



In Focus



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

The heart of secondary education for Lismore

Term 1
2023

Message from the Executive Principal

Dear Rivers Community,

Coming to the end of Term 1, I would like to acknowledge and recognise the warm welcome I have received from teachers, students and parents from across the three campuses of The Rivers Secondary College. In particular, I would like to recognise and celebrate the strength of the principal leadership team in Mr James Witchard, Kadina High Campus, Mr Luke Woodward, Richmond River High Campus and Mr Chris Williams, Lismore High Campus, for their resilience, commitment and determination to provide outcomes and opportunities which ensure every student is safe, supported and successful with a bright future.



Mr Chris Randle, College Principal, Mr James Witchard, Kadina High Campus, Mr Luke Woodward, Richmond River High Campus and Mr Chris Williams, Lismore High Campus

The anniversary of the floods was a difficult and changing period for our community. Our students marked the date with a Sausage Sizzle fundraiser for the Koori Mail. It was an honour to accompany Kyla, Brady and Rosalea to present Koori Mail CEO Naomi Moran, a certificate of appreciation, along with a cheque for \$2125.50.

The Koori Mail building was completely inundated by water during the floods, as was the case for all buildings along Molesworth Street. The Koori Mail stopped their publication work and turned to supporting community, providing goods and produce, medical and psychological assistance. For the first time since the national Indigenous newspaper began, they missed three publications, only to return to printing again on 2nd April 2022. The Koori Mail continues to support community and is redeveloping their Molesworth Street space to include a cafe and meeting space for all community.

Kyla TRSC Lismore High Campus, Brady TRSC Kadina Campus and Rosalea TRSC Richmond River High Campus present Koori Mail CEO Naomi Moran, a certificate of appreciation and donation. The image in the background of this photo is the cover of the first post-flood edition of the Koori Mail - "They Stepped Up".



I would like to acknowledge and thank the Country Women's Association Lismore Evening Branch for their kind donation of 8 laptop computers issued to students to overcome hurdles impacting the continuity of their learning and completion of school. The laptops were well received by students, they expressed their gratitude for the generosity afforded by the CWA. Mrs Kerry Harvey, President Lismore CWA Evening Branch presents laptops to Mr Chris Randle, College Principal - The Rivers Secondary College

Thank you to all the students and staff who showcased their campus to our community and future students at the Year 5/6 to 7 Information Evening. The event was well attended, and feedback indicates families value the opportunity to view the campus facilities and speak with staff to clarify information. We have taken on board feedback regarding the naming of the event and from 2024, we will name the event Yr 5/6 to 7 Open Evening.

Work has begun across all our college campuses to engage in the new curriculum reform. In 2023 teachers will engage with the curriculum reform in Year 7 to 10 english, mathematics, computing technology and modern and classical languages, along with Stage 6 geography. They will explore new syllabus documents, build on effective practices to improve learning outcomes and work in partnership, to plan changes required for effective curriculum implementation. Our Term 1 focus is supporting staff to familiarise themselves with the new curriculum, auditing current curriculum delivery and developing a plan for designing new programs and scope and sequence. Thank you Ms Zoe Tiernan, our college Deputy Principal Instructional Leader, for your ongoing support and leadership of the new curriculum reforms.

High Achiever applications for 2024 have been made available to students and families through our partner primary schools. Students and families are advised to return applications directly to the secondary campus (Kadina High, Lismore High and Richmond River High). Applications for our 2024 High Achiever class are due 27th March 2023. During May, the TRSC High Achiever campus coordinator consults with the Primary Principal and later in Term 2, the outcomes of these applications are communicated to Primary Principal's and applicants.

Although 2022 presented a range of challenges, our campuses have continued to provide, review and improve the quality of teaching and learning along with wellbeing support to ensure our young people succeed, connect and thrive. The campus Annual Reports will be available on their campus websites from Term 2 for all to read.



Students and staff on our Lismore High and Richmond River High Campuses demonstrate great patience, flexibility, resilience and hope, navigating operating on a single site. Our campus leaders are working through processes to ensure we continue to improve our practices, working with student and staff focus groups. We continue to improve our college delivery model.

Staff return for our College Development Day 3, Monday 24th April. The day has been called nyaa daa ngumba guurii JaaJams - Looking show/guide/teach Guurii kids. Our agenda is full of Department of Education and local workshops, facilitated by Uncle Glen Rhodes, The Stronger Smarter Institute, SeedArts, Trent Graham, Tamika Fox and Jenique Sines.

Regards,

Chris Randle
Executive Principal

Digital Classroom Officer for The Rivers Secondary College 2023

My name is Katie Magriplis, and I'm the Digital Classroom Officer (DCO) for the three campuses of The Rivers Secondary College for 2023. My main role is to support campus staff in using technology for teaching, learning, organisation and collaboration.

I have been a classroom teacher for 17 years with my permanent teaching position being at Richmond River High Campus. I am passionate about embedding technology into student learning, as well finding ways to save teachers time using technology for everyday tasks.

The DCO position is part of the Rural Access Gap initiative, and is aimed at leveling the educational playing field for students in regional, rural and remote schools in NSW. Part of this program has also provided schools with more staff and student devices, including a large number of interactive panels in classrooms. These allow students to connect and collaborate more easily with each other across the state. More than 1000 schools have now benefited from DCO support and tailored professional learning.

So far in Term 1, I have been busy meeting with staff through more than 35 one-on-one appointments. By working with campus leadership teams, professional learning opportunities for teachers and improvements in the delivery and embedding of technology into classrooms has been possible. I've also supported teachers as campus computer networks have migrated to cloud locations. From Term 2, I will be providing staff with more training opportunities through recorded lesson demonstrations and co-teaching lessons, as well as continuing to deliver faculty, school and college-wide professional learning activities.

To learn more about the Digital Classroom Officer role and how it is having a positive impact on schools in NSW, visit this website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/schools-digital-strategy/projects-and-initiatives/digital-classroom-officer>



Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming

Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming is a 5 day program which brings Aboriginal student leaders 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 ·Language

Many of the activities are experiential and lead by Aboriginal community and educational leaders, with students supported by mentors and teachers throughout the day.





In Term 1 Years 9 and 10 students came together from the three campuses to participate in our bi-annual Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming program. On the first day the group met at Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre to explore their understanding of the key leadership traits. Then working with college staff, Glen Rhodes, Aboriginal Language and Culture Nest and Mitch King from FLOW, the students began the conversation around Aboriginal identity. Day 2 saw everybody jump on the bus and spend the day with Uncle Gilbert visiting and learning about sites of significance in our local area. We first went up to Nimbin Rocks then travelled back down to the Lismore Showground before heading out to Tucki Tucki.

Rivers Sport in Term 1



Rivers Open Football

On Friday 24th March, the Opens Boys and Girls Rivers Football teams took on Evans Head in round 1 of the statewide Puma knockout competitions.

The boys won 5-3 and the girls won 2-0, both teams will now progress to the next round.

Teams

Boys: Toby, Elijah, Tyson, Djamahl, Jaxon (RRHC); Xavier, Sean, Alex, Marial, Max (KHC); Liam, Kane, Jacob, Dominic, Jayden (LHC).

Girls: Lily, Hana, Taila, Amber Krystal, Rosa, Natalia, Lailah (RRHC); Charlie, Tarni, Akasha, Millie, Sienna (KHC); Jovana, Lillie-Lee, Alexis (LHC).



Sienna (KHC) and Amber (RRHC) were also selected in the North Coast Squad that will Travel to Sydney in May.

Rivers Tennis

On Thursday 23rd of March, Rivers Trials for Tennis were held. The following players were selected for the upcoming game versus Alstonville High:

Girls: Anabel (KHC), Lara (KHC), Kirralee (LHC), Millarni (RRHC).

Boys: Christian (LHC), Nat (LHC), Max (RRHC), Harry (RRHC).



Rivers Sport in Term 1

Rivers Basketball

The Rivers Basketball Gala Day was held on the 27th February. This day had boys and girls under 15's and open teams playing a round robin event. Also on this day, boys and girls were selected to represent The Rivers Secondary College Open Boys and Girls teams. These teams competed at the zone trial and knock out event held at the Lismore Basketball Stadium. Both teams won the zone knockout to progress to the next round against Ballina.

Rivers Touch Football

The three campuses travelled to Hepburn Oval on Thursday 30th of March for Open Boys and Girls Touch Football Trials and Gala Day. The day was well attended and the following teams were selected:

Boys: Tyler, Elijah, Aaron, Sione, Siosaia, Brody (RRHC); Trell, Jaquan, Caleb (LHC); Noah, Keon, Lucas (KHC).

Girls: Natalia, Layla, Zariah, Ava (RRHC); Elke, Wanika, Lily, Shaniquea, Cyla, Macie, Ellie (LHC); Tarni (KHC).

These teams will represent The Rivers Secondary College at the Northern Rivers Zone Gala day at the beginning of Term 2.



ANZAC Day Commemoration



At 5am the traditional Dawn Service will be held at the Lismore Cenotaph, following the March from the "Old Post Office Corner" on the corner of Magellan and Molesworth Streets. As a longstanding tradition, former students and choir members are welcome to join the choir for the Dawn Service.

The College Principal along with campus captains, will attend the North Lismore Memorial service at 8am, the place where soldiers boarded a train taking them to the battle fields of Europe in 1914.

We invite students to join The Rivers Secondary College in the main March mustering from 8.30am and departing Browns Creek Carpark at 9am, proceeding along Molesworth Street to the Lismore Memorial Baths, followed by the ANZAC Day commemorative service at the Lismore Cenotaph. Students are requested to wear full school uniform and bring a hat and water.



Year 7 2023 Parent and Carer Survey



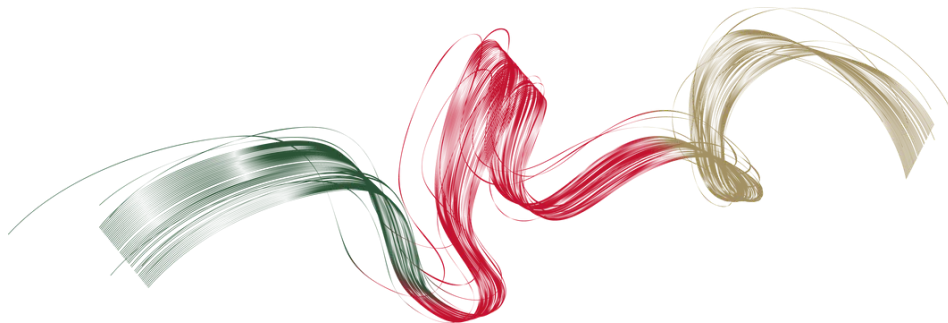
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Thank you for choosing to send your child to our college to undertake their secondary education. We want to ensure your child is safe, supported and successful with a bright future. We would appreciate it if parents and carers of our Year 7 students could take a few minutes to complete this survey to help improve primary to secondary transition in the future.

Please click on the link below to access the survey:

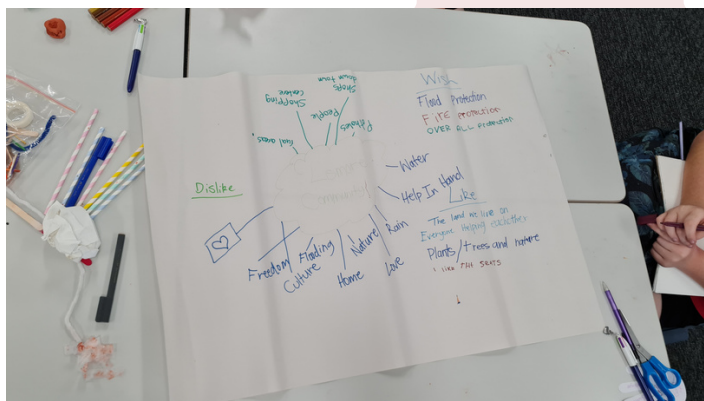
[Year 7 Parent and Carer Survey 2023](#)





Enterprising Girls

Over two full days, RASE and Young Change Agents delivered the Academy for Enterprising Girls discovery program to students from The Rivers Secondary College. The girls followed the Design Thinking Process to map their community and **identify** local problems that are important to them. These problems included people feeling isolated due to a lack of local public transport, the poor condition of local roads, the state of the river after the floods, businesses struggling to recover from the floods, and young people not being able to access local social activities.



Community mapping helps identify local problems



Deep conversations were had about local issues



Students brainstormed lots of ideas

The girls then **brainstormed** possible solutions to their identified problems and discussed how they could create a social enterprise to solve the problem. This required a lot of critical and creative thinking as well as some deep conversations with their team members and mentors.



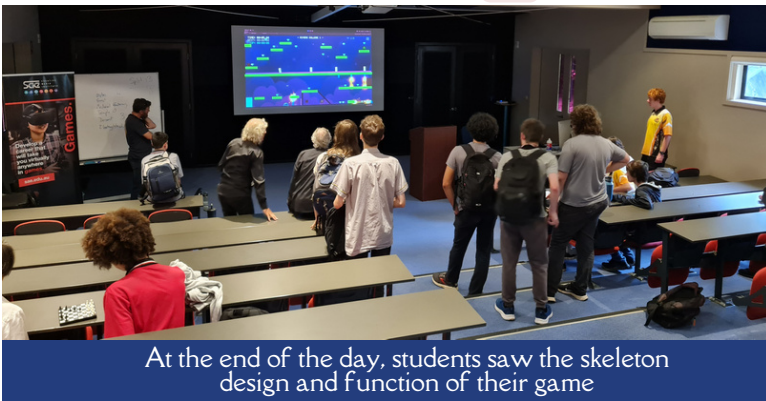
Communicating your ideas is key to success

Set with their ideas, the girls undertook research and **planning** to develop their social enterprise and **prototype** their solutions. They then pitched their solutions to a feedback panel. Their solutions included a **Local Lifts** app, a **T.E.D Activities** online platform to list local activities and events, **the Better Bitumen** to improve our roads while using waste material, **Shelters in Need** online platform to help people who lost their homes in the floods and **The Photo Bombers** using photography classes to clean up our river banks.

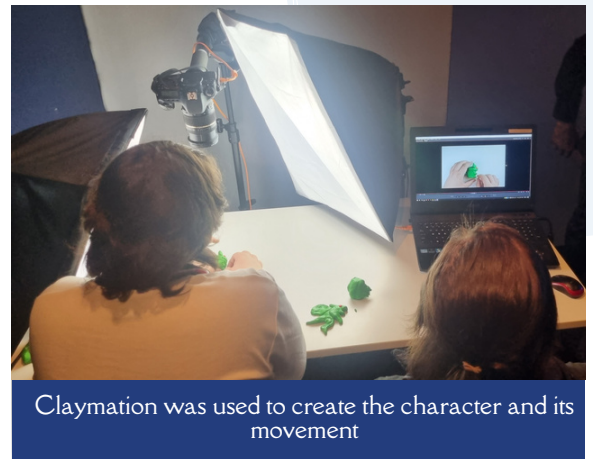
Industry Experience

Youth in Games

Students from The Rivers Secondary College took up an amazing opportunity to live a day in the life of a Game Developer. Working at SAE Institute at Byron Bay, students brainstormed ideas to choose a theme for their game. They then split into groups to develop different elements of the game. Students worked on Audio, Design, Animation, and Gaming. Working with industry professionals, the students iterated these aspects of the game, which will be assembled into a fully functional game by the staff at SAE. This gave students a unique insight into the wide variety of careers in the gaming industry. This workshop was free thanks to funding from SAE and RIEP.



At the end of the day, students saw the skeleton design and function of their game



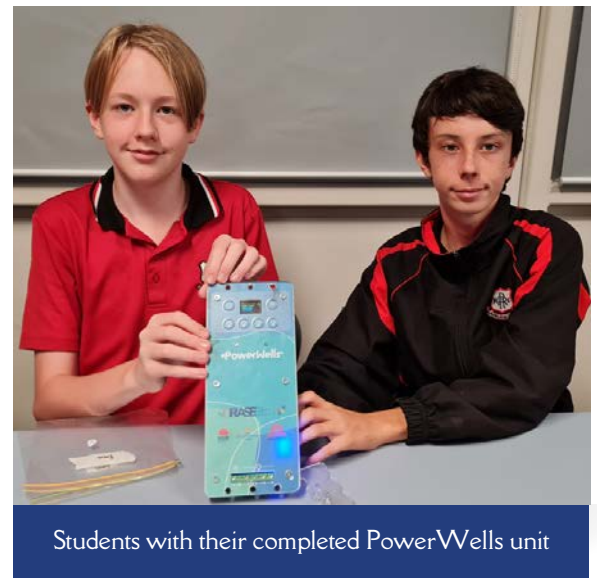
Claymation was used to create the character and its movement

PowerWells

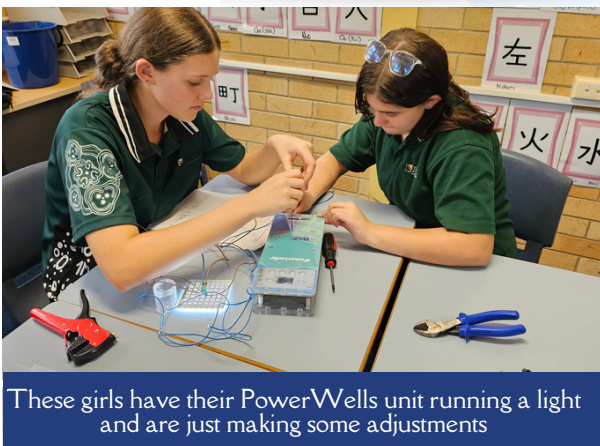
Through a series of three workshops, students have worked with staff from PowerWells to create portable power supplies from recycled e-waste. Not only is e-waste a massive issue in the world, but a lot of it can be re-used.



Mr Seller was as excited as the students



Students with their completed PowerWells unit



These girls have their PowerWells unit running a light and are just making some adjustments

PowerWells is a not for profit organisation that uses old laptop batteries, computer screens and TV screens to produce portable power banks that can be used for lighting and basic power. These units are sent over to villages in Indonesia that suffer from power poverty. Plans are in place to turn this into an ongoing project in which students can continue to support these villages. In this series of 3 workshops, students produced 22 power banks that will bring light to 22 homes in Indonesia.



Primary School Action

Rocky Creek Dam

What a way to start the year and school life! Students from Albert Park Public and Dunoon Public in years K-2 had a great day out at Rocky Creek Dam at the start of the term. Working with staff from Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre, students learned about a range of concepts related to the local environment, insects, and how they survive. The students used their scientific skills to draw insects and conduct a survey of insects living in the ground around Rocky Creek Dam.



I spy with my little....



Staff participating in a mini-STEM challenge



A budding Scientific Artist

Lismore Botanic Gardens

Students in years 3 & 4 from Goonellabah Public are studying a unit of work about Earth's place in space and the movement of the sun. At the end of the unit, students will have created a sundial that can be installed at school. To hook them into the unit, they visited the Lismore Botanic Gardens where they had a range of workshops including one about the solar clock that is installed there.



Students acted as "hands" on the solar clock



This young man was super proud to share his knowledge of Aboriginal fish traps.





High School Projects

Algae Biosystem

RASE continues to develop its partnership between East Coast Algae Biosystems and Lismore High Campus. We now have a bespoke Algae tank that will allow students to easily harvest spirulina as a sustainable fertiliser, fish food for aquaponics, and much more. It's all part of empowering students to use innovative, cutting-edge methods to be part of the solution to climate change. Students will perform experiments and feed data back to East Coast Algae across the disciplines of Science and Agriculture. The Science staff used faculty meeting time to empty the old system ready for the new system. We have now successfully harvested and dried biomass from the Spirulina system.



Science staff emptied the old Algae tank onto the gardens and installed the new tank.



Year 12 Agriculture students viewing algae under a hand held microscope

Bottle Rockets

Back by popular demand is the Bottle Rocket Competition. This year will see a high school bottle rocket competition held across The Rivers Secondary College. Students at KHC and LHC are already learning the fundamentals of rocket design and brainstorming ways to modify a soft drink bottle into a mean flying machine. The challenge is to beat the 97m record set last year by Jade and Charmel from LHC.



Students at LHC and KHC were given demonstrations of the flight characteristics of an unmodified bottle

As part of the project, students will learn about aerodynamics, centre of mass, centre of pressure, flight stabilisation, and more. They will use a process of brainstorming, researching, prototyping, and improving to develop their final design.

