Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare’s

Last week our Dux Assembly honoured Sarah Locker, our Dux of 2015, Adam Mayers, Thomas Avery, Molly Gillis & Harry Carey, 2015 HSC students who achieved ATARS in excess of 90 and Harry Carey & Adam Mayers who received the highest Diocesan mark in a 2015 HSC Course with an ATAR of 90 and above. Kylie Neilson received an award for achieving 7 Grade A results in her 2015 Year 10 RoSA (Record of School Achievement). It was pleasing to be able to welcome Mr Tony Kelly, Assistant Director of the Newcastle Catholic Schools Office to the ceremony and have him make a presentation on behalf of the CSO to our most successful students.

Above top left – Sarah Locker
Bottom left – Adam Mayers
Middle – Kylie Neilson
Right – Harry Carey, Molly Gillis & Thomas Avery
I was particularly pleased to see a great number of our Year 12 Cohort of 2015 attend the assembly and stay after the formalities to share their HSC experiences with our current HSC students. They were able to talk about the ways in which they dealt with the stress of the HSC year and how they were able to come out “on top” and get where they wanted to go. This information straight from the “horse’s mouth” was well received by our Year 12 students. A big thank you also to our Hospitality staff and students who presented a wonderful morning tea to our students and guests.

On Tuesday evening Phil Gibney, Deacon Vince Ryan and I had the privilege of attending the Called to Serve Mass in Newcastle. It is always a moving event. The music is always a highlight and the combined choir was exceptional. Awards for excellence in teaching are presented before the mass; one for primary school teachers and one for secondary school teachers from across the diocese. This year our own Callam Howard won the Monsignor Coolahan Award for teaching excellence. This is a wonderful accolade for a great teacher, who consistently helps students achieve great results and contributes to the life of St Clare’s in a whole hearted and selfless manner. I was proud to be able to share the evening with Callam, his parents and colleagues from across the region.

Last Night the Parents & Friends held their first meeting for 2016. A wide range of matters were discussed including; progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the uniform review, provision of tables and shade in the school yard, the implications of the new Bring Your Own Device program in the school and the status of the proposed building program. The P & F’s Annual General Meeting will be held in Week 7. The P & F supports St Clare’s students, staff and parents as we work to ensure that our young people receive a well-rounded faith-filled education. It would be great if you could attend.
Finally thanks to the students staff and visitors who attended our Ash Wednesday liturgies. The young student leaders who led the ceremonies were outstanding in their poise and leadership. Very special thanks to Ministry Coordinator, Denise Ryan, who wrote and organised the liturgies and to our visiting priests Fr George from Taree and Fr Greg from Forster who continue to support the school with their presence.

God Bless

Nicholas

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.

P & F – NEXT MEETING (AGM), WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2016
6 PM SCHOOL LIBRARY

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

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree**
75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham**
8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30am

**St Bernadette’s, Krambach**
Bucketts Way, Krambach
Saturday: 6:30 pm (On the weekend of a 5th Sunday, a Liturgy of the Word with Communion is held at Nabiac Church)

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

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

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

**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

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

Open Forum

Last Monday saw an informative Open Forum between 2015 Year 12 students and 2016 Year 12 students following the Dux Assembly. Students for 2016 Year 12 (Harry Carey, James Wilkes, Jakob Webber, Emily Thomson, Keely Muscio, Emily McKendry, Melinda Lovrak, Isabella Rasche, Molly Gillis, Jeremy Walker, Anjana Senanayake, Thomas Avery and Cody Hancock) spoke of the ‘highs and lows’ of the HSC year and the strategies they developed to cope. A wide range of views were expressed about how to study, when to study, how long to study and how to maintain a balance between factors competing for use of time. The one element which gained consensus was the need to develop your own summary notes.

Regional Universities Road Show

On Thursday, Years 11 and 12 attended the Regional Universities Road Show at Chatham High School. A joint presentation from Charles Sturt University, Southern Cross University and the University of New England provided hints on:

- How to apply?
  - ATAR only
  - TAFE Certificate III or Certificate IV
  - Early Entry
  - Other pathways
- How much does a university education cost?
  - Deferrable cost (HECS)
  - Text books
  - Accommodation
  - Transport
  - Food
  - Activities
  - Ways to meet costs (part-time work, scholarships, student loans, Abstudy, Youth Allowance, Relocation allowance
- Brief details of each of the three regional universities.
Year 12 students have had their first Careers Day. The purpose of Careers Days is to enable students to embrace the complexities of Year 12 and develop a time line in order to avoid excessive stress levels. The program addressed issues such as:

- What is an ATAR?
- What is UAC?
- What is EAS?
- Scholarships
- Subject bonus points
- Flexible/Alternative Entries
- Early entrance
- School references
- Resumes
- Study time tables
- Student Careers Profile

**Work Experience 2016**

Work experience will change in 2016 due to many factors. The local community is saturated with work placement and work experience students due to mandatory work placement for VET subjects, Work Studies students, work components for TAFE and university courses. Work experience in 2016 at St Clare’s will become targeted work experience.

Work experience will be for the following students:
- Transition to work students identified by the SCIL Hub
- Students in Year 10 interested in leaving school to find employment at the end of 2016
- Students in Year 11 and 12 who need work experience as part of applications for courses, scholarships and employment.

Work Experience can be done in the following forms:

- 1 day a week – transition to work programs, Work Studies students
- Designated week by the school – Year 10 students
- During holidays with the support of the school

Work placement for VET students will continue as normal in designated weeks.

**Process**

- Students in Year 10 wishing to be involved in a work experience program in 2016 need to fill in an application form.
- Each application will state reason for wanting to be part of the program and supported by parents.
- Year 11 and 12 students need to contact the Careers Adviser if they wish to participate in work experience
- An insurance fee applies to all students involved in work experience or work placement programs.

*Ian Evans, Careers Adviser*
SCHOOL PHOTOS: School photo day is **Wednesday, 17 February**. Students will be issued with photo envelopes. Payment for photos must be made to the photographer on the day (17 February) in the envelopes provided.

Family pack information is available from the office. Friend photos are only available for **Year 12 students**.

A catch-up day for any student who may be absent on Wednesday, 17 February will be held on **Friday, 26 February**.

**FAMILY VERIFICATION FORMS**

Over the coming week students will be bringing home a form that contains the family details held by the school on SAS (School Administration System). These forms will need to be checked and any changes noted on the form. **Once signed they need to be returned to the school promptly.**

**COMING EVENTS**

**2016**

**Term 1**

**Week 4**  Wednesday  17/2  ♦  School Photos

**Week 5**  Friday  26/2  ♦  Catch-up day for School Photos
  ♦  Year 7 Vaccination

**Week 7**  Wednesday  9/3  ♦  Year 7 Camp – Toukley departs
  ♦  P & F Annual General Meeting
  Friday  11/3  ♦  Year 7 Camp returns

**Week 8**  Monday  14/3  ♦  HSC Mid-Course Exams commence
  Tuesday  15/3  ♦  Dio Swimming Carnival

**Week 9**  Wednesday  23/3  ♦  Sleep Out
  Friday  25/3  ♦  Good Friday

**Week 10**  Monday  28/3  ♦  Easter Monday

**Week 11**  Friday  8/4  ♦  Last Day of Term 1

**Term 2**

**Week 1**  Tuesday  26/4  ♦  First Day of Term 2
  Friday  29/4  ♦  Year 7 Vaccination
  ♦  CCC Swimming Carnival

**Week 3**  Tuesday  10/5  ♦  NAPLAN
LEAVE NOTES & STUDENT MESSAGES: It would be appreciated if parents/guardians would send in a written note if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. Notes should be handed in at the front office in the morning before roll call. If parents/guardians need to notify their child of a change of afternoon arrangements, it is necessary to phone the school prior to 2:25 pm (End of Lunch – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) or prior to 1:55 pm (End of Lunch – Thursday Sport) as it is often difficult to locate students if their last lesson is a PE Prac or there has been a room change.

Students cannot be collected from the school during school hours by anyone other than a parent or guardian without written permission. Thank you.

LATE NOTES: Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. Arriving Late for school requires a handwritten note from a parent/carer or a phone call from a parent/carer or the absence is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLINIC: Students are reminded that if they are unwell whilst at school they are to advise their teacher who will then send them to the Front Office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent while the student waits in the Clinic. Students are not to contact parents on their mobile phones as this leaves teachers and office staff unaware of the situation and is also in breach of the school policy – use of mobile phones. Thank you.
Is your child at school or starting school next year? Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

For more information
Phone or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355
Email: saverplus@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ARZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered by The Smith Family in Greater Taree. The program is funded by ARZ and the Australian Government.

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**Special Needs Information Day**

Come along and hear Catholic Schools Office representatives speak about support available for children enrolled in our Catholic schools.

CatholicCare Social Services will also come along to offer information about their services.

**Morning tea provided.**

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2016 Info Days

The Special Needs Information Day is provided free of charge!

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**Junior AFL Football**

**Register Now for 2016**

**Manning Valley Mustangs Junior AFL Club**

is on the lookout for new players for their Auskick, Under 11’s, 13’s & 15.5s in 2016. Prospective players and their families are invited to our FREE Come & Try Days 9:45 – 12:00pm: 21st February & 20th March, Johnny Martin Oval, Taree

6th March Forster Lake St Sports Complex

For more information please contact Julie McLachlan 0456 196 744

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**Opera by the Lake**

John Wright Park Tuncurry 19th March 2016

Gates open at 1pm

www.operabylake.com.au

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**Opera Bites**

Sinfonia Mid North Coast
Our Community Orchestra
www.sinfoniamncs.com.au

Tickets are on Sale now at greatlakes.org.au
Newcastle Jets in Taree

Taree Wildcats will be hosting several W League Newcastle Jets players on 20/02/2016.

We have an opportunity for them to run a training session for kids from around 1 pm.

Places will be limited. To reserve your spot, please email tareewildcats@gmail.com with child's name and age.

Any enquires to Michael Wallace on 0410442538
Who is ready to play some football?

Boys & Girls turning 5 years old in 2016 & above are invited to come & play the world game

Tinonee Soccer Club-registrations 2016
REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Registrations for Tinonee Eagles are now open online at www.myfootballclub.com.au. We will be holding registration days on the following dates – please note, that on registration days we will have a limited number of computers on hand to assist with registrations. So to assist, if at all possible, please try to register online prior to these days. If you register and pay online there is no requirement to attend these days in person unless you just register online and want to pay manually.

Registrations days for those who cannot register online
Bob Collier oval, Bucketts Way Tinonee
Saturday, 13th of February 9.00am to 11.00am
Saturday, 27th of February 9.00am to 11.00am

MUSTER DAY

This year’s muster information day will be held on Sunday, 3rd of April 10.00am to 12.00pm at the Club’s home ground.
For further information call registrar John on 0432659340 or our president Laurent Gonfond on 0428 920 417