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ISSUE 2 | TERM 2 | WEEK 10 | 2025

NAIDOC Assembly

On Tuesday 1st of July, we celebrated NAIDOC Week with a formal assembly followed by a family and community lunch. This year's theme for NAIDOC is "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy" and marks 50 years of NAIDOC. "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy" celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

For our assembly, we were joined by Aunty Charlotte Williams for our Welcome to Country, ngalii ngaa balun daa ngu - our rivers dance group performed for us, and entertained by students in Years 10, 11 and 12. We had a great assembly that showcased the amazing talent of our Aboriginal students at Kadina High Campus. We are thankful and appreciative for all the families and community members who joined us for the assembly and lunch.

We are looking forward to continuing the celebrations with our annual Combined College NAIDOC Day, hosted by Lismore High Campus on Friday 4th of July. Events starting from 10am, including assembly, morning tea, activities, oztag and lunch. We hope to see you there! Good luck to Kadina High Campus for NAIDOC OzTag Cup!!

Thank you,
Jenique Sines
Relieving AEO





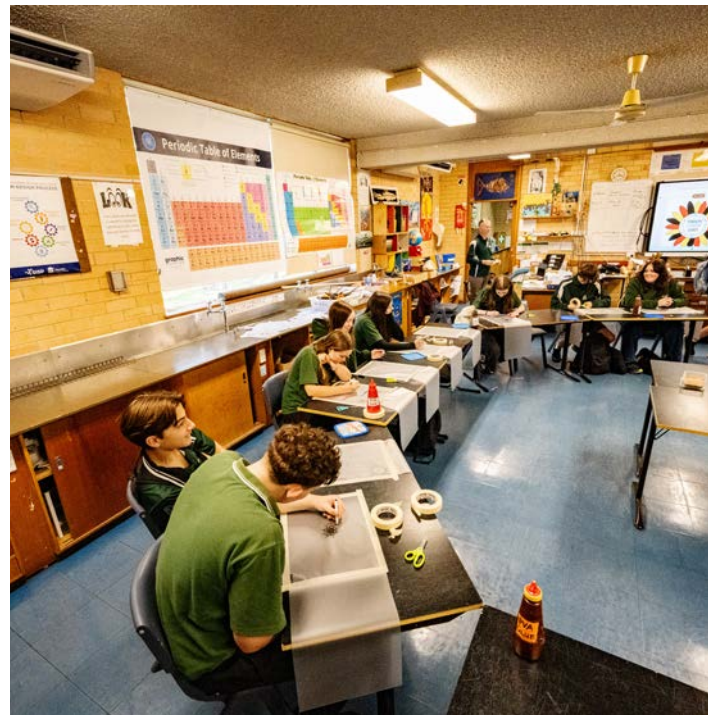
NAIDOC Activities

What a deadly day we had celebrating NAIDOC at Kadina! Students participated in a variety of cultural workshops including Bundjalung Bingo, Traditional Dance, Coloured Sand Art, Body Art, Traditional Indigenous Games, and painting a NAIDOC mural.

We also shared a delicious free BBQ lunch while enjoying tunes from a range of incredible Aboriginal musical artists.

A massive shout-out to our amazing Aboriginal student mentors who proudly showcased and shared their culture throughout the day. Your leadership, knowledge and pride made the day truly special for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a beautiful celebration of culture, community and connection!





CALENDAR

4 July

Last day of Term 2

21 July

**School Development Day
(pupil free day)**

22 July

**First day of Term 3 for all
students**

9 - 16 August

**2025 Jindabyne Snow
Excursion**

Please remember to check out our Sentral Parent Portal calendar for up-to-date information on important events.



KADINA HIGH CAMPUS

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We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Elders past and present of the Wijabul Wiyabal people and other peoples of Bundjalung Nation. We acknowledge that they are the first peoples of this land on which our school stands.

Attendance Matters Prize Winner

Sage is the lucky winner of our Term 2 laptop giveaway. Sage is a year 10 student with brilliant attendance and is a deserving winner. We hope you enjoy your new laptop, Sage!

Congratulations to all students who have worked hard to improve their attendance this term. Another laptop will be given away in Term 3, so keep aiming for 90%+



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Students with greater than
90% attendance will be
placed into a draw each
term to win a laptop!**

Deputy Principal Report

As Term 2 comes to a close, we reflect on a dynamic and action-packed few months at KHC. From sporting victories to cultural experiences and career-focused programs, our students have embraced every opportunity with energy and enthusiasm. Our students have shone across a variety of team sports, competing with pride against local and regional high schools. In soccer, netball, volleyball, and tennis, our teams displayed great skill and sportsmanship, achieving impressive results and bringing home several wins. The Athletics Carnival was another standout event, with students breaking multiple school records and setting a high bar for future athletes. We also had strong representation at Zone Cross Country, where our students gave it their all and did our school proud. Not to be outdone, the Debating Team continued to thrive this term, showcasing sharp thinking and excellent communication in every round. One of the more light-hearted highlights was the Students vs Teachers sporting competitions, where camaraderie and school spirit were on full display! Term 2 was also rich in cultural experiences. Over the Easter break, students attended and performed at Bluesfest, engaging with live music and gaining valuable performance experience in a professional festival setting. The energy continued with Havoc in the Hall, a fun and creative school-based event that brought our community together in celebration.

Our NAIDOC Week celebrations rounded out the term with a vibrant program of activities that honoured the histories, cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students have been actively preparing for life beyond school this term. Year 11 and 12 students participated in Successful Futures Days, while select Year 10 students engaged in the Trade Readiness Program, building valuable skills and career insight. A number of students also successfully completed White Card Training, opening doors to future employment in the construction industry. As Semester 1 reports arrive home, we encourage all students and families to take this time to reflect on learning progress and set clear goals for improvement as we head into Semester 2. It's a great opportunity to celebrate achievements and consider areas where more focus or support may be needed.

A special reminder to Year 12 students, term 3 is your last 10 weeks of formal classes. Please use your time wisely, stay focused, and make the most of every opportunity to study hard and prepare for the future ahead. This term has been packed with activity, achievement, and community spirit. As we head into the school holidays, we hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest. We look forward to welcoming you back next term, refreshed and ready for another exciting chapter at KHC.

Enjoy your break!

Belinda Ryan,
Deputy Principal
The Rivers Secondary College Kadina High Campus



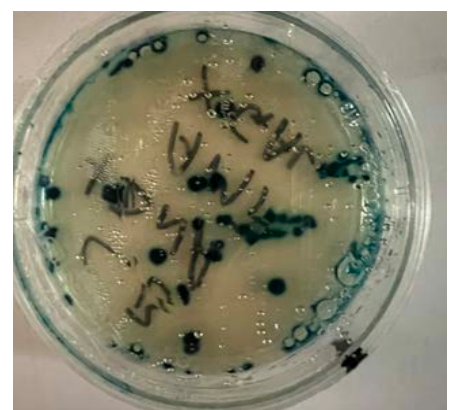
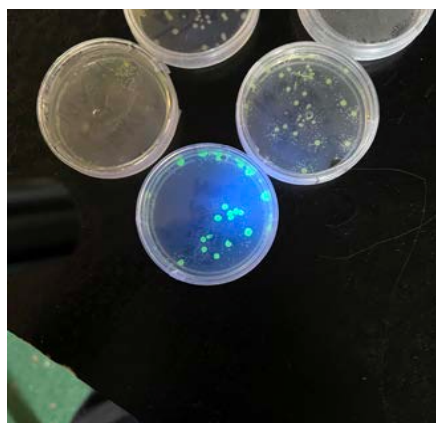
Year 12 Biology

During the last two weeks of term 2, Year 12 Biology have had the opportunity to extend their understanding of bio-engineering and how the use of single celled organisms can be utilised to create transgenic or genetically modified organisms.

The class have practiced working under laboratory conditions to introduce targeted genes to induce change in bacterial cultures. Over the course of two weeks the students introduced a Green Fluorescent Protein and a Blue protein to the samples, along with demonstrating antibiotic resistance. These experiences have helped to link real world experiences with content from modules 6 and 7 of the HSC Biology course while showing the students that the basic principles of bio-engineering can provide some exciting results with some very basic equipment.

The fluorescent protein is naturally occurring in organisms that express bioluminescence. After introduction into the bacteria sample the protein is expressed but is only capable of being seen with the use of a UV light. This process can be utilised in epidemiology and understanding how genes are passed on and expressed.

The blue protein, when introduced, does not present in every colony that grows. It does produce a very vibrant dark blue colouration. This can also be utilised as away to study gene expression and can also be utilised to examine how pathogens are spread throughout the environment.



TRSC Stage 6 'Havoc in the Hall'

Kadina hosted the annual 'Havoc in the Hall' a showcase of our college Stage 6 music classes. The concert was an outstanding success, with an excellent audience turnout and a truly incredible range of performances from our talented students - from flamenco to jazz to prog metal to...that crazy last song! The whole technical production was also a major assessment for our Yr11/12 Vet Entertainment Industry class - who put together a high level, professional show featuring many moving lights and two live cameras! Huge thankyou to all staff and students involved, particularly Mr O'Keeffe, Ms Dillon, Mr North, Mr Wordsworth, Mr Christie, with Ms Templeton and Ms Lane on food. Great stuff!





Kadina Creates Term 2 Assemblies

Kadina High Campus held its end of term Kadina Creates Assembly. At our assembly, we acknowledged and celebrated our students who have achieved 90% attendance or above. Students who have achieved 100% attendance received a \$20 voucher and each of the students with above 90% attendance went into a ballot with the winner receiving a new laptop! This terms winner is Sage in Year 10.

We also rewarded students for their positive behaviours. We are committed to demonstrating that we are ready for learning, demonstrating respect and being responsible for our actions. Students are also awarded points through roll call and classes from their teachers.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Kadina Creates Assembly for Term 2. We look forward to celebrating again with you in Term 3 at our next Kadina Creates assembly!



SRC Assembly

On behalf of the Student Representative Council, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your presence at our SRC Assembly this term. Your attendance and support are deeply appreciated and reflect the strong partnership between our school and its wider community.

Your encouragement plays a vital role in motivating us to lead with integrity, represent our peers responsibly, and contribute positively to school life. It was an honour to share our achievements and goals with you, and we are truly grateful for the time you took to join us for this important occasion.

Thank you once again for your continued support and involvement.



Year 10 Subject Selection Evening

We wish to thank all the parents, carers, and students who attended our Year 10 Subject Selection Evening this term. It was great to see so many turn out despite the cold weather for this important event. Students and staff discussed HSC subject selections and were shown presentations from all KLA's. TAFE also presented their options for students VET pathways.



Brospeak and Sistaspeak

This term, our Brospeak and Sistaspeak students were rewarded with an unforgettable trip to the Brisbane Broncos v Sharks game for their outstanding attendance and engagement this term. Our students represented Kadina High Campus with pride, respect, and enthusiasm and were thrilled to witness a Broncos victory live in the stadium!

A massive thank you to the Brisbane Broncos for generously supplying tickets and to Trent Barrett for gifting every student a Broncos cap an awesome surprise that made the day even more special.

We'd also like to give a huge shoutout to Aunty Ange and Jenique for their incredible work behind the scenes with the Broncos, and to Lennox and Mr Lewis for giving up their Sunday to support our students. Your efforts made this day possible and truly memorable.

Proud to see our young leaders shining bright both in school and beyond!



Stage 5 Debating Team

A massive round of applause to our Stage 5 debating team who won Round 1 of the Premier's Debating Challenge against Murwillumbah Learning Community. The more experienced Year 10 students led the way, while in their first debate, the Year 9 students really stepped up in this one. Well done, Round 2 here we come!

Mr. Lewis



TRSC Year 11 & 12 Successful Futures Day

Members of each campus Student Representative Council participated in a two day workshop facilitated by Character Builders to enhance their self confidence as a leader. Students engaged in a range of activities to broaden their comfort zones, creativity and collaboration with their fellow leaders.

Students were guided to strengthen their student voice and began initial planning for their goals of building inclusive, safe and rewarding school environments.

Thank you to campus SRC coordinators Catherine Murphy, Rebecca Caught and Jessica Ivy and supervising staff Debbie Miller, John Carter, Gabriella Miller and Ben Travis.

By Elise Dessmann DP IL (rel.)






Congratulations Caprice





Caprice came 4th in the recent World Skills Australia Competition in Brisbane!




www.kadina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



Congratulations Archie



Archie competed in the North Coast Regional Cross Country, achieving 13th place in the boys 16 years 6km race



www.kadina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



Congratulations Charlie



Charlie competed in the North Coast Regional Cross Country, achieving 6th place in the girls 18+ years 6km race, and securing a chance to run in the CHS State Championships that will take place in week 1 of term 3 in Sydney



www.kadina-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Staff Vs Students

To celebrate the Class of 2025 as they approach the end of their high school journey, our Year 12 students and Kadina staff have kicked off an exciting showdown series of games running across Term 2 and Term 3!

The first clash was a thrilling game of volleyball. The staff came out strong, edging out the first set 21–20. Year 12 bounced back to claim the second set 21–19, setting the stage for a nail-biting final set. In a tense and dramatic finish, Year 12 secured the win in the 3rd and final set 17–15!

The second match in our epic Staff vs Year 12 Showdown series saw a fast-paced, action-packed basketball clash!

With sharp shooting and solid teamwork, the staff team claimed victory with a convincing 38–12 win!



TRSC Student Representative Council (SRC) Workshop

Members of each campus Student Representative Council participated in a two day workshop facilitated by Character Builders to enhance their self confidence as a leader. Students engaged in a range of activities to broaden their comfort zones, creativity and collaboration with their fellow leaders.

Students were guided to strengthen their student voice and began initial planning for their goals of building inclusive, safe and rewarding school environments.

Thank you to campus SRC coordinators Catherine Murphy, Rebecca Caught and Jessica Ivy and supervising staff Debbie Miller, John Carter, Gabriella Miller and Ben Travis.

By Elise Dessmann DP IL (rel.)



Athletics Carnival

This term, Kadina High Campus held their annual Athletics Carnival on school grounds, showcasing a fantastic range of track and field events. Student participation was outstanding, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere throughout the day.

Congratulations to Bradman for taking out the title of winning house for the carnival and huge congratulations to the following Age Champions from the event; 12 Girls - Mereiana, 12 Boys Gus, 13 Girls Olivia, 13 Boys Noah, 14 Girls Georgie, 14 Boys Arman, 15 Girls Janeeka, 15 Boys Kobi, 16 Girls Asante, 16 Boys Miles, 17+ Girls Charlie and 17+ Boys Keon.

A special mention goes to the following students for breaking school records on the day; Gus - Boys 12 Discus, Mereiana - Girls 12 Discus, Kaos - Boys 13 Discus, Cooper D - Boys 14 Discus and Shot Put, Ratu Isireli - Boys 16 Discus.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing Year 12 students who ran the barbecue and food stall, keeping everyone well fed and energised. Finally, a massive thank you to Mr. Josh Condon for his exceptional organisation of the event — your efforts were truly appreciated by both staff and students.



Zone Cross Country Carnival - Evans Head

What a fantastic day at the Zone Cross Country Carnival in Evans Head! Our Kadina Cross Country team gave it their all under beautiful blue skies and warm conditions. We were proud to have 18 students representing our school — for some, it was their very first high school zone carnival, and they had an absolute blast!

Special shout-outs to Hadley, who placed 2nd in the 18+ boys, and Charlie, who finished 3rd in the 18+ girls! They'll be joined by Archie, Miles, and Grant in representing Kadina at the North Coast Regional Cross Country event in June at Nana Glen.

A big thank you to our amazing students for their effort and sportsmanship, and to all the parents and carers for your support on the day.

Congratulations to everyone involved!
Mrs Rasborsek and Mr Dalli



The Rivers Secondary College Sport

The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball team

The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball team competed against Banora Point High School in the Semi Final of the CHS Knockout competition. In a tightly contested match, the girls showed great determination and skill but narrowly went down 35–33. Despite the result, the team should be incredibly proud of how far they progressed in the competition and the effort they displayed on court. They fought hard until the final buzzer, demonstrating resilience and teamwork throughout the game. Congratulations to the team on a fantastic tournament.

Coach: Mrs Kelso.



Rivers Boys State Knockout Tennis team

On Tuesday 3rd June the Rivers Boys State Knockout Tennis team played their round 3 match against Alstonville High at the Wollongbar courts. They had progressed to this stage courtesy of a bye in Round 1 and defeating Maclean High in Round 2.

With the rainy weather disappearing we were finally blessed with a beautiful sunny day. The boys played against a very strong Alstonville team and were soundly beaten in all of the 8 sets of doubles and singles played.

Congratulations to the team of Max, Royce and Toby from Richmond River Campus and Isaac from Lismore Campus.

Mr Dalli (Kadina Campus)
Coach



Rivers Girls State Knockout Tennis team

The Rivers Girls State Knockout Tennis team played their round 3 match against Alstonville High at the Wollongbar courts.

They had progressed to this stage courtesy of a bye in Round 1 and defeating Evans River in Round 2.

With rainy weather threatening all day the girls played with determination, flair and a dash of humour and were successful in winning the tie by 5 matches to 2 with all 4 girls playing a combination of singles and doubles.

The girls will now progress onto the North Coast finals series in Grafton on Tuesday 24th June where they will play rounds 4 and 5 of this competition.

Congratulations to the team of Stella and Isabella from Richmond River High Campus and Djidji and Lara from Kadina High Campus.

Best of luck in the Next round.

Mr Dalli (Kadina Campus)
Coach



Rivers Girl's football

On Monday 26th May the girls played against a strong Alstonville side. Half time saw the girls at 1 nil down but they fought back to score in the second half with Krystal (RRHC) scoring a nice goal to even the game. At full time the girls were locked at 1 all. Extra time began and in the second half of extra time, with 1 minute remaining, Caitlyn (LHC) scored the winning goal. The win secured the girls a position in the North Coast semi finals against Byron Bay HS.

Friday 30th May the girls travelled to Byron Bay HS to play in the North Coast semi final. The girls played extremely well against a physical Byron side. Unfortunately the girls went down, 3 to 1, with Krystal (RRHC) scoring our only goal.

Girls pictured below from an earlier game against Nimbin CS.



The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball team Vs Maclean High School

The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball team competed against Maclean High School in the CHS Knockout competition. It was a fast paced and hard fought match, with the girls trailing 8-4 at the end of the first quarter. Showing incredible resilience and teamwork, they battled their way back to level the score at 17-17 by three-quarter time. In a thrilling final quarter, The Rivers Secondary College dug deep and secured a well earned 24-21 victory. Their passion and determination to fight until the final whistle was outstanding, and they should be incredibly proud of their performance. Well done, girls! They now advance to the Semi Finals of the CHS Knockout competition, where they will take on Banora Point High School. Best of luck!



NSW CHS Volleyball Knockout competition semi finals

Kadina High Campus proudly hosted the semi finals of the NSW CHS Volleyball Knockout competition for the Upper North Coast region. It was a fantastic day of competition, with both boys and girls matches showcasing exceptional skill, teamwork, and passion for the game. Our Rivers Secondary College boys team faced a tough match against Murwillumbah High School, going down by just a few points in the final set. The boys should be incredibly proud of their performance and efforts throughout the game. Our Rivers Secondary College girls team, claimed an impressive 3–1 victory over Tweed River High School in their semi final game! The girls played with determination, using strong defensive pressure and well-executed attacking plays to secure the win. The girls will now look ahead to the NSW CHS Volleyball Carnival in Sydney next term. We are extremely proud of both the boys and girls teams for their effort, resilience, and teamwork in advancing to this point of the competition this year. Congratulations to all involved! Mrs Rasborsek (TRSC Girls Volleyball coach) and Mr Galbraith (TRSC Boys Volleyball coach)



The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball

Congratulations to The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls Netball team on their impressive 34–21 victory over Casino High School in the CHS Netball knockout competition! The team showcased outstanding skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the match. With this well-earned win, the girls now advance to the next round of the knockout competition. Well done, girls – keep up the great work and best of luck in the next stage!



The Rivers Secondary College Open Boys vs Nimbin High Open Boys

The Rivers started the game a bit slow but improved throughout the game. Winning the game 4-1. This progressed them to the next game vs Maclean High. This game was scheduled to be played after the girls, but an injury in the girls game meant that the game was postponed and will now be played on Monday 12th of May.

The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls vs Maclean High Open Girls
Playing after the boys the girls took on Maclean. The game was a good contest with The Rivers scoring 2 good goals before an own goal from Maclean gave them a 3-0 lead. Unfortunately, the game was stopped early due to an injury stoppage.

The Rivers girls will progress, to the next round were they will play Alstonville High.



The Rivers Secondary College Open Girls vs Maclean High Open Girls

Playing after the boys the girls took on Maclean. The game was a good contest with The Rivers scoring 2 good goals before an own goal from Maclean gave them a 3-0 lead. Unfortunately, the game was stopped early due to an injury stoppage.

The Rivers girls will progress, to the next round were they will play Alstonville High.



TRSC Volleyball Training Session at Kadina High Campus

The Rivers Secondary College hosted a targeted volleyball training session at Kadina High Campus in preparation for our boys and girls teams' upcoming semi-final matches against the Far North Coast Zone champions. Student-athletes from The Rivers Secondary College Kadina High Campus, The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River High Campus, and The Rivers Secondary College Lismore High Campus came together to refine their skills through structured drills, tactical gameplay, and team-based training.

This collaborative session is part of our commitment to developing excellence in sport and providing opportunities for students to grow and perform at their best. Well done to all involved!

Mr Galbraith (TRSC Open Boys Volleyball Coach) and Mrs Rasborsek (TRSC Open Girls Volleyball Coach).



GARIMA CENTRE NEWS

Term 2 has been an incredibly busy period for the Garima Centre as we support both academic and cultural enrichment programs throughout the school.

Our Mission

The Centre is dedicated to helping Kadina students thrive in their studies across all subjects while improving their educational outcomes, attendance, and cultural identity. This term, we've focused on supporting Senior Studies and SBAT students, as well as providing guidance on resume writing and TAFE coursework.

Expanded Support

In response to a rise in student referrals to the Centre, we welcomed an additional teacher, Mr. Michael, to assist with one-on-one tutorials, assignments, and exam preparation.

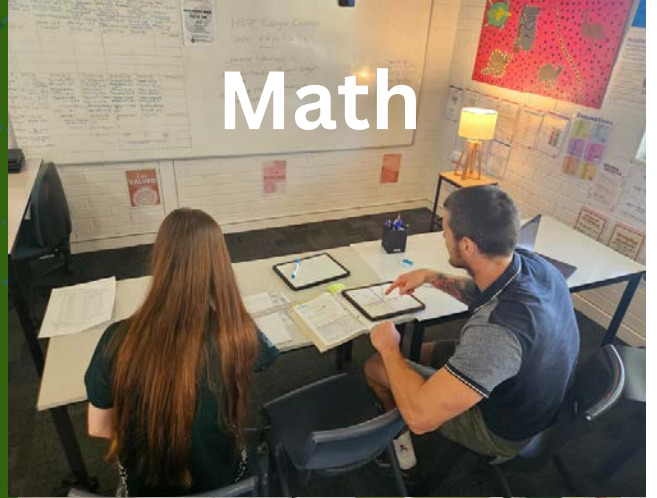
Whole School Involvement

The Garima Cooking Program has played a vital role in supporting Kadina's Breakfast Club each week, ensuring students receive healthy and delicious snacks.

Additionally, students have enjoyed collaborating with Mr. Stewart in the school garden. Next term, we plan to expand this initiative, helping students develop real-life skills in preparation for the workforce.



Green Team



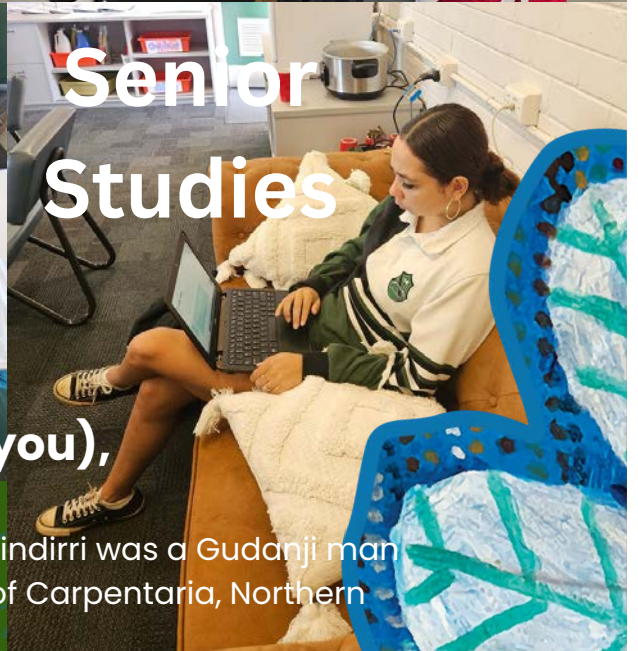
Math



Cooking



History



Senior Studies

**Bugalbee (thankyou),
Garima Team**

Artist: Gordon Landsen Milyindirri was a Gudanji man from Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory.

Check-in Assessment

The Check-in assessment is an annual online assessment for students in Years 3 to 9 in NSW Public Schools. All students complete a Reading and Numeracy test. Year 6 students also complete a Writing task.

Each assessment contains around 50 questions and takes up to 60 minutes to complete.

At Kadina High Campus, assessments will take place at the beginning of Term 3, during Weeks 1 and 2. Catch-up sessions will be arranged for any student who is absent on the day their year group is scheduled.

Adjustments and Support

Students with additional learning needs may wish to access provisions such as:

- Extra time
- Small group or individual supervision
- Rest breaks

The Learning and Support Team will discuss provisions with individual students prior to the assessment start date.

Purpose and Benefits

The Check-in assessment helps schools:

- Identify student strengths and learning needs
- Detect possible misconceptions
- Plan differentiated teaching strategies
- Identify students needing further support
- Highlight class-wide focus areas
- Reflect on and improve teaching practices
- Guide resource and programming decisions
- Support professional learning for staff

The results from the Check-in assessment provide valuable insight to support each student's learning journey.



Dear parents, guardians and carers,

Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*.

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Kind regards,

Principal

Tracy McGrath

Local Area High School Showcase Bluesfest 2025

What an unforgettable performance at this year's Bluesfest! I just want to say a massive THANK YOU to every single one of you who helped bring Bluesfest to life at this year's Local Area High School Showcase which was held on Saturday 19th April. Whether you were on stage belting out those soulful tunes, grooving with the band, dancing your heart out, or working behind the scenes to make the magic happen—you were all phenomenal!!

Your talent, hard work, and passion lit up the stage and created a vibe that was pure bluesy brilliance. The energy you brought, the emotion you shared, and the teamwork you showed made this year's Bluesfest something truly special.

Special thanks to Ian Davies, ex deputy principal of Byron Bay High School and ex principal of Kadina High Campus for your continued support for all our student performers over the many years at Bluesfest. Without you, this wouldn't happen!



College Development Day Term 2

At the start of this term, the college came together at Kadina High Campus for our college development day. A special thank you to our DEL, Nickie Barlett for setting a clear direction for our professional learning journey and also to our volunteer workshop presenters, who gave their time and expertise to ensure the workshops were both relevant and engaging. Your willingness to share your knowledge and practice enriches our collective learning and professional growth.





GAME CHANGER CHALLENGE

Background

The Game Changer Challenge is the Department of Education's award-winning design thinking competition.

Open to public schools across the state, the challenge centres on discovering solutions for a real-world, wicked problem by applying classroom learning. This year, students from the Rivers Secondary College have the opportunity to submit their solutions to the wicked problem: *Ensure Sustainable Futures for All*



Students are sharing their ideas with each other and giving feedback.



Students brainstormed a variety of problems in the local area

Process

Students selected from the three focus areas - People, Places, Planet. They delved into issues surrounding sustainability and identified a local problem they wanted to solve. From here, they developed survey questions and conducted research to help guide them to come to a solution.

Result

After two full days of stretching their brains, learning new skills in research, data analysis and Canva tools, all students had developed a design portfolio that was published as a website and submitted ready for stage 2 in Term 3.



Mrs Hodgman helping students develop their ideas and design portfolio.



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.