



**EDITION 3. SEPTEMBER 2025** 

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TAREE HIGH SCHOOL





# Principal Address Year 12

Wiyabu nyura, good evening everyone,

Here we are... Year 12, the Class of 2025. The centenary cohort. The group that has survived fires, floods, pandemics, staffing shortages, phone bans... and you've done it all with spirit, humour, and enough resilience to keep us all proud.

When you walked into Taree High in 2020 as fresh-faced Year 7s, the world was in chaos. You were navigating Zoom lessons, hand sanitiser, and Google Classroom instead of excursions and assemblies. It wasn't the easiest way to start high school, but you learned something vital in those early days... how to adapt, how to persist, and how to laugh when things got tough. Those lessons have carried you all the way here.

Our school motto, Flumen Coronent Filii – may your sons and daughters crown the river - has never been more fitting. You've flowed through challenge after challenge, changing course when you needed to, and always leaving your mark. And you haven't just crowned the river; you've crowned Taree High itself with your achievements and your pride.

The last two years have been full of moments that show just who you are as a group. You've led the way at Spirit Days, carrying on one of our most loved traditions. You've taken the stage at assemblies, showcases, and leadership events, showing that your voices are confident and your culture is strong. You've represented the school with pride in sport, from cricket to netball to futsal. You've thrown yourselves into academic challenges, careers programs, and excursions that pushed you to think bigger about your futures. And of course, you've been at the heart of cultural celebrations... from NAIDOC activities to our centenary events... making sure this school's history and heritage are lived, not just remembered.

All of that ties into our school theme: Respecting the past, embracing the future. You've honoured the traditions of those who came before you, but you've also set a bold new course. You are the ones who've proven that excellence doesn't come from comfort, but from showing up, giving your best, and lifting others along the way.

Tonight, I'd also like to acknowledge and thank my Public School colleagues who've joined us - principals and teachers from across our local community of schools. They are here to applaud this cohort with us, and I know they are also quietly recognising the brilliance of their Kindergarten classes... all those years ago. It's a reminder that the journey of Year 12 doesn't begin in high school. It begins with those first days of school, with ABCs and finger painting, with reading groups and playground friendships, and it continues with the care, belief and hard work of every educator along the way.

Now, what matters most is this: you've done it together. You've shown what it means to cooperate, to participate, and to respect each other... the very values that have defined Taree High for 100 years. You've shown that leadership isn't about a badge, but about stepping up when it counts. And you've reminded us that while the future is unpredictable, it's also full of possibility.

So tonight, we don't just farewell another Year 12. We farewell the centenary class. The class that respected the past, embraced the future, and crowned our river with your energy, your culture, and your spirit.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. You've left your mark on this school. Now it's time to make your mark on the world.

Yours in Cearning,

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# Year 12 Principal's Award

Over six years at Taree High School, this student has grown into a learner and leader who embodies the values of our school. From the beginning of high school, they demonstrated curiosity, creativity, and a determination to give their best. Excelling in areas such as Mathematics, Science, and Food Technology while also embracing Music and Drama, they showed a willingness to take on challenges across a wide range of subjects. Their results are a testament not only to ability, but to steady persistence and resilience.

This student's contribution has extended far beyond the classroom. As a House Captain and long-standing member of the Student Representative Council, they have provided consistent leadership and service to their peers. Whether performing in concerts, representing the school in competitions, or volunteering at community events, they brought energy, positivity, and pride to all they undertook. Numerous merit awards for academic excellence, diligence, service, and school spirit reflect the respect they earned from staff and peers alike. Their journey at Taree High School has been marked by growth, commitment, and a genuine dedication to community. It is these qualities that make them a worthy

recipient of this honour. I am proud to present the 2025 Principal's Award to

Jesse Johns Pratt.



# Congratulations JESSE





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### 2025 Alumni Presenters

As we celebrate the graduation of Taree High School's centenary cohort, it is only fitting that we invite back alumni whose family story is woven into the very fabric of our school.

Our first alumni introduction tonight is Margaret Whitelaw, class of 1964, now Margaret Haigh. She has connections to Taree High stretching back to its very beginnings. Her Auntie Edna was one of our earliest teachers here, bringing French and Latin into the classrooms. Auntie Edna taught her own sister, Margaret's Auntie Dot, who later became a mathematics teacher after completing university. Margaret's mother, Connie Mooney, was school captain in 1932. Her uncle Jim left Taree High to become a teacher too, before enlisting in the Second World War, and tragically losing his life as a prisoner of war.

Margaret, along with her brother Don and sister Rosemary, are Taree High alumni. The Mooney & Whitelaw family legacy of education and leadership through Taree High School has continued strongly. Rosemary was vice-captain in 1964, and Don served more than 60 years as a public educator. Margaret herself, together with her husband Kevin, raised four children – Ali, Mim, Kez, and Andy – all proud Taree High students. Ali Haigh was school captain in 1988 and Kez Reece later returned to Taree High as an English teacher and SRC Coordinator. Kez is also married to our current Executive Principal keeping the family's bond with Taree High as strong as ever.

Today the tradition of a Taree High School education continues through Margaret's grandchildren – Azura (class of 2017), Bria, currently in Year 9, and Keaton, who will join Year 7 in 2026.

Our first alumnus tonight embodies this remarkable family legacy. Please welcome to the stage Margaret Haigh.

Joining Margaret this evening is her daughter, Ali Haigh. Ali has carried forward this family's tradition of leadership, creativity, and community connection. Ali is a contemporary Australian printmaker & designer, known for what's been described as a "playful-joyful" style, drawing inspiration from nature - sand, water-worn stones, local landscapes. She's collaborated extensively with her community, notably leading the artistic vision for Stage 1 of the First Steps Count Child & Community Centre in Taree, engaging diverse community groups and First Nations artists to co-create artwork throughout the centre. She's had exhibitions such as Pattern to Print, and worked with the Taree Universities Campus showing her ongoing engagement with place, process, and community.

Together, Margaret and Ali represent a family whose history is inseparable from the history of our school. Please also welcome to the stage past School Captain, Ali Haigh.









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#### **UPCOMING EVENT TERM 4 2025**

| Week 1A              | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October                                      | Staff Development Day                     |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Week 1A              | Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October                                     | Term 4 Commences, All students return     |
| Week 1A -<br>Week 4B | Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October - November 7 <sup>th</sup>         | Year 12 HSC Examinations                  |
| Week 3A -<br>Week 4B | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 7 <sup>th</sup><br>November | Year 8 VALID Window 2025                  |
| Week 3A              | Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October                                    | Immunisation Catch-Ups                    |
| Week 5A              | Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November                                  | P & C Meeting                             |
| Week 5A              | Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November                                     | Junior AECG World Diabetes Day Fundraiser |
| Week 6B              | Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November                                    | Year 12 Formal                            |
| Week 7A              | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November          | TBC Love Bites Year 10                    |
| Week 7A              | Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November                                     | GOAT Challenge Reward Day                 |
| Week 7A              | Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November                                     | Open Basketball - Manning Gala Day        |
| Week 9A              | Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December                                  | Year 7 - 11 Presentation Night            |
| Week 9A              | Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December                                     | Year 7 - 10 Semester 2 Reports Issued     |
| Week 10B             | Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                                   | HSC Results Released                      |
| Week 10 B            | Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December                                     | Last Day Term 4                           |





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### Student Spotlight





Big news! Our very own Jay Ayling (Year 10) has been named a finalist in the Schoolbased Apprentice/Trainee (SBAT) of the Year Award at the REINSW Awards for Excellence! This award celebrates students who are smashing their traineeships while balancing school commitments, and Jay is doing just that with LJ Hooker Taree.

Well done Jay. We're cheering you on!



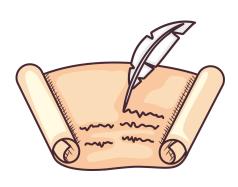


Congratulation to Year 10 student Tully Davis and the Lower North Coast Dance Ensemble as they take the stage in Sydney during Week 9 at the Department of Education Dance Festival! What an incredible opportunity to showcase your talent and hard work-go shine on that

Tully has been quoted saying "I loved it". She is now planning for next year.

### Poem by Xenae

In shadows deep where sorrows dwell Pain bitter kiss, A haunting spell A hear that aches, A spirit torn In life's harsh trials, We are worn But through the cracks, A glimmer bright A flicker of hope, In darkest night For in the depths Of our despair Embrace the pain, With tear filled eyes In the depths of Our darkest hour We find the courage To bloom like a flower



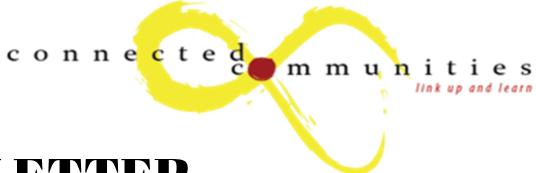




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#### Writer's Workshop

During Week 10 a team from the National Young Writer's Festival worked with 25 lucky students in a writing workshop which focused on non-fiction, poetry and creative writing. It was a great success with many students inspired to follow



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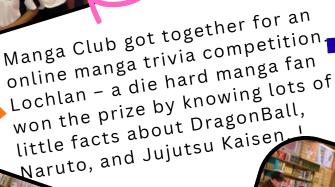
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# Library News

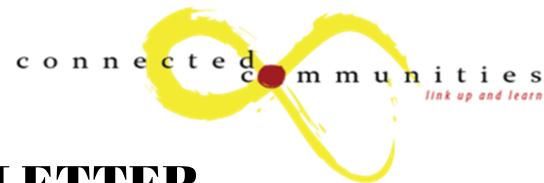


On the last day of Term 2 we had the Hot Chip Party for the winners of the Accelerated Reader competition. Term 2 winners were Pod 2!









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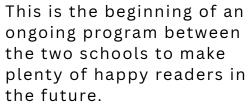


# Library News



Reading Buddies is a new reading program involving Year 7 students visiting Taree Public School to read to Year 2 students.

Mrs Gillis and 5 boys head off to TPS every Tuesday morning with a bag of picture books and each Year 7 students sats down with 2 or 3 young learners to read. Our high school boys did their families proud! They are great reader role models for the young ones.



The Reading Buddies are Kameryn Wenzel Sellers, Kai Chaney, Blake Threlfall, Kyan Lamb, Jake Murray, and Jaxson Hurry.

















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### CAPA









Year 9 and 10 Drama Bring Horror to Life

the horror genre in an exciting unit of work on two of the most influential theatre this term and stepped into the shoes of filmmakers, taking on every stage of the production process. Working collaboratively and independently, they began by brainstorming and storyboarding their terrifying trailers, shaping suspenseful plots and memorable characters.

With storyboards in hand, students filmed, emphasises motivation, objectives, and experimenting with lighting, props, and camera angles to maximise tension and impact. To complement their productions, they designed striking posters, wrote persuasive media releases to promote their such as direct address, placards, and of their finished work.

The unit gave students the chance to combine creativity, collaboration, and technical skills while developing a deeper understanding of how drama translates from page to screen. The final showcase of trailers was both spine-chilling and impressive, proving that our budding filmmakers have a talent for crafting stories that keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Year 11 Drama Explore the Masters of Theatre Ms Johnson's Year 9 and  $\bar{10}$  Drama students This term, Year 11 Drama students have been have been exploring the thrills and chills of diving deep into dramatic traditions, focusing

practitioners of the twentieth century: Konstantin Stanislavski and Bertolt Brecht. Through workshops, readings, and performance exercises, students compared the philosophies and practices of these contrasting figures. Stanislavski, known as the father of modern acting, encouraged performers to draw on emotional truth and realistic characterisation. Students explored his famous "system," which building a believable inner life for a role. In contrast, Brecht rejected naturalism, instead developing "Epic Theatre," a style that aimed to provoke critical thinking. His techniques, films, and even completed critical reviews alienation effects, reminded audiences they were watching a performance and invited them to reflect on society and politics. By experimenting with both approaches, students discovered how different theatrical

traditions shape the audience's experience. They staged short scenes using each style, analysing how emotion, staging, and engagement changed depending on the method. The unit challenged students to think like both actors and directors, deepening their appreciation of theatre history while giving

performances. Year 11 impressed with their creativity, insight, and adaptability.

them practical tools for their own



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### CAPA

TEAR 12
TOGRAPHY WORKS



Xenae Payton



### Kurt Heinz





Ariah Minns





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### CAPA











Lachlan Adar



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#### **CAREERS**

#### Pathways to Success: Taree High Students Explore Careers, Skills, and Futures

This term has been packed with exciting opportunities for our students to step outside the classroom and explore the many pathways available beyond school. From careers expos and trade programs to hands-on workshops in engineering, construction, animal welfare, and cutting-edge technology, Taree High students have been busy building skills, making connections, and discovering new possibilities for their futures. With support from TAFE NSW, industry experts, community organisations, and national programs, our learners are gaining real-world insights and experiences that inspire confidence, ignite ambition, and prepare them for life beyond school.

#### CareerQuip Ignites Big Dreams for Senior Students

Year 11 and 12 students in Week 2 took a bold step toward their futures at CareerQuip, the Mid Coast region's leading careers expo designed to inspire, inform, and connect. Held this year at Taree TAFE - a change of venue prompted by recent flooding - the event brought together a vibrant mix of over 50 exhibitors, including universities, training providers, government agencies, local employers, and community organisations. Students had the chance to explore a wide range of career pathways, meet potential mentors, and gather real-world advice — all in one dynamic, action-packed day. Organised by Taree Universities Campus in partnership with key local organisations such as TAFE NSW, Mid Coast Connect, and REIP (Regional Industry and Enterprise Partnership), CareerQuip is more than just an expo. It's a launchpad for young people to dream big, plan ahead, and build the future they want. Whether students were curious about university study, hands-on trades, government careers, or local business opportunities, CareerQuip delivered valuable connections and insights to help them take the next step with confidence.

#### Year 10 Gets a Frontline Look at Defence Force Opportunities

The day after CareerQuip, Year 10 students heard from two Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who shared career insights. Justin, an Avionics Technician with 17 years' service, and Molly, a Medic Officer with 10 years' experience, spoke about opportunities in the ADF, including good pay, superannuation, flexible work, and free healthcare. They also introduced the 12-month ADF Gap Year program, open to school leavers, and explained that applications can start at 16½, with enlistment from 17. Students learned about vocational training, trade qualifications, and transferable skills. The session gave students the chance to ask questions and explore whether a career in the ADF might suit them.

#### **RSPCA Animal Careers Program Inspires Future Animal Welfare Workers**

In Week 3, students explored animal welfare careers through the RSPCA Animal Careers Program in the school library. Year 10–12 TAFE animal students and Stage 5 Agriculture classes attended, with a recess drop-in session open to others. The program introduced six animal-related careers, including veterinary services, rescue, and shelter work. Students completed short tasks, used iPads to access professional insights, and asked questions about training and qualifications. Take-home resources supported further exploration, inspiring many to consider careers in animal care.







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#### **CAREERS**

#### Students Gain Real-World Skills Through White Card Course

In Week 6, eighteen of our students successfully completed their White Card Course right here at Taree High School. Delivered by Coastal OHS Services, the full-day course gave students a nationally recognised qualification - an essential first step for anyone considering a future in the construction industry. The course covered vital safety knowledge, not only for construction careers, but also for school-based subjects like woodwork, metalwork, agriculture, and drama (set design). Huge congratulations to our students for their focus, dedication, and commitment to learning real-world skills.

#### Hands-On Learning: Students Get a Taste of Trade Careers at Bunnings

In Week 4, Year 10 students from Taree High took part in the Bunnings Trade School program, rotating through departments to learn about retail operations, product knowledge, and customer service. They met industry experts, gained practical trade skills, and were equipped with work gear and tools. A highlight was building a barbecue, later donated to Taree Little Athletics — a project showcasing teamwork and community spirit. The experience strengthened workplace skills and gave students valuable insight into careers in trades and retail.

#### From Drones to Humanoids: Students Experience the Future of AI & Robotics

In Week 8, select students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 stepped into the future during an Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Careers Workshop, run by Adrian from Neuranext. The session opened students' eyes to one of the most powerful technologies shaping our world today – artificial intelligence – and the amazing career pathways it is creating. Best of all, students got hands-on with cutting-edge tech, experimenting with drones computer vision in action, self-driving cars and robotics demonstrations, including a playful robotic dog and a lifelike humanoid The room buzzed with excitement as students discovered how AI is already transforming industries and shaping the future of work. This incredible opportunity was proudly supported by Erin Lute and the Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) program. For students inspired to take the next step, there's more on offer! A range of free, online micro credential courses through TAFE NSW give students the chance to extend their learning and build real skills in this fast-growing field. To enrol: Visit the <u>TAFE NSW Digital Store</u>. Browse the available micro skill courses. Select and enrol in your chosen free, online, self-paced course.

#### Sparks Fly as Students Explore Engineering Pathways

This term six of our enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 students recently took part in the eight-week Start Your Future program, an exciting initiative of TAFE NSW and the NSW Government, delivered through the Department of Education's Educational Pathways Program. The program gave students a valuable opportunity to explore the world of engineering and metal fabrication through practical demonstrations led by highly qualified teachers. Learners rolled up their sleeves and participated in hands-on activities, gaining real industry insight and skills that could shape their future career pathways. This unique learning experience not only built practical skills but also inspired students to think about the exciting opportunities available in engineering and trades. With programs like Start Your Future, our students are better equipped to explore career pathways that combine innovation, creativity, and technical expertise.







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### TERM 3 SPORTS REPORTS

#### NNSW School State Futsal Championships

@ Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium

Date: Wednesday 27th August (Wk 6 Term 3)

Taree High competed in the U14 Boys NNSW Futsal titles in Port Macquarie against 8 other high schools from Maitland, Port Macquarie, Camden Haven, Coffs Harbour and Taree. The boys represented Taree High in fantastic spirit and played some good Futsal in patches. The boys have been doing some training at school during certain lunch breaks but weren't able to play in the local Manning Titles this year due it not being held. This led to them playing as a team for the first time today in competition matches verse other high schools.

Unfortunately, the boys couldn't make it out of their pool and into the semi-finals. However, they did gain some valuable experience and have a few areas to work on for the future. They did score in every game they played and created more opportunities to score. Heads up boys and keep going!

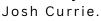
Mr J. Kelly

(Teacher/Coach/Manager)

Team List

Yr8: David Hill, Jacob Aitken, Blake Morris, Sonny Harrison

Yr 7: Toby Kennewell, Luke Chesser, Leighlan Kennedy, Khaiden Meldrum, Campbell Royan,







#### Year 7/8 Girls - Netball NSW School Cup Report

Last Tuesday, 5th August, the Year 7/8 girls represented our school at the Netball NSW School Cup. Despite only recording one win on the scoreboard, the team displayed outstanding determination, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the day.

The girls started strongly with a convincing 21-1 victory over Chatham. They then faced tough opposition in their remaining matches, going down to GLC Forster 17-3, Gloucester 18-7, GLC Tuncurry 8-6, and MVAC 14-8.

Every player gave their best effort, encouraging and supporting each other from the first whistle to the last.

Well done to all players on a fantastic effort representing our school with pride.





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### **TERM 3 SPORTS REPORTS**

Year 7/8 Boys - Netball NSW Schools Cup

On Tuesday 5th August, our Year 7/8 boys proudly represented the school at the NSW Netball Schools Cup. Despite it being their first time playing netball, the boys embraced the challenge and had a fantastic day of competition.

They displayed impressive athleticism, picked up the game quickly, and showed strong teamwork and determination. The boys only narrowly lost two close matches against Great Lakes College – Forster Yellow, finishing second overall on the day.

#### Match Results:

- · Game 1: vs Great Lakes College Forster Yellow | 7-9 Loss
- · Game 2: vs St Clare's | 10-3 Win
- · Game 3: vs Great Lakes College Tuncurry | 6-4 Win
- · Game 4: vs Great Lakes College Forster Yellow | 5-6 Loss
- · Game 5: vs St Clare's | 7-1 Win
- · Game 6: vs Great Lakes College Tuncurry | 8-5 Win

With a strong performance across the day, the boys progressed to the finals in Port Macquarie on August 27th.

The finals were a bit tough for the boys with only 1 win on the day, but they showed great sportsmanship.

#### Team list:

Henry Allan, Jude Barton, Bryon Little, Drake Ratcliff, Jackson Schubert, Keidan Staines, Thomas Witchard, Jesse Eggins, Evan Davy, Ethan Lee



#### Zone Athletics Champions











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Taree High School Faculty Requirements Year 11

| Faculty            | Book Size / Type  | Special Equipment   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| English            | 2 x A4 196 Page Book  | Folder, A4 Plastic Sleeves,<br>Highlighters, Post it Notes,<br>USB  |
| Mathematics        | 5mm Grid A4 Book,<br>1 x A4 196 Page Book                     | Casio fx82-AU Calculator Plus II (available to buy from front office \$29), Whiteout, Pens and Highlighters |
| Science - Subjects | A4 128 Page Book  | USB to store work   |
| HSIE - Subjects    | 2 x A4 128 Page Book  | Ruler, Scissors, Glue-stick,<br>Whiteout, Pens and<br>Highlighters  |
| PD/H/PE - Subjects | 2 x A4 196 Page Book  | Ruler, Scissors, Glue-stick,<br>whiteout, Pens, pencil,<br>Eraser, Highlighters and<br>USB                  |
| TAS - Subject      | 1 x A4 196 Page Book, A4<br>Display Folder                    | Completely covered leather<br>shoes, no mesh or canvas,<br>USB to store work                                |
| CAPA - Subjects    | Music - 48 Page Manuscript<br>Book<br>Art - A4 or A3 Art Book | USB to store work<br>(Art Books available from<br>front office) A4 60 page \$6<br>A3 60 page \$8            |





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Taree High School Faculty Requirements Year 8-10

| Taree Itigii School Facally Requirements Tear 0-10 |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Faculty  | Book Size / Type  | Special Equipment   |  |  |  |
| English  | 2 x A4 196 Page Book  | 1 x Display Folder  |  |  |  |
| Mathematics  | Casio fx82-AU Calculator 5mm Grid A4 Book, 1 x A4 196 Page Book front office \$29), Whiteout, Pens and Highlighters |   |  |  |  |
| Science - Subjects                                 | A4 196 Page Book  | USB to store work   |  |  |  |
| HSIE History / Geography<br>Subjects               | 2 x A4 128 Page Book  | 2 x Display Folders, Ruler,<br>Glue-stick, Eraser, Whiteout,<br>Pens and Highlighters             |  |  |  |
| PD/H/PE - Subjects                                 | A4 196 Page Book  | Ruler, Glue-stick, whiteout,<br>Pens, pencil, Eraser,<br>Highlighters and USB                     |  |  |  |
| TAS - D&T  | 1 A4 196 Page Book, A4 Display<br>Folder  | Completely covered leather<br>shoes, no mesh or canvas,<br>USB to store work                      |  |  |  |
| CAPA / Visual Arts                                 | Music - 48 Page Manuscript<br>Book<br>Art - A4 or A3 Art Book   | USB to store work<br>(art books available from front<br>office) A4 60 page \$6,<br>A3 60 page \$8 |  |  |  |





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### Taree High School Faculty Requirements Year 7

| Subjects                                | Special Equipment   |
|---|---|
| Learning PODs                           | 1x English A4 exercise book 1x Maths A4 Grid exercise book 1xIBL A4 exercise book 1x calculator: Casio fx82-AU (available at front office \$29) 1x Display folder 2x whiteboard markers Covered in leather shoes for science practice PLEASE NOTE: Students will need to replace books during the year as needed. |
| PD/H/PE                                 | 1x A4 128 Page exercise book<br>1 x USB   |
| MUSIC                                   | 1x A4 48-page book with manuscript  |
| VISUAL ARTS                             | 1x A4 Art Diary 60 page<br>(available at the office \$6, A3 art book \$8)<br>2x 2B pencils  |
| LOTE - Aboriginal Languages and Culture | 1x A4 96 Page exercise book<br>1x A4 20 pocket display folder   |
| TAS - Home Economics & D&T              | 1x A4 20 pocket display folder (Yellow)   |
| CAPA / Visual Arts                      | USB to store work (Art Books available from front office) A4 60 page \$6 A3 60 page \$8   |