



ST TERESA'S COLLEGE  
— ABERGOWRIE —

# Gowrie NEWS

SEMESTER 1 | TERM 2 | WEEK 4



## IMPORTANT DATES

**MAY 18 - 22**

VET Block  
(AUSCO, Rangers,  
Indig. Primary Health)

**MAY 22 - 25**

Boarders Long  
Weekend

**MAY 26**

National Sorry Day

**MAY 29 - 31**

Community Consultation  
Committee Meeting

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, staff, students and supporters of St Teresa's College,

A flock of sheep will usually follow the one animal that takes the lead. Farmers used to attach a bell to the neck of that particular sheep to take the lead in managing the flock. This sheep is called the bellwether. Sometimes, the bellwether made mistakes and the rest of the flock would get in trouble.

My advice; don't blindly follow the lead of certain bellwether people who are leading you down the wrong path. That's not always so easy to do, particularly if you lack a key quality called courage.

Our students need to ask the question:

- ◆ Do I go along with the crowd?
- ◆ Do I follow blindly?
- ◆ Would I stand up and be counted on some important issue?

As this term progresses, the boys are constantly reminded:

- ◆ To be courageous and say no
- ◆ To stick to their beliefs
- ◆ Not to bow to negative pressure
- ◆ To look after those who may be struggling

As human beings, we continually make decisions every day. We can choose to promote good or be destructive in our actions towards others and ourselves. I applaud our boys as I am continually blessed to witness the goodness within our student body. Are any of us perfect? Absolutely not. But there lies the challenge of being human, being a Christian and being part of the Gowrie family.

God Bless.

**Robert Corboy**

PRINCIPAL

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



On Sunday, we will celebrate Ascension Day together with the Parish. Ascension Day reminds us when Jesus, after 40 days after His Resurrection, went to Heaven. He left His disciples the task of reaching out to others with the Gospel message, baptising people with the Holy Spirit.

"Soon, you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit and receive the power of God. You will tell my story to the people in Jerusalem and to people all over the Earth."

For many Christians, the meaning of Ascension Day provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within our hearts, of keeping the Gospel Values, and of the ever-present Spirit of God, watching over and protecting us as we spread the light of Jesus' through good deeds we do to others.

Our boys learned a bit about this in our Retreats. Two of our students, Fredrick McGilvary and Chance Sellars, attended the Year 11 Student Christian Meditation Retreat at Paluma, with Miss Du Preez. We look forward to seeing them have an input with prayer and meditation in our school and dorms.

In our busy lives, it is important to take time out to reflect and connect with God through meditation. Retreats at beautiful locations such as Paluma offer a place for meditation to allow us to return to our lives re-energised. Our Year 11s were on Retreat at the Dairy. Prayer and quiet reflection gave them the chance to give space to what was important to them. It was an emotional day, but uplifting and inspiring as they all helped each other throughout the washing of hands prayer service. My thanks goes to the staff who helped on the Retreat day, and to the Passionist Youth team who led the day. Year 9 Retreat is up next in the first week of June.

**Diana Brodowska**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Year 11 students performing the washing of the hands prayer service at their retreat at the beginning of term.

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - CURRICULUM



This term has started at a cracking pace with many new initiatives being implemented thus far.

### LEARNING ENRICHMENT CENTRE (LEC)

In preparation for the next phase of Year Sevens progressing into High School, the LEC has been analysing valuable data on our students so that teachers can be tailoring planning to best suit the needs of the students in our care. Jenny Wills from the Townsville Catholic Education Office has been providing ongoing support for our LEC Coordinator Mrs Burberry, our Teachers and Assistants through Professional Development in Literacy.

### NAPLAN

A big thank you to all staff who were involved in the delivery of NAPLAN this year. From 2016, NAPLAN tests will be conducted online, with students sitting a 'tailored test', which adjusts the difficulty level of questions based on the student's performance up to that point.

### CAREERS

SF4NQ Careers Expo at Reid Park in Townsville has proved to be a popular outing for our Year 10 Students. This event has helped spark a few ideas for future career pathways which will be captured in a Senior Education Transition (SET) Plan for each student.

### BLOCK SUBJECTS

The senior school is about to embark on a different model of delivering VET qualifications. AUSCO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health and The Indigenous Rangers Program will be implemented in three intensive one week Blocks. St Teresa's will be taking full advantage of Australia's first Remote Health Education Centre by providing training that is flexible and culturally appropriate by experienced educators/trainers of Indigenous youth. All students in Years 11 and 12 will have the opportunity of gaining extra qualifications above and beyond their regular curriculum offered at the College. The OP eligible students have commenced their journey towards the QCS Test through regular practice sessions with Mrs Shannon during Night Study.

One of the key aims of St Teresa's is to retain students until they complete their Senior Phase of Schooling in a safe and caring learning environment where courses of study are meaningful, relevant and lead to real employment pathways.

### Angus Galletly

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - CURRICULUM



## HEAD OF BOARDING



The second term is well and truly underway. So much has happened in these last four weeks in the areas of school, sport, activities and special celebrations. Many of these are recorded in this newsletter and some of the boarding activities are covered in 'The Gowrie Yarn.'

### RUGBY LEAGUE

Many of the boys are involved with the local Rugby League Club, the Herbert River Crushers, where they join with the local players to compete in a wider competition. As part of this, there is a registration fee which covers insurance for the boys when training and playing. The annual registration fee is \$160 and this is paid directly to the club. Most boys have paid a little amount to allow them to play, however the club now needs boys to complete the payment. You may get a call from your son, or from me, asking that you finalise payments as soon as possible. There is a good chance that there may be some funding later to cover these costs and if so, then the money that has been paid will be refunded.

Four boys were selected from the Crushers to join the North Queensland Stingers, where they travel to Townsville for training. Congratulations to Kelly Conway, Hazem Toby, Hamish Gibson and Jeremiah Bowen.

### VOLLEYBALL

Fred David was recently selected in the NQ Volleyball team. The team played in Brisbane and Fred, according to his coach, excelled. There are photos of this in the Gowrie Yarn. This is just one achievement of special nature, there are certainly many others that will be mentioned at some stage.

### OVERNIGHT SUPERVISOR

Finally, some parents/carers have enquired about what happens when the Residential staff finish their duty at night. A big change that has taken place in the last year is that we have employed overnight supervisors who start duty when the residential staff finish for the night and remain on duty all night until staff arrive back in the morning. The task of the overnight supervisor is to ensure the safety of all the boys. He regularly checks that they are in the dorm and makes sure that boys are safe. Boys can contact the overnight supervisor by a phone which is placed outside the residential office, so that boys can contact him at all times. It is all part of our commitment to our ongoing duty of care.

Wishing you all the very best and all God's blessings.

**Fr Pius Jones SM**

HEAD OF BOARDING



## HEAD OF STUDENTS

Over the past few weeks here at school, we have had some discussions around the issue of teenage mental health. New research shows that nearly one in five young men thinks his life isn't worth living.

Mental health is a way of describing social and emotional wellbeing. Good mental health is central to your child's healthy development. It is associated with:

- feeling happy and positive about yourself and enjoying life
- healthy relationships with family and friends
- participation in physical activity and eating a healthy diet
- the ability to relax and to get a good night's sleep
- community participation and belonging.

We need good mental health to build strong relationships, adapt to change and deal with life's challenges.

With this in mind, we as a school here are offering an opportunity to engage in some education around the topic of mental health. **eheadspace** is an online and telephone mental health support service by Headspace - a National Youth Mental Health Foundation - for young people and their families and friends. An **eheadspace** live info session is a way for young people and their families and friends to ask professionals some questions in a totally anonymous and online environment. A series of upcoming **eheadspace** live info sessions are being specifically targeted at families and friends:

**Understanding self harm - Thursday 14 May, 12.00-1.00pm AEST**

**What if a young person doesn't want help? - Thursday 28 May, 12.00-1.00pm AEST**

For more information, visit:

<http://www.headspace.org.au/about-headspace/news-videos/news/eheadspace-live-info-sessions-family-and-friends-series>

I hope everybody has productive, rewarding and enjoyable Term 2 here at St Teresa's College.

Kind Regards,

**Shawn Hague**

HEAD OF STUDENTS



## YEAR 11 & 12 COORDINATOR



Term two is turning out to be a whirlwind of activities for Year 11 and 12 students.

### CAREER PATHWAYS

We have had a few visitors at the school to talk about career pathways and options including the Indigenous Police Recruiting Team from Brisbane. This was an excellent opportunity for Year 12s to explore the career avenues that can be pursued in the Queensland Police Force. The Australian Defense Force also visited and spoke to Year 10 and 11 students about trade based employment in the ADF. This relationship with the ADF Recruiting will continue as they interview Year 12 students who have expressed an interest in this field.

Careers will be further investigated in workshops that I will be running with Mr Geoff Lui from Townsville Catholic Education Office. The anticipated outcomes of these workshops is for students to gain a better understanding of what their own interests are based on their personality profiles, and to explore career options based on this information. These workshops will be run in June for Year 11s and Year 12s.

### LICENCES

After negotiations with QLD Transport, it looks like the first Road Safety and Learners Licence Testing will begin in June. This licence can only be offered to students who have provided their **original birth certificate**. If this has not already been sent to the College, it can be forwarded to me as soon as possible and hopefully we can include everyone on the first intake. If not, there will be another chance later in the year. On May 30 and 31, 18 Year 12 students will complete their Recreational Marine Licence, which again cannot be completed without the appropriate documentation.

### MID-TERM ASSESSMENT

The focus at the moment is assessment that is due midterm, as well as making sure everyone is on the right path to get assessment completed for the end of term and semester reports. Term 1 saw an improvement for Year 12 in their Traffic Lights compared to the end of last year. I am anticipating another improvement for both year levels.

**Lee Shannon**

YEAR 11 & 12 COORDINATOR



### LIKE US on Facebook!

Not only will we be your friend forever, but you can keep up to date with all that's happening at the College.

## SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



Greetings St Teresa's College Community,

May is full of activity and has brought us Mother's Day. I invited our students, particularly our younger grades, to send a card home to their Mum's. There was plenty of enthusiasm from our year 7s who got right behind the project. I trust that the Mums who received their cards were blessed!

A couple of weeks ago, I extended an invitation to our Year 12 students to register for Relay for Life 2015. There has been a wonderful response from our Grade 12s and we now have 18 students registered and nine staff members volunteering to participate and supervise at the overnight event. Relay for Life will be held at the Ingham Showgrounds on May 30 and 31, and is held annually to raise awareness and money for the Cancer Council. In the past, our students have been involved in the Relay for Life and it has been a memorable and fulfilling experience for staff and students alike.

Reconciliation week is very close on the horizon commencing on May 27 through to June 3. The week commences with Sorry Day on the May 26, where as a school we will be holding a Sea of Hands to mark the occasion. I will keep you posted on Reconciliation Week activities in the next newsletter.

God Bless,

**Gailene Kaurila**

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



## GOWRIE HAPPENINGS



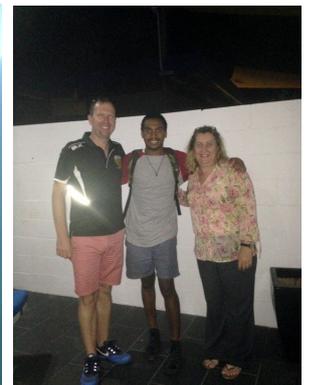
Year 10 students attended the annual Smart Futures 4 North Careers Expo in Townsville last week. Students had the opportunity to meet employers in person and collect valuable firsthand information on future career options.

Exposing our Year 10 students to the job market and meeting future employers will help them to prepare for their own careers and make them aware of available tertiary education possibilities.

After spending two hours at the expo, the boys had lunch on the Strand before returning to the College later in the day.

Thank-you to Mr Jordan and Miss Chesterton who accompanied students to Townsville.

**Marius Venter | YEAR 9 & 10 COORDINATOR**



Last week, I had the opportunity to take two teachers from the College to Palm Island. The visit was part of a cultural awareness pilot program that introduces our teachers to the communities that our students come from. As I have a deep connection with Palm Island and with common misconceptions surrounding the community, it was a good a place to start. Anna Burberry and Brendan Napier joined me on this trip and were in awe of Palm Island's beauty and charm. I was so proud to walk them around to meet and greet the local community. They even got a chance to see elder and Manbarra Traditional owner Mr Alan Palm Island in action as he painted one of his latest masterpieces. He and other local artist were commissioned to paint murals on the walls of the Joyce Palmer Health Centre and can be seen frequenting the local art center. We were treated to some fine dining from the local bistro and caught up with old boys Joshua Friday and Albert Gorringer. It is our hope that this and other trips planned for the future will bridge the gap in education by broadening the understanding between teachers and students.

**Aaron Thaiday-Janzen | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**



## SPORTS COORDINATOR



It has been an action-packed fortnight of Rugby League.

It started last week with the Aaron Payne Cup, where the Abergowrie first side narrowly went down to Ignatius Park here on our home ground. The game was played in great spirit and was supported by staff and students on the sideline - it was great to see the whole school give our team a tunnel all the way from the change-room to the field.

Mid week saw our second and U12 sides travel together to Ryan Catholic College to play against their Firsts Team, with both grades just missing out a win. The teams received an email from Ryan Catholic College congratulating players on their sportsmanship and the way in which they represented their College!

The end of the week again saw our seconds team in action, this time against Gilroy Santa Maria College's first side. The game was supported by the local Brothers Rugby League Club and was a fund raiser for both schools towards Confraternity in Ipswich this year.

On Friday, the College hosted the Inter-school Cross Country Carnival, with Ingham State High School taking out the event. Congratulations to:

Henry Filewood - First Place, 12 years

Darnell Donahue - First Place, 13 years

Gavin Kerr - Second Place, 16 years

Jaydon Coles - First Place, 17 years

### **Brendon Napier**

## SPORTS COORDINATOR



