



# In Focus



**THE RIVERS**  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

*The heart of secondary education for Lismore*

Term 4  
2022

# Message from the Executive Principal

Dear Rivers Community,

I would like to acknowledge the resilience of our students, staff and families throughout this most challenging of years.

Congratulations to our HSC students that have achieved outstanding results, attaining 20 band 6's, 77 band 5's and 6 top bands in extension courses. 15 students are on the Distinguished Achievers list, including Niamh Montgomery who was also named an All Rounder for 2022. Niamh was the highest achiever across the college, gaining an ATAR of 97.7. The Principals of the three campuses were honoured to receive Minister's Commendation Awards on behalf of their entire school communities in recognition of the extraordinary support given to our HSC students to ensure they achieved their best following the devastating flood events.

I would like to congratulate Luke Woodward on his appointment as Principal of Richmond River High Campus and thank him for the leadership he has shown to transform the new Richmond River High site. It has been a massive undertaking from staff to fully resource their school from scratch and we thank them for their tireless efforts. Richmond River students and families have shown great strength during this difficult time. The support provided by Lismore High staff to ensure continuity of learning for students through the sharing of their site and facilities ensured students were back in classrooms within 2 weeks of the worst natural disaster in Lismore's recorded history.

Lismore High students and families were incredible, supporting working from home days to ensure equitable access to rooms and facilities for Richmond River students. James Witchard, Principal of Kadina High, headed up the Vouch for Lismore campaign raising over \$140,000 to directly support our most impacted students and their families.

It has been a privilege to lead the college as Acting Executive Principal for the past 2 years and I would like to welcome Chris Randle as he takes up this position in 2023. Chris is an experienced Principal, joining us from Banora Point High. I look forward to returning to my substantive position as Principal of Lismore High Campus and I would like to acknowledge the strength of leadership that Kirt Swanbury has shown as relieving Principal. I wish Kirt well as he takes up his new position closer to home as Deputy Principal, Evans River Community School in 2023.

I am so proud of what we have achieved this year by 'working together to ensure our students have a safe, supported and successful future'. Everyone has a different story to share about how they have been impacted this year, rising above the challenges through sheer determination, tenacity and the care and kindness of others. Thank you to everyone who has supported our students and community in many different ways, big and small. Wishing you all a safe and relaxing Christmas break with your loved ones.

Boogelbeh,  
Chris Williams





# The Rivers Secondary College 2022 HSC Students



## **Lochlan Maguire - Kadina High Campus**

My time at Kadina was highlighted by the personal growth I experienced throughout the years. Many of my teachers had a significant impact on my development with stand-out efforts from Miss Somerfield and Mrs Clifford. Kadina helped me to pursue my goals of gaining early entry into university where I'll be studying for a Bachelor of Nursing. Kadina has helped me secure a job using the knowledge I gained during my time at the school.



## **Billy Wright - Kadina High Campus**

My time at Kadina had downs, but also many ups. Now that I have left, I find myself missing the ups, the atmosphere of having everyone and everything surrounding me, creating somewhat of a home and family for me. The friends I made, I will never forget. I plan to pursue my film career aspirations, as Kadina had a role in influencing that dream. I wish only good things for the future and current teachers/students of Kadina.



## **Niamh Montgomery - Richmond River High Campus**

Completing the HSC this year was likely one of the hardest things any of our year group will ever have to do. Seeing our town and school destroyed made it incredibly difficult to think of our education as something important in comparison to the wreckage around us. I was lucky enough to have a clear idea of what I wanted to do after high school, which drove me to work hard even under tumultuous circumstances. I plan on studying English internationally, and I will never forget the support I have received from both the RRHC and Aurora College Staff during my high school years.



## **Carmen Flower - Richmond River High Campus**

Finishing school should have been exciting and fun, but after all the tragedies, I think my year and I are just happy it's over. My HSC experience, in short, sucked. So many tears were shed over finishing major works and trying to find the motivation to study. However, I am extremely lucky to have a few kind and supportive teachers and friends who truly care enough to help each other through those exhausting times. I'd say that is the key to achieving greatness in life and school. I think my future will hold a lot of travelling and working, I am determined to see my dream of becoming an aviation technician through despite the hardships we have all faced. Don't be afraid of failure, or you will never succeed in life.

Remember school is not the end, it's a very small puzzle piece in your life. Big thanks to our epic Year Advisor for pulling us through that mess of a year.



### **Elwood Bird - Richmond River High Campus**

I was the only person from my public school to attend Richmond River out of my Year 6 class of 12 people, and at first the idea was a bit daunting, but having now graduated I couldn't have made a better decision. Richmond River is one of the most inclusive communities, not just schools, I have ever had the honour of being a part of and I would easily recommend it to anyone. I've made some of the most amazing friends and have had the privilege of being taught by some of the finest and loveliest people, not just teachers, that secondary education has to offer. I plan to pursue my dream of becoming a professional basketball player, but in the future, I would love to study teaching or psychology at university.



### **Isabel Kemp - Lismore High Campus**

My experience during my last year of schooling has been notably the most different from my previous years. I expected that Year 12 would be a tough year from the beginning with the stress of HSC looming over us. I was more nervous about how we would embark on our journey through Year 12 as our cohort had been interrupted by COVID-19 in our previous years, taking away vital face-to-face learning time. However, early this year, I didn't expect my vision for Year 12 to pan out the way it did when we were unexpectedly hit by the catastrophic flood, impacting our friends, family, community, school and therefore our learning. This situation presented great difficulties when it came to the HSC as these valuable weeks of learning were taken away from us, causing us to lose and skip entire modules from our subjects. This period of interruption also inhibited me from working on my major work for Visual Arts as I could not obtain any of the supplies to work on my artwork. Despite having to deal with some of the toughest interruptions to our learning, the support from my teachers and friends has been tremendous. The dedication of the teachers to help us learn and provide amazing support has made Year 12 a great experience, motivating me to keep trying and allowing me to achieve great accomplishments such as being selected for Art Express. The support from my peers has also been tremendous, allowing me to make new friends and become closer to my entire year group. These positive experiences overall outweigh the negative circumstances, making Year 12 my favourite year of schooling.



### **Brooke Spies - Lismore High Campus**

The 15th of December marks that final part of the 2022 school journey, filled with many detours and challenges. All of this mixed with pandemics, excitement and of course, the floods. The achievement of receiving an ATAR is dedicated to the teachers, principals and school community which had a huge impact on my school life and my academic opportunities. I am deeply grateful for all who have helped encourage me through the tough times of 2022 and to remind me of my end goal. A heartfelt thank you to Lismore High Campus and everyone involved who have helped me to pursue my academic goals, and hopefully, my dream university.



# 'Grace O'Malley' Theatre Production

Grace O'Malley was our end of year drama production that featured students from across The Rivers Secondary College. Written and directed by Mr Christie & Mr Dunlop, featuring 70 performers and crew, a rip-roaring band and beautiful sets, this was a comical play that told the story of a wild hunt for the legendary O'Malley treasure.



Congratulations to the cast and crew on their massive efforts in this production. Many thanks to the school staff who were involved in the process: Ms Readman (Stage Manager), Ms Gouros and Ms Gray (Costume), Ms Newman and Mr Clark (Scenic Design), Ms O'Sullivan (Props), Mr O'Keeffe (sound & supervisor of the amazing Year 9 Showtime class who ran sound), Ms Dillon (Band) and Ms Coble-Runge (Cast).







Thank you to all the members of the college community who supported the production. This event showcased talented senior students, many of whom attended the State Drama Camp in Term 3 (Jaanay Choppy – Grace O'Malley, Rosie Vasella – Bingham, Eleanor Morris – Queen Elizabeth I, Heath Edwards – Sherriff Willy, Vivian Altman – Admiral Vernon and Mathew Conlan - Commodore Colin) as well as many rising stars of the junior years.



Well done to all involved!



## Rivers Year 11 Study Skills Day

On 27 October, Year 11 Students from all three campuses spent the day focusing on the study skills they will need to support their learning and wellbeing as they progress through their preliminary and HSC studies.



Supported by their Year Advisors, the students worked with Zoe Tiernan, our Deputy Principal, Instructional Leader and the Executive Principal, Chris Williams, as well as outside guest speakers to make sure that they are equipped to meet the challenges and thrive under the pressure of senior courses. All our senior students have access to the university library facilities and enjoyed a brief tour of their learning centre on the day.





## Rivers Public Speaking

As a college, we are committed to strengthening partnerships with our partner primary schools to enhance transition of students from the primary to secondary setting.

Earlier this term we welcomed the finalists from primary schools across the region to Kadina High Campus to participate in the annual Rivers Public Speaking competition.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in this wonderful day, promoting student voice.



## School Spectacular 2022

Students and teachers from the college joined together on the Creating the Magic Bus tour that travelled to Sydney to watch the School Spectacular 2022.

Following the performances, the students participated in backstage tours to meet performers and crew. The students and staff also participated in SpecFest; an outdoor festival showcasing student acts from across NSW. This was an outstanding event which both students and staff enjoyed. Our students were excellent ambassadors for our college, also meeting the Hon Sarah Mitchell and other senior departmental staff.





## Thread Together

Thursday, 27 October was a huge day for our Rivers Year 12 students with all three campuses having an opportunity to access formal wear through 'Thread Together'. Adam Worling, a former Richmond River student and the Thread together crew have been clothing the Lismore community since the February flood. Adam came up with the great idea of supporting our public high school students with formal wear. This evolved very quickly with a number of high-end fashion companies getting on board, culminating in a student fitting session at the Lismore showground. A huge thanks also must go out to Catherine Wilkinson and 'Wittner Shoes', Natice Myers and 'Bec + Bridge', 'TAROCASH' and 'R.M.Williams' as well as all the staff who travelled long distances to make our students feel so special on this momentous day. It was also great to have 'Janelle Saffin - Member for Lismore' attend and support this great initiative.





## Rivers CAPA HSC Showcase

The first Rivers HSC Showcase was held at Kadina High Campus Multi Purpose Centre on Tuesday 8th November. This exhibition showcased the work of HSC students from across the college in Visual Arts, Photography and Textiles.



Students, parents, family and the community were able to see the amazing talents of our students from across the College. It was great seeing so many people turning up to support the students and view their works. It was a challenging year and being able to see the resilience of our community and strength of our HSC students contributing to such an outstanding exhibition, was remarkable.



A huge thank-you goes out to all who attended on the night and supported our students throughout the year. However, special thanks goes out to all the teachers who helped make this happen; Rebecca Simpson, Alice Hook, Lisa Newman, Sally Ford, Joe O'Keeffe and Simon Clark, our amazing musicians on the night, for creating a beautiful atmosphere and the RRHC Hospitality class for preparing delicious food.





# The Proud and Deadly Awards

In recognition of the achievements and contributions of Aboriginal students to college and campus life, each year students are nominated for our Aboriginal Student Proud and Deadly Awards.

This year each campus had their own awards ceremony on Friday, 4 December with the college dance group performing at each event throughout the day.

These awards are a partnership between The Rivers Secondary College and the Lismore Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LLAECG) and celebrate the achievements and excellence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander college students from Years 7 to Year 12.

Parents, family and community members came along to help celebrate the success of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the Proud and Deadly Awards ceremonies.



## Rivers Sport in Term 4

During Term 4, male and female rugby league players from Year 7 to 10 had the opportunity to be involved in a skills development program that ran for 5 weeks during Wednesday morning sport at Kadina High Campus. This was run by a NSW Rugby League development officer and allowed both experienced and new players to enhance their skills. The culmination of this training was a rugby league gala day with teams from all three campuses, both boys and girls, playing games against each other. This was a fun day for all involved with praise from the development officer coming for the effort, respect and cooperation of the students. There are plans being formed to allow more collaboration across campuses during Wednesday sport in a variety of sports.

On 29th November the Rivers Open Netball trials were held at GSAC. Girls from all three campuses attended the trial to be part of The Rivers Opens Netball team that will take part in the 2023 CHS competition. The team was selected this year as the zone netball gala day is early in term 1 next year. The players all put in big efforts with a number of players being selected from each campus.

Congratulations to all the girls selected in the Open Girls Rivers team



## 2023 Swimming Carnivals

- Richmond River Campus - Tuesday 7th February
- Kadina High Campus - Monday 20th February
- Lismore High Campus - Tuesday 21st February





## STEMming the Divide

What do you call a five night, approximately 1500km road trip?  
We called it STEMming the Divide.

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supported  
by the



This excursion was organised by RASE for the three high schools in our academy. Students who had participated in RASE activities throughout the year were invited to submit an EOI. Some of these activities included drone workshops, bottle rocket challenge, STEM design thinking workshops, and STEM activities at the stage 4 gala day. The excursion was funded through a grant from the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative, a contribution from Rural Industry Education Partnership (RIEP), RASE and a contribution from each student.



Sandstone Caves, Pilliga Nature Reserve



The wind turbines at white Rock Wind Farm are huge!

## New experiences

The trip took students to University of New England in Armidale where they learned about the growing role of technology in agriculture and how researchers are researching anticipated impacts of climate change.

The hike at Warrumbungle National Park was the highlight for many. With rugged and stunning scenery, the effort to get to the lookout was all worthwhile. Many students said they would love to go back there some day. The Sandstone Caves were equally as popular.

The Living Classroom at Bingara gave students an insight into detecting water health and regenerative agriculture. Of course, the trip the beautiful Roxy theatre, complete with popcorn then an interval with pizza was a huge hit.

Finally, the trip was finished off with visit to the White Rock wind farm. Being up close and personal with the turbines was an experience to remember.



Elanor trying the safety harness on for size at the wind farm



Water quality activity at Bingara Living Classroom

## STEM and friendship

Combining 23 students from across the three campuses, ranging from years 7 to 10, could have been a challenge, but they turned out to be a great group of people to travel with. They willingly collaborated with new people for activities and overall showed respect and curiosity throughout the trip.





## KHC Student Enterprise Hub

Students at Kadina High have been working hard to make the vision of a Student Enterprise Hub a reality. With funding support from Schools Plus, the Student Enterprise Hub will be a space available to all students for a range of enterprise activities such as year 12 fundraising for their formal, SRC fundraising events, and a range of other entrepreneurship activities. The design of the space aims to be representative and inclusive of our diverse community, being a welcoming place for visitors at events such as orientation days. Work is continuing with artwork on the outside of the container planned as well as an internal fit-out



The boys work hard to dig holes for the installations of benches



Dean securing the top of the bench to the legs

## Heavy Lifting

These sandstone blocks weigh approximately 600kg each! A combination of new and used materials were selected, due to the sustainable nature of used materials. New treated pine sleepers for raised garden beds with seating and old railway sleepers for standing-height benches.



Above: materials being delivered  
Left: benches and gardens built by the students

## Native Colour

Students planted the gardens with a variety of native flowering plants. These will create a beautiful attraction to birds and bees once they are established. Coloured stepping blocks were used to create extra design features. The order of placement was determined by a random number generator.





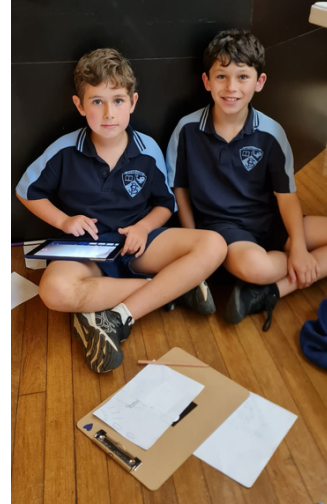


## GPS Design Thinking workshops

Staff at Goonellabah Public School have been working closely with RASE STEM Project Officers to develop units of work that embed the Design Thinking Process and technology into their teaching and learning programs. This has been achieved through staff meetings and collaborative planning days across the whole school



Staff participating in a mini-STEM challenge



Students collaborating on a group project

## Student Workshops



Students using play dough to create models for their stop-motion animation.

### Stop Motion Animation

In term 3, Year 3 and 4 students studied living things. As part of this, they studied the life cycles of a number of different plants and animals. To demonstrate their learning, they participated in a full-day workshop to create a stop-motion animation of the life cycle of a plant of their choice.

### Game Creation

This term, students in years 3 and 4 have been studying a unit about forces. As part of this unit, they have been challenged to create an indoor game for children their age that makes use of at least one force. Students had a full-day workshop with the RASE Project Officers to brainstorm ideas, then plan and prototype their solutions.



Students testing and prototyping games.





Merry  
*Christmas*

*from all the staff at*



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