



ST TERESA'S COLLEGE
— ABERGOWRIE —

Gowrie NEWS

SEMESTER 1 | TERM 2 | WEEK 7



IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 7 - 11

Torres Strait Visit
(Yorke, Murray, Darnley)

JUNE 11

Year 7/8/9 IYLP Camp

JUNE 24

Boys travel home

JUNE 24 - July 20

School Holidays

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

As we charge towards the end of term, I would like to bring to your attention some significant events that have happened over the last few weeks. Without stealing the 'thunder' of others who will be contributing to this newsletter, we are extremely proud of the boys involved in the following:

- Rugby league firsts team in the Aaron Payne Cup this week against Mackay State High and St Joseph's Catholic Cathedral Rockhampton.
- Under 14s rugby league team in their games against Columba Catholic College last week.
- Under 14 AFL team for winning the Gold Coast Suns Cup Carnival. They will now play the winner of the Cairns Region in a bid to contest down at the Gold Coast.

- Those boys who represented Herbert River in the North Queensland Cross Country Championships. Well done to Jaydon Coles who was selected in the NQ team.

- All boys involved in the Relay for Life event last weekend, an outstanding effort!

- All of Year 9 who this week participated in the retreat at the Diary. A big thank you to Father Damian who celebrated the mass with the boys.

Congratulations to the eight students who achieved their Learner Licenses this week. Thank-you to Mrs Shannon for organising this.

Next week, four year 8 boys - Maia Au, Jimmy Mestan, Samuel Bon-Wosomo and Charlie Uku - will travel to St Patrick's College in Townsville to represent the St Teresa's College in debating. We wish them all the best. (contined over page)

This week coming, we are also looking forward to visiting the Torres Straits. Fr Pius, Mr Thaiday and myself will be visiting Murray, Yorke and Darnley Islands.

Last weekend, the College hosted its first Community Consultation Committee Meeting for 2015 in Townsville. Committee members attended the Indigenous Catholic Council and Townsville Catholic Diocesan Office Reconciliation Dinner on the Friday night. A number of sessions were also held over the weekend at the Townsville Catholic Education Office, including a Community Input Workshop, Career Pathways presentation from TAIHS and DATSIP and a Yarn Session. Members also attended a tour of Lavarack Barracks, gaining an insight into one of the major employment pathways for our boys.

St Teresa’s College has a diverse range of communities and it is important to acknowledge that each community is unique. It is only through continuous consultation and engagement with parents, carers, family and communities that the College can continue to effectively educate the young men who are entrusted in our care.

Committee members:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Eddie Newman | Bamaga |
| Rachel Amini-Yanner | Burketown |
| Theresa Cowley | Hammond Island |
| Seriako Dorante | Hammond Island |

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ben Depoma | Murray Island |
| Elsie Kabere | Murray Island |
| Moses Kaddy | Murray Island |
| Maria Thaiday | Murray Island |
| Florence Morton | Palm Island |
| Doris Watson | Palm Island |
| Ray Sibley | Palm Island |
| Ruby Sibley | Palm Island |
| Orepa Larry | Warraber Island |

As this will be the last newsletter before the holidays, I would like to wish all those involved in Confraternity – both staff and students – all the very best when they compete in Ipswich during the first week of the holidays.

To our services staff who are involved in working with the Ryan Catholic College camp here at the College during week three of the holidays, a big thank you. The money raised from this event goes towards covering our NAIDOC expenses.

On behalf the College, I would also like to wish Father Damian all the best as he embarks on his pilgrimage across Spain, where he is raising money for the Missionaries of the Poor in the Philippines.

Enjoy the week

Robert Corboy



HEAD OF BOARDING



It's hard to imagine that we are more than half way through Term 2, with only four weeks to go until holidays. The boys came back from Boarders Leave Weekend and now we engage with the second half of the second term. The break did the boys well; thanks to all the families who got the Leave Weekend forms back on time.

TRAVEL

ABSTUDY has organised travel for the end of term and we now await the itineraries for the boys. Hopefully these should begin to come to us soon. Please remember that the boys take a copy home with them. When they arrive, ask them for the copy which has the details of return travel on it.

Please note that ABSTUDY organises travel to and from the College to the address on the records provided.

STAFF IN-SERVICE

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Diane Friday has been in-servicing the residential staff on the whole issue of mental health and wellbeing of adolescent boys. In the first session, Diane focused very much on the importance of what she called the 'dam' – that space where boys through engagement in many activities are able to take their minds off their worries. Simple activities like fishing, walking, riding bikes, sport, etc. were mentioned as being important ways to lessen stress in the lives of the boys. How times change! One of the significant stressors in the lives of people today is social media. This wonderful tool allows us to keep in contact with friends, share in their lives, and share something of our own lives. However this has been identified as one of the greatest causes of stress in young people. The 'dam' that Di spoke of, the activity sector, is one of the best ways for young people to relax. Our residential staff are continually looking for ways to keep boys engaged in a variety of activities.

ATM

The new ATM has arrived and has been installed in the Residential Office. We now only wait for Telstra to fix a dedicated phone line for the ATM to get it up and running. It is important that families know that there is a \$2 charge for transactions. The boys can withdraw \$120 per transaction and \$250 per day. If boys want to save money, they can withdraw that amount and put it in the safe in the Residential Office so that they are not paying \$2 for every small amount they withdraw. The ATM will be a real advantage in terms in terms of the boys being able to access money.

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

Fr Pius Jones SM

HEAD OF BOARDING



HEAD OF STUDENTS

As I sit here in my office writing this newsletter, I see lots of happy faces outside which makes me smile. I smile because I feel a great sense of pride as I reflect back on our students' achievements. I smile because each day, I see them developing as they grow stronger in their knowledge and skills. I smile because our students show an extraordinary sense of compassion, humour and a deep understanding of each other- a quality which is quite unique to St Teresa's College.



At this time of the school year, we often find that students are starting to become or already are, anxious. Anxious about their school grades, their assessment pieces and their holidays. Occasionally, this has a detrimental effect on student behaviour. As a school, we try and alleviate these feelings by providing pastoral support wherever possible. Our staff are always willing to offer any assistance and we also have two Counsellors to help out if the need arises. If your son is experiencing any of these feelings, we encourage you to get in contact with the school so we can provide assistance.

It has been a busy term, but once again, an enjoyable one for all. I hope all students enjoy the holiday period with family and friends and stay safe. See you all in term 3!

Kind Regards,

Shawn Hague

HEAD OF STUDENTS



ST TERESA'S COLLEGE DEBATE TEAM

Charlie Uku, Jimmy Mestan, Maia Au and Samuel Bon-Wosomo

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



Greetings St Teresa's College Community,

This past fortnight, we celebrated National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June).

The week was launched with National Sorry Day, which commenced with a very moving presentation in Chapel by Ms Brodowska. After chapel, the students were taken down to Forrest Beach where they were given the opportunity to work on a hand to put in the school 'Sea of Hands.'

The students spent some time working on their hands in the beautiful beachfront location, followed by a barbeque lunch and some relaxation time. After lunch, we were joined by Mr Jacob Cassady, elder of the Nywaigi tribe. Mr Cassady welcomed the boys to Country and spoke to them about embracing the opportunities that are given to them.

We then returned to the school where on assembly I read a brief statement to the students about the origins of the Sea of Hands concept. The boys then placed their hands in the holy ground in what was a beautiful and colourful display of creativity. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Angus Galletly for building on the Sea of Hands idea by turning it into a relaxing and most enjoyable BBQ day at the beach.

I feel blessed to have shared 2015 Sorry Day with the boys and I know that we can build on this in the years to come. National Reconciliation Week finished with Mabo Day on Wednesday June 3, where students marked the occasion with a reflection in Homeroom.

Last weekend, a group of staff and students took part in the Ingham Relay for Life. The boys had a blast! Yes it rained, and rained and rained some more but spirits were not dampened. The candle lighting ceremony was powerful and the boys were enriched, which gave them time to reflect on the whole purpose of the event. It was a very long night, but the sleep deprivation was a small price to pay to be a part of this experience. I want to send out a very special thank you to the teachers who volunteered their time to be a part of this event – Sue Botto, Arlene Turnbull, Heather Walker, Damon Kaurila and Sarah Du-Preez. We couldn't have done the event without your willing, giving hearts.

God Bless,

Gailene Kaurila

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN



Wet weather did not dampen the spirits of Abergowrie staff and students at Ingham's Relay for Life event last weekend

SORRY DAY & RELAY FOR LIFE



YEAR 7 & 8 COORDINATOR



The countdown has begun but yet there is still so much work to do!

With only three weeks until the end of term, it is now time for the boys to demonstrate what they have been learning and how much attention they have been paying in class. We know that not everyone is academic and throughout the year 7 and 8 year levels, we have a wide variety of learning abilities. What each and every teacher is looking for however, is for the boys to show an improvement in their learning from when they first walked into the classroom five months ago. Hopefully that improvement will be demonstrated in their assessment tasks, but it could also be shown in their behavior and attitude.

These first years of high school are all about learning to be in secondary school, acting as a high school student and taking responsibility for who you are and what you do. The majority of the boys are doing this well and it has been wonderful to see them mature in such a short space of time. As a co-coordinator, I was extremely proud of our year 7s and their approach to the NAPLAN test. They worked to the best of their ability and respected the test environment in each and every session. Well done boys!

There is not long to go now, and I think I speak for everyone when I say that we are all looking forward to a well-earned break!

Everyone, keep up the good work!

Jo Davey

YEAR 7 & 8 COORDINATOR

Year 7 & 8 students attended the Hinchinbrook's Tyto Tasman Turtle Day over Boarder's Long Weekend.



AARON PAYNE CUP & AFL GOLD COAST SUNS CUP

