

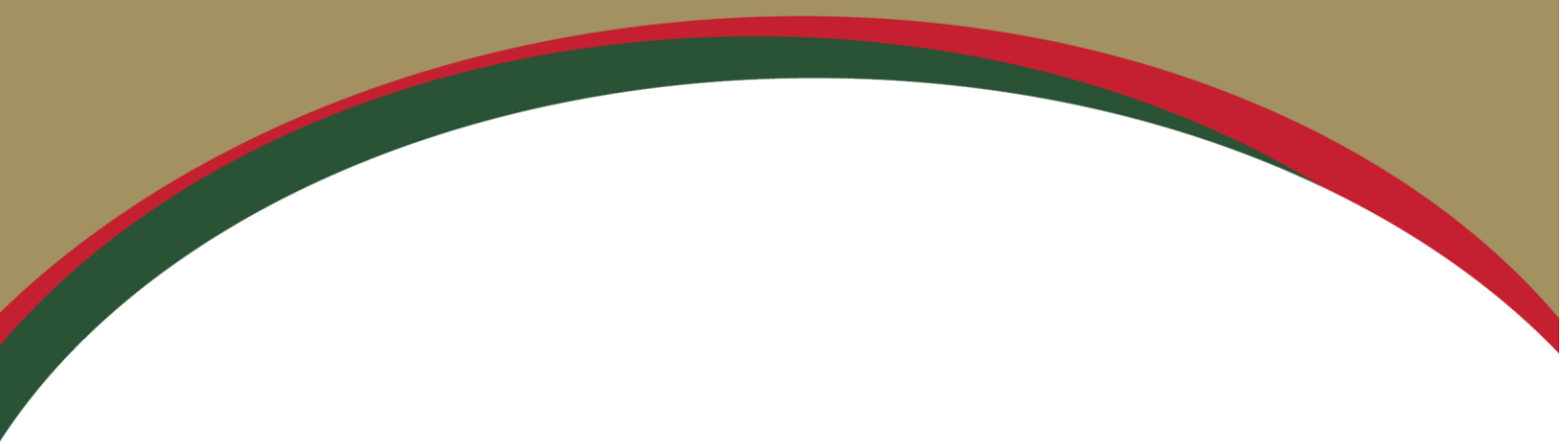


In Focus newsletter of



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

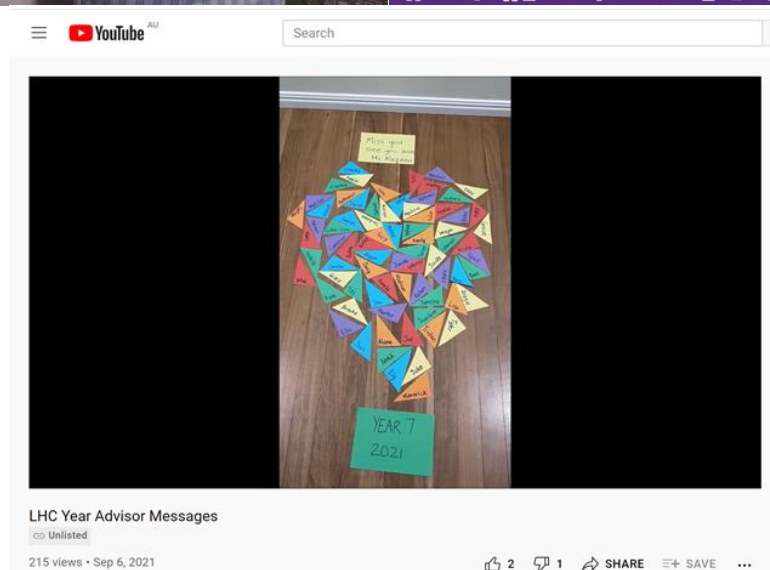
**TERM 3
2021**



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Learning from Home

Staff, students, parents and carers have done an incredible job supporting our students during the Covid-19 stay at home orders and home learning this term. We all look forward to a return to some normality and face to face learning on site in the future. We need to acknowledge the innovative use of Technology by our teachers to maintain student engagement in learning and connection to school during this time. Teachers and year advisors have stepped outside of the box using zoom, google classrooms, film and social media with everything from chicken raising, baking competitions, dressing up to singing and dancing!



Year 12 Update

Our Year 12 students are a resilient group of young people that have had their senior studies interrupted by Covid-19 both during their Preliminary and HSC courses. Our committed staff will continue to support them to attend school in term 4 in the lead up to their HSC examinations which now begin in week 6 from the 9 November and conclude on 3 December. Graduation ceremonies have been planned for Friday 5 November which will be either virtual or face to face without visitors pending guidelines at the time. Year 12 Formal dates have also been re-scheduled for mid-December and their format will be communicated closer to the date in line with current Covid restrictions and DoE guidelines. We look forward to celebrating this major milestone with our students and extend thanks to all the educators and families that have helped shape the lives of these kids over the past 13 years of schooling.



RASE Secretary's Award

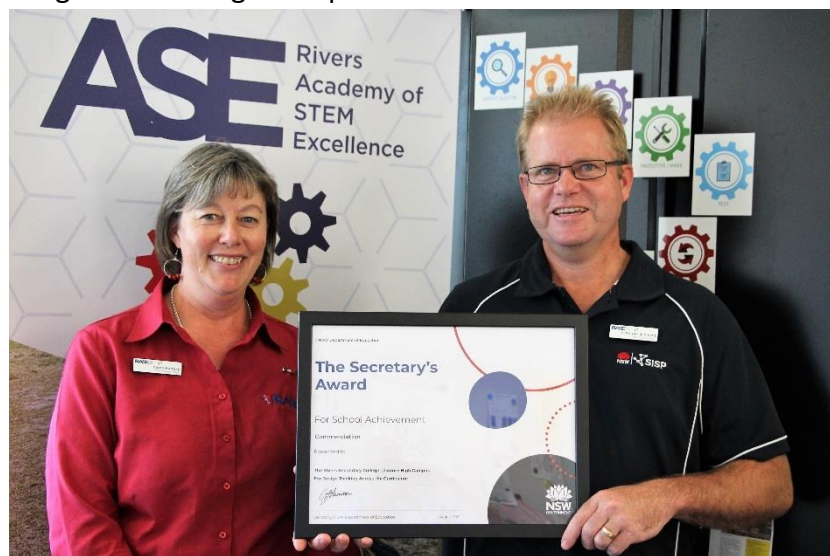
Congratulations to all the schools involved in The Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence (RASE). This outstanding initiative to embed design thinking across the curriculum was recently recognised with a DoE Secretary Commendation Award for school achievement.

The citation for the award was:

The Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence (RASE) is preparing children to positively contribute back to society as leaders of the future. Students have been equipped with strong communication, teamwork and design thinking skills to solve complex real-world problems relevant to their everyday lives. Authentic collaboration between Secondary and Primary Schools in partnership with local industry has led to increased opportunities for young people in a disadvantaged regional community. Educators have been empowered to embed design thinking and future focused teaching and learning experiences across all stages and key learning areas for a bright and sustainable future.

Project officers Zane Van Den Berg and Karen Ramsay are congratulated on their commitment and support for the schools involved in the initiative:

Albert Park Public School
Bexhill Public School
Dunoon Public School
Goonellabah Public School
Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre
Lismore Public School
Lismore Heights Public School
Lismore South Public School
Wilson Park Public School
The Rivers Secondary College Kadina High Campus
The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River High Campus
The Rivers Secondary College Lismore High Campus



Open Boys Softball Team

On the 29th of July, The Rivers Secondary College Open Boys Softball team played Banora Point High School in the North Coast Grand Final at Albert Park, Lismore. The team was eager to prove themselves due to current COVID-19 restrictions and assumed that it would be their last chance to play this season.

Lachlan Zimmermann started us strong pitching 3 up 3 down in the first innings. Kynan Davis was our first to the plate and started with a single through the infield, which began the flow of runs from all players. At the end of the 1st innings we declared at 11-0 with none out. Banora Point HS found their feet in the 2nd innings, restricting us to 17-0 making the 3 outs needed. Some great hitting followed from all players Hudson McMahon and Tully Magnay hitting home runs while Louis Sivewright, Alex Poole, Cooper McMahon, Jake Connolly, Sam Davis and Luke Zimmermann would get on base numerous times. At the halfway mark William Brown took over pitching and kept them at bay with the score 24-2. More powerful hitting followed from all players including Cameron Reynolds. The final score came to 31-3 with Kynan Davis staring with the bat by hitting 5 home runs and 2 singles. The team would normally proceed to the State Championships in Newcastle, however, with current restrictions this will be highly unlikely.



Aquaponics

During Term 2, three of our local primary schools were invited to bring their Year 5 and 6 students to Lismore High Campus to partake in a hands-on learning activity in our Aquaponics Centre. Students from Lismore Heights Primary, Wyrallah Road Primary and Albert Park Primary, as well as classroom teachers from the schools, spent 90 minutes on Campus. From all reports, the students enjoyed their time learning about Aquaponics. Students and staff were given a brief survey to complete, watched a video about Aquaponics, and then proceeded to the Aquaponics Centre. They listened to a talk from Mr Harrison, who explained the whole process, including the differences between the two systems that are operating, how they work, how our fish/crayfish and plants all benefit in this environment. The students were then split into three groups and rotated through various student-led activities. Our Year 10 Agriculture students played a big part in the success of these visits. They interacted with the primary students and lead them through activities from water testing, vacuuming tanks, clay bead washing, fine particle filter cleaning, construction of fish habitats and most importantly, a worksheet. The worksheet provided to each student allowed them to walk around the Aquaponics Centre, label the various components and answer questions related to what they had just been shown. Whilst this wasn't the activity they liked the most, it did help solidify for them the information that they had been provided earlier in the visit. Students finished their visit by feeding the fish and the crayfish. It has been a pleasure to have the primary school students visit our school, especially the Aquaponics Centre; they now know so much more about aquaponics and its benefits to the environment. A big thank you to the primary schools involved, Mr Harrison for his knowledge and time, and to our Year 10 students for being excellent ambassadors for our school and working particularly well with the primary students.

Mr S Harrison Agriculture Teacher

Lismore High Campus Visit 26/5/2021 Pulling up to Lismore High, walking past hundreds of bigger students, we were nervous but wide-eyed and enthusiastic. Massive kids, huge, playing volleyball or sitting on the ground talking, staring. Sitting at tables and chairs that look like cheese graters. Kids playing with footballs, kicking with full power against the walls and fences. A ball almost took me out! A teacher by the name of Mr Harrison came towards us and introduced himself. He invited us to follow him towards the Aquaponics Centre. On the way, all the year six students looked at the gardens and were blown away by the pizza oven, which was made from scratch by the students and teachers. The school even had chickens, an aviary and are thinking about getting cows as well. Next, we went into a classroom where we met Mr Jeffery. He showed us a video and we learnt more about aquaponics and hydroponics, and he asked us some questions. We then went outside and down a pathway to another area. We got to test water for bad chemicals that can harm crayfish and other water creatures. We replanted seedlings and learnt about growing things. Then we went to the fish tank and got some of the poo out. It filtered to the floating garden beds and the grow beds. We had a great time at Lismore High and learnt heaps about Aquaponics and Hydroponics. Thank you to everyone who organised this amazing opportunity. Cooper and Dillan. (Lismore Heights Year 6 students)



Roadshow Revisited

Everyone loves feedback. Especially when it is good feedback. So, it was exciting to get a message from the Principal of Lismore Heights Public School asking about my Rivers Roadshow Science demonstration. I thought it went well but not so well that there would be an encore.

I was invited to Lismore Heights Public School assembly where the Year 6 students recounted their highlights from the Roadshow. While I couldn't show my entire demonstration, I was lucky enough to show the students how I could turn water into wine. Being the good role model that I am, I had to quickly change back into water again.

It is always great fun to hear the ooh's and aah's of an excited crowd. While it is a simple trick on my part, it was fun to witness the authentic thrill and wonder of our next generation of scientists. It is the gift of a teacher to engage and inspire young people and I would like to thank Lismore Heights Public School for letting me be part of the education of their young people.

Mr B Yates

