



BCHS BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

innovation excellence diversity



Images from Year 7 Camp



Term 1 Principal News

We have had an amazing start to the year and I am incredibly proud of our BCHS community after what has been a long and positive term 1.

Having launched the year with Orientation week we continued a strong focus on high expectations for learning behaviours. Kindness and self regulation have been our particular focus values for the term.

There has been a pleasing improvement in all aspects of the school. Teachers and students alike have been working hard and their efforts are paying dividends. As I walk around the school I see outstanding quality work being produced across all years. Through the classroom visits I am reminded multiple times a day of just how exceptional our teachers are by the quality of the lessons and positive relationships with students. Those positive relationships are essential in underpinning great learning.

It is not just my observations, the evidence of improvement is coming in. Over a twelve month period some of the positive shift we are seeing:

- The number of students earning positive recognition for their work has increased by 28%
- The number of suspensions has fallen by over two thirds
- Students and staff are reporting a calm learning environment in and out of the classroom

Yes, we have more work to do, all schools do. But it is important to celebrate the wins. We stopped and celebrated the achievements this week with a shout from the principal – every student received an ice block and every staff member received a coffee voucher. I am looking toward bigger celebrations and prizes mid year.

Our Year 7 students have settled into the middle school program beautifully. They are an impressive group! They finished their first term of High School with the Y7 Camp. At the other end of the school our Year 12 students are demonstrating a high level of accomplishment. They are already half way through their final year of school.

Next term we will continue our focus on kindness and self regulation. I encourage all parents and carers to be involved in discussing those values at home, they are two of our 5 BCHS Values that underpin the makings of a great learner.

Term 2 looks to be a busy one. We start the first two days as pupil free school development days where our staff will be focusing on enhancing programs for High Potential, Gifted and Talented students. We will be looking to enhance our high potential pathways, extending on our current offerings:

- Talented Arts Program (TAP)
- English and Maths enrichment pathways
- Targeted Sports Program (TSP)

And much more.

Other activated term two brings include end of semester assessments, preparations for MADD production, winter sporting competitions, and so much more....watch this space!

I hope to see many of our students participating in the ANZAC march towards the end of the holidays.

Stay across our Instagram and Facebook pages for updates. I wish you all a safe and happy Easter break.

Peter Howes

International Women's Day

A huge thank you to the Ballina Chamber of Commerce for hosting such an exceptional event this International Women's Day! This year's celebration of women's achievements and the vital push for equality was not only enlightening but also immensely enjoyable! Special appreciation goes to Lainie Chait, Kate McQuillen, and Rachael Calvert for their captivating and insightful presentations. The fantastic selection of prizes added an extra layer of excitement to the day, all seamlessly managed by the Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond team! We are truly grateful for the chance to connect with our inspiring female business community. A huge shoutout to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to celebrate and drive change. Let's keep building on this momentum! A special thank you to our female captains, Olivia and May, as well as to Nikita for stepping in when Tristah could not attend.



Nasca Students 'Ochre Up'

In March, the NASCA staff and students had the wonderful opportunity to engage in a traditional photoshoot known as 'Ochre Up.' The girls were fortunate to have their pictures taken at Lake Ainsworth in Lennox Head, a site of great significance as a birthing place for Bundjalung women. They enjoyed capturing moments at both the lake and the beach!

Alicia Frail, a proud Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi woman, along with her husband Alex, specialises in photography that celebrates Indigenous culture within communities and schools.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Alicia and Alex for their dedication and effort in making this day on Country so beautiful. For anyone interested in reaching out to Alicia, please connect with the NASCA staff.



Kangaroo and lemon myrtle feta bruschetta



Our Year 9 and 12 NASCA girls have been exploring the culinary world with native ingredients. One of our program leaders, Jo, had the fantastic idea to blend contemporary concepts with these indigenous ingredients. Both teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of crafting these delightful dishes together.

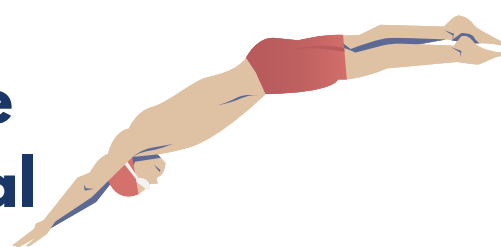
NASCA is a proudly 100% Indigenous-led and governed not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing Indigenous education within our schools.

They work closely with young people, empowering them to succeed and achieve their goals. Additionally, NASCA offers a program tailored to the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women and girls, supporting them to connect with their Culture and to excel in life.





School Spirit at the Swimming Carnival





Sporting Achievements



NSWCHSSA Touch Football Under 15s Championships

Seven of our talented students, Brooklyn Berry, Makenzi Alchin, Charlie Short, Aliyah Gerada, Cahyll Foster, Emery Molloy & Harry Raynard proudly represented the North Coast Under 15s Girls and Boys Teams at the NSWCHSSA Touch Championships held at Tomaree Sports Complex. We are incredibly proud of all of their accomplishments.

A huge congratulations to Brooklyn and Makenzi who have been named in the NSWCHS State 15s Touch Football Team. Wishing you both a successful onward journey in the NSW State Team.



Mighty Prawns Open Boys Basketball Team Triumphs!

The Mighty Prawns Open Boys Basketball team has emerged victorious in a thrilling match, securing their place in the NSWCHS Preliminary Finals to be held in Maitland early next term. The boys showcased exceptional defensive skills, demonstrating true grit and determination when faced with adversity.

Throughout the game, the Prawns exhibited remarkable teamwork and resilience, supporting one another and maintaining their belief in a winning outcome. Their unwavering commitment was evident as they battled hard for the full 40 minutes, ultimately leading to a well-deserved victory.

Facing a spirited challenge from the Rivers Secondary College, who displayed impressive offensive prowess and tenacity, the Fighting Prawns held their ground. Despite the opposition's efforts to close the gap, the Fighting Prawns managed to secure a convincing win by 17 points.

As they prepare for the upcoming finals, the team's strong defensive performance and their ability to work as a cohesive unit will be key to their continued success. Congratulations to the Mighty Prawns on this fantastic achievement!



Sporting Achievements



North Coast U15's Australian Rules Football

Congratulations to Ricky Bazzana and Joel Willesee, who have been selected in the North Coast U15's Australian Rules Football side. They will play in the NSWCHS Championships in Sydney in Term 2, 30th April - 2nd May.

They will be competing against the best of the best from across the state. We wish them luck at the State Championships.

HUGE congratulations to Brooklyn Berry and Makenzi Alchin who have been named in the **NSWCHS State 15s Touch Football Team**.

The team was selected during the recent NSWCHSSA 15s Touch Football Championships where the girls represented North Coast who came 5th from the 10 regions represented.

BCHS is very proud of the girls, wishing them a very successful onward journey in the NSW State Team and Touch Football.



Huge Congratulations to Taya Alchin and Makenzi Alchin. They have been selected in the **North Coast Open's Netball Team**. They proudly represented the Far North Coast Team and themselves today in Woolgoolga. BCHS is incredibly proud of the girls! We wish them and the North Coast Team all the very best for the NSWCHS Netball Championships to be contested in Tamworth May 20-23rd.



Connor Legzdins who has won a silver medal in U17's High Jump at the **Athletics Australia National Championships**, which were held in Perth.

He narrowly placed second with the eventual winner clearing the winning height of 1.97m on his last jump. Connor successfully cleared 1.94m. Connor also placed 5th in long jump with a PB of 6.59m, an outstanding effort.



Paradise FM

SES volunteers Alannah and Mikayla were live on the radio at ParadiseFM studio with Principal Peter Howes to share their experience as SES volunteers helping out our community with sandbagging, flood watch patrols and providing assistance to people during Cyclone Alfred.

We're very proud of our students Alannah, Mikayla and Omar for their selfless contribution during this time.

You can hear them on the Paradise FM podcast at:

<https://omny.fm/shows/community-engagement/beyond-the-gate-mikayla-and-alannah>



We have an exciting Partnership in process with Southern Cross University to develop a centre of excellence in **Marine Education**. Stay tuned for more details.

What was the Mona Lisa really thinking? Where did Dali get his inspiration? What was the go with Van Gogh and his ear?? Our CAPA department is beyond excited to report that rehearsals for our 12th annual MADD Production are underway, so clear your diaries for 17th-19th June when the world premiere of Framed hits the stage.

Our resident writer and director, Ali Chigwidden has again created a wildly funny original script exploring the most famous artists and artworks in the world and the stories beyond the frames. With a banging soundtrack featuring songs by Bon Jovi, Linkin Park and Alanis Morissette and a cast of reimagined characters, Framed is an energetic, irreverent celebration of art, theatre and all the things that make us human. We'll see you in June, we can't wait!

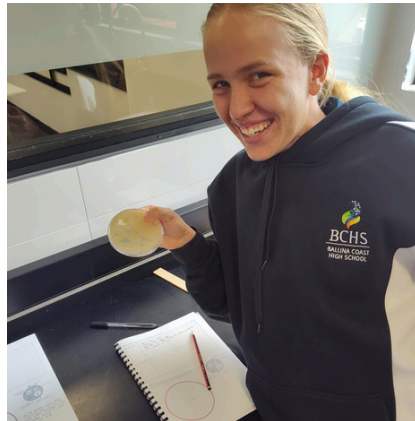
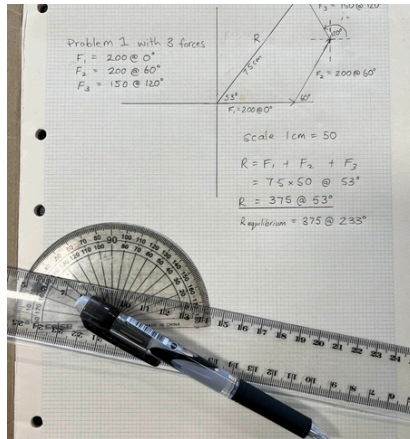
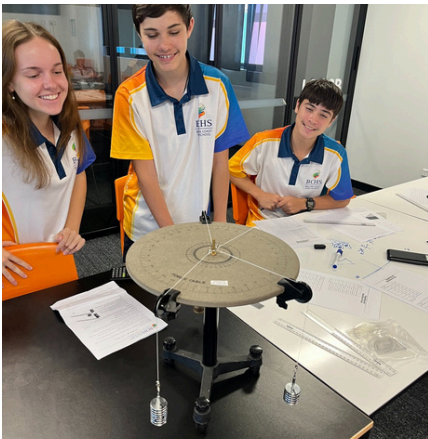
MADD 2025
17TH -19TH JUNE



Science

A large component of the new Investigating Science course being delivered at BCHS involves students doing Depth Studies of their own choice. This means that students can pick a topic of interest and investigate this area in more depth using research, experimentation and observation. Over the last 2 weeks of Term 1, Year 11 Investigating Science students have been undertaking mini-depth studies to practice the skills they need for their assessment next term. Students are researching pH of different substances, the effect of mass on fall time, how parachute size impacts air resistance, how various household cleaning products impact microbial growth and which sports drinks have the most benefit. Well done to Year 11 for being diligent and working hard towards understanding the answers to their inquiry questions.

Mr Hogden, Investigating Science teacher



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INSTAGRAM
PAGES FOR
MORE SCIENCE**

Just a Reminder...

WHAT WE OFFER AT BCHS

CLICK THE LINKS TO FIND OUT MORE

Middle School

Want to know how we make the transition into high school smoother for our students? Our holistic research-based Middle School program is focused on relationships, routines and innovation.

Targeted Sports Program

Are you passionate about sport? This selective extra-curricular sports program aims to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of your sport of choice with qualified coaches.

Targeted Arts Program

Are you a talented artist, musician or performer? This selective extra-curricular arts program nurtures creativity, confidence and collaboration under the guidance of specialist coaches.

Learning Hub

Our Learning Hub program is something special. Our team of Learning Coaches take an individualised approach to wellbeing and learning, to ensure you feel known, valued and cared for.

Learning Centre

Would you like to know more about the learning supports available and how you can access them? Our Learning Support Team has the expertise to help students succeed at school.

Big Picture

Do you want an innovative pathway where learning is tailored to your individual passions and strengths? This program nurtures curiosity and sense of purpose, empowering students to thrive.

Jullum Centre

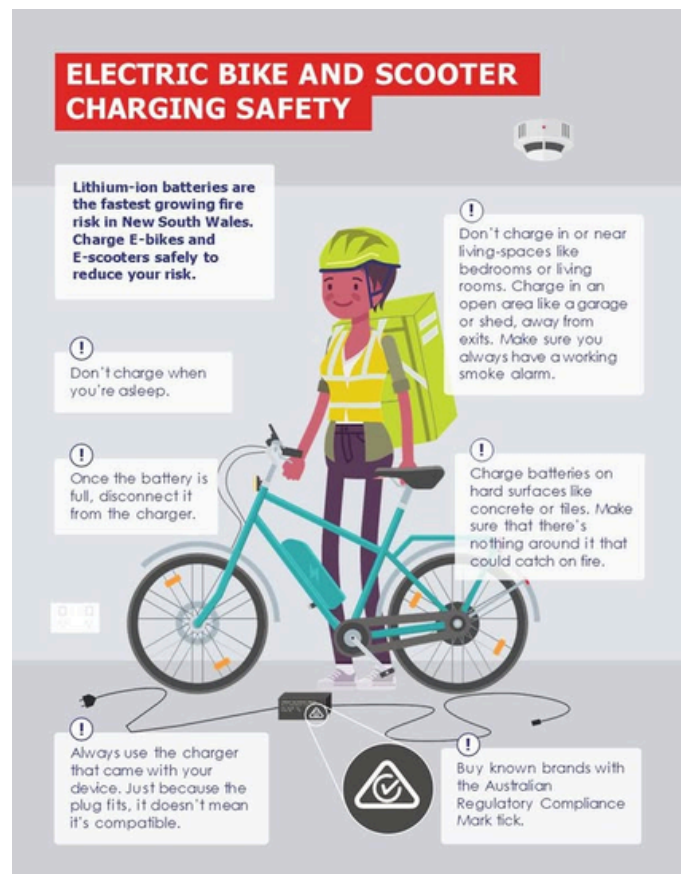
Could you benefit from academic, cultural and wellbeing support to enhance your engagement in learning? The Jullum team has the resources to inspire you to be a strong and deadly leader.

NASCA

Will connection to culture and wrap-around support help you to thrive at school? This Young Women's Academy strengthens Indigenous education empowering you to excel.

Nurturing Hearts, Inspiring Minds, Shaping Futures





Wishing Students, Staff and Families a happy holiday break. We look forward to seeing you back for Term 2 on Wednesday 30 April 2025.

innovation excellence diversity