December 2015

At Thuringowa State High School it is very important that every student is learning in every classroom, every day. Our dedicated teaching staff have provided students with the best possible opportunity to learn and achieve. I hope that every student and family have enjoyed being at our school and we look forward to an exciting 2016.

We have a number of staff taking leave or transferring schools for 2016. We would like to thank the following permanent staff for their contributions and wish them all the best for the future: Ms Finlayson, Mrs McBride and Ms Cazlet. One of our dedicated cleaners is also retiring after years of service. All the best to Mrs James. A special mention is also given to Mrs Nelson who has been promoted to Deputy Principal in Townsville. Mrs Nelson has been a teacher, Head of Department, acting Deputy Principal and Theatre Restaurant producer at Thuringowa since 2000. She has contributed so much to the school over that time. We wish you all the best.

It was fantastic to acknowledge our school award winners and 2016 leaders at the Annual Awards evening earlier this month. We certainly do have a large number of great students at our school. We also recently celebrated with our graduating Year 12 students at our Farewell Ceremonies and Formal Dinner. Both were tremendous events and we wish our Year 12 students all the best whilst they wait final results and begin new pathways.

To all students and families that are leaving our school community I request that you contact the school to finalise details. I also thank you for your contributions towards our great school and wish you all the best.

2016 School Uniform
I am requesting that families support their child to begin the 2016 school year with the correct school uniform. At Thuringowa State High School students are expected to wear the correct school uniform every day. All students must wear a school shirt and school shorts every day. Year 7 students and new students must only wear school shorts with the ‘GOWA’ or ‘Thuringowa’ logo on them.

Students may only wear short black or white socks and must have appropriate footwear. Students may also begin purchasing the new items available which include Year 10-12 formal shirts and ties and Year 7-12 school jerseys.

P&C meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6pm in the admin building…. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Thuringowa State High School
26-54 Vickers Road South, Condon, Qld 4815
Website: www.thuringowashs.eq.edu.au
QSchools App: Thuringowa SHS

PO Box 186, Thuringowa Central, Qld 4817
Phone: (07) 4753 8888
Fax: (07) 4773 1222
Email: admin@thuringowashs.eq.edu.au
Facial Piercings are not permitted for any Year 7 – 11 student at Thuringowa State High School. Any continuing student in Year 12 with a facial piercing must ensure they are flat and not protruding. These students may be requested to remove or cover their piercing whilst at school. Students who do not meet the required uniform expectations may be withdrawn from class to continue their study in the office.

Finally, we welcome any donations of school uniforms that can be used as spares or emergencies for other students. If you child no longer requires the uniform please pass them on to our front office staff.

School Security
With the holidays fast approaching, we are requesting you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call School Watch on 13 17 88 and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

2016 Return to School
Before you begin your holidays please ensure students have returned all text and library books, otherwise families will be invoiced for any missing items. Our school office re-opens for enquiries at 9.00am on Monday 18 January and all Queensland students will now start the 2016 school year on Wednesday 27 January - the day after the Australia Day public holiday.


As this is the last newsletter for 2015 I wish everybody a safe and enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends!

Grant Dale
Principal

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Grant Dale  gdale8@eq.edu.au
Deputy Principal Joanna Wenck  jwenc1@eq.edu.au
Acting Deputy Principal Tanya Nelson  tnesl21@eq.edu.au
Acting Deputy Principal Tom Frankling  tfran44@eq.edu.au

Heads Of Departments:
Languages & Humanities  Heather Reid  hreid12@eq.edu.au
Mathematics, Business & Information Technology  Anna Kingma  aking107@eq.edu.au
Home Economics, ITD, Music, Art, Drama, Library  Edna Luke  eluke3@eq.edu.au
Acting Junior Secondary  Cassandra King  cking145@eq.edu.au
Senior Secondary & VET  Celia O’Keeffe  cokee10@eq.edu.au
Science & HPE  Wendy Bode  wbode1@eq.edu.au
Special Education  Loren Swancutt  lwells68@eq.edu.au
Curriculum  Cheryl Phillips  cphil139@eq.edu.au
Young Scholars launches in Northern Queensland

The Queensland Academies Young Scholars Program celebrated an important systemic contribution on November 25, 2015 - facilitating a workshop for students from three Townsville primary schools.

A group of just under 30 Year 5 and 6 students from Weir, Kelso and Rasmussen State Schools, supported by a wonderful team of Year 9 peer mentors from Thuringowa State High School participated in a unique interactive workshop that introduced students to Global Tropics Futures Young Scholars Program, currently being developed in collaboration James Cook University.

Staff from the SPARQ-ed program modelled possibilities of future programming through the workshop entitled The Light Fantastic, through which students gained a strong understanding of light, and its role in everyday life. The mentors played a key role in supporting their younger peers - inspiring them to work through the experiments with confidence and to not be afraid to question expected outcomes.

Working in one of JCU’s contemporary science education laboratories, the students engaged in a half day exploration of light and light based technologies. They participated in hands on experimentation and data collection and developed an evidence based understanding of the wave particle duality and the nature of colour. They certainly were highly engaged in the investigations of diffraction grating, reflection, refraction, transmission and absorption - as well as fluorescence and chromatography and the practical aspects of indicator chemistry. These students are now well positioned to explore deeper light based inquiry concepts including optics (microscopes/ telescopes), colourimetric analysis, fibre optics and visual perception.

The broader strategic intent of the Global Tropics Futures Young Scholars Program is to further extend this work through teacher professional development and virtual student engagement programs. The Queensland Academies are proud to support this important regional initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration.
School Vision Statement

Great School Great Opportunity

School Motto
Promoting Achievement

School Vision
Thuringowa State High School student will achieve personal success in their learning and contribute as responsible and productive citizens.

We do this by:
- Providing a personalised and student-centred approach to learning
- Creating a culture of learning, high expectations and continuous improvement
- Encouraging equity and social justice
- Supporting personal and community well-being
- Developing partnerships with our community
- Recognising diversity
- Celebrating achievement

Values
- Lifelong learning - we believe that everyone has the right to learn and can learn
- Quality achievement - we strive for high expectations and educational excellence
- Positive relationships - we promote a safe environment, respectful interactions and responsible behaviours
- Connected communities - we create networks and partnerships across our school community
- School pride - we celebrate our school identity, achievement and traditions
Year 12 Geography

Year 12 Geography students studied a unit on sustaining biodiversity during Term 3. We had the pleasure of hosting two members from Townsville Bird-life who provided a presentation on birds and their nests.

Janet Robino (President) and Janet Cross (WHS) facilitated interesting discussions about bird behaviours, and on birds that have been spotted in the students’ own back yards. The ladies introduced students to an “APP” on your phone that enables you to count and identify bird species. We learnt how bird watching is now an activity in demand by many scientists and many in the industry.

For example, cane farmers near Inkerman (south of Home Hill) are now making owl boxes to locate in their paddocks to manage rodents within the fields, decreasing the requirement for harmful chemical use on the farm. We also learnt that farmers are making massive efforts to address the quality of the environment on which they farm. They are putting in wetlands, attracting birds, and as a consequence, enabling the farmer to recycle fertiliser laden waters back to the wetlands, where the nutrients are removed, thus preventing nutrients flowing into the Great Barrier Reef.

In addition, the wetlands provide habitat for a variety of birds, which help with pollination, dispersion of seeds and insect control. We also learnt that there are plants that can only be germinated if they have ‘passed through’ the cassowaries guts – leaving students to realise that if and when cassowary populations in the tropics dwindle, so will a number of important rainforest plants causing a major loss in biodiversity.

Mrs Robino and Mrs Cross brought binoculars for students to use. We went for a wander into the schools rainforest and oval areas, to discover in excess of 10 different species, including the fig bird and drongo. We also saw the school’s own bower bird – if you look into its bower area, he has placed green glass at the front of his bower, surrounded by silver items and then purple items.

Did you know bower birds also collect and place different colour items in separate colour piles!! So next time you see a bird, hopefully you will see it from a different perspective; every bird, no matter how small, has a very important role in sustaining our ecosystem’s biodiversity. They are also very clever too!

So what did we do with this information?

Year 12 students conducted a biodiversity audit of the school. Students created proposals to identify how we can improve the school grounds biodiversity, evaluate the proposals and made decisions about which proposals was:

- most sustainable
- most economically viable
- able to improve, manage and sustain the school’s biodiversity
We would like to thank Mrs Robino and Mrs Cross from Birdlife Townsville very much for their time and efforts in supporting our inquiry project and look forward to sharing with them our results and inviting them back to do some more bird watching!

Celia O’Keeffe
Head of Senior Schooling

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**Defence Work Experience Term 4**

From 13th October to 17th October, 20 of our students from Years 10-12 had the opportunity to participate in a major work experience program with 1RAR Charlie Company.

The students were transported each day to Lavarack Barracks where they undertook personal training with the company every morning.

Students had access to the barracks Weapons Training System area, and were shown a full range of different work areas with in the 1RAR company.

On Friday, we celebrated their successful completion of the week, with presentations of medallions and certificates from Lieutenant Colonel Groat and Captain Dalzell.

Parents and family were invited to the ceremony to witness the student’s achievement.

**Congratulations** on all of the students who completed the program.

Celia O’Keeffe
Head of Senior Schooling
The iAchieve program for Term 4 consists of selected students in Years 7, 8 & 9 meeting in weeks 2, 4 and 6.

At these meetings, students participate in lessons which are aligned with their student planners. They can focus on a range of extension skills and students work with their iAchieve mentors to discuss strategies for development.

This mentoring program offers students an opportunity to set goals and work to further their abilities. Students wanting to be selected for the 2016 program can contact Miss King for more information.

MISS CASSANDRA KING
HEAD OF JUNIOR SECONDARY
Year 12 Geography

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical environmental action programme that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. Young people aged between 17 and 24, who are interested in gaining practical training and experience while being paid to work in their local environment, make up the Green Army across Australia.

The Year 12 Geography class were privileged to have Ross Gelling, Green Army Supervisor from Conservation Volunteers Australia arrive on Tuesday afternoon with his crew.

The purpose of their visit was to assist the Year 12 Geography students with their final piece of assessment. The task recognises Thuringowa State High School as being located in the Dry Tropics of North Queensland; and how we all have a responsibility to sustain biodiversity in the tropics and ensure that our actions today do not limit the range of social, cultural, environmental and economic options open to future generations. The purpose of the task is to establish a biodiversity plan for the school and make a difference.

Students identified the importance of different levels of vegetation around the school to provide habitats for marsupials, including possums. We also discovered that the back paddock is a very important remnant habitat full of habitat trees (aged trees with hollows).

We learned of indigenous uses of a variety of the plant species and interesting facts. For example, did you know that there are trees that send out a chemical via their decaying leaves and through their root systems to stop other plants from growing near them? This is called Allelopathy: the suppression of growth of one plant species by another due to the release of toxic substances.

**Celia O’Keeffe**  
**Year 12 Geography Teacher**
Alli won the Movie Review Category in the Newspapers-in-Education (NIE) Competition (Townsville Bulletin)

Movie Review - Woman in Gold

Recently I saw Woman in Gold, the latest movie directed by Simon Curtis and featuring the brilliant Hellen Mirren as the real life Maria Altmann, and the likeable Ryan Reynolds as her lawyer Randy Schoenberg. With its serious look at life in Austria under the Nazi regime and the persecution of the Jewish people, it was not a movie I would usually run to see. But, surprisingly I really enjoyed it and learnt a lot more about the Holocaust and the world of art. I would recommend it for older teenagers who could appreciate the history.

Based on real life events, the movie tells the story of Maria Altmann an elderly Jewish woman, living in America, who attempts to reclaim her family possessions sixty years after they were stolen by the Nazis during World War II. Among these possessions is the famous Klimt painting of her aunt, “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I”, which Austria considers one of its most important national treasures. With the help of her young lawyer Randy Schoenberg, she starts a long legal battle to reclaim her heritage and to seek justice.

With its skilfully crafted flashbacks, showing the young Maria (Tatiana Maslany) with her new husband Fritz (Max Irons) and the glamour of pre-Nazi Vienna, the atmospheric music conveying the tension of their escape to America, and the astonishing settings of modern day Vienna and Los Angeles, this movie is a real cinema experience. There were exceptional performances all round which clearly gave a message that we should never forget the horrible actions of the Nazi regime and the devastating impact on so many Jewish families; Marie herself says “Because people forget, you see, especially the young”. Woman in Gold is a movie that many people will find unforgettable.

I highly recommend this movie for a more mature audience who would understand the issues and the message conveyed in this true-life story of an interesting and brave elderly Jewish woman.

Rating: 5 stars.

Alli - Year 10
Thuringowa State High School
Thuringowa State High School students participated in the successful 5-day field experience to JCU’s Orpheus Island Research Station.
Thuringowa State High School

Student Leaders 2016

School Captains
School Captain         Matt
School Captain         Eliza
School Vice-Captain    Liam
School Vice-Captain    Hayley

Junior School Captains
Junior School Captain  Travis
Junior School Captain  Jessica

Student Representative Council
President              Nikkita
Treasurer              James
Secretary              Chloe
Executive Officer (Sports) Neil-Francis
Executive Officer      Alex
Executive Officer      Hayden
Executive Officer      Kain

Indigenous Leaders
Junior Indigenous Leader Jedda
Junior Indigenous Leader Emma
Senior Indigenous Leader Paitin
Senior Indigenous Leader Edwin

Gold House Captains
Senior House Captain    Adam
Senior House Captain    Jess
Junior House Captain    Simone

Green House Captains
Senior House Captain    Gus
Senior House Captain    Eliza
Junior House Captain    Leo
Junior House Captain    Laura

White House Captains
Senior House Captain    Thomas
Senior House Captain    Richelle
Junior House Captain    Jack
Junior House Captain    Jessica
Thuringowa State High School
Junior Secondary Celebration

You are invited to attend our Junior Second Celebration ceremony as our Year 9 students move into their Senior Secondary phase of learning.

Where: Thuringowa State High School Theatre
When: Monday December 7th at 1:20pm
RSVP: To the school office on 4753 8888 for catering

The ceremony should take approximately an hour with students being presented with a certificate, culminating in cake cutting and BBQ lunch. Parents are welcome to take their students home after the event.

Please come along to help us celebrate the end of your student’s Junior Secondary phase of learning.
Thuringowa State High School Awards Night photos are now available to view and purchase online.

For your information, parents need to go to the website: www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the following code Q9A REX C2W

Then Click on ‘Event Photos’. Thumbnails of all groups are available to view and order. All orders will be delivered back to the school.

We are very grateful for the donation of a quantity of paint from Solver Paint Centre. It is a very handy for our Janitor to use for repairs and maintenance that regularly occur.
HOSPITALITY TRIP TO THE HOLIDAY INN FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2015
TEMeka, NIKita, LochtY, BRyce AND Mrs HOlMEs

With the prospect of an exciting day away from school, and no clear idea of what to expect from the day, we all headed off to the Holiday Inn. We were met by the organisers of Beacon, and joined by students from Kirwan and Ingham, with a total of 11 students.

We spent the morning listening to people speak about the different jobs that are available in the Hospitality industry. There really is a huge range of jobs: Front of House, Chef, Social Media Sales to name but a few. The range of nationalities represented there was really quite vast as well, Mexican, Scottish, Indian and of course, Australian.

We had some beautiful scones with jam and cream, and were then off to our first challenge; preparing a hotel room for the next guest, not as easy as it looks! Our next challenge was to prepare a table for six, suitable for a wedding. We were judged by the Managing Director, David who described us as fast and furious but a little bit sloppy! We tidied it all up and beat the others schools by a margin!

Our final challenge of the day was with the Head Chef who asked us to design burgers which would be different, unusual, and a bit quirky. We then ate our burgers at our impressively set tables. The day finished with a behind the scenes tour of the kitchens and the restaurants, it was interesting to see the same equipment in the hotel kitchens as we have in the senior kitchen in Home Economics.

Ms Jane Holmes
Home Economics teacher
A big thank you to TV Week - The Logies for sponsoring the formal with decorations, goodie bags, magazines, merchandise, TV Week wall and name tags. **Everyone had a great time being interviewed and photographed as they entered the Casino.** It could not have been a success without the organisation of Ms Brooke Calahorra with the assistance of Korey Magee, and the many other staff assisting to make the night memorable.
The school absence line is 4753 8866
Please ring if your student is absent from school or
Email: 2172_Absences@eq.edu.au

Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV
http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

Year 10, 11 & 12 students are invited to collect the *Annual School Magazine*. It is available to all students with school fees paid, laptops returned and it is a great opportunity to return any school text books.

The school website has the stationery lists for 2016
[https://thuringowashs.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx](https://thuringowashs.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx)
An opportunity for student enrolling in Year 12 - 2016

Thuringowa State High School provides students in the Senior Phase of Learning many opportunities to engage in a broad variety of education and training opportunities that contribute to QCE completion and transition into the world of work.

We are excited to announce yet another opportunity for students in Year 12 in 2016, whereby students can participate in a program called “Resourcing the Future” which enables them to complete a nationally recognised Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation.

The course will be delivered by Australasian Drilling Institute at our school, and off campus. The opportunity will prepare Year 12 students with basic knowledge and skills for entry level jobs and further training to commence successful career paths in the global resources and infrastructure industries. Resources and infrastructure industries include:

- Mining – hard rock such as gold, silver, zinc, bauxite, etc; coal; surface and underground;
- Drilling – exploration, oil and gas on shore, eg coal seam gas and natural gas, and off shore;
- Quarrying and small mines;
- Civil construction including building of vital infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams, ports, pipelines, earth works etc.

Whilst the course is fully subsidised by the federal VET funding initiative, there would be out of pocket expenses for required PPE, excursions to mining/drilling/quarry/civil construction sites of approximately $150.

The outcomes of completing such a course would include:
1. QCE “CORE” and 4 CREDIT upon successful completion – handy if your student struggles with meeting school based theory assessments
2. Certificate II qualification – nationally recognised
3. Improved networking and contacts with potential employers
4. Improved and developed employability skills

Would you please discuss this opportunity with your child and contact Mrs Celia O’Keeffe on cokee10@eq.edu.au or 4753 8829 should your child be interested in participating in this course, or, if you have any questions relating to the opportunity.
Welcome the world to your home!
Why not host an overseas exchange student with AFS Intercultural Programs? We have participants due to arrive in February 2016 and they require volunteer host families for their stay in Queensland. Make a friendship that can last a lifetime. Participants come for 5 months to 11 months and attend high schools and become an active member of the school, community and your family. They come from countries including France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Japan, Costa Rica, Argentina and Brazil.

If you are interested in going on an exchange overseas we would also love to hear from you to discuss the opportunity of becoming an exchange student.

For more information please call Sharon Toohey on 02 9215 0077, aus.hosting@afs.org or contact the AFS Hosting team on 1300 131 736 or visit www.afs.org.au/host to make an inquiry!

All Vocational Education certificate courses delivered at Thuringowa State High School are nationally recognised qualifications.

Insurance Cover for Students
Insurance cover for students undertaking physical activities. Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education, Training and the Arts does not have personal Accident Insurance cover for students. Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.

SAINTS NETBALL CLUB INC
PLAY NETBALL IN 2016!

We will have limited vacancies in ALL our Junior age groups 7yrs – 17yrs...

But especially looking for experienced players aged 13-15 yrs & welcome all players wishing to learn to play aged 8-9 yrs (born 2007-8)

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT KRISTINA MOORE 0400 721118
EMAIL: kmoore.saintsnetball@gmail.com

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<th>Upcoming Events 2015 - 2016</th>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Final Day Year 7, 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>Administration office opens 9am</td>
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<td>Student Free Days</td>
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<td><strong>Year 7 Meet &amp; Greet</strong></td>
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<td>Inter-house swimming carnival</td>
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<td>Riverway Cup English/Humanities</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Indigenous Open night</td>
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<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Immunization HPV &amp; Boostrix</td>
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<td>Balance Day</td>
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<td>Inter-school swimming carnival</td>
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<td>JCU Careers Fair Year 12</td>
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<td>Year 11 work experience</td>
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<td>Last day Term 1</td>
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<td>Parent/teacher interviews</td>
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<td>Inter-house cross country</td>
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<td>Theatre Restaurant Student Night</td>
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<td>Year 11 &amp; 12 Exam block</td>
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<td>Junior Showcase</td>
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