



In Focus



THE RIVERS

SECONDARY COLLEGE

The heart of secondary education for Lismore

Term 3
2022

Message from the Executive Principal

Dear Rivers Community,

As we start another busy term, hopefully refreshed and re-energised from our the school holidays, I'd like to take the opportunity reflect upon and celebrate the many achievements across The Rivers Secondary College in Term 3.

Our HSC teachers have done an incredible job supporting our Year 12 students to complete their major projects, undertake practical performances and prepare for upcoming HSC examinations. We wish our students every success in their examination preparation and performance this term and celebrate the culmination of 13 years of schooling as they graduate high school.

Congratulations to all of the staff, students and community members across the college who received awards as recognition for their service to public education during education week last term. We also celebrated SASS (School Administrative and Support Staff) Week, acknowledging the hard work and commitment from these staff members to ensure the smooth running of our campuses.

School Captains from the 3 campuses acknowledged Country at the recent Lismore Performing Arts Festival held at SCU; they were accompanied by talented musicians from each campus contributing to an amazing array of performances from our partner primary schools. It was a privilege to be a part of this combined public schools' event in Lismore.

The new Richmond River High site is looking fabulous with plans for gardens, seating and beautification well under way. The refurbished demountables and new resources accompanied by expert teachers has ensured our students are safe, supported and successful.

We have been privileged to have Uncle Glen Rhodes working across the college as Head Teacher Aboriginal Education and he will continue in this role into term 4. His willingness to share local knowledge, culture and perspectives to support our jarjums has ensured our campuses are culturally safe, diverse and welcoming for everyone.

A special thank you to Mrs Graham and the campus sports coordinators for organising and delivering a fabulous Year 7 and 8 college sports gala day that was inclusive and enjoyable for everybody. 'Mayhem in the MPC' hosted at KHC was also a terrific showcase of our talented junior performers across the college and a special thank you to our CAPA staff for again going above and beyond to support these students.

Well done Mr Van Den Berg and Mrs Ramsay for your support across primary and secondary to build STEM thinking and future focused teaching practices. It was a significant achievement to be recognised by the Secretary and Minister for Education for this work.

Congratulations to our elected captains, who begin their role as prefects and start Year 12 this term. I am confident they will lead with integrity and honour.

Chris Williams

Executive Principal



Congratulations to our Captains Elect across the college

Captains, Linh and Joseph (centre), and Brady, Sienna as Vice Captains



Kadina High Campus

Captains, Harriet and Madison supported by Alexis, Skyla and Jaden as Vice Captains



Lismore High Campus

Captains Rosalea and Sienna supported by Vice Captains Banjo and Leith and Year 11 Vice Captains Natalie and Tyson



Richmond River High Campus

Recognition for an Outstanding College Initiative

Congratulations to all our schools on receiving a prestigious Secretary's Award for an Outstanding School Initiative at the Public Education Foundation Ltd awards ceremony.

Mr van den Berg and Mrs Ramsay accepted the award on behalf of Albert Park Public School, Bexhill Public School, Dunoon Public School, Goonellabah Public School, Lismore Public School, Lismore Heights Public School, Lismore South Public School, Wilson Park Public School, Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre, The Rivers Secondary College, Kadina High Campus, The Rivers Secondary College, Lismore High Campus, and The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus.



Here they are with The Honourable Sarah Mitchell MLC, Dr Scott Sleaf STEM Project Adviser for the Educational Standards Directorate, and Secretary of NSW Department of Education Georgina Harrison.

'Mayhem in the MPC'

Kadina hosted a Music concert "Mayhem in the MPC" in the last week of term to showcase the talents of Year 7-10 Music classes from across the Rivers Secondary College.

It was a fantastic spectacle featuring Kadina's Year 12 VET Entertainment and Year 9 Showtime classes in action. They had the responsibility of creating the staging, lighting and vision designs for the show as well as running the audio. This, coupled with the laser display and outstanding stage management meant the whole production was slick and smooth.

Everybody enjoyed a great evening of entertainment with the 'mosh pit' forming from the get-go! A huge thank you to all the CAPA staff who made this event possible and everyone involved who contributed to such a wonderful evening, not least the Hospitality kitchen protegees who provided delicious treats for the revelers on the night.





Rivers Gala Day Challenge

It was all fun and games in week 6 for Years 7 and 8 across The Rivers Secondary College. The three campuses came together for the Rivers Gala Day Challenge held at Hepburn Park, Goonellabah. There were many activities including Table Tennis, Tennis, Touch Footy, Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee and STEM. Students across the college also participated in novelty events during the afternoon after a delicious sausage sizzle lunch.





The idea to bring the campuses together was developed by the student leaders across the college. They felt that a Rivers Sports Carnival would contribute towards:

- a sense of college identity for students, a college spirit and healthy competition
- a greater involvement in physical activity; less skillful, sporty students would be participating, but not necessarily competitively
- a greater awareness of the connection between an active and healthy lifestyle with positive mental health
- a greater connectedness and the formation of bonds across the campuses for both students and staff
- encouraging students to be more involved in extra-curricular activities

Special thanks to the Sports Coordinators at each campus and the Rivers Sports Coordinator, Penny Graham for the organisation that went into making this great event.



Rivers Open Boys Softball State Championships



In week 6, Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th of August, The Rivers Open Boys Softball team travelled down to Newcastle for the State Championships. The first game determined who played in Pool A or Pool B. We unfortunately lost our first game against Merewether High School 14-13. Once put into Pool B the team dominated each game. We beat Macintyre High 15-7 and Woollooware High 24-3 in the preliminary finals and then Kincumber High 12-3 in the Pool B final to take home the Plate Shield!

Tully, Louis, Jake, Alex, and Matt showed their power with all hitting multiple home runs. Alex and Luke lead the team pitching deceiving floaters, while Sam showed his competence in keeping such difficult pitching under control. Hudson, Connor and Captain Harrison were dedicated in the outfield, running rings around each other and through fences.

Well done team, you deserved the medallion.

Term 3 Wednesday Sport

Students across the College had the opportunity to participate in Volleyball and Touch Football for Wednesday sport this term. They eagerly participated and demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship and are continuing to develop their skills on the field.

During Term 4 student's across the College will be offered Rugby League, Basketball and Volleyball as Rivers Sports.

Upcoming term 4 Sporting dates

Week 4 2nd November TRSC Rugby League 7's Gala Day

Week 7 24th November TRSC 5 a side Football Gala Day

College Development Day



In 2022, our College Development Day celebrated our values of equity, engagement and excellence and provided staff with a diversity of workshops, led by leaders from across our campuses. Acknowledging that we continue to learn on Bundjalung country, was a highlight of the day, with staff participating in a smoking ceremony, led by Rory Close.



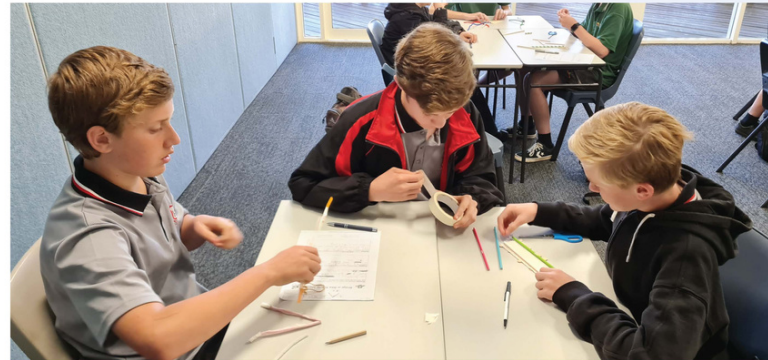
Year 10 girls working with industry mentors, Steph and Phoebe from East Coast Algae Biosystems

Design Workshops

Students from years 8, 9 and 10 from across the college participated in design workshops. Year 10 girls had two follow up workshops to work on their solution to increase the number of girls engaging in STEM subjects. During the workshops they worked with industry representatives from East Coast Algae Biosystems who gave them ideas on how to take an idea from a concept to a product.

Year 8 students were tasked with a similar challenge of how to increase the engagement of students in STEM electives in year 9 and beyond. They followed the design thinking model to **IDENTIFY** a problem, **BRAINSTORM** a solution and **PLAN** and create a **PROTOTYPE**.

A group of particularly keen year 9 students had requested a follow-up workshop to their social enterprise project from last year. They are developing an app to help with the lack of services available to young people to help with mental health issues.



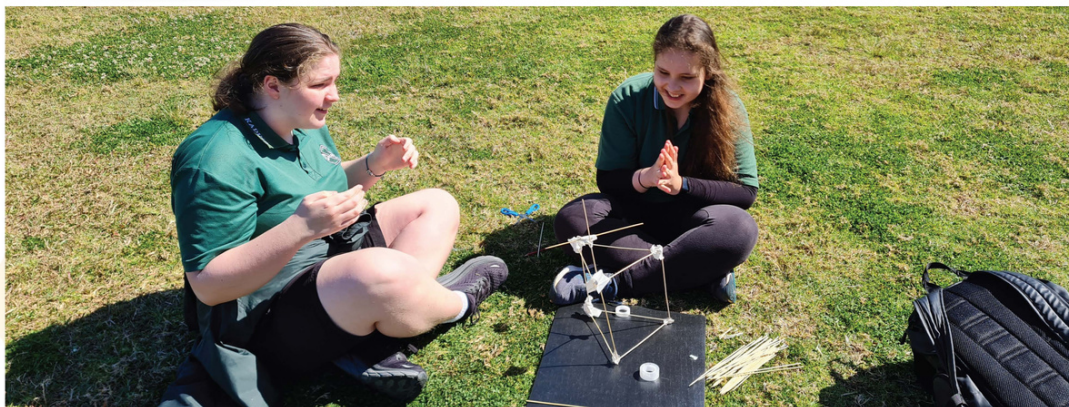
Year 8 students completing a warm-up design thinking activity



Year 7 and 8 Students performing triangulation using string and markers

Rivers Gala Day

Students had the opportunity to select a STEM activity at the stage 4 Rivers Gala day. They were tasked to use triangulation to locate a "mobile phone" that was a known distance from three different "mobile towers" in the minimum amount of time. After this, they had to build the tallest freestanding tower possible using only wooden skewers and sticky tape. The windy day presented a lot of challenges to the students.



Eva and Bree battling the wind to create a freestanding tower using wooden skewers and sticky tape



Jade and Charmel, and Gus, Wil and Wynn, winners in the Bottle Rocket Challenge finale

Bottle Rocket Finale

After holding school competitions for the Bottle Rocket Challenge, approximately 170 students from across the academy came together for the Finale at Kadina High. Lismore High Students Jade and Charmel took out the high school division with a flight distance of 97m, while Gus, Wil and Wynn from Dunoon Public took out the primary school division with a flight of 72m.

Collaborative Planning

RASE project officers continue to work with staff from our primary schools to develop innovative units of work that embed Design Thinking and Technology to assist students develop their problem solving skills. Teachers and students alike are always telling us how much they enjoy the units, which is leading to increased student engagement in classrooms.



Teachers from four primary schools working with the RASE project officers to develop units of work

STEM 2022 Conference



Staff from Lismore South and Lismore Public participating in a workshop focusing on engaging girls in STEM

Maths teachers from Lismore High attended the STEM 2022 conference and participated in a deep dive that focused on using surveying skills to show the practical application of mathematics. They are now going to work with Zane van den Berg to embed these activities in their teaching and learning programs.

Teachers from Lismore and Lismore South Public schools attended the STEM 2022 conference and participated in a deep dive targeted at increasing the engagement of girls in STEM. They will now work with Karen Ramsay to develop a project to support our girls in engaging and achieving in STEM, which is still a male dominated subject area.



Robert Boland, Jason Chan and Zane van den Berg using similar triangles to calculate the width of a lake.



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Year 6 Orientation Days in Term 4 **Tuesday, 22 and 29 November 2022**

Save the Date: Parents and caregivers of Year 6 students transitioning to the college next year are invited to accompany their student on the morning of the first campus visit – 22 November. Further details next term.

Times: 9am – 3.15pm

Venue: The Rivers Secondary College campus that your Year 6 student is transitioning to in 2023. (Kadina High, Lismore High or Richmond River High)

Purpose: To provide Year 6 students with the opportunity to experience a day at high school.

Details: The event is run as an excursion by our partner primary schools.

A variety of activities will run during the day that may vary a little from campus to campus. Each principal will provide activity details to the primary schools coming to their campus.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Rivers Secondary College.



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