Bid to bring back Scouting to Taree

There is renewed hope that Scouting will be revived in Taree. A Family Fun Day held at the Taree Scout Precinct on Rifle Range Road attracted a huge crowd, estimated at over 150 people.

"I know for certain that we could not park another car in Rifle Range Road," district commissioner Stu Woodrow said afterwards.

The day was aimed at inviting boys and girls from six to 11 years to join Joey and Cub Scouts, and older age groups to join senior Scout and Venturer groups, as well as securing leaders for all the groups.

"As a result we had quite a few wanting to join the Joey and Cub Scouts, and a smaller number wanting to join the older Scouts as well," Mr Woodrow said.

"We now have application membership forms going to two prospective new leaders, one of them an ex-Scout leader from Queensland, and the other who is a new current leader, but prepared to undergo the training."

Offers of assistance have also been received from Newcastle to help with the leaders' training.

Mr Woodrow said this proved the way for a support committee to be formed.

"In the meantime we want to start some of the young people on activities, but I would say that by the end of the Christmas school holidays we will have Taree Scouts officially back in business, after an absence of several years."

Anyone who would like more information can call Mr Woodrow on 652 5549 or 0402 547 516.

Chatham's year 12 honoured

YEAR 12 students were honoured at a special assembly at Chatham High School last Thursday.

Former principal Graeme Jennings returned for the event, along with their original year advisor Erin Browning, to wish them well in their final exams next month.

Current principal William Havstad said the Year 12 assembly was quite moving.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Everyone was very respectful of their achievements," he said.

The Year 12 students now have a three week 'study vacation' to prepare for their HSC exams, which begin on October 15.

Outgoing school captains Rebecca McIndoe and Zachary Steadman handed the baton over to new captains Bridie Chapman and Ashleigh Spackman and captains Nadeen Bayliss and Chris Dissing.

The new school leaders said they wanted to make school days as interesting for everyone else as theirs had been and carry on with some of the projects initiated by the former leaders.

"We are working on a new school dress. This was a project Zac and Iec started and we'd like to see it through. Models have been made up and we hope to have the project complete before we finish," Ashleigh and Nadeen said.

"We'll strive hard to be the best role models we can be," added Brad and Chris.

36 year career

GENERATIONS of students at Chatham High School have benefited from the art of woodcraft under the guidance of Mr Kim Hilton, but after a rewarding 36 year career, Kim has decided it's time to retire.

Mr Hilton had his last day on the Friday of last term and spoke of his long teaching career, spent entirely at Chatham High School.

"This was my first school and I didn't ever want to leave. It's unusual for a teacher to spend their whole career in one school, so I am glad I was able to", Kim said.

Over his 36 years, Kim said he has seen many changes within the profession, but the core work of helping kids is still the same.

"I've always loved being with the kids and watching them create. It's a great hands-on subject. Sometimes their projects don't go the way they expect and then it is a matter of helping them fix it. When it's done they feel they've really achieved something," he said.

Kim said when he looks back on his career he will always consider himself lucky to have been associated with many terrific students over the years.

"As a teacher it's incredible to see what students do with their lives once they leave school: the one of the privileges of the job," he added.

There is a current shortage of Industrial Technology teachers in NSW and Kim feels it's a shame more people aren't considering it as an option.

For now, Kim is very much looking forward to his retirement.

"It's a new stage of life. We have some overseas trips planned for next year, I think it's going to be a wonderful time for us."