



In Focus newsletter of



THE RIVERS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**TERM 1
2021**



Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Student Leadership Camp	4
3	6-7 Information Evening.....	7
4	Lismore City Council Consultation	8
5	Ministers Visit.....	9
6	Widjabal Wiyabal	10
7	The College Roadshow	11
8	RASE	12



Introduction

This term has been one like no other with a combination of COVID-19 requirements and flooding adding extra complexities. This has not stopped the dedicated and resilient staff of our College from providing incredible opportunities and support for the students we teach. Each Campus has been collaboratively developing a four-year Strategic Improvement Plan with Student Growth and Attainment at the heart of this. Staff from all three Campuses have collaboratively prepared Professional Learning around student literacy which will be facilitated for all staff on the first day back of term 2. The staff development day will also feature a session by Dr Greg Wilson who has undertaken the Rivers Reflection with recommendations for how we can continue to improve the work we do. Our partner Southern Cross University is generously hosting this event.

A decorative rainbow arch with red, orange, and green bands curves across the top of the page.

Student Leadership Camp

We took 100 student leaders from years 7-12 across all three Campuses of The Rivers Secondary College on a three day leadership camp in February. Midginbil recreation centre hosted the event and students participated in a range of team building and leadership sessions during their stay. This included: team games, rock climbing, raft building, pioneering, survival skills and bushwalking. Evening leadership seminars were followed by trivia and a campfire. Mr Rolfe presented a motivational speech that focused on his personal rock climbing expeditions to Nepal which was extremely well received by staff and students. Heavy rain and mud added to the experience and staff and students battled these conditions without complaint. The entire event was subsidised through a grant from The Vincent Fairfax Foundation and Fair Education and we are grateful to this organisation for their sponsorship.

Student feedback from the experience:

"Fun, met a lot of interesting people, learned a lot of different things about myself and my team"

"It was the best camp I've ever been on, the experience was awesome!"

"I liked the activities as it pushed it out of your comfort zone"

"I have met so many new people, listened to so many different stories and gained so many different skills!"

"This camp overall allowed me to further develop my skills as a leader and form some great friendships"

"It was a good chance to learn things about each other and discover/rediscover things about ourselves"

"Talking to multiple people from other campuses, broadens horizons"

"Very inspiring talk and good way of learning what it takes to be a leader"

"I learnt a lot from it and it showed real life implications of leadership"

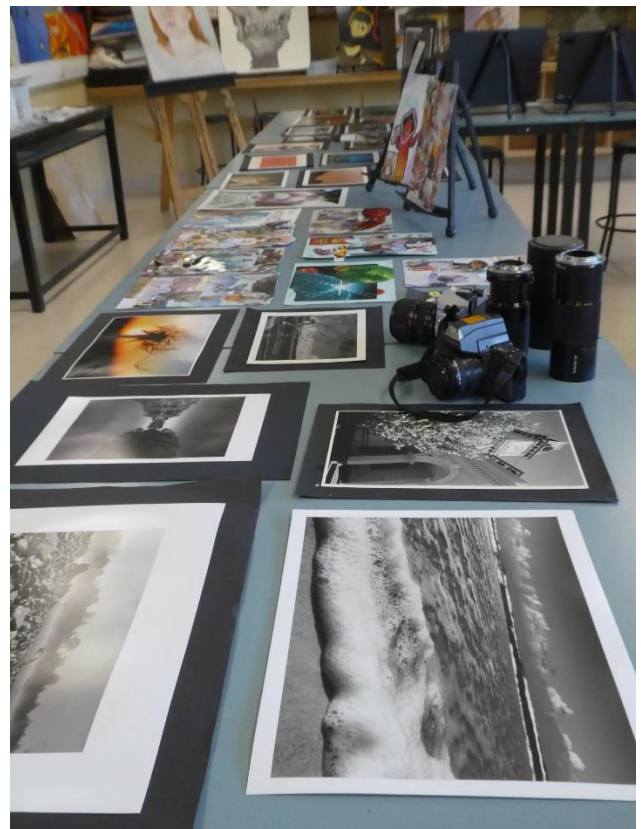
"Learnt how to peel back armour and make us not regret things/breathing techniques"





6-7 Information Evening

All three Campuses impressed prospective students and parents for 2022 on their information evenings. Despite having to adhere to strict COVID-19 protocols, staff and students showcased what the College has to offer through talks, walk throughs and innovative displays and presentations.



Lismore City Council Consultation

Student leaders from all three Campuses were invited to contribute to the Lismore City Council strategic Plan. Staff and students worked collaboratively with members of the Council's strategic planning team to provide valuable input about the future of their local community.



Minister Visit

The Rivers Secondary College was visited by the Education Minister Sarah Mitchell and NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro. The School Captains and Principals from each Campus took the members of parliament on a tour of the Commercial Kitchen and Aquaponics facility. The Minister and Deputy Premier both commented on how impressed they were with the students they spoke with and the opportunities we are providing for our students.



Widjabal Wiyabal

30 Aboriginal students and 3 mentors from across our College have started their Widjabal Wiyabal cultural journey, undertaking two sessions of this five day event. A smoking ceremony started the first day and was followed by exploring identity and cultural activities that included traditional artwork with Kylie Caldwell and dance with Rory Close. There were four senior Aboriginal student mentors who have previously undertaken the program in attendance who did an amazing job guiding junior students through the activities. Students experienced local cultural site visits on the second day led by Uncle Glen Rhodes and Ashley Moran.



The College Roadshow

In partnership with our primary schools, we took the College on another successful roadshow. With 2 days down and another day to go, staff and students from every Campus ran taster sessions with year 5 students at various primary school locations. Primary students experienced hands on learning about Drama, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Art, STEM and Agriculture.





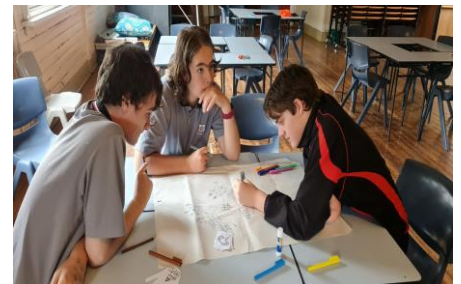
Year 7 Problem solution KHC

Year 7 students at Kadina High Campus are involved in a Problem Solution program, which is focussing on their skills in the areas of communication, collaboration and problem solving. As part of this program, RASE STEM Project Officer, Zane van den Berg delivered two sessions to show students different ways of applying the STEM Design Thinking Process to solve problems. In the first session, students developed creative solutions to making a toy using some everyday materials. In the second session, they used empathy to develop a solution to a problem that one of their group members faces.



Making Things That Matter

On Monday 22nd March students from six schools across the academy participated in the first day of the Making Things That Matter program. This program takes students through the process of identifying a problem in their local community then developing a solution that can be developed into a social enterprise. Six teams will be selected to move onto a three day incubator program in the Enterprise Lab at Southern Cross University.





Staff Professional Development

Staff at Lismore High Campus undertook a session on Introduction to STEM Design Thinking. While the activity was fun and engaging, staff walked away with a deeper understanding of how to embed STEM Design Thinking into their teaching and learning.

The Making Things That Matter program is also a staff development opportunity, with staff being upskilled in how to embed entrepreneurship into their teaching and learning, as well as gaining access to the teaching materials developed by Young Change Agents.

More professional development sessions are planned at other schools across the academy.



Bottle Rockets



Year 9 students from Lismore High Campus and Kadina High Campus have been studying aeronautics, specifically related to rockets. They have used the STEM Design Thinking Process to plan, prototype, test and improve bottle rockets. Mr Seller has had the most successful rocket to date, with a flight distance of approximately 100 metres! This program will culminate in a cross-campus competition.

