

TOOWOOMBA  
**FLEXI** **SCHOOL**  
every student matters!



# FLEXI FLYER

Term 4 DECEMBER 2020



*Every Student Matters - Find the Greatness Within*

# HEAD OF CAMPUS UPDATE

## Welcome to the final Flexi Flyer for 2020

### Year 12 Graduation and Flexi Awards Ceremony 2020

On Thursday 19 November, thirteen Year 12 students from Toowoomba Flexi School, an annexe of Centenary Heights State High School, had their achievements recognised at the annual Awards Ceremony. Held at the Caldwell Theatre, the day was a wonderful occasion that celebrated the successful completion of school and the personal growth and development of these fine young people. The 2020 graduates accepted their Graduation Certificate from, University of Southern Queensland Professor and Head of School of Psychology and Counselling, Lorelle Burton, surrounded by special guests, family, Friends of Flexi and staff.

Lastly, our graduating class of 2020 have received a parting gift from an anonymous member of the Flexi School community. Each graduate was gifted a \$200 visa debit card for his/her successful completion of senior studies despite the adversity that was COVID-19. The donation recognised the resilience of each graduate. They were all so very grateful and on behalf of the wider Flexi community we are sincerely grateful for such generosity. I congratulate and extend best wishes to our 2020 Graduates.

The following young people were awarded with medals to acknowledge their efforts and achievements throughout the 2020 academic year:

**Toowoomba East Rotary Medal:** Emerson

**John Armstrong Bursary Award 2020:** Ethan

**Keith Jordan Personal Achievement Award 2020:** Rachel

**Australian Vocational Flexi Student Prize 2020:** Matthew

**2020 Mayoral Achievement Award:** Tarence

**Judy Antonio Memorial Award:** Emily

**2020 Year 10 Encouragement Award:** Erika

**2020 Year 11 Encouragement Award:** Chantel

**2020 Year 11 Overall Achievement Award:** Danielle

**2020 Year 11 Essential English Award:** Danielle

**2020 Year 11 Essential Mathematics Award:** Danielle

**2020 Year 12 Overall Achievement Award:** Tarence

**2020 Year 12 Essential English Award:** Katelyn

### Toowoomba Flexi School- Graduating class of 2020

Braydon

Brianna

Katelyn

Skye

Jemma

Tarence

Britty

Evan

Rachel

Matthew

Charmayne

Emily

Emerson



# HEAD OF CAMPUS UPDATE (continued)

## Toowoomba Flexi School Formal

It was with excitement that our Year 12 graduates attended the Toowoomba Flexi School Formal. As the sun set and the fairy lights shone on the picturesque Gip's Restaurant, our young people arrived in stylish vehicles along with their guests to celebrate this important milestone. Overall, the night was considered a complete success with all in attendance enjoying a lovely 2-course meal, table trivia and dancing.

## Friends of Flexi Service Award

I acknowledge and congratulate the 2020 recipients of the Friends of Flexi Award, Allan Jones, Alan Yorkston and Nicole Atkinson. This special service award acknowledges the ongoing support and leadership demonstrated towards the Toowoomba Flexi School, its community and young people. We are grateful to have such wonderfully generous people within our community who continuously devote to giving back to the Flexi School. Allan, Alan and Nicole join the following Friends of Flexi Legends:

**Ken Imison 2019**

**Bill Mason 2018**

**Ed Bradbury and Chris Martin 2017**

**Derrick Tuffield, Col Davidson, Lorelle Burton and Joanne Brennan 2016**

**Ros Yorkston and Suesette Smith 2015**

**Judy Antonio 2014**

## Mentoring Moments - Every Student Matters

The Flexi Mentoring Program has been on hold since the beginning of 2020, and will continue to be closed until further notice. We have however, enjoyed 'doing mentoring differently' and staying connected through various morning teas, lunches and professional development opportunities. We continue to be hopeful for some normality into 2021, and will continue to stay connected to you all and as I say all too often, Flexi just is not the same without our Mentors!

## Volunteers and Friends of Flexi

Thank you to all the young people, kitchen volunteers (TOMNET Alan and Ray), mentors and community members for your time that you give so generously to the Flexi community. What you give enriches our community and you all make such a difference to our young people's lives. To all our Volunteers – THANK YOU and we look forward to working with you in 2021.

## Farewell to 2020

Farewell class of 2020, and thank you. It was both an honour and a pleasure to be a part of your lives. I wish you all every success in the future and I am certain that you will do both yourselves and the Flexi family proud. You have all in some way made your mark at Toowoomba Flexi School and we look forward to the day you walk back up the ramp to check in with us – the doors are always open. I sincerely thank the staff, parents, carers, support people and mentors of the graduating class as your collaboration has contributed deeply to their success.

As we wrap up another year of educating young people, I must thank our families for their continued support in working with us to ensure the best educational outcomes for each learner. Finally, thank you to all staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the best outcomes for our young people.

What an incredible year 2020 has been for everyone and may you all have a safe and relaxing break. I look forward to working with our continuing young people, families, carers, mentors, new and beginning young people and staff into 2021. Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season. Be safe, be present and enjoy the downtime with your friends and family.



**Linda Bourke |**  
Head of Campus



# FLEXI FORMAL





# YEAR 10 REFLECTION

## Hike for Homeless October 24

Hike for Homeless is aimed at raising awareness of homelessness in Toowoomba and much needed funds to ensure the Basement Soup Kitchen can continue to provide lunch time meals, blankets, clothing and essential services to people who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness in Toowoomba. This year Wendy, Julian, Selina and Renee completed the hike under the "Flexi Wanders" in total the group raised \$355.

## Story Bridge Climb November 23

To celebrate the end of a successful school year at Toowoomba Flexi School and to praise the Growth Mindset demonstrated by each young person in our Year 10 class, we had the opportunity to complete the Story Bridge Adventure Climb. This climb has been an adventure to remember and has provided our students with a strong sense of achievement, allowing some to overcome fears and acknowledge all of the challenges overcome throughout 2020. Standing on top of Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge was a very special moment for us all.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Due to the amazing support from some of our local businesses, who are interested in supporting the growth and development of the youth in our community, our Year 10 Young People were given the opportunity to experience different workplaces. These workplaces vary greatly from Lifeline, Drakes Supermarkets, BCF, Food Assist and Hairdressing. This work experience really is invaluable in helping our students, not only to see whether this is a career avenue they may like to pursue in the future, but also to learn and develop skills that make them workplace ready.



Renee O'Sullivan |  
Year 10 Case Manager





# YEAR 11 REFLECTION

Term 4 has been a very productive term with our young people. At the start of term, we attended a full day program at Centenary Heights State High School, known as the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) day which is a national road safety education program that aims to reduce injury and death among young people as drivers on Australian Roads. Students were given an insight into the impact of differing speeds and the length of time that it takes to stop a vehicle. We listened to a guest speaker who shared with us how one poor decision on the road can lead to permanent trauma for the survivor, the family, and the community at large. Additionally, students learnt about the most common crashes involving young people, and ways to prepare, avoid or minimise their impact.

Also at the start of this term our School Nurse, Kate, provided 3 informative sessions on sexual health.

Wednesday 25 November, the Year 11 cohort celebrated the end of a successful school year with an excursion to the Gold Coast. We enjoyed a swim at the beach followed by Go-kart racing. We relished the authentic racing experience, with qualifying sessions, grid starts and plenty of opportunities for all of our adrenaline enthusiasts. A big thank you for our School Chaplain, Jason Berry, for driving the Flexi bus and being part of a fabulous time away with our soon-to-be final year seniors!



**Wendy Ellem** |  
Year 11 Case Manager





# YEAR 12 REFLECTION

A Huge congratulations to all of the Year 12 Flexi class on their amazing achievements and graduation. I am extremely proud of each and every one of them. In what has been a difficult and challenging year, they have all managed to overcome many obstacles and continued to achieve, even though it was not easy at times. I know at times some of them wanted to give up, but they did not! They persevered, kept trying, and in the end, succeeded.

I hope they are all as proud of themselves as we are of them.

Term 4 saw a number of students attend a weekly kick boxing session run by Ty from Anglicare. The focus of the program was to engage young people in a fitness program that would have benefits for improved mental health, confidence, and focus, whilst at the same time developing social skills, team work, self-control and improved levels of fitness.

For approximately 1 hour a week the young people engaged in circuit training, sparring sessions, combination kicking / punching drills, and bag work. A big thankyou to Ty and Anglicare for running the program. The young people involved had a great time and worked hard.



**Julian Booth |**  
Year 12 Case Manager



# FLEXI CAREERS OFFICE

## WORK EXPERIENCE

This term has been a learning curve for our Year 10's who overall have put in a fantastic effort with attending their work experience placements for 7 weeks. During this time the young people were visited by their Case Manager Renee, who enjoyed seeing her students in a different light. Each young person faced personal challenges throughout this time but overcome these and as staff we are so proud of their effort. A very big THANK YOU to our Work Experience providers: Drakes, Lifeline Emporium, Lifeline Anzac Avenue, Lifeline Perth Street, Food Assist, BCF, Zigbi's Hair Salon, Spar Southtown, Harristown State Primary School & Target for supporting our school!

2021 will see a new plan for the Work experience Program which staff across our two campuses have been working on for the benefit of our students. "Our aim is for a young person to leave better equipped than when they had arrived."

## TAFE

Congratulations to all of our students for putting in a stella effort to complete all necessary theory and practical work that was required for your Tafe At School courses.

Certificate III in Beauty: Brianna, Katelyn, Jemma & Emily

Certificate II in Hospitality: Rachel

Certificate II in Plumbing: Emerson

Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics: Charmayne & Skye

Certificate II in Animal Studies: Claire

Certificate II in Automotive: Jason

## SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS (SAT's)

Job well done to Evan on completion of his Certificate III in Business at Central Seafood Market. Evan has been offered continuing employment with this business.

Skye, Danielle and Ethan will continue with their traineeships into 2021, we wish you all much success in this space.

Matthew has worked hard in his apprenticeship with 3Sixty Constructions, he is already working full-time with his schooling year having concluded. Matty aspires to continue with his apprenticeship by making the move to the coast. Best of luck in all you do Matthew, you have shown perseverance, determination and a positive attitude in all things construction.



**Drakes.**



**Lifeline**

Darling Downs &  
South West QLD



**Target**

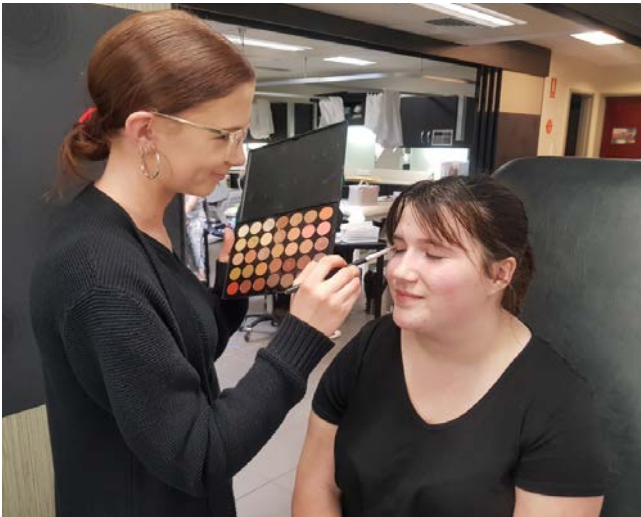


**Kellie Selby |**  
Industry Liaison Officer





# FLEXI CAREERS OFFICE (continued)





# RSPCA CUPCAKE DAY

RSPCA Cupcake Day, on 26 October, went over like a doggy bite sized treat this year with all paws on deck along with a few guests (socially distanced) and students.



Karen Bolch | Teacher Aide



# HALLOWEEN

Students and staff celebrated in spooktacular style this year with some homemade creepy cupcakes created by students in the Flexi kitchen, Halloween treats, fun costumes and atmosphere.





# GRATITUDE



Thank you to Project School Formal and its volunteers for the amazing opportunity given to our students to access Formal suits, gowns, shoes, accessories and services. A number of our students benefited greatly from such a generous service and rocked up looking amazing to this year's 2020 Flexi Formal.

Thank you to Nicole at The Beauty Boutique on Bridge for the kind donation of formal make up. Special thanks to Friend of Flexi, Bill Mason for generously chauffeuring one of our young people to the Formal in his Jaguar.

## SHOUT OUT!

Thank you to the Armstrong Family for your ongoing generosity in sponsoring the John Armstrong Bursary. Each year this \$1000 bursary significantly enhances educational opportunities for the recipient.

The generosity of the Armstrong Family does not stop with this bursary. Each Easter, Christmas and other special occasions in between, the Armstrong Family donate gifts to be dispersed amongst all young people.

Your unwavering support and kindness is appreciated by all.

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER

### Wednesday 27 January

First Day of Term 1, 2021 (Year 10Y & 10Z only)

### Thursday 28 January

First Day of Term 1, 2021 (Year 11 only)

### Friday 29 January

Whole school - Year 10Z, 10Y, 11, 12

### Monday 8 February

School Photos

### Tuesday 23 February

Flexi Family Meet & Greet

### Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 March 2021

Whole School Flexi Camp  
Sunshine Coast

Cost: \$100 per student  
(to be paid in full by Friday 5 March)

## FLEXI SCHOOL TIMES

### PERIOD 1

8:45am - 9:55am

### HYDRATION BREAK

9:55am - 10:00am

### PERIOD 2

10:00am - 11:10am

### LUNCH

11:10am - 11:30pm

### PERIOD 3

11:30am - 12:40pm

### AFTERNOON TEA

12:40pm - 1:00pm

### PERIOD 4

1:00pm - 2:10pm





## One School - Two Campuses



### FLEXI SCHOOL OFFICE

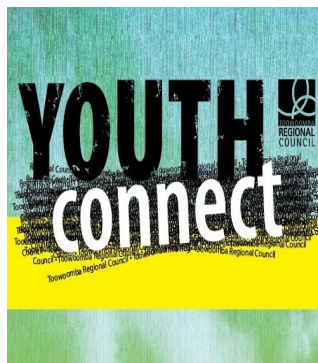
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Phone: (07) 4614 4100

Fax: (07) 4614 4110

The Toowoomba Flexi School Office is open Monday to Friday 8am to 3pm

**Toowoomba Flexi School wishes to thank supporting businesses and organisations!**



[www.toowoombaflex.eq.edu.au](http://www.toowoombaflex.eq.edu.au)