



In Focus newsletter of



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**TERM 2
2021**

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Sport

Football

The Rivers boys and girls open football teams travelled to Maclean for a chance to play Alstonville High in the zone finals of the CHS state wide knockout football competitions. The boys played first up and found Maclean's physicality to be a challenge to overcome, eventually losing 2-0. The good news for the boys is that with a young side they only lose 3 members going into next years knockout. The girls then followed and were a class above Maclean, despite a late fightback, holding on to be 2-1 victors. The girls now progress with a chance at playing in the North Coast semi-final their next goal.



Netball

OPEN GIRLS TRSC VS MACLEAN

Nine girls from The Rivers Secondary College travelled to Maclean to compete in the CHS knock out competition for Netball. Unfortunately, the girls went down 43-24 to Maclean. However, the team was made up of a group of young talented netballers which will be beneficial to the College in the coming years. Stand out players on the day include: Natalia Hickling (RRHC), Chelsea Luke (KHC) and Cyla Hammond (LHC).



Girls Softball Knockout

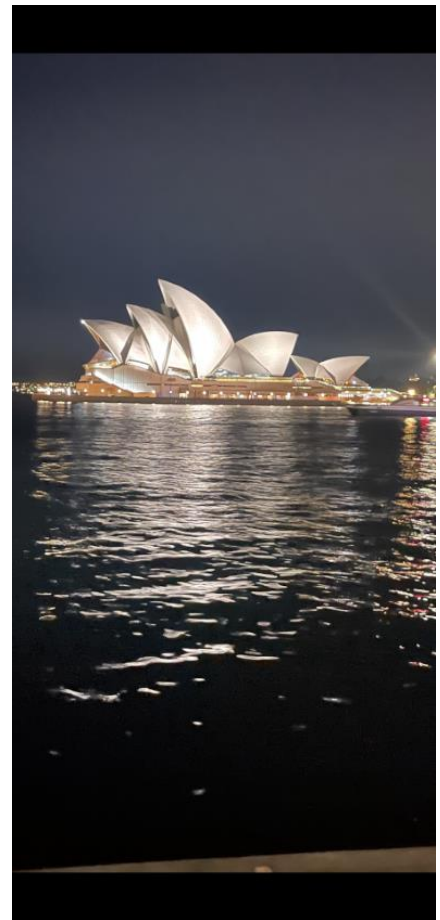
In Week 7, The Rivers Secondary College took on Kyogle HS in the NSW Girls Softball Knockout. The girls from the three campuses gelled together, starting with a solid batting innings, taking an early lead. Sharmeeeka (RRHC) kept the plate very tidy as catcher and Jasmin (LHS) and Jacinta (RRHC) were a solid combination at short stop and third base, taking many forced outs, backed up by Softball newcomer Natalia in left field. The game was tightly contested until the top of the 4th innings. We amassed five runs to take what seemed like an unbeatable lead. Kyogle HS dug deep to take it too us. It was down to the last play, where we were able to shut them out and hang on for a 9-8 victory! Massive thank you to Ella Keep from Casino HS for umpiring our game.



Student Leadership

Student Leadership visit to Parliament and Government House

School Captains from The Rivers Secondary College had the opportunity to travel to Sydney and develop their knowledge about the systems of government and parliamentary proceedings, and the role of the Governor. They visited Government House and Parliament House.



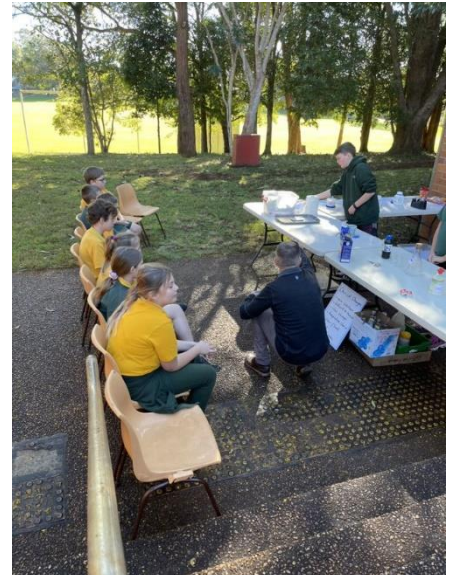
Thankyou Mrs Graham

Special thanks to Mrs Graham who has done an exceptional job relieving as Head Teacher College this semester and welcome back Mr Piper.

The Rivers Roadshow

Nine staff from the three Campuses ran Day 3 of the Year 5 Roadshow at Wollongbar Public School and Lismore Heights Public School.

It provided Year 5 students with engaging activities as an introduction into programs that are on offer across The Rivers Secondary College.



Chess Competition

Chess Competition

Students from The Rivers Secondary College and Partner Primary Schools came together on the 18th June to experience a fun filled day of chess. This exciting educational event was hosted at Kadina High Campus with 100 students competing on the day. Students were encouraged and supported to develop their chess playing ability over 6 fun filled rounds. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Why Chess?

It's food for the brain which is a muscle that grows the more it is flexed. Benefits of Playing Chess are:

- Develops perspective
- Improves memory
- Increases intelligence
- Deepens focus
- Elevates creativity
- Boosts planning skills
- Increases self-awareness
- Protects against dementia
- Reduces panic attacks
- Helps with ADHD



Widjabal Wiyabal

Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming Aboriginal Youth Leadership Initiative

Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming Aboriginal Youth Leadership Initiative is a 5-day program which brings students together to participate in a series of cultural and civic leadership workshops. The focus is to give Aboriginal Youth a chance to work together, share ideas and have a voice in addressing issues that affect them. The program is conducted off-site and allows the students to immerse themselves in learning about and reflecting upon core leadership values in the context of Culture, History, Identity, Awareness and Language.



Year 4 STEM

Year 4 students from across our partner primary schools attended STEM Enrichment days at each of the secondary campuses. They used the STEM Design Thinking Activity to plan, prototype test and improve a self-propelled car from everyday materials. There were some very creative solutions and the students were highly engaged in the activity.



BRAINSTORM

Once again, Rivers Brain Storm offered talented young writers from across the Northern Rivers area an exceptional opportunity to work with other gifted writers and mentors from the Byron Writers Festival.

As our Primary writers from 9 primary schools and Secondary writers from 2 high schools are nearing the end of their writing program, we are getting ready to invite illustrators from the 33 catchment primary schools and 3 secondary schools to provide art work for the fantastic stories written this year.

Students are required to write a 500-1000 word story and have developed their ideas with support of their mentors (Samantha Turnbull and Sarah Armstrong) volunteers from the Byron Writers Festival, and program coordinator, Ms Polly Jude. Mentors have helped students identify the strengths and weakness in their plot development and find the heart of the story.

Students will be looking forward to the book launch later in the year where they will get to see their illustrated stories for the first time.



Bottle Rocket Finale

In Week 1 of this term, the finale of The Rivers Secondary College bottle rocket was held at Lismore High campus. Students had worked hard on prototyping, testing and improving their rocket designs in order to get maximum flight distance. Their designs had to consider factors such as centre of mass, centre of pressure and aerodynamics. The most successful rocket of the day flew almost 100 metres! Fun was had by all.



Seeds of Hope Regenerative Agriculture

Agriculture students from each campus of The Rivers Secondary College combined for a visit to The Farm at Byron Bay, hosted by Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc. The day focused on more sustainable farming practices aimed at maintaining a food supply to a growing population. Students participated in tree planting and a series of workshops highlighting regenerative agricultural.



Young Change Agents

Following the Making Things That Matter program run by Young Change Agents and co-facilitated by RASE STEM Project Officers in term one, five teams from RASE schools progressed to the Youth Incubator, which was a three-day prototyping workshop at Southern Cross University in which students further developed their solutions. As part of the incubator, they had masterclasses in 3D printing and App development as well as working with industry mentors to refine their ideas. It was amazing to see the solutions produced for issues including flooding, homelessness, racism and mental health.



Dunoon Public School also hosted a Young Changes program called the Future of Fashion. Students identified a problem in the fashion industry and developed a social enterprise to address it. The problems ranged from affordability to the problems caused by fashion waste.



Staff Professional Development

RASE STEM Project Officers, Karen Ramsay and Zane van den Berg have continued to deliver professional development to staff across the academy. Workshops have included incorporating design thinking across the curriculum, how to develop authentic learning activities and professional learning for our solar car challenge, Solar RASE.



Trivia Night

A fun filled evening of Trivia was coordinated by the College student leadership team. The kids enjoyed their camp so much in term one they put their heads together to start fundraising for next year. A special thankyou to the businesses that generously donated prizes to support the successful evening at Richmond River High.



Thank you to the following businesses who donated a prize for the evening.



Just Right Cycles



NAIDOC Oz-Tag

Each Campus celebrated this years NAIDOC theme of Heal Country. The theme “calls for us all to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction”.

On the last day of term Aboriginal students from every Campus came together for the hotly contested NAIDOC Oz-tag Cup hosted at Kadina High where students showcased their skill and culture. Everyone joined in the fun on the day, where all of us were winners, smiling, cheering and encouraging each other on Bundjalung Country.



8 Ways Training

30 staff from across the College undertook professional development in 8-ways pedagogy. The training focused on how to include Aboriginal perspectives using Aboriginal learning techniques. Staff were immersed in a cultural orientation workshop and were required to work collaboratively on the 'homework' task putting their learning into practice and sharing their journey with colleagues.



Lantern Parade

On a cold and dark winter evening our College brought light to the community by joining the inaugural lantern parade in Lismore. Thousands lined the streets to clap and cheer our students as they marched with their original lantern designs, accompanied by the drumming beats of our band.



School Development Day

Over 200 staff members from the 3 Campuses spent their school development day together at Southern Cross University at the beginning of the term 2. Professional learning on improving student literacy was presented by a team of staff from across the College. Staff also worked collaboratively to revisit the College purpose and values. Collation of feedback led to a revised College purpose and values statement, a new visual motto to reflect these, a working together staff charter and a community frequently asked questions document.

Purpose and Values

Motto: 'Safe, Supported & Successful'

Purpose: 'Working together to ensure every student is Safe, Supported & Successful with a bright future'

Values: 'Equity, Excellence, Engagement'

Equity

Our Students Are:

- Confident, well-rounded, creative individuals with a strong sense of self and highly developed values
- Fairly treated to be resilient, actively involved and socially aware citizens who value multiculturalism

Our Staff are:

- Committed to ensuring a safe and nurturing learning environment based on mutual respect and positive relationships
- Diverse and accepting, loyal to Public Education and The Rivers Secondary College

Our Leaders are:

- Accountable and transparent, who make decisions with integrity, prioritising student needs
- Ethical and consistent, communicating clear expectations to support staff, students and parents

Our Parents and Community are:

- Supported by staff to identify and address student needs
- Respected partners who work with us to support students

Our Curriculum is:

- Dynamic and inclusive to promote community harmony through intercultural understanding
- Differentiated, engaging and responsive to meet individual student needs

Excellence

Our Students Are:

- Equipped with necessary foundation skills and knowledge for life-long learning and post school success
- Valued as individuals whose social and emotional needs are nurtured by strong wellbeing and extra-curricular programs

Our Staff are:

- Dedicated, passionate professionals who set high standards for themselves and their students
- Highly skilled and knowledgeable in data analysis and technology, to enhance quality teaching practices

Our Leaders are:

- Confident and foster creativity, efficiency, and collaboration to ensure continuous improvement
- Strategic and united, using research and data to underpin decisions, policy and practice

Our Parents and Community are:

- Invested, proud and enthusiastic about the education students receive
- Advocates of The Rivers Secondary College and the opportunities it provides

Our Curriculum is:

- Focused on embedding a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy skills
- Personalised to meet students at their point of entry, while supporting and extending them to be the best they can be

Engagement

Our Students Are:

- Engaged in high quality learning experiences in an orderly, well-disciplined, supportive and safe environment
- Proud of their College and Campus, representing it in the community with appropriate dress and behaviour

Our Staff are:

- Caring and welcoming, effectively communicating with parents and community to build strong partnerships that support students
- Committed to working together as a College, collaboratively developing and sharing resources and expertise

Our Leaders are:

- Approachable and supportive, empowering staff and students to reach their potential
- Positive and purposeful, ensuring collective responsibility for meeting DoE and Campus Strategic Plans

Our Parents and Community are:

- Welcomed and valued as active partners and contributors in the College
- Communicated with regularly and when issues arise responded to in a timely and appropriate manner

Our Curriculum is:

- Relevant and future focused, ensuring young people are connected to meaningful, real world learning experiences
- Broad and flexible, offering both traditional and alternative pathways for success



Frequently Asked Questions

What's The Rivers Secondary College (TRSC) all about?

- The College was gazetted in 2015 to strengthen student opportunities and build capacity through collaboration and sharing of resources and expertise
- TRSC is made up of Kadina High Campus (KHC), Lismore High Campus (LHC) and Richmond River High Campus (RRHC). With over 1600 students, TRSC is well resourced to support the largest cohort of secondary students in Lismore
- Our purpose is working together to ensure every student is Safe, Supported & Successful with a bright future
- We value Equity, Excellence and Engagement
- TRSC is inclusive accepting all students regardless of background, economic status and intellectual ability
- TRSC high expectations for our staff and students
- Tolerance and understanding are promoted and we respect diversity, preparing young people to be resilient and successful post school
- We have more than 200 highly trained staff members who work together to support young people
- We have strong connections with our feeder primary schools
- Students are offered a wider breath of curriculum in Years 11 and 12 through a shared curriculum model.
- As a College we are able to offer more programs, events and opportunities for students
- We have a strong focus on developing critical and creative thinkers through our Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence (RASE).

Which Campus should I send my child to?

- Your zoned Campus. You can determine this using the school intake tool. There are dedicated staff at all, each has programs to support students' individual needs.
- Every Campus offers a broad and flexible curriculum with a range of Cross-Campus senior courses, High Achiever and Support Classes.
- Each Campus has a unique identity that contributes to College identity. The Principals and staff work together to align processes and procedures.
- To enrol your child, contact your zoned Campus to make an appointment with the Principal or do an online enrolment application.

How are students at TRSC supported?

- TRSC has policies and procedures in place to ensure our students are safe and supported with positive discipline and strong wellbeing programs.
- Individual student needs and abilities are met and supported through specialist intervention, remediation and extension
- TRSC is inclusive of all students from diverse backgrounds where achievement is encouraged and celebrated
- Students are engaged in classrooms with expert teachers who build positive rapport and relationships by knowing, valuing and caring for their students
- Our staff work in partnership with parents and carers to best support our students.
- TRSC has strong partnerships with police, health and community organisations to proactively support students with social, physical and emotional needs

- Due to our collective size we can offer a larger range of academic subjects
- Vocational Education and pathways prepare students with the skills, capabilities and confidence to successfully enter the workforce.
- Creative and Performing Arts are strongly fostered. Students have access to college-wide ensembles that draw on the skills of highly qualified teaching staff and allow for greater access to performance and competitive opportunities.

How do you support students with additional needs? How does my child access it?

- Each Campus has support classes with highly qualified and committed classes to support students with additional needs.
- You can make an application to the school and a regional panel will decide in regards to the placement.
- We have access to specialist DoE itinerant support staff
- Individualised learning plans are developed and adjustments made to support students
- Funding support can be applied for to access SLSO's and additional resources or access to specialist equipment
- Literacy and numeracy intervention and small group support is in place

What facilities does your Campus offer?

- Sporting fields, specialised curriculum rooms, spacious grounds, agricultural plots
- Trade training facilities in Construction, Metal & Engineering, Hospitality and Primary Industries
- Specialist rooms- dance studio, entertainment and creative and performing arts spaces, art rooms, gymnasiums, science laboratories and technology spaces

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

- Learn
- Build friendships
- Develop life skills

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight 	= 4 weeks	= Over 1 year missed
1 day per week 	= 8 weeks	= Over 2.5 years missed

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