



St Clare's High School

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NEWSLETTER 38/2016

25 NOVEMBER 2016

Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare's

The last few weeks of term provide an excellent opportunity for your sons and daughters to consolidate their learning and set themselves up for a great start in 2017. Stage 6 students would already have this in mind; however, it is particularly important for all students to continue to strive to learn. Year 10 in particular should be at school and investing in all aspects of their transition program which has been designed to meet their needs and make the transition from Year 10 to Year 11 less stressful for students, teachers and parents.

Planning for 2017 is well in hand. Staff have a draft timetable and we are continuing to interview for new staff members. I will publish a list of our new teachers and staff who will be in positions of responsibility in 2017 when all positions have been filled.

Our P & F reviewed the drawings for the next phase of building and grounds development at St Clare's. The building and landscape development are designed by award winning architects Austin McFarland Pty Ltd. The buildings will combine state of the art technology with innovative internal and external spaces designed to encourage student engagement and a collaborative approach to learning and teaching. The development will complement the St Clare's Bring Your Own Device policy and enhance the school's commitment to supplying an excellent Catholic Education for students in Taree and surrounding districts.

We are excited at the prospect of having this building project begin at the school.

A big vote of thanks to the office bearers of our P & F organisation who contribute time and much thought into the wellbeing of our school community. On your behalf I thank Jackie Burley, Laurence Lee, Michelle Jones and Linda Page for their service to our people.

God Bless

Principal

PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE: A reminder to all that the school has a Chaplain. Please feel free to contact our Chaplain, Deacon Vince Ryan, through the school office if he can be of assistance to you or any member of our whole school community.

Mass Times

6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree

75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

St Therese's, Lansdowne
Cundle Rd, Lansdowne
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham

8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30am

Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar
20 Hall St, Old Bar, Sunday Mass: 7:30 am

St Bernadette's, Krumbach

Bucketts Way, Krumbach
Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9 am
(Mass is celebrated on alternate weekends – please speak to Deacon Vince or Mrs Denise Ryan at school for information on which weekend mass will be celebrated)

St Patrick's, Cundletown
River St, Cundletown
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish
Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster
33 Lake Street, Forster
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington

Pilot St, Harrington
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)
Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion:

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry
15 Peel Street, Tuncurry
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

MISSION FROM THE CENTRE TO THE MARGINS

21.11.2016

I am writing just days after President Trump's election. His election has been likened to the Brexit referendum and even to the increasing number of Australians deserting the major parties. The common explanation for all these events is that the people in the centre just do not understand the concerns and fears of people who are marginalised from power and prosperity.

Sociologists claim that one of the major problems in the United States and probably of much of the world is that nowadays people only listen to, read and converse with people who think the same as them.

There are some echoes of this in modern missiology only their reading is much more radical. Pope Francis in a book by Antonio Spadaro, *My Door Is Always Open: A Conversation on Faith, Hope and the Church in a Time of Change*, makes the strong statement, "I am convinced of one thing: the great changes in history are realised when reality was seen not from the centre but rather from the periphery. It is a hermeneutical question: reality is understood only if it is looked at from the periphery... Being at the periphery helps to see and to understand better, to analyse reality more correctly, to shun centralism and approaches based on ideology." I was shocked when I first read these words but actually they stand to reason. Power and prosperity can stifle the Spirit, blind us to others and prevent us from understanding the weak. Witness the rich man who never understood or appreciated Lazarus at his door. (*Lk 16:19-31*)

But it is not only Pope Francis who is speaking out. In 2013 the World Council of Churches met in Pusan, Korea and published *Together towards Life*. One of its most challenging chapters is *Spirit of Liberation: Mission from the Margins*. Jesus' mission was to liberate the oppressed, to open the eyes of the blind and to announce the Kingdom of God by opting to spend his time with the marginalised people of his day. He did this not out of charity but to highlight the injustices that were marginalising his people and the people at the centre of Jewish religion and society clearly understood the challenge. Jesus mixes with the marginalised to confront and transform everything that denies life. Their situation points to the sinfulness of the world.

Together towards Life goes on to make the radical and thought provoking statement, "The aim of mission is not simply to move people from the margins to centres of power but to confront those who remain in the centre by keeping people on the margins. Instead, churches are called to transform power structures." #40 Earlier it warns that the practice of mission has changed. Instead of mission "being done by the powerful to the powerless, by the rich to the poor, or by the privileged to the marginalized", the missionaries are now coming from the margins to the powerful.

Like Pope Francis they insist that we have much to learn from the poor and marginalised. "People on the margins have agency, and can often see what, from the centre, is out of view. People on the margins, living in vulnerable positions, often know what exclusionary forces are threatening their survival and can best discern the urgency of their struggles; people in positions of privilege have much to learn from the daily struggles of people living in marginal conditions." #38 "Through struggles in and for life, marginalized people are reservoirs of the active hope, collective resistance, and perseverance that are needed to remain faithful to the promised reign of God." #39

Mission is not just a question of helping the poor and disadvantaged it must involve challenging power and privilege and creating just and inclusive communities. The centre has shifted to the margins.

Fr Noel Connolly SSC is a Columban missionary priest. He is a member of the Columban Mission Institute in North Sydney and a lecturer in Missiology at both the Broken Bay Institute and the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

[Read more articles from the current E-News](#)

CAREERS CORNER: This week and next week, *Careers Corner* focuses on **choosing the correct course/university** – and some serious warnings about how **NOT** to choose a course/university. Why, because...

THE 2015 HIGHER EDUCATION INSIGHTS ARE OUT: First year university students are leaving their original chosen courses at a higher rate than ever.

Data shows about **one in five commencing bachelor course students left their original course in 2015**, and about **15% dropped out completely**.

How do you choose the right university, or the right degree? What should you focus on? How do you weigh up all the different elements involved? Do you want to stay local, or move far away? Do you want a degree that gets you job ready, or do you need flexibility?

This week's and next week's articles will address these questions under the headings:

What to remember when you are picking a university course:

- 1. Don't pick a university, pick a degree**
- 2. Remember your final score isn't everything**
- 3. Understand your course**
- 4. Make sure you explore scholarship opportunities**
- 5. Do remember that job-ready skills aren't everything**

Today, the first two issues are addressed.

1. Don't pick a university, pick a degree:

It is a risky move to pick a university before you choose a course, because you'll be inclined to settle for an obtainable course at a university of choice rather than really considering what is right for you.

In Australia, we are lucky enough to have an extraordinary range of high-quality universities. In fact, many are in the top 1% of universities worldwide. This means that you don't need to try and discriminate between universities based on their 'value' or 'prestige'. Instead of worrying about what a university will look like on your resume, consider the value of your degree. A business degree from most universities will hold the same value as each other, same for law or science, or just about any uniform degree. Though, **if you choose to pick an inappropriate course with a lesser entry mark (one that you can obtain) at a university that you perceive to be better on your resume, you are making a limiting mistake.** You'll be weighed up by employers by your course type, not the university name.

2. Remember your ATAR isn't everything:

Maybe the biggest lesson to remember is that courses with higher entry requirements aren't necessarily better. Having a law degree doesn't mean that you'll make more money. Equally, just because Media Communications has an ATAR entry of 98.5, doesn't mean that you'll find it any easier to get your foot in the door in a media role post-university.

Often students are told by their parents or friends not to ‘*waste their ATAR*’ but simply, there **could not be worse advice. Don’t make the mistake of just trying to match your course to your ATAR.**

Performing well in your high school exams is something to be very proud of, but as universities continue to confirm, **entry scores are a signal about the demand for a course, not its inherent quality.** The entry requirement is a result of the number of places available and the number of students who are anticipated to apply for the degree.

This means that degrees with lower entry scores aren’t necessarily less prestigious, less difficult, or require less time. For example, technology or science degrees often have lower entry scores than law degrees, popular media or arts degrees, but research shows us that those arts and science faculties are ranked just as highly as those with higher ATAR ranks, and sometimes even higher.

More on this next week...

Ian Evans, Careers Adviser

CREATIVE ARTS NEWS:

Cultural Award: Each year we celebrate the creative achievements of our students at St Clare’s High School. We call on student nominations for a senior (11- 12) and junior (7- 10) Cultural Award.

Staff, parents and students are able to nominate students for the Cultural Award. All nominations must be submitted in writing to the Creative Arts Coordinator by Thursday, 1 December and the award recipients will be presented at the end of year academic assembly. The criteria for the Cultural Award are the following:

Students eligible for this award should demonstrate the following:

- Willingness to be involved in school based activities, which may include: performances, liturgies, exhibitions, assemblies and/or promotional projects
- Willingness to represent St Clare’s in the wider community celebrations/activities, which, may include public exhibitions, ANZAC Day, DioSounds, Eisteddfods, ASPIRE and/or Board of Studies shows (Art Express, Onstage and Encore)
- Be a suitable ambassador for St Clare’s Creative Arts
- Support and assistance in Creative Arts events; such as production, promotion, stage hand, lighting and/or photography

Jason Koenig, Creative Arts Coordinator

YEAR 11 ANCIENT HISTORY EXCURSION: On Tuesday morning, 22 November, our Year 11 Ancient History class of 10 students travelled to MacKillop College, Port Macquarie to a HSC Lecture on the Cities of Vesuvius: Pompeii and Herculaneum. The lecture was presented by Estelle Lazer a forensic archaeologist who has international acclaim for her work on the skeletal remains of Pompeii.

Estelle Lazer spoke about her recent research at the site and how new technologies continue to reveal information about the ancient people - how they lived, what they ate, what ailed them, and how they died on that terrible day when Vesuvius erupted in 79AD. The students can use this research in their Ancient History HSC studies.

The students had a great morning listening to the lecture and were wonderful representatives of St Clare's High School. Mr Hobbes and I were very proud to take such a lovely group of students to the event. A big thank you goes to our bus driver Bill Taylor who kindly drove our class to Port Macquarie. **Mrs Thomas, Ancient History Teacher**



Mrs Thomas, Lotta Rahikka, Declan Moon, William Avery, Kris Duggan, Kristy Symons, David Smith, Rebekah Cooper, Matthew Sheppard, Zachary Walton and Mr Hobbes



MANNING GREAT LAKES HIGH SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY DISPLAY: This year's Manning Great Lakes High Schools Technology display is to be held at the Manning Regional Art Gallery Macquarie Street Taree on **Wednesday, 23 November to Sunday, 4 December 2016.**

Collectively, all staff and students are very proud to announce, promote and display the tremendous work of our local high school students.

The display will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm Wednesday, 23 November to Sunday, 4 December when the prize giving ceremony will occur from 2:30pm to 3pm. Students and parents will be notified early in the week so they can attend the ceremony to receive prizes awarded in person.

The technology display showcases students work from local high schools from Gloucester, Bulahdelah, Forster-Tuncurry, Taree and Wingham. It has a proud history of some 25 years, organised and run by a local group of dedicated technology teachers from public and private high schools.

On display will be students work from Year 7 to Year 12, encompassing many and varied innovative and imaginative projects. Major prizes will be awarded to the winners of many categories, including junior mandatory technology through to senior design and technology subjects.

Projects will include areas of wood working, metal working, design, engineering, graphics, electronics, furniture, textiles and many more.

We have been very fortunate to have the support of many local businesses. We wish to acknowledge and show our appreciation to all those businesses that have so very kindly sponsored the prizes, these include: Manning River Steel, MidCoast Water, Rocket Tools, Southcott Engineering, Bunnings, Masters and Dr David Gillespie MP, Member for Lyne.

Each year we have a "People's Choice Award". This is awarded to the student whose project is deemed to be the best by the general viewing public. The process will be to fill out a "best project ticket" when visiting the display and enter it into the collection box at the display. The entries will be counted on Sunday, 4 December afternoon just before the prize giving.

The work on display could have been produced by a relative or close friend of yours, so you can show your support of our local schools and students by spending a few minutes (maybe while shopping in Taree) and drop in and have a look at the wonderful work created. Just across the road from the Roads and Maritime Services (the RTA office).

So please, come in to the Manning Regional Art Gallery and be astounded by the spectacular work of our local high school students. Wednesday, 23 November – Sunday, 4 December 2016.

Mark O’Neill, TAS Teacher

MATHS WORKSHOP - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.



WHEN IS IT ON? Wednesday lunchtime - every week.

Bring your lunch!

WHERE? Room 10

We hope to see you there!

Mrs Julie Rowsell, Mathematics Coordinator

MONDAY	28/11	Help Urgently Required
TUESDAY	29/11	Sue Lythgoe
WEDNESDAY	30/11	Help Urgently Required
THURSDAY	1/12	Help Urgently Required
FRIDAY	2/12	Greta Crowe, Mel Chalmers

VACANCIES STILL EXIST

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL KINGSFORD

AT ST CLARE’S: 6591 2104, HOME: 6552 1857 OR

VIA EMAIL: cheryl.kingsford@mn.catholic.edu.au

COMING EVENTS - 2016

Term 3

Week 8 Monday 28/11 ♦ Digi Ed

Week 9 Monday 5/12 ♦ Year 10 Reflection Day
Wednesday 7/12 ♦ Year 10 & Year 7 2017 Peer Support Day
Thursday 8/12 ♦ Year 7 Reflection Day
Friday 9/12 ♦ Year 8 Community Day at Big Buzz

Week 10 Monday 12/12 ♦ Year 10 Excursion to Tree Tops Challenge Adventure Park
Wednesday 14/12 ♦ Year 10 Social – 7 pm
Thursday 15/12 ♦ Year 10 Awards Ceremony
♦ HSC Results released
Friday 16/12 ♦ ATAR Results released
♦ Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Annual Awards Ceremony – 10:15 am
♦ **Final Day for Students**

Week 11 Monday 19/12 ♦ Pupil Free Day
♦ Parent/Teacher Interviews (by request) 9 to 11am and 1 – 3pm
Tuesday 20/12 ♦ **Final Day for Teachers**

2017

Term 1

Week 1 Friday 27/1 ♦ Staff Development Day – **Pupil Free Day**

Week 2 Monday 30/1 ♦ Years 7, 11 & 12 Students Commence
Tuesday 31/1 ♦ Years 8, 9 & 10 Students Return

Week 3 Wednesday 8/2 ♦ Year 11 & 12 Visual Art & Drama Excursion
Friday 10/2 ♦ Swimming Carnival

Week 5 Wednesday 22/2 ♦ School Photographs

Week 7 Tuesday 7/3 ♦ Dio Swimming Carnival