



Lighthouse

Volume 30 Number 14

5 December 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

No doubt we have all heard the famous Christmas carol called Silent Night. Indeed, it has been heard throughout the world since it was first performed in a small Austrian town in the year 1818.

I have sometimes wondered why the night had to be silent. Really, you would think that the night should be filled with sounds. The sounds of people laughing, excited children opening gifts, the sound of family celebrations and joyous Christmas meals. These are the festive sounds that hopefully fill homes and towns at this time of year.

So, why the silence?

Of course we have no way of really knowing why the composers of this famous carol, Gruber and Mohr, suggested that the time should be silent. But nevertheless their lyrics are worth considering.

Perhaps one reason may be that we need to be silent to hear the real message of Christmas. For it is in listening that we are able to realise what is being really told to us. Just as we can't appreciate the melody of our favourite music, or the beauty of birds singing in the bush, or water cascading through rocks, or surf on the seashore, if we are filling our ears with other noises or the sound of our own voices. We have to stop, and actually listen, in order to absorb the value of these edifying sounds.

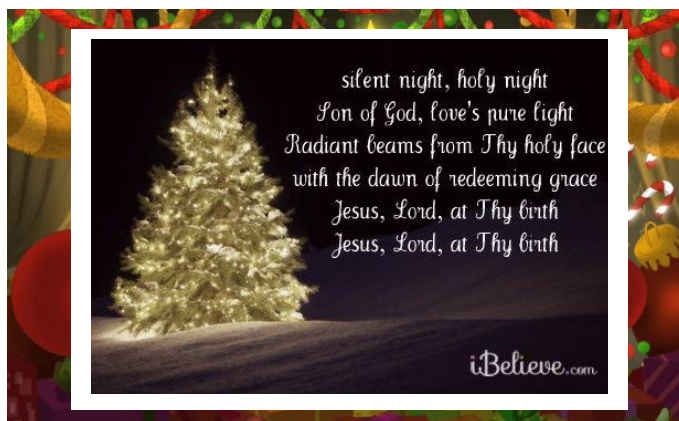
So may be if when we stop and listen we can appreciate that one of the messages of Christmas is about 'letting go'. There were wise men who left everything to follow a star. There were shepherds who had nothing and were sleeping out in the fields. There was a simple barn that held no comforts or proper accommodation. There were no family members or midwives present. It would be hard to imagine a more lonely or desperate situation in which to welcome a newborn into the world.

In some ways we get a sense of that 'letting go' when we have the opportunity to give at this time of year. For many people it is the giving that brings the most joy. It can be involved in all the thought that goes into working out the right present, then presenting our gift specially wrapped-up and finally seeing the joy (hopefully) when it is finally opened. This is close to the meaning of joy and this, perhaps, is close to the meaning of Christmas.

Of course the most precious gifts do not come wrapped in fancy paper. Rather, they come in the form of our deeds. Every time that we act out of care for another person in our forgiveness, compassion, support, encouragement and love, then we are sharing the real joy of Christmas.

I wish all families of St Francis Xavier's College a happy and holy Christmas.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal



Dates for
your diary >

2014

Last day for Students

- Friday, 12 December



**Staff Professional Development Days
Student Free Days**

- Monday, 15 December – Friday, 19 December

**College Switchboard/Reception will be
opened in the last week of Term 4 on the
following days from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm**

- Monday, 16 December until
Thursday, 18 December

Finance Office

Last day to receipt payments for 2014

- Friday, 12 December

College will be closed

- Friday, 19 December



The Uniform Shop

(02) 4962 4423

stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au

*Uniform price list & online shopping
available at www.alintaapparel.com.au*

Remaining days opened for 2014

- Monday, 1 December: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, 2 December: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Wednesday, 3 December: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, 4 December: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, 9 December: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Thursday, 11 December: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

2015

OPEN

**College Switchboard, Reception
and Finance Office Open**

- Monday, 19 January – Friday, 23 January

Staff Day Only – No Students

- Tuesday, 27 January

Year 11 Students Only

- Wednesday, 28 January and
Thursday, 29 January



Year 12 Students Commence

All students at school

- Friday, 30 January



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January Shop Opening Times

- Wednesday, 21 January: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Friday, 23 January: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, 28 January: 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Normal Shop Hours Resume

- Thursday, 29 January: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, 3 February: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

HAVE A NICE
SUMMER
VACATION!

Happy
New
School
year!



College Appeal

With less than a month to go the **Christmas** Season is well and truly upon us! This means the College's St Vincent de Paul Society is conducting its annual **Christmas Appeal**. This aims to provide a present under the Christmas tree for the children and teenagers of needy families in the local area.

This Friday, 5 December is St Francis Xavier's Day. It will be an out of uniform day with a Christmas theme. We ask that you bring an unwrapped gift which would be suitable for a range of ages. Gifts can include books, toys, games and dolls. Alternatively you may donate a gold coin instead.



Please bring your gift or coin to the assembly in the hall on this coming Friday. All gifts would be greatly appreciated and you would potentially make someone's Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SINCERELY,
FROM US.

Lara Fuller

On behalf of the SFX St Vincent de Paul Society



*Marist Student Leaders Gathering
Mittagong*



Preliminary Awards Celebration



ROADwhyz

2014

With such a high proportion of our students being learner or inexperienced drivers who may also spend significant time in the vehicles of their friends, it is with a high priority that we encourage safe behaviours on the roads.

On Friday, 21 November normal lessons were suspended for the morning in order to allow participation in the "Roadwhyz – Choice and Consequence" Program. In extremely hot and dry conditions our students are to be congratulated on the mature and respectful manner in which they intently listened to Michelle Davis and her team of dedicated volunteers. Michelle is a mother of three who lost her two teenage sons in a speed-related crash near Morpeth in 2005. Several of the police and investigation officers who also spoke did so as a result of attending that crash.

Our students completed an evaluation survey following the presentation and the results indicate that the intended message has been taken on board.

*Wishing you all a safe and happy
Christmas season!*

Mr Chris Henry
PDHPE Coordinator

TEACHING OF RELIGION



For the duration of 2014, SFX students have been teaching Religion at St Pius Windale. The Windale students are a

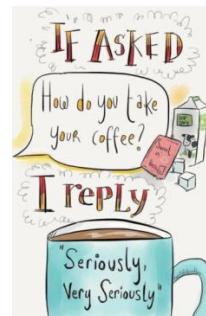
fantastic group of kids, full of enthusiasm and high spirits, but unfortunately lack in material goods; so we have decided to have a Christmas party for them. For the prizes we are asking for donations of any second hand bikes, scooters, helmets, sporting equipment, board games etc that are in good working condition.

Take a look around your house/garage for anything you could bring in, it doesn't cost to donate something not being used, and would make a real difference to their Christmas.



End of Year College Café

Report



L to R: Josie Bell,
Sarah Dunsten,
Carina Virgilli, Benta Obny

Well, it has been a very busy and successful time in the SFX Café this year. The café is open from 7:30 am – 8:45 am each morning to all staff and students.

The menu offers a selection of hot and cold beverages, including espresso coffee, hot chocolate and chai lattes, milkshakes and iced coffees/chocolates as well as sweet and savoury food items and toasted sandwiches.

The Year 11 Hospitality students have completed two days of “Orientation to Café” where they are provided initial training in the basic operational procedures. The Year 12 students then complete their Front of House Work Placement over the year by participating for a whole week each term to complete their mandatory hours required by the BOSTES for their HSC in a VET course.

The Life Skills students have also participated in the Café with a unit of work aimed at “Working in the Community”. They have developed skills, knowledge and confidence in a variety of tasks for an hour a week over 5 weeks. This culminates with their hosting a High Tea to invited guests and showing off their talents!

The Café provides an informal opportunity for both staff and students to meet, mix and greet the day. We have also hosted several fundraising ventures throughout the year to raise money and awareness for community initiatives such as the **Zoo-2-Zoo Bike Ride** by the Black Dog Institute, the **Seven Bridges Walk** and a **Pink Breakfast**, both for the Cancer Council and **Movember** for Men’s Health.

Thanks to all our regular customers for their ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you all, as well as some new faces in the coming year!

Mrs Sam Middleton and Jacqui Wrightson



L to R: Monique Anstey,
Brooklyn Tolhurst,
Matilda Watt



On Friday, 21 November the school held a Breakfast to raise funds for Pink Ribbon and Movember Charities.

The breakfast raised in excess of \$500 for these very worthwhile causes and the Committee would very much like to thank the four students pictured who arrived at school at 7:00 am and prepared food and coffee.



The fundraiser relied on their generosity and expertise and the students have contributed in a very real way to helping fund research and aid those people who are suffering in any way as a result of the diseases these charities support.



L to R: Jacqui Wrightson,
Monica Chagorski,
Colleen Maloney, Monica Graham

Celebrating excellence in Vocational Education and Training ENTERTAINMENT STUDENTS



The work of our VET Entertainment students has been evident at many events in 2014. The students would like to extend their thanks to their exceptional Work Placement hosts such as ASPIRE, the Mattara Festival, Newcastle Jazz Festival, The Career Expo, Tantrum Theatre and many more.



In October, three Year 11 students, Conagh Punch, David Lobb and Emilia Flaherty were selected, on merit, to go “on tour” with a production called ‘The Chosen’ to Sydney, with the production appearing on ABC’s 7:30 Report and in various print media. Emilia was selected to be Stage Manager, whilst David and Conagh were Audio and Lighting Technicians.



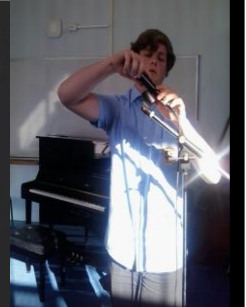
Emilia Flaherty describes the impact the experience had:

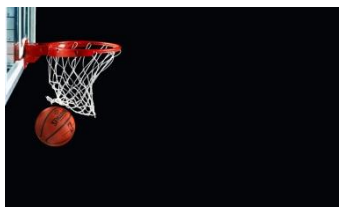
“After being involved in Tantrum Theatre’s production, ‘Diving off the Edge of the World’, which was held at The Ocean Baths earlier this year, we were invited to be a part of their latest production ‘The Chosen’ which had a season here in Newcastle and then toured to Sydney. Being offered the opportunity to complete our VET Entertainment Course’s mandatory work placement hours, we were also offered the chance to gain valuable industry experience, working in The Australian Theatre for Young People’s (ATYP) prestigious facilities. Whilst touring to Sydney to run the production with such a fantastic and talented cast and crew, who we have made lifetime relationships with, we were also offered scholarships to a week of ATYP Theatre Workshops where we participated in an ‘Acting for Screen Intensive’ led by Jacob Allan from Packed to the Rafters. The time we have spent involved with Tantrum Theatre has been the most valuable and unforgettable experience and we are all so grateful for that opportunity”.



The Entertainment Students would also like to wholeheartedly congratulate the team at ‘ASPIRE – A Night in the Forest’, in particular St Francis Xavier’s College actors Claudia Wallis, Grace Lancaster, Lauren Freemantle and Lydia Frazer, for the four CONDA nominations (including best Acting in an Ensemble). Congratulations also to Tantrum Theatre for their nine nominations for both ‘Diving off The Edge of the World’ and ‘The Chosen’. It was a genuine privilege to be actively involved in these excellent local productions in our capacity as Stage and Technical Crew.







2014 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL CHAMPS

1ST-5TH DECEMBER, 2014

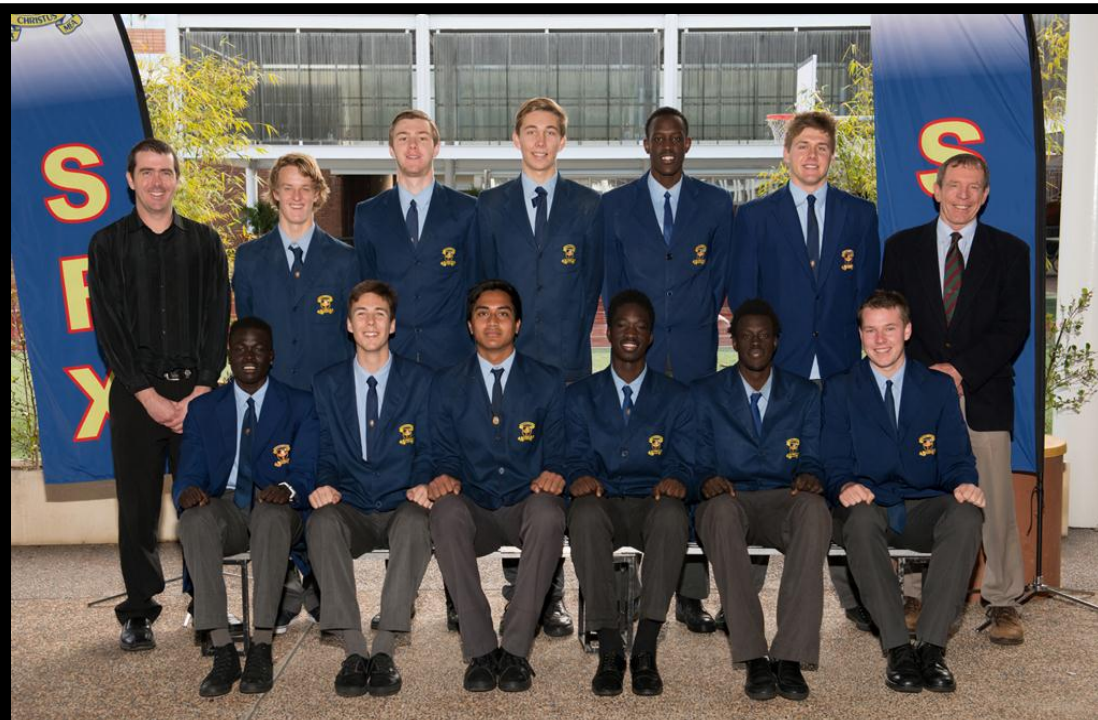
CANBERRA, ACT

On Sunday the St Francis Xavier's College Boys' Basketball team travelled to Canberra to participate in the Australian Schools Championships, from Sunday, 30 November to Friday, 5 December. The tournament has been running for 25 years and this is the first time that SFX will be sending a team. The boys will be among 1300 young male and female athletes representing schools from around Australia in four divisions and subdivisions— Championship, Senior U20 Division, Junior U17 Division and Freshman U15 Division.

What is special about the 2014 SFX team competing this year is that the boys **have qualified for the Championship Division**. The Championship Division is for the top placed teams in each state, with a maximum of ten (10) teams of each gender. Teams need to qualify and be nominated by their respective State/Territory Association. The Boys' Championship division is split into two pools of 5 teams, with SFX in Pool A. The opening ceremony will be on Sunday, 30 November at Tuggeranong Indoor Sports Centre at 6pm. The boys will then play in the first game of the tournament on Sunday directly after the opening ceremony in front of a capacity crowd and against the team that won the Championship Division in 2013.

It has been a long year for the team with the first competition, the Maitland Newcastle Diocesan Championship held in February, followed by the NSW CCC Championships in June at Penrith and the NSW Champion Schools Tournament held on the Central Coast in September. A lot of time and effort has gone into the preparation of the team for these Championships. The boys have been training regularly for the last two months and have been playing in the A Grade Men's Basketball Competition, which is held on Thursday night at Broadmeadow Basketball Stadium. It is worthy to note that Ben, Reece, Nic and Dhui completed Year 12 in Term 3 but have made every effort, including during the HSC exam period, to attend some of the training sessions. The boys' willingness to train and play over an extended period of time is a testament to their commitment to perform to the best of their ability at these Championships.

The College is extremely grateful to the Coach, Mr Rohan Stevenson (ex-student of the College, 1999) who has put a lot of energy, time and effort into getting the boys into the best shape for the tournament. Rohan has been ably supported by the Team Manager, Mr Robert Sheridan (a teacher at SFX). One player who will not be with the team is Kouat Noi who has taken up a two year scholarship with Montverde Academy in Florida. While Kouat was an integral member of the team and we will miss his 'skill set', the coaching staff believe that the blend of experience, players knowing their roles, a "never say die" attitude, commitment and a willingness to support each other on and off the court will hopefully lead to success at these Championships. This is a wonderful opportunity for the boys to showcase their talents at a most prestigious event. We wish them the very best of luck!



College Basketball Team

Back row (L to R): Mr Rohan Stevenson, John Brokenshire, Myles Cherry (C), Reece Browning, Kouat Noi (America), Nicholas Honeyands, Mr Robert Sheridan

Front row (L to R): Kaman Bol, Benjamin Kingham, Viko Puliueva, Makoi Makuer, Dhui Noi, Michael Sheridan

Pool A

Date	Time	Team 1		Team 2
Sunday 30 November	7:00 pm	St Francis Xavier's College	v	Lake Ginninderra College Canberra
Monday 1 December	3:00 pm	St Francis Xavier's College	v	St James College Queensland
Tuesday 2 December	7:00 pm	St Francis Xavier's College	v	Sacred Heart College South Australia
Wednesday 3 December	11:00 am	St Francis Xavier's College	v	St Augustine's College New South Wales

Pool B

Pool B consists of teams from Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, NSW, China (U/17 national team)

Thursday, 4 and Friday, 5 December– Semi Finals/Finals and Classifications (placings)

Two of the boys games will be streamed live on YouTube. These Games will be:

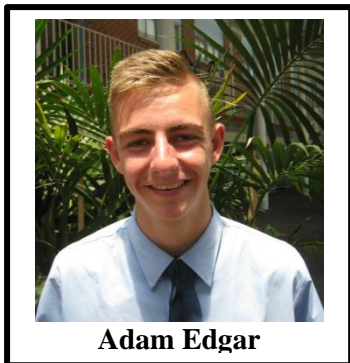
Game 1 – Sunday, 30 November at 7:00 pm

Game 3 Tuesday, 2 December at 7:00 pm

The link for the livestream is: youtube.com/basketballact



MOST WANTED!



Adam Edgar

Our best wishes go to Adam Edgar who travels to the UK later this month to compete in the finals of this Soccer Competition. Adam, who is currently a member of Newcastle Jets NYL side, won the only Australian place in the UK finals where representatives from 42 nations will take part. The finals take place at St George's Park, home of the English National Team.

Good luck Adam!



Congratulations!

Adam, the only Australian Representative, is one of the eight players in the world to gain a place in the Nike Academy in England.

St Francis Xavier's College

Phone Number: 02 4961 2863

Facsimile Number: 02 4961 2384

Student Office Phone Number: 02 4961 2110

Student Office Email:

hml-studentoffice@mn.catholic.edu.au

College Email

admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Web Site: www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Parents Wine Fundraiser for Basketball

Dear Parents

The wine fundraiser to support our Basketball team at the Australian Schools Championship in Canberra closes on Friday, 5 December.

Tamburlaine is donating \$50 from each case ordered. Order forms have been sent home.

If you require another form please email:
bob.sheridan@mn.catholic.edu.au or
Anthony stone@mn.catholic.edu.au



Merry Christmas

*The staff of
St Francis Xavier's College
sends their best wishes to our
students and parents / guardians*



Earn \$500 to assist with education costs

Do you have a child at school or are you studying and would \$500 help cover your education expenses? Saver Plus is a nationally-recognised program developed by Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ that is being delivered in Newcastle by The Smith Family. Saver Plus pays people one dollar for every one dollar they save (up to \$500) to help pay for education. By joining you could receive up to \$500 from ANZ to help pay for items like computers, books and uniforms.

You must be over 18 and have a child in school or be studying yourself & have a Health Care or Pension Card and have some regular income from work. Contact Cynthia on 4927.8385 or cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au Ring now as recruitment closes Saturday, 20 December.

Year 12 Music Concert

Many of our new Year 12 Music Students performed at an afternoon concert last Thursday for parents, friends and staff of the College. To see these students developing as musicians is truly exciting. There is so much performance experience to be gained by performing in a variety of venues to a live audience and the following students welcomed the opportunity to perform. Congratulations to the following students who really did take a huge step forward in their HSC Performance preparation for next September's Practical Examinations.

I'd Rather Go Blind

Etta James

Megan Johnson – Voice

Liana McLeary – Piano

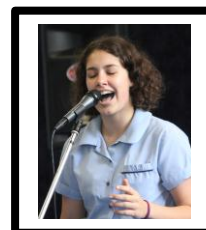
Madelaine Lloyd - Drumkit

Blackbird

Paul McCartney

Aiyana Pugh – Voice

Nick Price – Guitar



Thinking Out Loud

Ed Sheeran

Eliza Roy – Voice

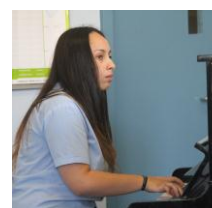
Nicholas Lavelle – Guitar

What A Wonderful World

Bob Thiele and George David

Weiss

William McGeachie – Piano



Nothing Else Matters

Metallica

Jacob Burgess – Guitar

Jaimi Bubb - Guitar

Underground

Split Feed

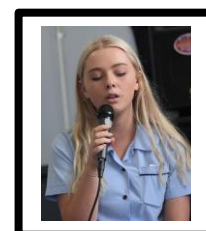
Joseph Willis

Voice and Bass Guitar

William St Claire

Voice and Guitar

Bradley McLean – Drumkit



Rather Be

Clean Bandit

Clare Brennan – Voice

Daniel Byrne – Guitar

Madelaine Lloyd - Drumkit

Prelude Op.3 No.2

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Christian Shilling - Piano



To Make You Feel My Love

Garth Brooks

Emmanuel Herman – Voice

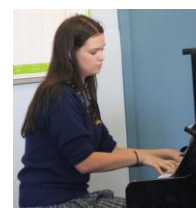
Lucy Wallace – Piano

Rolling in the Deep

Adele and Paul Epworth

Patricia Eborá – Voice

Liana McLeary – Guitar



My Hero

Foo Fighters

Nick Price – Voice and Guitar

Jaimi Bubb – Bass Guitar

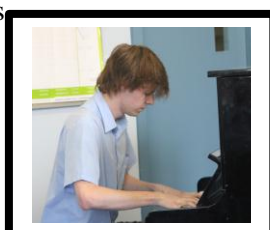
Joseph Willis - Drumkit



Special thanks to our Entertainment Students who supported the Music Department once again as part of their Work Placement. Their help is always dependable and often unseen. Thank you to Tessa Ryan, Beth Moody and Kirra O'Loughlin.



Melissa Wattus
Music Staff





Julie McLoughlin
Careers Coordinator
julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au

Merry
Christmas



Last Week for Bookings

This will be the last week for bookings with Mrs Mac. If you need any help with motivation and direction before the holidays put your name on the booking sheet outside her office.

I hope you all have a very relaxing break and great Christmas with your loved ones.
Come prepared because next year is **FULL ON!**



Emails

Please check your emails on a regular basis as there just might be something that interests you!

School Portal

Most of the Christmas casual work has been advertised and students have obtained part time work or completed training. There are only a few on the Portal site this week under 24 November entry.

Work Experience

A few students have taken up the offer to apply for Work Experience over the holiday break. If you are one of these students ensure you have your paper work to me by Monday, 8 December.

School Work Experience at Taronga Zoo

Closes 20 February
Years 11 and 12

Contact: 02 99784624 or vocedtz@zoo.nsw.gov.au
<http://taronga.org.au/education/education-sydney/school-work-experience-taronga-zoo>



Sydney Aviators Open Day

28 December - 8.30am

Information on Private Pilot Licence.

\$120 half hour trial flights.

Contact: (02) 9793 8900

<http://www.sydneyaviators.com.au/Event.aspx?id=121>

THIS IS VERY
IMPORTANT



Changes to the Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How Do Students Apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015?

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post Office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post Office will need to complete the Tax File Number application form or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

Steve Vesperman
Deputy Commissioner of Taxation

“WORKible”

Help with finding work! This is a NEW community initiative that allows business owners to tap into students who require work (either part time or full time jobs).

It has been officially launched in Port Stephens and is now being targeted in Newcastle, so if you're from the Port Stephens area it's already up and running!!

SIGN UP- Download the free **WORKible** app to your smartphone (available on the App Store and Google Play for androids) or register on line at workible.com.au

GET AN APPLICATION READY – Prepare by setting up an application profile which you can use to apply for the jobs coming up like an online resume.

ENDORSE – Candidates appear higher in the list of applications when they have been endorsed for skills, courses and experiences that I can verify.

