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# The results are in

## The arrival of HSC and ATARs marks sees students plan the future

By Hayley Williams

AFTER months of stress, study, breakdowns, breakthroughs, a lack of sleep and countless energy drinks, year 12 students across the country can breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over.

With HSC marks released on Wednesday and ATARs coming out yesterday, more than 54,000 students can now start to plan their next step.

The Times caught up with some of the local students yesterday to find out how they went, their thoughts on the HSC, where they're headed next and how they plan on realising their goals – even if their marks weren't exactly what they needed.

As someone who completed the HSC a few years ago, I know only too well that things don't always go to plan and no matter how many people told me at the time "It's not the 'be all and end all'", I took absolutely no notice and admittedly thought my life was over when the results were released.

Although I'd achieved enough to get myself into university, I hadn't received the marks I wanted and it hurt.

It wasn't until after the chaos of my final year at school that I realised what everyone was talking about and it was so refreshing to visit students yesterday who had found themselves – as I did – a little disappointed, however they are as determined as ever and they're making the best of the situation for themselves.

From a direct route to university, to TAFE diplomas, bridging courses and private colleges, there's endless ways to get to where you want to go and there's always another option.

"Where there's a will, there's a way," exclaimed one school leaver, and what an apt sentiment.

Congratulations to all the year 12 students for 2013, whether you're ecstatic, on the fence or disappointed.

You survived the HSC and that's an accomplishment in itself – the real world awaits and you can now do it at your own pace, on your own terms.

## Taree High celebrates achievers at all levels

TAREE High is celebrating some outstanding results from this year's Higher School Certificate.

As of yesterday, careers adviser Glen Bowman said some of the highest ATARs (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) received by students included 97.5 for Joshua Echano, 94.5 for Patrick Abraham and 92.15 for Hannah Oreo.

Joshua and St Clare's student Luke Jirman, who also scored an ATAR of 97.5, appear to be the top Manning students.

Another student, Esther Christian, was projected to receive an ATAR in

the 90s but is currently in Denmark and her result unknown.

"We had a lot of kids floating around the 80s, and a lot getting the cut off they need for the university courses they want to get into."

Glen said there were kids who received ATARs in the 70s who will be the first in their families to be heading to university, which was a great achievement.

Some of the students had already gained early admission into university and he said the release of the results this week was purely academic.



A selection of Chatham High School's HSC students, all taking different paths to their future endeavours - Back: Ashley Monck, Sarah Bowers, Heidi Longworth, and Talara Morris. Front: Chris Diessel, Brad Chapman, and Jordan Mobbs.

## Chatham High students meet to de-brief

THERE were all smiles at Chatham High School as a selection of the year 12 students came together to de-brief on the last couple of days and share their plans for next year. But the biggest smile of all belonged to their dux for 2013, Sarah Bowers who received an ATAR of 91.33.

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