broken down by the fierce competitiveness of Miss Gurr's trivia on Wednesday night. Jackson and Miles were her first victims, going head-to-head in an arm wrestle to establish a winner of the first round - alas, it was a stale mate. Next up was Claire and Sarocha with some aeronautical engineering, otherwise known as the majestic art of paper aeroplanes. Surprisingly, Mr Davis took gold with his aerodynamic ball of speed! To determine the overall winners was another test of strength: Lily and Evelyn put their biceps on the line to fight for victory! Sadly Lily triumphed, defeating Evelyn and taking gold for her team.

Although some stayed inside the safe slopes of Smiggins, many ventured beyond into Perisher, Blue Cow and even Guthega terrain. No major injuries were acquired thankfully, but Year 11 did learn some very interesting techniques - how to not stop, how to efficiently remove fences, how to run over little children, how to lose your ski before even skiing, new ways to use chairlifts, how to 'gracefully' run into trees, how to 'slide down a black run' and somehow forget that you'd ever been snowboarding.

Overall it was a fabulous experience. Thank you to all the teachers who supervised the trip. Thank you also to the teachers who covered the staff who were having fun at the snow!

Evelyn Foxwell – Year 11



NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2014 - Term 3 and 4

Measles Catch-up Campaign

You may have heard through a media campaign about the school based measles catch-up program due to the recent measles outbreaks in NSW. Details are at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/measles-catchup.aspx>

Due to high measles coverage rates in the Hunter New England Local Health District not all schools will be participating in this school catch-up campaign. However, if your child's school is not participating in the measles program and your child needs vaccination, you can take your child to their doctor to receive free MMR vaccine (you may be charged for the consultation).

To check if your child has received two doses of MMR:

- Look in your child's Blue Book for a record of two doses of 'MMR vaccine' or 'Priorix vaccine' OR
- Check with your child's doctor

Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>

TOTAL COLLEGE EXCURSION

On Monday 21st July, 16 of our keenest Agriculture students attended an overnight excursion to Tocal College, located within the picturesque shire of Patterson, with Mr Eulenstein and Miss Cormie. At the college, students participated in a range of hands on activities, gaining experiences beyond the scope of the classroom and school ag farm. Students tried their hand cracking stock whips and their role in cattle mustering and had an opportunity to ride some of the college horses. Our students also observed some of the college students 'breaking in' their first horse. From a cattle-based perspective, students worked as dairy farmers to milk cows within a traditional herringbone style dairy set up, including first-hand experience with attaching and removing udder cups. Students were also given a tour of the campus where our facilitator Steve, explained what it is like to live at Tocal. Students also viewed the college accommodation, recreational hall and sampled the college food which received a big 'thumbs up' all round! Overall, the excursion gave our students an insight into the life of a student at Tocal, as a pathway to gaining an academic qualification in the field of Agriculture and the possibility of their studies leading to permanent employment on some of Australia's largest stations.



Ms A Cormie

SPIRIT DAY EXTRAORDINAIRE!

No day at THS is just an ordinary day, but Spirit Day at THS is a whole new kind of extraordinary! And 2014's Spirit Day definitely rose to the challenge - this year SRC introduced a secret weapon...the almighty super-doooper-massive-trek-to-climb-but-so-much-fun blow up slide! The slide wasn't the only lively part of the day; teachers also showed off their movement skills in the 'dance-off' where Gurr, Ralston, Dicko and Kelly defied all odds and proved to all the students that they are in fact, a lot cooler than us. To top the day off, a teacher 'sing-off' also rocked the house with Mr Dickson AGAIN blowing everyone away with his rendition of 'Mustang Sally'! Not to mention his back up gals - the Angelic Alliston, Great Gurr, Colourful Cotton and Boisterous Bridges! It was a wonderful send off to Year Twelve and a brilliant way to bring the whole school together. It's a big reminder about just how much Year Twelve really will miss THS!

Amani Jenson-Bentley



Mr Kelly, Mrs Bridges-Rogers and Miss Gurr competing in the dance off.



FUN, FUN AND MORE FUN

16 excited students and 4 keen teachers recently visited Sydney for the adventure of a lifetime. Our trip was jam-packed with sightseeing, activities and unforgettable experiences. We began with a stop at Lady Macquarie's Chair where we took in the amazing views of the Opera House and Botanical Gardens - WOW! Then we made our way to the Powerhouse Museum which is known for their intriguing interactive displays. The students used physical energy to create power, got to experience an electric chair, and learnt just how forceful magnets can be! One night we took a moonlight 'Ghost Tour' down at the Rocks where we were told fascinating stories about convict days (and some disgusting stories about their sewage system we wish they DIDN'T tell us). Two girls went for a walk by themselves and possibly heard the cries of hundred-year old ghosts – needless to say they stuck by our sides for the remainder of the night. The rest of our trip included a visit to Madam Tussauds Wax Museum, a ferry trip to Manly Sea Life Experience, a picnic under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and, our highlight, a trip to the top of Centrepont Tower (where we are sure we could see the rest of you still in Taree). What a magnificent view; our students were mesmerised. We cannot speak highly enough of the behaviour of the students on this trip they were a credit to themselves, their parents and carers and to Taree High School. Thank you to everyone involved!



Mrs D Silcock

MYALL LAKES YOUNG LEADERSHIP FORUM

On July 18, a band of merry students went to Club Taree to attend the 2014 Myall Lakes Young Leadership Forum. Along with Stephen Bromhead, former Knights Captain Danny Buderus, general manager of Manning Hospital Tricia Bulic, fellow politician Adam Marshall and author Tanya Saad, all contributed to their views and personal experiences on leadership. One interesting moment was when a girl from Great Lakes College Tuncurry Campus spoke out against Stephen Bromhead and his metaphor for independent representation in parliament. It certainly caused passionate discussion!

All in all it was a good day, but really the pizza was the best bit.

Banjo Hunt and Cam Le Messurier



ALL SCHOOLS TOUCH CARNIVAL

Year 7 and 8 students participated in the All Schools Touch Carnival at Taree Recreation Grounds on the 19th of August 2014 in challenging heavy rain and strong winds. In very slippery and cold conditions both the girls and boys teams played excellently.

Intelligent and controlled play by the girls gave them a win over Chatham, St Pauls and Wingham. The grand final was a tough game against Foster, but Taree High girls dug deep and won 2-1. The girls now progress to the State Finals which will be held in Penrith on the 7th November. This is an excellent achievement.

The boy's team also played strongly, defeating St Columba Anglican School, Great Lakes College, Port Macquarie High and St Clare's. After a massive effort and a high level of skill, Taree High boys unfortunately lost to St Pauls in the grand final. Congratulations to both teams!

Tahni Walters and Khiaecia Martin.

FUTSAL FAVOURITES HEAD TO QUEENSLAND

On August 12, Taree High's Under 16s and 19s Futsal teams travelled to Port Macquarie to compete in the NSW Champion of Champions School Futsal Tournament. Both girls' teams battled hard against tough opponents for a qualifying place for the next round in Queensland. Our Under 16s missed out by one place, finishing fifth. Our Under 19s celebrated with third place, securing a Queensland game.

The following day, our Under 16s Boys tried their luck in their quest to qualify. Despite some challenging games, our boys managed to finish third and qualify for the Queensland tournament.

Sean Pole-Cini and Lucas Mephram - Year 10

QUICKSMART

QuickSmart is a highly motivating Maths and Literacy tutoring program that 60 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 have access to. The Maths program is based on learning the fast recall of basic number facts, mainly multiplication tables through flashcards, timers, speed sheets, games and sometimes, a computer component. It also incorporates core class work and numeracy problem solving. The Literacy program concentrates on reading fluency and comprehension based on texts, word meanings, flashcards, summarising skills and 'match meaning to word' games.

Students attend half hour sessions 2-3 times a week in the library either in pairs or individually with one of our five tutors.

QuickSmart is a thoroughly enjoyable and motivating program where students can only succeed. It is this experience of genuine improvement which encourages them to expend more effort and progress even further which will help them in all areas of their schooling. Thanks to all students who are involved. You are a pleasure to work with!



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Amani Jensen-Bentley - receiving a Highly Commended in the Marie Bashir Peace Awards

Hockey teams - State Finals

Eden Gonfond - receiving an ONSTAGE nomination for his HSC individual drama performance

Gabbie Aarons-Burton - 2nd in Australia for Futsal

THS Boys' Hockey team and Mr Styles for 3rd place in the State Finals U17's.