



# TAROONNA HIGH SCHOOL

Enriching lives through learning



## School talk

**What is your opinion about teens being labelled the "whatever" generation?**



**Erin Sussems, Grade 10:** I think there is an aspect of truth to the label but it's really just a stereotype.



**Holly Jacobson, Grade 7:** I think it would be true for teenagers in all past generations.



**Nicholas Shegog, Grade 10:** Whatever, I don't really mind because that's just how people perceive us and that's not how I am.



**Rebecca Bryan, Grade 10:** I think it's not fair to stereotype a generation when there are obviously going to be exceptions.



**Kate Andrewartha, Grade 9:** Teens have always been labelled. But our generation is more so, because we're spoiled.

# SCHOOL GAINS \$4M BOOST

### KRISTOFF WING

TAROONNA High will benefit from a \$4m redevelopment made possible through the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution grant and the State Government's capital works program.

Due to start in October and slated for completion in July 2010, the redevelopment will include a new science building and refurbishment of the home economics and the materials, design and technology (MDT) areas.

The 660m<sup>2</sup> science building will include a collaborative learning area, two new general classrooms, a greenhouse and two fully equipped laboratories.

Each room will be equipped with an interactive whiteboard which will assist teachers in integrating innovative technologies into the curriculum.

The building will have wireless internet access, allowing students with their own laptops to take advantage of flexible learning areas

equipped with informal lounges and modular furniture, in order to "get rid of the 'egg crate' mentality," according to principal David Hamlett.

"It encourages students to work together," Mr Hamlett said.

The new science block will incorporate solar panels and possibly a wind turbine to reduce Taroonna's impact on the environment.

Students will be able to see the building's energy produc-

tion and use through the building management system. The building's style makes no mistake about the purpose of the facilities.

The design aims to create the feeling of a research facility; an environment where teachers can share classes and students can direct their own learning, allowing them to achieve to their fullest because they are enjoying themselves.

The MDT and home economics areas use "high end technologies" to produce

high end products.

Examples of this philosophy include the purchase of two industrial cooktops in the fully equipped stainless steel technical kitchen.

The MDT area will feature several high-tech machines, one of which will allow students to create quality three-dimensional models from scratch.

Students and staff look forward to working together in their state-of-the-art learning areas.

## Festival to oust winter chills

**HUDSON WARMUTH and ANGUS DAVISON**

EACH year in August Taroonna High School students showcase their artistic abilities at the Winter Arts Festival.

Now entering its third year the festival is a chance for students to gain public exposure.

The majority of the school's 670 students are involved in the night by contributing art, assisting with catering or performing in one of the music and drama presentations.

Some of the performances on the night will include the senior stage



**ARTY:** Taroonna High student Xavier Devereaux with his piece to be featured in the expo. band and the senior concert band, fresh from their tour of Queensland.

Also featured will be the string ensemble and string quartet, the guitar ensemble, an Irish punk band and several rock bands.

"It's an exciting evening that gives students a chance to show off; a night to show the community

what Taroonna High is made of," music teacher James Roebuck said.

"The festival is one of the big events of the Taroonna High calendar," art teacher Karena Gregory said.

"It's a multi-arts extravaganza."

The food for this year's festival will have an inter-

national theme. Foods such as curry puffs, sushi and samosas will be prepared by the Grade 9/10 catering class.

The festival will be held on Thursday, August 27, from 4pm.

Tickets are available from the Taroonna High School office for \$3 per person or \$10 for a family.

## Cross country congratulations

ABOUT 50 Taroonna High School students travelled to Pontville in Brighton on July 23 to compete in the Southern Inter-High Cross Country. Despite muddy conditions, Taroonna came out on top and won overall at the end of the day. Standout performers were Zoe Moss and Hugh Nicklason who both won in the Grade 7 division.

## Busting Bullying

STUDENTS in Mr Arnold and Ms Rayner's social psychology classes recently conducted a survey on bullying at Taroonna High School. The results were analysed by the students, then solutions and ways the school can better handle bullying were suggested. The project helped students acquire a better understanding about types of bullying.

— Honi Laan

● **THIS Mercury School Page was produced by the Grade 9/10 journalism class at Taroonna High School, with thanks to all sponsors.**

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