



In Focus newsletter of



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**TERM 4
2020**

1) INTRODUCTION	3
2) TRANSITION	4
3) YEAR 12 CAPTAINS.....	5
4) STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAMP	6
5) BUNDJALUNG LANGUAGE PROGRAM.....	7
6) ROADSHOW	8
7) RASE	9
8) STUDENTS IN FOCUS.....	12
9) PRIMARY PUBLIC SPEAKING	13
10) NAIDOC.....	14
11) MR DAVIES LETTER	15



Introduction

What a different year this has been for everyone! Families, staff and students have been amazing in adapting to online learning and all of the restrictions associated with Covid-19. Despite these challenges there have been many fabulous achievements across the college.

In 2021, Mr Davies will return to his substantive position as Principal at Kadina High Campus. As per College rotation Mr Williams will take up the Executive Principal position of The Rivers Secondary College for the 2021 school year. Mr Swanbury will step up to relieve as Lismore High Campus Principal. We acknowledge the work accomplished in 2020 by Mrs McGrath who relieved as Kadina High Campus Principal. Mr Piper (Head Teacher College) has been seconded into another position with the Department of Education. Mrs Graham will step into the Head Teacher position.



Mr Ian Davies
Kadina High Campus



Mr Chris Williams
Lismore High Campus



Mrs Dot Panaretos
Richmond River High Campus



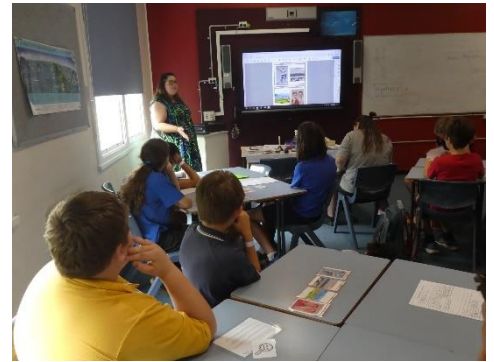
Mr Kirt Swanbury
Lismore High Campus



Mrs Penny Graham
Kadina High Campus

Transition

This term we worked with our primary partners to facilitate enhanced transition and year 6 into 7 orientation days. Peer mentors and staff from each campus coordinated engaging activities to provide students with insight of what to expect at high school next year. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting our new students and thank primary staff for their commitment to this event.



Year 12 Captains 2021

We warmly welcome our College 2021 Captains and Vice Captains elect. I am certain they will do an amazing job leading student voice, informing college vision and role modelling the positive values of public education.

RRHC - Year 12 *School Captains* - Odessa Smith and Kalkin Coleman
Year 12 *Vice School Captains* - Ayla-Mae McHardy and Tamati Ngatai



KHC Year 12 *School Captains* - Ben Crosswaithe and Danielle Bindley
Year 12 *Vice School Captains* – Jaimee Lee and Matthew Gregory



LHC Year 12 *School Captains* - Julian Thompson and Sophie Halliday
Year 12 *Vice School Captains* - Harrison Ackrell and Eliza O'Toole

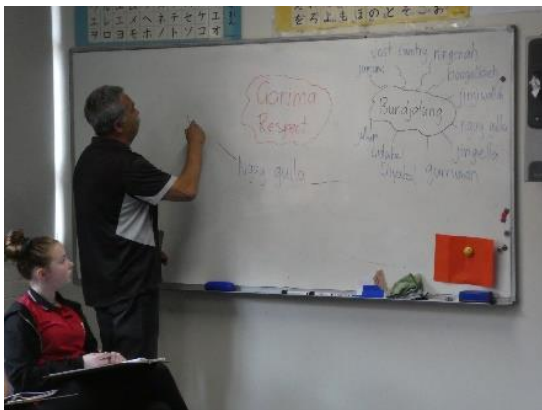
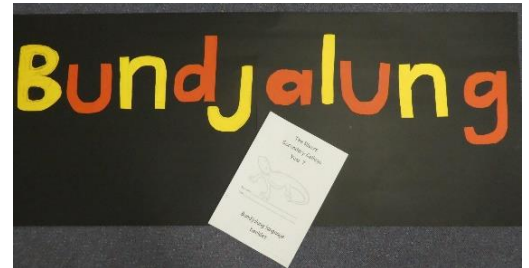
Student leadership camp

The Rivers Secondary College secured a Fair Education grant to take all of our student leaders in years 7-12 from across the college on a leadership camp in 2021. Our students will spend 3 days in February at Midginbil recreation centre to explore leadership, contribute to college planning and build teamwork skills. The Lismore City Council will also be doing a session with the students as an opportunity to provide feedback on the 10 year council plan.



Bundjalung language program

This semester, year 7 students from all three campuses undertook weekly Bundjalung language lessons with Uncle Glen Rhodes. The College is very grateful to Uncle Glen for making his time available to work with our students and inspired our staff to embrace language across the curriculum. After 3 years of planning and community consultation, LHC has successfully renamed all of its blocks in Bundjalung.



Roadshow

In partnership with our primary schools, we took The College on a roadshow. Over 3 days, staff ran taster sessions with year 5 students at various primary school locations. Primary students had lots of fun learning about Textiles, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Art, STEM and Agriculture. One primary principal's feedback was- "we LOVE working with your college. So professional, well planned and such strong communication."





Filming at RRHC

Year 7 Green English students are undertaking a design thinking process to transform their written work into film using the WeVideo platform. As part of the process, they were visited by Mr van den Berg (STEM Project Officer), who gave them a fun challenge to complete using the STEM Design Thinking Process that they can now apply to their film project.



Industry Partnerships

Staff from The Rivers Secondary College met with Nathan Kempshall from the Department of Primary Industries, to discuss our partnership in developing resources for excursions to their site. This is a great opportunity for our students to see science in action and to gain insights into a broad range of career options. As part of this process, staff will embed the Design Thinking Process into units of work that will incorporate excursions that make use of not only the physical resources at DPI Wollongbar, but also the experts working in various fields of Science, Agriculture and Sustainability.



The Academy for Enterprising Girls

The Young Change Agents have delivered the Academy for Enterprising Girls to students at Lismore High and Kadina High Campuses. Students followed the Design Process to identify a problem, develop a Social Enterprise solution, then pitch their solution to the group. This program develops key skills in entrepreneurship such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving. These are all skills that are essential for success in the modern world. Two teams from each campus have been selected to participate at the next level, which is a two-day incubator hub at Southern Cross University in which they can further develop and pitch their ideas.



On the 7 and 8 December, students from The Rivers Secondary College attended Southern Cross University to attend the Incubator Hub as part of the Enterprising Girls Academy. These students were from the teams that successfully progressed from the one-day in-school programs that were run earlier in the term. Throughout this 2-day program, the students participated in master classes on the Entrepreneurship Journey, Prototyping and Branding, Logo & Design.

Each team was partnered with an industry expert who mentored them through the process of developing their ideas, performing market research and prototyping their product.

These students have left the program in a position to pursue their social enterprise and make it a reality or to take the key skills they have developed into their future endeavours.



Water Quality at Richmond River High

Students in Year 7 at Richmond River High Campus observed catchment management issues through presentations from Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre, using the Rous County Council catchment trailer. This is part of a larger Geography unit in which students have to solve a local issue related to water quality or flood mitigation. We have received great support from staff at Lismore City Council, Rous County Council, Southern Cross University and Dorroughby Environmental Centre.



STEM in the Primary Space

RASE primary schools have had a lot going on in the STEM space. All academy primary schools are embedding technology across all areas of the curriculum. Some highlights of this term include;

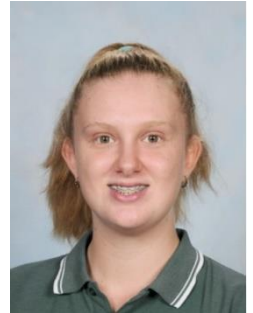
- a visit to Lismore Heights Public from Ruth Huwer, Entomologist at the Department of Primary Industries to talk about her job and the importance of insects
- entries from a number of schools in the Green Innovation Awards, resulting in a team from Lismore Heights Public School making the finals and receiving a mention at state parliament, and two teams from Dunoon Public School making the finals. The results will be announced shortly
- Students from Lismore South Public and Lismore Public completing a Lego EV3 Boot Camp



Students in focus

Sophie Painter - Kadina High

Sophie has been part of the SRC team at Kadina High Campus which participated at the statewide regional challenge which placed third. Next year, Sophie hopes to maintain high grades in her subjects while juggling extra-curricular activities. In the future, you might see Sophie in a local hospital as she plans to go to university to study nursing.



Abbey Bailey - Lismore High

Keep an eye out because you might one day see Abbey's byline on *The Northern Star* website with Abbey having plans to undertake journalism at university.

"I would like to follow my passion for journalism. I believe it is a great way of sharing the right information with people."

Abbey took out the Regional Lions Youth of the Year interview and public speaking competition which she described as an "amazing experience".

Bailey Crabtree - Lismore High

A star on the track and in the classroom, Bailey was part of the NSW School's athletic team which competed at the Australian Schools Athletic Championships. Bailey managed fourth place in his age group for his event.

"I really like travelling as part of a team, the professional coaches that we had and the amazing facilities we were able to use," Bailey said.

Bailey is aiming to continue to juggle his sporting and scholastic endeavours and make the NSW athletics team or study education at university.



Deklan D'Arney - Richmond River High

Deklan is helping the community and future students through his work with the green team at Richmond River High.

As part of the team, Deklan has helped build a menu board for the new school canteen and a cubby house for the Possums Early Education centre.

Deklan said this work was a passion of his and he hoped he could pass on his learnings to new team members next year.

"Next year at school I would really like to be a mentor for the new Year 8 Green Team members."

"I love doing hands on design and would like to be an engineer or artist."

Joshua Byrant - Richmond River High

Joshua is hoping to inspire the future generations after his stint as a school captain at Richmond River.

"As school captain in 2020, my responsibilities were very different from other years, I hope that I have inspired younger students to take on leadership roles in the future."

In the future, Joshua is hoping to attend University of Queensland to study aerospace engineering.



(Newspaper article courtesy from *The Northern Star*)

Primary Public Speaking

KHC hosted the regional primary public speaking competition this term. The quality of the speakers and diversity of their speeches was extremely impressive and made the judge's decision very difficult. Congratulations to our primary partners for the outstanding work undertaken with these students to ensure their performance was of the highest calibre on the day.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Barkers Vale Public School
Bexhill Public School
Broadwater Public School
Collins Creek Public School
Dunoon Public School
Kyogle Public School
Lismore Public School
Tregeagle Public School

NAIDOC

'Always Was, Always Will Be'

The inaugural and hotly contested NAIDOC Oztag competition hosted by KHC was a great opportunity for our students to showcase outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork. The addition of an extra stage competition this year enabled more teams to compete and a great day was had by all involved.



Dear all,

Thank you for the opportunity to step up into the Executive Principal position in 2020. Although 2020 will be a year to remember for many reasons, we need to acknowledge the successes that were still able to be achieved.

Moving to online learning was a challenge for our staff, students and families. The fact that it could be transitioned successfully is a credit to all our staff and students.

We were able to successfully hold our Year 5 Roadshows and I want to thank the hub schools who hosted our roadshows, and all teachers, students and staff who were involved in making them a success. We got Year 12 through the HSC, largely unscathed, despite COVID, and bans on graduation ceremonies.

The Rivers Academy STEM Excellence was also introduced and has had engagement from a number of primary schools in the Lismore area, connecting with our College.

A number of schools in our area participated in events including the Northern Rivers Kids in Green Innovation Awards, The Rivers Brain Storm Writers Days and Public Speaking. As a community, where possible we celebrated such events as NAIDOC Week, SASS Appreciation Week, and National Science Week.

In 2021, Chris Williams will step up into the Executive Principal position for the calendar year. Already Chris has been working with the College Student Leadership group to provide opportunities for a positive student voice across the College. As 2021 evolves, opportunities may be created to enhance the student voice across the P-12 community.

I want to acknowledge the support given to me by all the Primary & Secondary Partnered staff and communities in 2020 as I look forward going back to my substantive position as Principal at Kadina High Campus in 2021.

At Kadina High Campus, thank you to Mrs McGrath, who stepped into the Principal position for 2020 and Mr Ben Yardy who had the opportunity to relieve as Deputy Principal. Mr Yardy returns to his substantive position at The Entrance Campus, Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Ian Davies

