



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

The heart of secondary education for Lismore

NEWS AND UPDATES

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 | TERM 2 | WEEK 10

Term 2 has quickly disappeared and as a College we continue to achieve a significant amount of progress. The College Plan 2016-2017 has been adopted and is available on our website, each campus principal is now developing a project to support the College Plan having adopted a strategic direction each, many sporting and cultural successes have been achieved and the Aboriginal Leadership program, titled Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming was a roaring success! Congratulations to all of the students that participated, the local Aboriginal community and the many College staff that contributed to this initiative.

In many other areas, our senior vocational students are undertaking work placements, students are completing assessment tasks and staff are continuing to explore future options for the College development. Our local Year 6 students transition program is commencing with secondary teachers visiting local primary schools.

John Baker

Executive Principal

NAIDOC Days

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

NAIDOC assemblies at Kadina High and Lismore High Campuses this week provided our school community with knowledge of the significance of Storylines within Aboriginal Culture. Songlines- the living narrative of our nation was explained beautifully by both Professor Norm Sheahan and Aunty Virginia Paden. John Paden gave his acknowledgment of Country in the broader Bundjalung language and Ayden Miners acknowledged country as a proud Bundjalung man and both students provided an authentic welcome to both of our School Communities. We look forward to Richmond River High Campus hosting their NAIDOC assembly in term three.



CALENDAR

Date to add to your Diary:

28 June

Zone Athletics

29 June

NAIDOC LHC

19 - 22 July

NAIDOC RRHC

Claim the Date:

24 August

Rivers Madness

16 - 17 November

Spotlight

26 November

White Ribbon



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We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Elders past and present of the Wijabul Wiyabal people and other peoples of Bundjalung Nation. We acknowledge that they are the first peoples of this land on which our school stands.

YEAR 10 INTO YEAR 11 INFORMATION NIGHTS

The successful week 8 subject selection information evenings were held in each campus and provided parents and students with further information about the process of subject selections as well as the structures leading to the attainment of a preliminary and HSC credential. Each campus provided an overview of each component, year 11 (Preliminary) and year 12 (HSC) processes and how these operate from the credentialing organisation BOSTES. Each campus explained how the resulting College structure could provide additional opportunities that students could access to obtain their subject/s of choice if their campus did not offer that course. Many staff were available to discuss specific subjects with parents and their students in attendance. Thanks to those that availed themselves of this opportunity to be further informed in this critical procedure.

Transition Days

This year our Rivers P-12 learning community are supporting new processes with transitioning year 6 students into our College. We recently conducted our "Meet and Greet" sessions for our larger feeder primary schools and will continue these sessions in term three for our smaller out of town primary schools. These extra transition visits are to ensure students and their families move into secondary settings in a caring and supportive way. Our next Orientation days, where our year 6 students will experience full days at our secondary campus sites will be: term three Tuesday, 13th September and two days in term four, Tuesday 29th November and Tuesday 6th December.



DANCE

Rivers P-12 dancers in the opening and finale of the Lismore Lantern parade 2016.

Congratulations to our very talented dancers who were chosen to participate in the Lismore Lantern Parade for 2016. Mr Michael Coleman, Principal of Eureka Public School and Miss Elise Dessman, our Rivers P-12 dance specialist worked closely together to provide opportunities for our students to star in the Lantern Parade opening and finale. An enormous thank you goes to our parents, who continue to support these opportunities for our students across the Rivers P-12 Learning Community. <http://www.therivers.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/the-rivers-p-12-showcase-their-talent-in-the-lismore-lantern-parade-2016>



RIVERS COMMUNICATON

The Rivers Secondary College website is continually being updated. We encourage you to visit www.therivers.schools.nsw.edu.au. Our website is quickly becoming a more useful tool for parents and the community.

WIDJABAL WIYABAL DREAMING ABORIGINAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

WIDJABAL WIYABAL DREAMING is a new Initiative for The Rivers Secondary College. The emphasis of this program is for students to be immersed in aspects of leadership and cultural knowledge, in order to be their best and very proud Aboriginal self. Through consultation with students and Aboriginal community members, this initiative was created to develop leadership qualities through authentic and cultural experiences. Culture, Language, Identity and History were the themes central to our leadership experience, as well as advocating that we need to “Lead and Walk together” to create meaningful change.

This initiative was presented to a selected group of Aboriginal students this term over 5 days at Dorroughby Environmental Education centre, Southern Cross University’s Language and Cultural nest, culminating at Lake Ainsworth for a day of Celebration and recognition. Students who completed the program, did so with greater cultural awareness and an enormous sense of pride.

Each day finished with students reflecting on the information that was offered to them by our leading facilitators.

“Learning about my Aboriginal culture, closing the gap between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Australians, aspiring to be a better role model as well as being a mentor in my local Widjabal Wiyabal community”, were mentioned throughout the program by our Aboriginal students during reflection time. Our students are all very excited about the way forward with this initiative and look forward to leading the way for all students across The Rivers Secondary College.

Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming was opened with a traditional smoking ceremony performed by Dhinawan, a world renowned Aboriginal cultural ambassador and proud member of the Bundjalung nation. Steve Scott and Adrian Harrington spoke of significant sites, Bundjalung as a nation and other historical and cultural perspectives. Michelle Kelly, Val Smith and Dee Turner led some heartfelt and inspiring conversations around identity and Southern Cross university hosted our students at Gnibi- the Language and Cultural nest. An enormous thankyou goes out to Aunty Hazel Rhodes, Aunty Bertha Kapeen, Aunty Irene Harrington, Aunty Gwen Hickling, Uncle Charles Moran, Uncle Herb Roberts, Uncle Greg Harrington and Professor Sheahan for their story sharing and inspiring messages to go confidently in the directions of your dreams- using education as a means to do this. Our Widjabal Wiyabal team would also like to thank Virginia for organising such a memorable and culturally rich day as well as Tali and S-J for their presentation of the language app. Thank you to all of our facilitators and Mentors who made this experience genuine and inspiring for our students.

Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming was introduced to the Rivers Secondary College “Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming was an insightful project where adult and young leaders had the opportunity to talk and listen respectfully and unreservedly in Yarning Circles on matters relating to traditional and contemporary ways of life. Most significantly, our young leaders learnt the importance of independent thinking and respect for themselves and others. They also developed a deep understanding of the circumstances that have impacted on their elders’ lives.”

“Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming was an excellent opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to reconnect with their culture. This initiative has created a positive space for students to conceptualise what Aboriginal leadership is and how that relates to their lives and their communities”

Thanks to all involved in the Program and in particular to our dynamic team who made this happen: Sonya Laverty (HT TRSC), Colin Appo (formerly of Lismore High), Tiffany Sales, Jenna Edwards & Lawrence Kennedy (LHC), Tyrone Connors, Corey Wheeler and Ellie Stenson (RRHC) and Irene Clarke & Luke Wigmore (KHC), Glenn Rhodes & Adrian Harrington (Goonellabah Public).



SHARED CURRICULUM

UNE Open Day Excursion

On Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6, ten students from LHC set off on a two day excursion to help them with their research into post-secondary school options.

Along with students from Richmond River High Campus, Kadina High Campus and Evans River K – 12 School, our group set off to visit various institutions for tours and presentations.

First stop was the National Marine Science Centre just outside of Coffs Harbour. The group was taken on a tour of the research facilities and large aquarium set up, as well as receiving a talk about marine life, research potential and the areas of work that may be available. Students also got to touch some of the marine animals.

Next stop was the Coffs Harbour campus of Southern Cross University. Once again students received a tour of the campus and a brief presentation about courses available. It is important that our students look seriously at this campus as an option for their studies as it provides various courses that are not available at the Lismore campus of SCU. Lunch was also provided to our students and I would like to thank Peter and Ellen from SCU for supporting our visit.

Next was a three hour drive to Armidale via Ebor Falls, many students had never seen the falls and enjoyed the beautiful scenery. Then onto Armidale where we settled ourselves into our accommodation at New England Girls School. Our students got to see a small part of university life as we were provided dinner at Duval College at UNE. After dinner the group went to Armidale cinemas and back to NEGS for bed.

On Friday morning we had a reasonably early start with breakfast back at the university at Earle Page College. After breakfast many of the students took the opportunity to visit the various residential colleges of the university and then take part in open day activities. This included faculty tours, specific course information sessions, activities provided by clubs and societies as well as live music performances.

Our day ended with a long bus trip back to Lismore. All in all the two days away showcased different institutions and their offerings and hopefully inspired our students to look outside of our local area at the opportunities that are available to them.

I would like to thank the students who attended this trip as they behaved impeccably and they are a credit to the Lismore High.

Glenn Jeffery

Career Adviser



UNE Open Day Excursion

The Rivers Secondary College Ancient History Excursion

The Rivers Secondary College Ancient History Excursion to Sydney

Fifteen Ancient History students from both Lismore High Campus and Richmond River High Campus accompanied Ms Dignan and Ms Sheldon on a whirlwind trip to Sydney. We visited the Susannah Place Museum in The Rocks. This is part of Sydney's Living Museum exhibit. It is a row of terrace houses built around 1840 and documents the daily life of the people who would have lived there. Our guide accompanied us to an excavation site under a large apartment block close to the harbour for us to see the layout of the 19th century house that is being excavated and the artefacts that they have found.

After a brief lunch break at Circular Quay we visited the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney. The students were in awe of such a large and magnificent university. During our visit to the Nicholson Museum we were able to hold (with gloves of course) ancient artefacts of around 3000 years old. As the students investigated and drew their artefacts, there was absolute silence in the room. We conducted a guided tour of the museum and saw Horus, the Egyptian mummified child and other numerous awe inspiring artefacts. Before we left the University we briefly had a look at the Macleay Museum of natural history.

We were fortunate to be in Sydney during the Vivid light display and made the most of this spectacular event. We visited Circular Quay and saw the light designs projected on the Opera House and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Our Year 12 RRHC students attended the History Teachers Association Study Day on Friday, before we flew home in the afternoon. The day was held at the University of Sydney and we watched three lectures, which covered the major topics the students have studied. The information provided in these lectures will be invaluable for their HSC. Meanwhile the Year 11 students from both schools, accompanied by Ms Dignan visited the Ancient Cultures Museum at Macquarie University. They were met by Karl Van Dyke the Museum Director, who had just returned with a sword from the Han Dynasty for the museum's collection. The students were the first of the public to hold the precious artefact.

Even though we were all exhausted on arriving back to Ballina a fun and educational time was had by all. We would like to thank the students for their behaviour and maturity during the excursion. We hope it will be the first of many combined Rivers excursions.

Kim Sheldon HSIE teacher RRHC and Julia Dignan HSIE teacher LHC



New Choices has had an excellent start to the year. We have seen outstanding success from all our students, as they benefit from the intensive support that we provide. I got one of our students, Abby Roet to talk about the experiences in just one short term.

Kirt Swanbury – HT New Choices

New Choices began this term. This program is designed to help students like me, with their numeracy and literacy and develop pathways into training and employment.

Activities that we did throughout the term were:

Work experience – This term in New Choice we began our training by doing work experience, all students in the program were asked to choose a place where we would enjoy doing work placement, such as: Affordable Beauty, Mary G's, radio stations and Network video.

TAFE taster – Wollongbar TAFE opened the door for students to hair and beauty, spray painting, hospitality, horticulture, agriculture, carpentry, mechanics, metal fabrications and digital technology.

Rockets – At the beginning of this term all students in the program were asked to build and design their own rockets. After a few weeks of designing and building our rockets we went to one of the Lismore ovals to watch how our rockets worked.

Cooking in class – Every Friday in middle session we would chose throughout the week what we would cook, we had to write out the recipe and steps on how to the cook and create our food. So far this term we have made: chicken burgers, beef burgers, pancakes, waffles and tacos.

Fishing – All students and staff took a trip to Evans Head for the day for fishing, sadly only one of us were able to catch a fish but we caught an octopus and a stingray. We learnt how to set up our rods and how to hook on squid and prawns.

Was a very fun and enjoyable day!

Minyon Falls – In week 9 we drove out to Minyon Falls to do the whole 7 ½ km walk, it was such an amazing experience to be able to watch the falls from the bottom although it was freezing at the bottom and we got absolutely drench with water.

Employment - This term Christie Leigh-Elliott was chosen to do drive time with 92.9fm she chooses songs and talks over the radio from 4pm – 6pm on Tuesdays.

Written by: Abby Roet



SPORTING NEWS

Open Girls Rivers Secondary College Hockey Team

Our Open Girls Hockey Team are North Coast Champions! Congratulations to our Open Girls team who have been crowned North Coast Champions. Kingscliff High School, who have dominated North Coast Hockey for many years went down to our College team 3-2. Mrs Larrescy was very impressed with the manner in which our girls conducted themselves during this gruelling match to see who would be crowned the top team for the North Coast region.

We look forward to watching the progress of our very young, and very talented girls hockey team.



The Rivers Open Girls Hockey

Opens Boys Softball

On Monday the 20th of June, the Rivers College Open Boys Softball team took on Kingscliff in round 4 of the CHS knockout competition. The weather, the Kingscliff team, which looked to be all footballers, and a Rivers team consisting of 1 softballer made out for an interesting game. Kingscliff swung first, and a comical of errors from the Rivers team gave Kingscliff the lead 6-0. With the help of a few errors by Kingscliff the score after the 1st innings was Kingscliff 6, Rivers 5. The baseball experience started to show with hits from Jordan Williams and Damon Mitchell from Richmond River Campus, Reece Gregor, Riley Gregor and Connor Wyles from Lismore High Campus and Oakley McMahon from Kadina Campus. Lachlan Zimmerman was the star pitcher, who would have taken the easy win if not for the errors by his teammates. Kingscliff tried to make a last minute come back off the pitching of Alex Battese, but came up short as the Rivers team won 28-11. Our team will now play either Orara High or Kempsey High in the regional final in which the winner will proceed to the top 16 state tournament in Sydney. Well done boys!



The Rivers Boys Open Softball



The Rivers Boys Table Tennis

Table Tennis

On Thursday May 12 the Rivers Secondary College Table Tennis team travelled to Cabarita to play Kingscliff High School in round 4 of the North Coast Regional-Based Knockout Competition. The team consisted of Ethan Wakely, Brock Swift, Dylan Jones-Wright, all from Kadina High Campus, and Blake Lancaster from Lismore High Campus. The team had previously beaten Alstonville High, Nimbin Central, Evans River K-12 Community School and Bonalbo Central schools. All boys played really well, especially Dylan who won his singles match 3 games to 1, however Kingscliff High was too strong on the day and our team was beaten 5 rubbers to 1. I would like to thank all team members for their good manners and sportsmanship on the day.

Ms D Baker

Basketball

Thursday 26th May the Open Boys Rivers Basketball team took to the court in the NSW CHS knockout top 16 round. The game was against a well developed and structured Canobolas Rural Technology High School from Central West NSW.

The Rivers team were excited and came out firing taking a strong 15 point lead. Knowing they were just one win away from playing in the NSW CHS state champs, top 8 round robin competition in Sydney they were eager for the win.

As the game progressed injuries and foul count had the game turn coming out of the second half. The boys held on with positive talk and team work but with a fully timed game of 1hr and a half, the Rivers came up second best. The boys have had a strong season with only one loss ending their season. With a change in coaching staff and limited opportunities to train the boys have done extremely well.



The Rivers Boys Basketball Team