



The heart of secondary education for Lismore





Acknowledgement of Country

The Rivers Secondary College acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land; the Widjabal Wiyabal people of the Bundjalung Nation. We respect Elders, both past and present whose enduring knowledge and strength inspire our college community to learn and work together. Our college is committed to building relationships, respect and opportunities for all Aboriginal people within our Lismore college community.



THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE

We welcome you to The Rivers Secondary College, located on Bundjalung country. The Rivers Secondary College is the heart of secondary education for Lismore and consists of Kadina High Campus, Lismore High Campus, and Richmond River High Campus. We cater for the educational needs of students wishing to pursue academic, vocational, and alternate pathways. Our students benefit from specialised programs at each of our comprehensive Year 7-12 campuses as well as combined college events, sporting teams, shared curriculum, and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our friendly learning community is characterised by our values of equity, excellence, and engagement, where everyone is supported to achieve personal success and positive wellbeing, through evidence-based practices. The curriculum is engaging, accessible and inclusive. With a strong focus on quality teaching, learning, and leading we prepare students for the challenges of an ever-changing world which lies ahead of them. In addition to creative thinking, problem solving and technological skill development, all students are supported to establish strong foundations in literacy and numeracy to ensure they are successful lifelong learners.

Students not only feel they are part of a vibrant, learning environment, they recognise the importance of our connections to the broader community. We have strong relationships with our feeder primary schools through our Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence and work in partnership with nearby Southern Cross University and TAFE. The Rivers Secondary College is continually looking for opportunities for our students to give back and participate in community events and initiatives.

Through the collective expertise of staff in our state-of-the-art trade training facilities, students can access cutting edge resources and technology. An emphasis on creative and performing arts has allowed several musicals to be held in Lismore. The extensive farmland available to the campuses, enables students to gain valuable insight into primary production. In the sporting arena, the college has supported students to participate and excel at a regional and state level.

Our strong commitment to the values of public education ensure schooling is about more than academic results. It is about shaping individuals who positively contribute to society. Our academic, leadership, sports, arts, and student wellbeing, curriculum ensure students can develop the necessary life skills for success. The Student Representative Council, School Captains and Prefects have a strong voice and lead many of the directions of the college, growing a very cohesive college community. Staff ensure that all students develop the capacity and resilience to socially and emotionally grow as young people. With our skilled year advisers and support staff, students are supported through this most important journey.

The Campus Principals work collaboratively with the Executive Principal. We look forward to working together to ensure your child is safe, supported, and successful with a bright future.



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



THE RIVERS WORKING TOGETHER

The Rivers Secondary College deeply understands that supporting our staff is a vital ingredient in ensuring that our students are known, valued and cared for. We value collaboration and professional learning. Ongoing development of staff is critical to the progress and achievement of every student and effective collaborative practice, improves teacher quality.

In 2023, our staff participated in two college development days. nyaa daa ngumba guurii jaajams (looking show/quide/teach quurii kids) fostered an opportunity for college staff to learn more about cultural humility and safety, and Aboriginal languages and cultures. Our Classrooms are Equitable, Engaging and Excellent, the second of our college development provided staff with a diversity of workshops, led by leaders from across our campuses.



Beginning teachers enjoy a comprehensive college program of support and development during their first years of teaching. Our Collegiate Learning Network fosters sharing, professional dialogue and collaboration. Classroom practice is dynamic and differentiated to meet the individual learning needs and to engage all students to be the best they can be.

During 2023, we have begun the exciting process of implementing the reformed NSW Curriculum. This reform aims to strengthen and streamline what is taught in schools. Curriculum reform is an opportunity to engage and re-energize what we teach and how we teach it. It focuses on making clear what is essential in the curriculum to give more time for deep learning, establishing stronger foundations in English and Mathematics, and providing clearer links between HSC subjects and career pathways.

Literacy and Numeracy underpin student outcomes, and we are invested in providing staff with a wide range of strategies and research-based practice to enable our students to consistently improve. We are firmly focused on teachers explicitly teaching literacy and numeracy to students at all levels of achievement, in all subject areas. Success can be measured by improved student progress and achievement data.

Our extremely dedicated staff work collegially in a diversity of college teams focused on improving our campuses. These include attendance, HSC outcomes and effective classroom practice. We are committed to providing our staff with professional learning to ensure that we provide the best opportunities, and work together, on our goal of providing students with the foundations for bright futures.

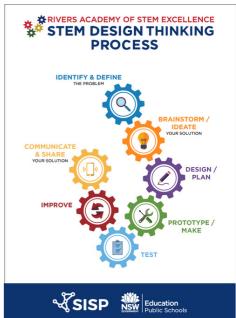
THE RIVERS ACADEMY OF STEM EXCELLENCE

STEM education is the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in an interdisciplinary or integrated approach. Students gain and apply knowledge and deepen their understanding within an authentic context. It may include inquiry, problem, challenge, and project-based learning approaches.





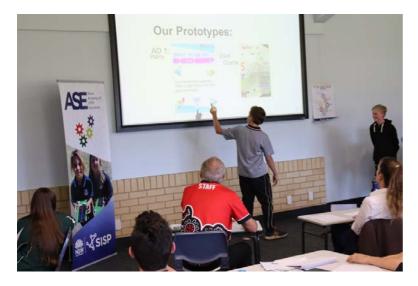




STEM is becoming increasingly important, with more and more jobs requiring STEM skills. The Rivers Secondary College is increasing its focus on STEM education through project days, integrated STEM programs, electives and integrating STEM skills across the entire curriculum using the STEM Design Thinking Process. Through these programs, we are able to develop skills such as Creative and Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Problem Solving, Digital Citizenship and Global Citizenship in our students. Fluency in these 21st century skills provides our students with the platform to be adaptive learners who are prepared for a changing work environment.







The Rivers Secondary College continues to work closely with the NSW Department of Education's Educational Standards Directorate to strengthen the Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence (RASE) and STEM Industry School Partnerships for the Lismore area. Through provision of real-world, authentic learning opportunities and targeted professional development, the RASE project builds a Kindergarten to Year 12 STEM education continuum. With an emphasis on primary to secondary transition and in partnership with industry, the Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence prepares students for the future workforce by giving them an awareness and understanding of STEM jobs and pathways available. Students have the opportunity to experience a broad set of technical, enterprise and work readiness skills which build upon the STEM competencies.

Each year, RASE holds an academy-wide challenge that brings together students from our high schools and primary schools in a fun and educational setting. These challenges alternate each year between the bottle rocket challenge and the solar car challenge.







In 2023, we held our solar car challenge. Competitions were run in all our schools to to see who would qualify for the next round. Over 120 students from 13 schools came together to compete in the grand finale. Primary school teams raced on a straight 20 metre sprint track, while high school teams competed on an oval pursuit track. Look out for our Bottle Rocket Competition in 2024.

KADINA HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College, Kadina High Campus located in Goonellabah, is a proud member of The Rivers Secondary College. Kadina High Campus is a quality comprehensive secondary school which provides contemporary educational programs and experiences in a safe, friendly and challenging setting. The campus has developed a nurturing environment in which support of all students is paramount, enhancing self-esteem, responsible behaviour and a positive sense of civic pride in our students. There is strong community support and engagement which is fundamental to the success of Kadina High Campus.



Campus Focus Area

Kadina High Campus is part of a world class education system, focusing on the acquisition of creative, qualified teachers, resources and innovative programs. We promote and recognise individual achievements and excellence across a full range of unique talents and abilities with a goal of preparing students to build skills and resilience to achieve high level wellbeing. The campus environment is based on high expectation relationships and students are expected to be Respectful, Responsible and Ready.

Campus Areas of Equity

There is a program of shared delivery of senior curriculum aimed at keeping options broad for all students and facilitated by cooperative timetable arrangements across the college sites. The campus has a state of the art Trade Training Centre and industry standard vocational facilities and equipment in the Hospitality, Construction, Metal & Engineering and Primary Industries. Refurbished Music and Entertainment classrooms now offer the highest standards in the creative and performing arts. We strive to celebrate diversity and are committed to increasing the knowledge, understanding, history, culture and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of Australia.

KADINA HIGH CAMPUS

Campus Areas of Excellence

Kadina High Campus has a proven tradition of academic excellence, and our professional, highly skilled teachers are committed to nurturing the best possible outcomes for all students across the curriculum. There is a strong focus on embedding literacy and numeracy, ensuring students are equipped with foundation skills to have successful futures. Public celebration of student and staff achievement are high priorities and students are encouraged to work through the merit award scheme and attend rewards excursions. Kadina High Campus enjoys high academic success across all key learning areas and boasts an enviable record of outstanding performances in the Higher School Certificate. Students consistently gain entry to leading university courses and regularly achieve ATAR scores above 90.



The many opportunities and programs available for students reflect the evolving needs of our school community and society. Our students and staff are consistently challenged to consider what 'Kadina creates'. Every activity, event and program are testament to this philosophy.





Campus Areas of Engagement

Kadina High Campus is committed to providing whole school processes and systems that support the wellbeing of all students so they can connect, succeed and thrive. Cooperative programs in student and staff wellbeing are focused on developing student resilience, effective learning, excellence in teaching practice and staff training and development. We are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders and our strategic directions reflect the implementation of evidence–based strategies to ensure student needs are addressed so they can successfully manage the complexity and diversity of our world by becoming more fluid, more flexible, more focused on reality, and radically more innovative.

LISMORE HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College, Lismore High Campus is proud to be a comprehensive, coeducational, Year 7-12 High School situated in East Lismore. We have a fast-growing student population and an attached support unit. The Lismore High Campus crest has the school motto in Latin, "Spectemur Agendo"; Let us be judged by our actions. Lismore High Campus currently shares some of its facilities with Richmond River High Campus.



Campus Focus Area

Lismore High Campus is the oldest public secondary school in Lismore and celebrated its Centenary in 2020. We aim to engage our students in the learning process to set them up for positive futures. To meet the needs of the 21st century learner, our curriculum includes future-focused learning with a strong focus on foundation skills in literacy and numeracy using creative and critical thinking to communicate and solve problems. The campus takes a holistic approach to support student wellbeing, enabling them to reach their personal best.

Campus Areas of Equity

Staff are committed to working collaboratively across subjects to provide students with real world learning opportunities that respond to authentic and engaging challenges. Understanding the importance of the cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of our students, we are focusing on further developing our learning culture, wellbeing and effective classroom practice. Lismore High Campus hosts freshly renovated learning spaces specifically designed for innovative, twenty-first century teaching including an Aquaponics facility, Gym, Dance studio, Drama room, upgraded Science laboratories and Industry Standard Trade Training facilities in Hospitality, Metal and Engineering and Construction.

Campus Areas of Excellence

Our purpose is to ensure students grow in their learning through explicit, consistent and research-informed teaching that empowers students to develop healthy study and work ethics which contribute to academic resilience. High Achiever classes provide challenges and experiences for high potential and gifted students, strategically using data to enhance learning outcomes and monitor student progress. Reading to Learn is a schoolwide strategy aimed at enhancing foundation and advanced literacy skills. It is complemented with STEM curriculum and use of design-thinking to strengthen student outcomes in numeracy through problem solving. There is a strong focus on Aboriginal Education through cultural and academic support programs.







Campus Areas of Engagement

Our annual boys and girls leadership camps enable students to develop appropriate skills in being positive contributors to society. We embrace student voice and there are several senior prefect positions where students take responsibility for a portfolio of interest within the campus. New Choices is a program that works with students who have disengaged from school, to re-establish trust and understanding to identify barriers to learning. Our Nesbitt Award has been a long-standing tradition at Lismore High Campus with a significant donation of funds for student scholarships. Each of the top academic students in year 7-10 receive approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 each (dependent on interest earned by the trust in the year).

RICHMOND RIVER HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus includes a unique mix of rural and urban families, socio-economic groups, diverse households, alternative lifestyles and identities. First Nations cultures represent a significant percentage of our student body. We are committed to continuous improvement in quality teaching and learning, to provide a learning environment in which all students are valued and can experience growth and success in their school and post-school pathways. Richmond River High Campus is currently situated in a newly resourced Temporary School as a result of the 2022 Floods. The campus accesses some facilities of Lismore High Campus and maintains access to its vast Agriculture plot in North Lismore.

Campus Focus Area

At Richmond River High Campus, we are focused on working with a diverse community to build student engagement in learning through the implementation of quality academic programs, excellent teaching, learning and wellbeing initiatives. The campus vision of 'Learning for Life' is fundamental to the values of high expectations, collaboration, inclusivity and respectfulness that drive our shared work. We are working to be the best teachers we can be.





Campus Areas of Equity

Richmond River High Campus is proud to meet the learning needs of all students, regardless of individual strengths and areas for development. Our High Achiever classes successfully engages students from Year 7 through to Year 10. A comprehensive Study Skills Program runs across Stage 4 to embed skills that equip students to perform to the best of their ability. Our students participate in a wide range of musical events, Byron Writers Festival, Bell Shakespeare events, sporting, chess and many other initiatives to support learning outside of the usual classroom experience. Students that have attended Richmond River High Campus for Year 11 and 12 can apply for the Carr Scholarship to support their first year of university. Five scholarships are awarded each year to students with the highest ATAR. The \$15,000 scholarship is a great help for students to pay university expenses in their first year of tertiary study.

RICHMOND RIVER HIGH CAMPUS

Campus Areas of Excellence

Richmond River High Campus offers a breadth of subjects including high end academic subjects such as Extension 1 and 2 English, Extension 1 and 2 Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture as well as a variety of challenging Technology and Creative and Performing Arts courses. In addition to this, our students have an array of VET and TAFE courses available to them. Our campus farm and cattle enterprise are areas of great significance and a source of enthusiasm and pride. The Agriculture plot has a large teaching space, tractor parking and various cattle handling facilities as well as vast pasture and chicken tractors used to house our flock of show chickens.





Campus Areas of Engagement

At Richmond River High Campus, we endeavour to ensure our physical learning spaces are used flexibly to meet a broad range of student learning interests and needs. Since 2021, a Cultural Connections program has run at the campus which provides intensive, targeted support pathways for all Aboriginal students through the Aboriginal Learning Engagement Centre (ALEC).

Our campus benefits from having a Maths Growth Team specialist working at the campus. As part of the NSW Mathematics Strategy, their role is to enhance learning and to support teachers of Mathematics through professional learning and providing in-class support, high quality resources and support materials which deliver high impact strategies for all students.

Our Writing in Secondary Schools project has provided the opportunity for staff to work across faculties to develop specific and targeted strategies to improve teaching strategies used by staff to support the improved writing abilities of RRHC students.



As a college, we are committed to continually strengthen partnerships with our partner primary schools to enhance transition of students from the primary to secondary setting. Orientation days are held at each campus where Year 6 students undertake team building and hands-on learning activities that provide an insight into school life and prepare them for our college.









Regular opportunities for collaboration through peer mentoring, sports coaching and the creative and performing arts are also supported. Staff from The Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence work closely with primary schools to facilitate authentic learning experiences through technology.



THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE

Partner Primary Schools































PRIMARY PARTNER SCHOOLS

The college has an annual Roadshow where staff and students from the three campuses visit primary schools to expose Year 5 students to engaging secondary learning experiences. Recent feedback from a primary principal - "We LOVE working with your college. So professional, well planned and such strong communication. The Roadshow has become a very important tradition for Stage 3 at our school."







































With a dedicated Sports Coordinator working with coaches and students across the college, Rivers Sport allows students from all three campuses to have the opportunity to try out for a Rivers Secondary College representative sporting team. Rivers teams create an opportunity for students from all three campuses to train and compete with the best athletes from across the college. From an individual and a Rivers team perspective, the increased challenges lead to greater success against other schools on a local, regional and state level at combined high school competitions. All students in Year 7-10 have the opportunity to participate in combined school sport on Wednesday mornings. With students able to come together from across the college, a greater diversity of sports selection can be offered at each campus or at community sporting facilities.









RIVERS SPORT

Each year the three campuses play a series of inter-campus gala days where both Junior and Senior campus teams compete for the coveted College Shield. Whether it is on the football or hockey fields, netball or basketball courts, representing your campus and playing sport with your friends is as highly valued as winning and taking home the points.



Our students continue to represent themselves, the campuses and the college with great pride and sportsmanship.





Students currently have the opportunity to represent the college in the following sports: Australian Rules Football, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Water Polo.



The Creative and Performing Arts is strongly supported across the college with access to a variety of subjects that focus on skill development, creative collaboration and performance opportunities, nourishing students' talents and interests. Students have the opportunity to attend regular excursions to various locations, including an annual excursion for Year 11 students to Sydney. Over the years, students have attended workshops at The National Art School, NIDA and the Sydney Opera House. These excursions open up the creative world to our students and allow them to experience some of the best arts facilities in Australia.



Students have access to college-wide ensembles that draw on the skills of our highly qualified teaching staff and allow for greater access to performance and competitive opportunities. The college produces musicals in collaboration with our Rivers P-12 community. Our students have some great opportunities to perform and exhibit their work, such as student evening concerts, parent teacher evenings and open nights.





RIVERS CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Rivers Secondary College has a long tradition of being a part of the Lismore Performing Arts Festival, where all public primary and secondary schools in the Lismore region perform over a number of nights.



Each year all creative faculties across the college collaborate to host The Rivers MADDness night. This evening gives College HSC students the opportunity to showcase their final works in Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Ceramics and Photography. Students are proud to perform and exhibit their pieces and share their success with the community. HSC students can gain essential experience in music and theatre production by studying the T-VET Entertainment course, where they will be challenged by being responsible for the sound and production elements for the Byron Blues Festival Busking Competition, as well as other college events.













The Rivers Secondary College is a place where creativity is valued and nourished through diverse programs that cater to all students and creative areas, supported by highly passionate and skilled teachers.

Introduction to Shared Curriculum

The Rivers Secondary College Shared Curriculum model is now firmly established between Kadina High Campus, Lismore High Campus and Richmond River High Campus and provides unprecedented opportunities for students to access a very broad senior curriculum. By offering preliminary and HSC subjects across all three campuses to all Rivers students, their individual education and career goals are catered for and they can excel in subjects for which they have the aptitude and enthusiasm to succeed. First class programs and highly qualified teachers provide the ideal learning environment where every student can realise their true potential. Students can now select from a broader range of HSC subject electives, and travel cross-campus to attend classes at other campuses of the college to experience a rich, challenging and supportive senior studies environment.



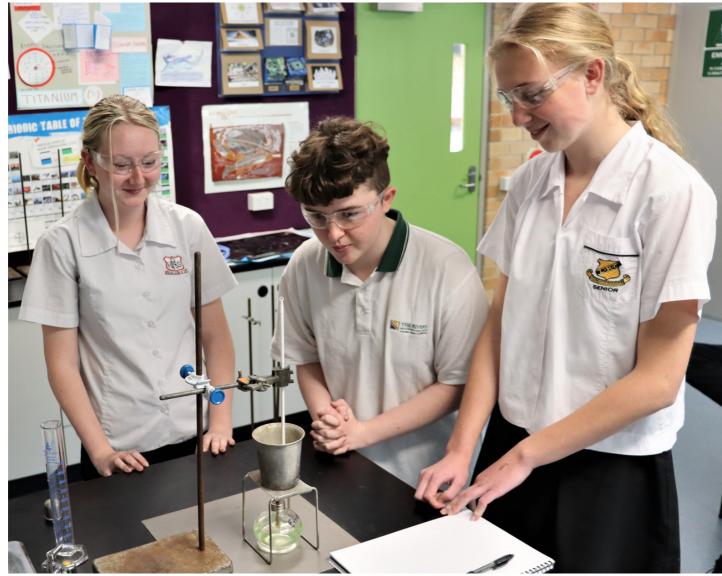




RIVERS SHARED CURRICULUM



As the college timetable is synchronised across the three campuses, many of the senior courses offered across the college are available as a Shared Curriculum subject for all senior students.



The college provides free transport for senior students studying Shared Curriculum subjects to commute between sites during the school day. To allow parents and carers of senior students to see all their teachers on Parent Teacher Evenings, a Stage 6 Combined Campus Parent Teacher Evening is held on one site, in Term 2.

Introduction to Vocational Education

Vocational Education is a strong college focus with an emphasis on preparing students with the skills, capabilities and confidence to successfully enter the workforce. We aim to give our students the edge in the employment market by offering vocational opportunities that prepare them for the workforce. Expert advice and guidance are available throughout their secondary schooling. Our careers advisors are there to support students in finding a pathway to a rewarding vocation, including organising career information days and college excursions to tertiary education facilities. Our college campuses have excellent facilities that allow our students to gain skills in workplace practices.



Through the North Coast Institute of TAFE our students have access to many courses through the EVET program, where students are able to study a subject at TAFE as part of their preliminary and/or HSC studies. Students spend either a half or one full day at TAFE completing their studies which include theory based and hands on activities ranging from competency-based qualifications through to certificate I-III qualifications. Many students use their EVET courses/qualification to continue on with further TAFE study after completing Year 12. This curriculum framework includes courses which are accredited for the HSC and provides students with the opportunity to obtain nationally recognised vocational qualifications.



RIVERS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Employability skills are features in all Vocational Education and Training courses. Units of competency are defined as "skills required not only in gaining employment but also to progress within an enterprise, and to achieve one's potential and contribute successfully to enterprise strategic directions". The eight Employability Skills are: effective communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and creativity, planning and organising, self-management, learning and technology.

Our Rivers Shared Curriculum Vocational Education subjects give students the opportunity to join TAFE courses and gain placements in the workforce; our students can be found in cafes, shops, on farms, in childcare centres and on building sites, to name but a few, across the region.



Academic success can lead to entrance into university or students achieving their career goals through Vocational Education and Training. The Rivers Secondary College is proud to provide students with a supportive environment and a host of opportunities to attain their vocational and career goals.

Vocational Education and Training courses currently available as part of The Rivers Secondary College Shared Curriculum include: Construction, Entertainment, Hospitality, Metal and Engineering, Retail Services and Primary Industries.



All students at The Rivers Secondary College have a wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities at both a campus and a college level. Each year student elections are held for the Student Representative Council at each campus. To help develop the leadership of our students, the college runs student leadership camps and training. Through conferences, workshops, teambuilding activities and mentoring, students can work together to realise their potential and develop their leadership goals and aspirations.











RIVERS STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES











From the Rivers chess competition and Sports gala days to the Rivers CAPA showcases and excursions, there is a wealth of extra-curricular activities and opportunities open to students across The Rivers Secondary College.









Each campus has their own team of dedicated staff who work to support Aboriginal Education both at a campus and college level. However, all staff have a part to play in providing comprehensive support, guidance and opportunity that meets the individual needs of the students on their campus. This is reflected through a variety of initiatives, programs and practices at each campus. In 2017, The Broncos Girls Academy was set up across the college to provide culturally-based mentor support for all Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander girls in Years 7-12.

A key benefit as a result of the three campuses coming together, has been the opportunity for staff to work together, share ideas, expertise and best practice. There is an ever-increasing number of staff now trained in Stronger Smarter and the 8 Ways pedagogy which are having a positive impact in closing the gap for our Aboriginal students.



Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming is an initiative we have developed for our potential and aspiring Aboriginal leaders in the college. The program aims to bring students together to participate in a series of cultural and civic leadership workshops. The main focus is to give our Aboriginal young people 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. Many of these students go on to distinguish themselves academically, culturally and within the wider community.

RIVERS ABORIGINAL EDUCATION



Bunjulung Jugun

Ngali na jugun Nagali garima mala jugun Wana janjma mala gunu gala jugun Ngali wana janja mala jugun Ngali na mala jugun

Bunjulung Country

We belong to this country
We look after this country
Don't do wrong around here this country
We don't harm this country here
We belong to it this country
Bunjulung Elders

Most recently, Aboriginal students from the college have been awarded such accolades as the John Lincoln Youth Service Award, the Nanga Mai Award for outstanding student engagement and The Rivers Proud and Deadly Awards.

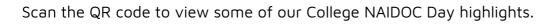








NAIDOC is a busy time throughout the college. Since 2022 all students and staff from our three campus join together in a full-day community event to celebrate and learn about Aboriginal culture through music, dance, the creative and performing arts and crafts and of course, the hotly contested Rivers NAIDOC Oztag Cup.





In recognition of all Aboriginal students achievements and contributions to college and campus life, each year students are nominated for our Aboriginal Student Proud and Deadly Awards. 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 Year 7 to Year 12. Parents, family and community members are involved and invited to celebrate the success of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the annual Proud and Deadly Awards ceremony.





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