



SCHOOL NEWS

Term 4 2020 Newsletter From the Principal's Desk

What a year....what an adventure and steep learning curve for all. We all learnt how important handwashing and personal distancing is to combat the spread of COVID-19. Staff quickly had to learn how to use Google Classroom as Remote Learning kicked in. Students were at home, staff were at home and Zoom Meetings became the norm for everyone. Despite all these new skills, learned so quickly, the staff, students and community showed great commitment and resilience.

Many activities and excursions unfortunately had to be cancelled, but were done so with our students and staff health and safety at the forefront of our thinking. We ran with Spirit Day as a reward to students and a nice way to end the term. The SRC were so enthusiastic to have this run, that it was difficult to say no. THS spirit shone through on the day and students and staff dressed in their house colours, participated and had a great time.

Whilst all the impacts on learning were occurring, building projects and refurbishments continued around the school, including the finalisation of major works in M Block and the total rebuild of the basketball courts. The improvements to the school are certainly wonderful.

As Year 12 prepared for their HSC it was good news indeed that the Formal could become a reality to celebrate what has been a very disrupted 12 months....first fires, floods and then COVID. We were all so very proud of their tenacity and resilience to make it through to the exams, and then celebrate with a glamorous Formal. They all deserved to be congratulated!!!!

2020 saw the Year 12 Presentation Evening livestreamed for parents and families due to the restrictions. It was a fabulous evening with students receiving the accolades for their efforts.

The new planning phase for 2021-2025 began in earnest in Term 3 & 4, with the School Improvement Plan designed in consultation with parents, students and community.

NAIDOC was celebrated in November with our dancers participating in a number of events. Workshops were held across the school with one of the highlights being two new murals painted by Uncle Russ, Josh Wood, Benn Saunders and many students. They are certainly features in the playground. Instead of our traditional NAIDOC Community Concert, we livestreamed through Pluto Entertainment for five nights, in partnership with Purfleet/Taree Aboriginal Land Council, showcasing many community members and students. This was an outstanding success and plans are already in train for 2021.

We were proud of Uncle Russell Saunders, our Elder in Residence, as he received a Nanga Mai (NSW Aboriginal Education Award) in recognition for his commitment and contribution to education. Uncle Russ has been integral to our Aboriginal Education Team for the past seven years, bringing the rich culture of the Biripi people into all classrooms and supporting the Gathang Language and Culture Program. Indeed a well-deserved award.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support of the school, as an unprecedented year closes.

Allison Alliston - Executive Principal

YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2020

CONGRATULATIONS to the graduating year of 2020

We are so proud of you all and wish you the very best for the future



2021 SCHOOL CAPTAINS and SRC

Congratulations to our School Captains for 2021:
Captains: Lucas Kloosterhof and Amber Kelleher
Vice Captains: Bevan Smith and Brooke Durbidge

Congratulations also to our newly appointed Student Representative Council (SRC) members. We have every confidence they will continue the fine tradition of student leadership at Taree High School in 2021.



RIVERSTAGE CONCERT - 6 NOVEMBER

It was an exciting place to be on Friday night 6th November 2020 for the opening of the Rotary/Lions Manning RiverStage. Taree High School has been lucky to have ACMF (Australian Children's Music Foundation) running for a number of years starting with the iconic man, Don Spencer from TV's Playschool.

Taree High School Support Unit students performed "Sunday Song". This song began one Friday in class with teacher Matt Zarb saying it was Friday once again. Student Caleb continued this on with "I can't wait for this day to end", and a song was started. The whole experience of composing and recording was magical for the kids. They went to Jake Davey's Recording studio and performed for the video clip at Flow Restaurant Old Bar and the whole experience was just so fantastic for all involved. The RiverStage concert was an incredible experience with lights, stage, cameras, an audience and singing your own song. The kids were full of energy for the experience and couldn't hold back their enthusiasm. It was a rewarding experience to witness their excitement.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TERM 4 2020 & TERM 1 2021

EVENTS	DATE
Semester 2 Reports Issued	Tuesday 15th December
Last day of Term 4	Wednesday 16th December
Summer Holidays commence	Thursday 17th December
Christmas Day	Friday 25th December
Boxing Day	Saturday 26th December
New Years Day	Friday 1st January
Term 1 2021 Commences	Friday 29th January Yrs 7/11/12
Term 1 2021 Commences	Monday 1st February Yrs 8/9/10
Swimming Carnival	Friday 5th February
Zone Swimming Carnival	Tuesday 16th February
Last Day Term 1	Thursday 1st April

SPORT

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlotte Creek and Samira Mitchell both of Year 9. Charlotte has been selected in the Open Hunter Girls Softball team and Samira has been selected in the Open Hunter Girls Cricket team. Both girls will compete in the NSW CHS Championships next year 2021. Well done and good luck to both Charlotte and Samira for 2021.



Creative and Performing Arts

Well, the world might have been isolated for a short while and school life may have been temporarily disrupted, but CAPA students have continued to flex their creative muscles and build their skills across Drama, Music, Photography and Visual Arts throughout 2020.

Mid-Term 4, the 2D Art class embarked on their Street Art assessment, turning themselves into modern day Modenarro's/Chalk Artists. During recess and lunchtime, the crowds gathered to witness the **CHALK ART FESTIVAL** come to life. Well done to all the very creative students involved as well as Mrs Pellew and Bonnie for all their efforts.

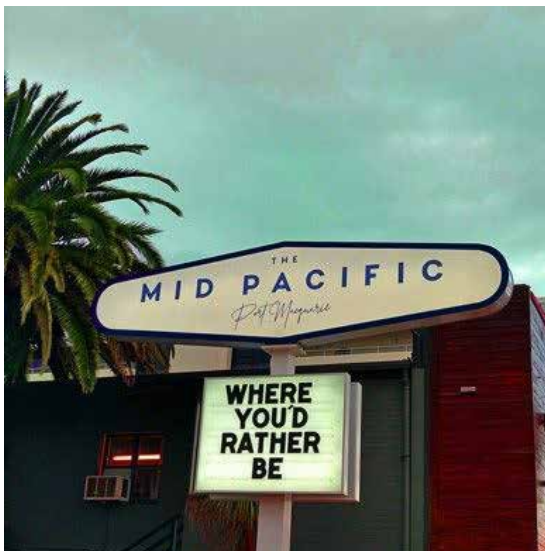


Creative and Performing Arts

Year 9/10 Photography and Digital Media students have produced some outstanding compositions this Semester. Building on six months worth of Photography studies, they applied their learned techniques to a new genre - they became 'Street Photographers'.



Year 9/10 Street Photographers



Creative and Performing Arts

Here are some moments captured from the end of year Drama Showcase. The Year 9 Drama students delivered a highly entertaining play that explored all of the different types of individuals in a Drama class entitled, "Drama Geeks" by Bradley Hayward. Year 10 Drama presented a self-devised work on the issue of plastic pollution, featuring dramatic scenes, dance, song, short films and ensemble pieces. And, as is tradition, Year 12 Drama hosted the show and wowed the crowd with their two skits, "Teachers at the start of 2020" and "Teachers at the end of 2020!", which opened and closed the showcase and in a comic way and encapsulated this very different schooling year. Congratulations to all of our amazing performers!





Library Report - by Mrs Gillis

All My Own Work

Year 10 has completed the All My Own Work program which covers the rules around plagiarism in the HSC. Students have been reassured that if they are organised, use their own words and cite all their sources they will have no accusation of plagiarism and can complete their work confidently in Year 11 & 12.



Library Report

Accelerated Reader

This Year 8 reading program has been a great success this Semester. Students have been required to read for 10 minutes every day during period 3. Staff and students are into a good habit of reading and this has improved and encouraged a life-long habit of reading. At time of writing the competition between Roll Call groups is hot but Player 6 (RC 6) are in a very good position for the Pizza Party. Winners announced Week 9.



Book Club

Book Clubbers are always up for a chat about the books they are reading and this year we have picked up some new members along the way. We meet up twice a term and are just about to meet for the last time this year.

Library Report

CONGRATULATIONS UNCLE RUSS

The library was lucky to host a special Morning Tea and award ceremony for Uncle Russell Saunders who won the prestigious 2020 Nanga Mai (an Eora – Sydney - word meaning 'to dream') award for Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Staff Member Award. The Taree High School Aboriginal dance group performed two dances with the backdrop of the books and the modern furniture. It was a very moving experience and the juxtaposition of the ancient dance and music against the modern library was amazing.



Library Report

HISTORICAL TROPHIES



Old memorabilia and trophies are now housed in a beautiful old cabinet in the library which was made for the school in 1935. We just couldn't let go of this beautiful piece of carpentry even though we have been renovating and modernising our look. It is now holding some Taree High silver dating back to the 1940's and looks fabulous!



from the library!





Maintaining Your Mojo

Taree High School was a successful recipient of a Charles Sturt University Health and Wellbeing grant. This provided us with the opportunity to run workshops for our senior students to assist them through what has been a very challenging year.

The year 12 cohort were involved in zoom presentations run by the Black Dog Institute and the Red Frogs Australia. They were also given the opportunity to be involved in a Virtual Careers expo, hosted by Macquarie University.

The idea behind this grant was to assist the senior students through what has been a difficult year of study for them. We were concerned about the impact drought, bushfires, floods and COVID would have on their ability to cope. The project armed them with strategies to look after themselves and their friends,

in their everyday lives as well as during times when they go out and “let off some steam”, now and into the future. Our Black Dog presentation gave them some fabulous ideas on how to identify signs and symptoms of mental health and the Red Frogs presentation had practical and realistic ways to stay safe when partying. The careers talk was a ‘hands on’ experience where students explored options for what they might like to do in the future and what is on offer after school.

We would like to acknowledge the funding support from The Charles Sturt University Health and Wellbeing Grant. Our students gained valuable life skills from their experience.

The Prep Team



**Black Dog
Institute**

School Students Years 10, 11 and 12, 2021.

Please see information below regarding STUDENT TRANSPORT CONCESSION ENTITLEMENT CARD

School students:

The Transport Concession Entitlement Card will replace these cards from mid-October 2020:

- ☐ **Senior Secondary Student Concession Card** (16 years and over)
- ☐ **Proof of Age card** (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)



Students who are 16+ in 2021 who would like a concession card to please contact the office to register their interest. These will then be ordered by the school for students. Once the order is placed with Transport NSW it will take approximately 3 weeks to arrive.

CANTEEN NEWS

- Loyalty Card available when ordering lunch meals. Don't forget to use it, 11th meal is FREE.
- Gluten free available
- Check blackboard for specials.
- Lunch orders taken at breakfast time 8.30-9.00am.

Volunteers are always welcome: Please contact Tracey on 0476 491 450 if you would like to give a hand.