

# Gawrie NEWS

SEMESTER 1 | TERM 1 | WEEK 2



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to warmly welcome back all our returning boys and their families, and in particular, our newest members of the Gowrie family. Our school is once again full of life and we couldn't be happier. 2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the College as we continue to build on the wonderful reputation that is attributed to all staff, students and families that have gone before.

As I stood at the front door watching the cars and buses arrive last week, I couldn't help but think that the very things that set us apart from other schools help to bring us closer together. Our students come from all across Queensland, the Torres Straits, Cape, Gulf, Northern Territory and PNG, all with different traditions, religions, and socio-economic conditions; yet when these young men put on the College uniform, they become one Gowrie family.

This year, more than 50 new students have joined our Gowrie family and once again, we are overflowing in Years 7 to 11. At the time of writing this, we continue to receive enquiries and applications from families wanting their sons to be educated at St Teresa's College and unfortunately, they will all be placed on a waiting list.

### 2015 CELEBRATIONS

**Introduction of Year 7** An outstanding success and a wonderful addition to our community. In the words of one of our Year 12 students, 'it made us seniors step up and look after the younger brothers'.

**Year 12s** I am pleased to announce that 100% of our graduates received their QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education). An outstanding result and full credit to the boys first and foremost as well as our families and staff.

**Gowrie Clip** Once again an outstanding production and many thanks to all involved. Visit our Facebook page or website to view the clip.

### 2015 new initiatives

- TAIHS joined us as our Health Services provider
- Mass on Thursday mornings for the entire community
- New Boarding model (horizontal structure)

### 2015 Reviews and Feedback

- Three successful independent reviews: COE Validation, CRICOS, NSSAB
- Two excellent surveys that affirmed our practices and gave us constructive feedback in moving forward: Leuven Survey, RADII Survey
- Two internal reviews: Library, Catering (awarded to Catercare)

**Year 10 Work experience** Last year saw the introduction of a week-long work experience program for the Year 10s; the first time in the history of the College.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**FEBRUARY 10**  
Ash Wednesday

**FEBRUARY 12**  
Interhouse  
Swimming Carnival

**FEBRUARY 13**  
Anniversary of  
National Apology

**FEBRUARY 16**  
College Prefect  
Induction

**FEBRUARY 19-21**  
Community  
Consultation  
Committee Meeting

Boys were given the opportunity to work with local businesses in town including plumbers, auto mechanics, primary schools, the community pool and cafes. Others went for a week long experience in Townsville with the Army and at Toomby's Horsemanship and Cattle training property.

**St Teresa's Day and the Gowrie Factor** The day was a reminder of our patron Saint and all that we aspire for in the education of your sons. It was a day of reflection and celebration and I'm sure you have seen photos of our inaugural Gowrie Factor. If not, they can be found Gowrie News, Gowrie Yarn or on Facebook.

**Graduation** This is a special day not only in the lives of the Year 12 boys and their families, but for the entire community. It is our core business and a day where we all take time in celebrating our students' achievements. Once again, great photos from last year can be found on Facebook, especially of the Graduates' dance on sacred ground.

We had a debrief of the day, as we do with all major events, and I posed the basic questions to the College leadership Team; what worked, what didn't and how can we make it better. Always good conversation but one question came out of it that I would like some feedback on from yourselves. All Year 12 students in the State finish on the Friday, yet our students graduate on the Saturday. Should we move it to be in line with all their counterparts? The reason for Saturday as I understand is to allow families to get to the College due to work commitments during the week. The question being asked, does this still apply if families are given a year's notice of the change? There is a desire amongst the staff for the move but I am keen to find out from our families. If it is an issue for families, I do not intend to move it. Your thoughts? I intend to do a survey to all our 2016 year 12 parents in the coming days.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2016

**New subjects** Our aim continues to provide the best educational opportunities for your son and this year we are broadening our curriculum offerings to include:

- Agricultural studies from Year 7-10
- Music from Years 7-9
- Drama for Year 9
- Hospitality for Year 10
- Certificate II in Skill for work and Vocational Pathways for Year 10
- Maths B for Year 11 (thank you to Gilroy Santa Maria College in Ingham where our students will join their community for classes)
- Physics for Year 11 (thank you to Gilroy Santa Maria College in Ingham where our students will join their community for classes)

This year, we will also introduce a Teacher Librarian to support the academic program of the College. We also have in place a \$10,000 scholarship(s) for a 2016 graduate(s) wanting to enter the Hospitality industry. Thank you to Catercare, our College catering provider.

### **New partnerships**

Our relationships with industry continue to strengthen including the following new initiatives:

- Royal Military College Duntroon who will once again conduct exercises at the College in May.
- IRAR out of Lavarack Barracks Townsville who have officially set up a partnership with the College. An opportunity to experience Defence Force life with IRAR will once again be offered to our Year 10 students during work experience.

- Toomby's Cattle and Farming Station outside of Townsville.

**Block Grant Authority** At the end of 2015, the College was successful in its application for a \$2.8 million grant to upgrade the dorms and remove the external toilet block, renovate the Year 8 classrooms and build a new agricultural shed next to the market garden and chicken enclosure. When discussing our next application for 2016 with key people, the question was asked as to whether we should we hand back the money earmarked for the residences and reapply in 2016. We would therefore knock down all the Junior dorms and toilet block (barring Benjamin and Putney) and rebuild boarding from the ground up. There are 3 arguments:

- Maintain a contemporary boarding facility for our boys in what is a competitive market place.
- As our numbers increase, the current residential footprint is too congested and there is a strong argument to spread the dorms.
- Have all age appropriate students in their own dorm, building residences of 50 so there is room for potential growth. Currently we have overflow situations which is unsustainable.

The Townsville Catholic Education Office is in agreement with the College and is supporting a new application, exciting news! I will keep all our community updated on the progress of our application throughout the year. We will however continue with the renovation of the Year 7 classrooms and the building of an Agricultural shed this year.

**Community Consultation Committee 2016** Our committee will be meeting for three days commencing on Friday, March 19. The committee members are as follows:

Stanjoe Tero  
Seriako Dorante  
Eddie Newman  
Ray Sibley  
Ruby Sibley  
Florence Morton  
Ben Depoma  
Elsie Kabere  
Rachael Yanner  
Doris Watson  
Ralph Garrawurra  
Valerie Gulliver  
Theresa Cowley  
Orepa Larry

As always, you are welcome to contact the College with any questions, clarification or ideas, but you are also invited to contact any of these members as representatives of the parent body.

**Gowrie Review** Fr Pius and Mrs T are in the final stages of the Gowrie Review - our annual school magazine. This will be going to the printers shortly and families will receive a copy when boys return home for the Term 1 holidays.

**NEW STAFF** I would like to welcome the following new staff to the College:

Ross Pattinson	<b>Teacher</b>
Domenic Heidke	<b>Teacher</b>
Grace Mberu	<b>Teacher</b>
Sam Strong	<b>Teacher</b>
Max Bailee	<b>IYLP Teacher</b>
Ashley Spina	<b>Receptionist and Principal's PA</b>
Ryan Sheahan	<b>Boarding Supervisor</b>
Lea Cavalli	<b>Laundry</b>
Melissa Collinson	<b>Cleaner</b>
Brooke Barden	<b>Cleaner</b>
Darren Sellick	<b>Overnight Supervisor</b>

Please pray with me that God blesses our students, our families, and our teachers as we proclaim,  
"We are one body in Christ."

*Loving God,*

*We thank you for this new school year. We ask you to bless our students, families, and all of our teachers. Give them the vision to see the path you set before them. Grant them the courage to follow your will, so that through the gifts and talents you have given them, they may bring your love to others.*

*Fill them with your wisdom and blessings and help them to be an example to one another. May our students always encourage one another to be young men of faith, students of conviction who are not afraid to make a difference in the world.*

*We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord,  
Amen*

God bless

Robert Corboy  
**PRINCIPAL**

## MUSIC LESSONS

Dear Parents,

St Teresa's College, Abergowrie is pleased to be able to provide the opportunity for students be involved in a music instrumental program for guitar and piano from an experienced music teacher, Mrs Vera Di Bella. Vera teaches instrumental guitar to the Year 7 students at the College and plays at the weekly school masses held at the school. Participation in private instrumental lessons opens up the opportunity for students to participate in a variety of College functions, such as school Masses, liturgies, assemblies and concerts that the College may hold. This may also lead to performances in the wider community.

Lessons are 30 minutes each week and can be individual lessons or in a group of two or three. Fees will be \$40 per ½ hour for individual private lesson and \$25 for a group of 2/3 students. The students will be allocated a time on a rotated timetable.

The College will facilitate arrangements for a student's tuition on a first in first serve basis. To ensure a place with Mrs Di Bella, we recommend you apply as early as possible.

This program will commence when there is a sufficient amount of students enrolled with this program.

Please send in the Instrumental Tuition Application Form to the College as soon as possible. Completed application forms need to be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**.

Kind regards,

Vera Di Bella  
**MUSIC TEACHER**

Robert Corboy  
**PRINCIPAL**



# 2016 Leaders



Nicholas Kirori  
**COLLEGE CAPTAIN**



Mark Rosendale  
**VICE CAPTAIN**



Fredrick McGilvary  
**SRC**



Steven Stafford  
**RYAN CAPTAIN**



Isaak Toby  
**MCGUIRE CAPTAIN**



Ngithi Johnson  
**DOYLE CAPTAIN**



Wartoto Eremas  
**DORAN CAPTAIN**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the 2016 Academic year. It has been wonderful to see familiar faces returning and exciting to meet new ones. A very big welcome to our new students and their families. It is great to see the Year 7 and 8 students settling into College life and engaging in learning activities.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers who are making sure that our students are adjusting to Secondary school. There have been many changes and new initiatives put in place during the last part of 2015 and now it is time to let our students experience some exciting new endeavours.

We have expanded our curriculum in Years 7-10 to include Music and Drama, and have also provided opportunities for our students to compete in a range of extra-curricular activities including debating. The continuation of the Ranger Program and Primary Health will only go from strength to strength this year with the support of our Registered Training Organisations and innovative training ideas. The College is committed to linking students with industry and has forged strong partnerships with AUSCO in Townsville.

Our teaching and learning team is very committed to providing a great Gowrie learning environment. With our new staff members now on board, we are progressing into what promises to be a very fruitful year.

**Angus Galletly**  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



## HEAD OF BOARDING



The start of every school year in a boarding school is quite unique. Not only do the students deal with new timetables, teachers, and changes in their curriculum, but for a new boarder, the challenge of adjusting to a whole new routine can be quite demanding. At the same time excitement abounds: meeting new people, making new friends and the chance to do lots of things with 'brothers' from over 40 different communities is an education in itself.

For some boys it can be quite demanding learning to look after themselves: making a bed, putting clothes into the wash, learning to look after their property, knowing what is happening next, and learning what is permitted and what is not. This is a great deal to carry around in the mind of a young person. Add to that the experience of homesickness, and yes, having to sit down and do night study...well, what a transition your boys make! Yet surprisingly most do it very well and learn very fast.

As family, you wonder how they will go. For parents/grandparents and carers, it is a great risk that you take in entrusting your boys to our care. We deeply appreciate and acknowledge that. We thank-you for entrusting your boys to our care and for beginning a partnership in their development. It is indeed a great privilege for us.

Recently, I was reading a speech that Pope Francis gave on education. He shared this insight:

'Education means taking risks. An educator who does not know how to take risks does not educate. A father and a mother who do not know how to take risks do not teach their child well. Taking risks in a reasonable way. What does this mean? Teaching how to walk. When you teach a child to walk, you teach them to take risks.'

What does Pope Francis mean here? Well, in a very real way you have taken a big risk in sending your son to boarding school. You are risking that others will care for him, help him grow, seek his development and do this all within a context of safety and a place where your child will be happy.

At St Teresa's College, we are absolutely dedicated to the safety and growth of your boy: spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially within the context of a happy environment. Part of their development requires communication between boys and family, and family and school. This open communication strengthens the chances of your boy flourishing at St Teresa's. We encourage you to come and stay if possible, to contact us via phone or email, and to know that your boys are able to talk to you on the phone. Please never hesitate to contact us at any time.

We hope and pray that 2016 will be another great year for all of us, our boys, our families, and our communities.

I wish you all God's blessings and every best wish.

**Fr Pius Jones SM**  
HEAD OF BOARDING



## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



A big welcome back to all our students! The boys seem eager to be back at school and continue with some good learning. The start of a new year is always a busy one.

All Ingham Catholic Schools' Staff took part in a Professional Development Day about the Year of Mercy. This is celebrated by all Catholics throughout the world for the whole year. Pope Francis wants us all to show Acts of Mercy (kindness, forgiveness, and reconciliation) to all we meet. The world around us can be transformed by such acts of mercy. Holy Doors of Mercy have been installed in Cathedrals, designated churches and schools, so that all people can be welcomed when they go through the Doors of Mercy to receive God's Grace. Fr Pius blessed our Door of Mercy at our School Chapel this week. During the Year of Mercy, we will also say the Hail Holy Queen prayer at each Mass:



Ash Wednesday and Lent are soon upon us. This is where we prepare our mind and heart for Easter. Again, throughout Lent, we are expected to pray, fast, and do good works for others (acts of mercy). All RE classes will discover more about Lent in the coming lessons. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday in the Chapel.

I wish all our parents, carers, students, and staff a great start for the new year. May 2016 be filled with many good blessings for you all.

**Diana Brodowska**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## HEAD OF STUDENTS



Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a great summer break, and that we are all ready for a wonderful start to the term. There will be many opportunities for involvement, growth, and learning across the College this year. This is a very exciting time of year for most students – learning how to navigate the school and class timetables, meeting new friends and teachers, and reconnecting with old ones.

As in any time of change and transition, this can also be a rather stressful period; this is true for both returning families as well as those brand new to the College. Students who are starting school for the first time or moving to a new school have the biggest adjustment, but even moving up a year means managing with a new teacher, more academic demands and a changing social circle. These are a few things you can do to help your child settle back into school:

1. **Be prepared:** If you are new to the College, encourage your children to make some friends in the same class; if they feel lost or overwhelmed during the school day, they can seek out a friendly face.
2. **Set up a good routine:** Making sure students are going to bed on time, eating correctly and following procedures are a good way to start.
3. **Stay Positive:** It is important to stay positive about the new school year. Children need to feel that you are happy about them going to school or being away from you so that they don't worry about you or feel that they are missing out on other fun at home.
4. **Tell them what you want them to do:** Letting children know how you want them to behave at school in a positive way is really helpful.

If you have particular concerns about your child's settling in, please do not hesitate to either email me or give me a call. I look forward to a very successful and rewarding 2016 here at St Teresa's College.

**Shawn Hague**

HEAD OF STUDENTS

## YEAR 11 & 12 COORDINATOR



Welcome back to school for 2016.

**YEAR 12S** have hit the ground running. For most of the students, their timetables have not changed so they have picked up where they left off last year – although they are now the Seniors of the school and carry a lot more responsibility on their shoulders. I am pleased to say that all students in year 12 have made the transition from Year 11 extremely well and have taken on the new role of leaders of the school. Next week, we will have the induction of the student leaders and the blessing and handing out of senior badges, however I would like to emphasise here that all students in year 12 are leaders of the school. I know this is a responsibility that they all take very seriously.

**YEAR 11** students have also made the transition to senior school well and while it will take a little time to ensure that everyone has chosen the correct subjects that will lead to their chosen career pathway, by the middle of the term, everyone will be in the best position to attain their QCE and be set up to achieve their career goals.

**CAREERS** The focus for the seniors this term is to have each student sit with myself and Mr MacErlean in an interview to complete a Personal Learning Plan, a Career Pathway and Transition Plan. This may sound like a lot of paperwork to complete, and it is, but it is the surest way to make certain every student has the chance to work to their strengths, know where their weaknesses are so appropriate support can be given and goals for schooling and their future career can be achieved. This was a new process that was put into place last year and with the help of key staff, every student in year 12, 2015 attained a QCE. We will be continuing with our effective Traffic Lights System that is a very clear visual of each student's current levels of achievement in each subject. Through discussions with myself and subject teachers, students are able to take responsibility for their learning and see what they may need to work on or change to ensure they achieve their QCE..

**BIRTH CERTIFICATES** A similar system to the academic Traffic Lights that we use in the senior years will be implemented in relation to application and cooperation, and this will be updated twice per term. As usual, we will be organising Learners and Boat Licenses for those who are of age, but we can not do this without an ORIGINAL birth certificate. Towards the end of term, there will be a replied paid, registered envelope posted to each parent to send the original birth certificate back so we can get this process started. The birth certificates are used for the attainment of the licenses as well as identification for Defence Force applications for those that are interested in pursuing a career in the Australian Defence Force. I would like to assure you that the certificates are kept safe and returned to the student either at the end of the year or when they may require it throughout the year.

**2015 GRADUATES** I am still in the middle of tracking down all of last year's Year 12s to see where they are and what they are up to in regards to either future study or work, but I believe that most of the students are either employed or beginning to continue their study. It is my goal that the students this year are just as successful.

There are always so many things happening at school and outside of school and it all begins next week with four senior students – two Year 12s and two Year 11s – going to Townsville to participate in the annual Zone Schools Constitutional Convention at JCU. I wish those boys best of luck, especially Ngithi Johnson, who will be delivering a 5 minute speech.

All the best for 2016.

**Lee Shannon**

YEAR 11/12 COORDINATOR

## YEAR 7/8 COORDINATOR

Welcome back to all our year 8 students, I hope you all had a well-deserved break and spent quality time with your family and friends. I would also like to welcome into our Gowrie family all our new year 7 students and their families.

We are once again excited to have a young and enthusiastic group of boys joining us. There is nothing like the unbridled energy that 11 and 12 year old boys can bring into a school. Over the past two weeks, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting our new boys, their families and finding out how we can best work together to help each and every boy reach their potential.

We now have most of our year 8 boys back and it always amazes me how much a boy can grow over such a short period of time! I've had to look twice at a few of the boys, amazed at the more mature young man standing in front of me. A number of teachers have commented that our once little year 7s are now back with bigger smiles, taller bodies and a keenness to get down to work.

I look forward to what the year may bring and invite families to contact me – at any time – to talk about how we can best support your student.

**Jo Davey**

YEAR 7/8 COORDINATOR



# WELCOME TO THE GOWRIE FAMILY!



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