



Term 3 Principal News

As Term 3 draws to a close I want to take a moment to celebrate our Year 12 students who are completing 13 years of formal schooling. This is a momentous achievement, and I congratulate all our Year 12s on their dedication and hard work throughout their schooling journey. Many have achieved their personal best, and we are incredibly proud of these efforts. I would also like to acknowledge those students who have received early entry offers to university which is an exciting step towards their future academic and career goals. From the experience Ballina Coast High School has provided them our Year 12 students are well prepared to succeed as they move into the next part of their journey. We wish them every success as they prepare for their HSC exams in Term 4.

This term we have refined our school vision statement to better reflect who we are and what we strive to achieve: Empowering Learners. Shaping Excellent Humans. At Ballina Coast High School, we cultivate a flexible, student-centred learning environment driven by high expectations. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and diversity empowers students to make choices and express their voices with confidence and purpose.

I am also pleased to announce the introduction of NSWeduChat, an innovative, safe and tested AI tutor which will be available to all students from next term. NSWeduChat aims to provide accessible, real-time assistance and resources to enhance student learning, further supporting our vision to empower learners. I have included a page in the newsletter to provide more information about NSWeduChat.

Early next term we will be supporting all of our students to engage safely and ethically with artificial intelligence to help them be in control of the tools and use them for learning. We have partnered with the National Day of AI, supported by University of NSW. As a part of the project we will be providing student volunteers to become AI champions who have the expertise to help staff and teacher alike. The project will position BCHS as one of the leading schools to embrace AI in education. We will share more information next term.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent pulse check survey. The results will be shared next term and will help us continue to grow and improve as a community.

Finally, I wish all students, staff, and families a safe and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for an exciting Term 4.

Peter Howes



Student access to NSWEduChat

Information for parents and carers

NSWEduChat is a generative artificial intelligence tool owned and designed by the NSW Department of Education. It is designed to be safe, educational, secure and private.

Student access to NSWEduChat

Students in Year 5 to Year 12 will gain access to NSWEduChat in Term 4, Week 1, 2025.

Safety of students using NSWEduChat

NSWEduChat data is secured. All data stays within the department. This means that students can input their work and personal identifying information safely into NSWEduChat.

Educational design of NSWEduChat

NSWEduChat does not simply provide the full answers to questions. It responds to students by asking open-ended questions. This encourages students to explore and share their thoughts and reasoning.

NSWEduChat only uses text. This means it cannot produce media such as pictures, video or music.

Using NSWEduChat for help with homework and assessment tasks

If schools advise that NSWEduChat can be used for homework or assessments, students should notify their teachers if they have used NSWEduChat in completing tasks. This includes using NSWEduChat for tasks such as, but not limited to, summarising study notes, definition of key terms or structuring text. Schools should communicate the ways in which students can reasonably notify their teachers.

Access to NSWEduChat at home

Students can access NSWEduChat at home through:

- the student portal at <https://portal.education.nsw.gov.au/>
- directly via chat.education.nsw.gov.au

Students will need to log in using their NSW Department of Education login. Only the student who logged in should use NSWEduChat.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this tool, please contact the principal.



For more information and access to the NSWEduChat parental privacy notice, visit: [Student use of NSWEduChat](#).



Year 12 Graduation Assembly

Today, we celebrated the graduation of our Year 12 2025 students. It was a proud and emotional moment as we marked the end of their school journey and the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

We wish each and every one of them the very best in their upcoming HSC exams. Your hard work, determination, and resilience have brought you this far, and we're confident you'll continue to achieve great things beyond the classroom.

To our graduates—thank you for the memories, the leadership you've shown, and the positive impact you've had on our school community. We look forward to seeing where life takes you next, and we'll always be cheering you on.

Congratulations Class of 2025!





Year 12 Graduation Assembly



Keep an eye on our socials for more Year 12 farewell photos



Year 12 Graduation Assembly



Keep an eye on our socials for more Year 12 farewell photos

Congratulations to Our Students who have received Early University Entry Offers



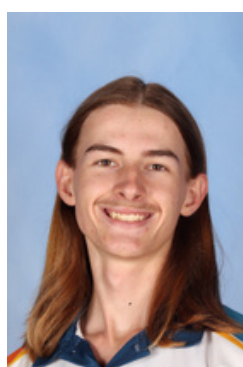
Tristah Bruncker
Bachelor of Medical Science
University of NSW, Sydney



May Kennedy
Bachelor of Medical Science
University of NSW, Sydney



Meg Martin
Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability
Australian National University, Canberra



Bayley Smith
Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Accounting
University of New England, Armidale



Lacey-Jade Harvey
Diploma of Arts (Historical Practice)
University of New England, Armidale



Mia Stewart
Bachelor of Laws
University of Notre Dame, Sydney



Oliva Van Zwieten
Bachelor of Science-
RMIT, Melbourne



Ethan Macgregor
Bachelor of Business
University of Technology, Sydney

Year 12 English Extension - Major Works

May Kennedy and Meg Martin successfully submitted their English Extension 2 Major Works – substantial 6,000-word projects developed over the past ten months.

This course, undertaken alongside English Extension 1 and Advanced English, reflects a significant academic commitment, with students dedicating four of their ten HSC units to English.

May produced a creative nonfiction piece offering a critical and imaginative response to Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Monster* (2023), exploring themes of coming of age amid societal expectations in Japan.



Meg crafted a short story blending fantasy, fairy tales, quests, and flawed heroes – a reflection of her passion for storytelling and literary tradition.

Since October, both students have demonstrated remarkable independence, resilience, and dedication. Their supervisors, Slavica and Ms. Capner, have valued the opportunity to support their creative and critical growth through weekly discussions and collaboration.

Congratulations to May and Meg – a testament to excellence in English at BCHS.

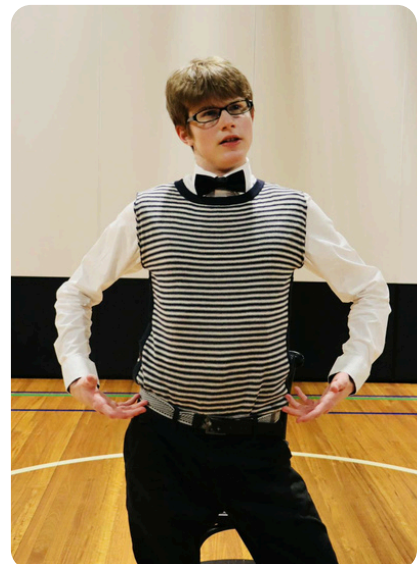
BCHS Drama Star Maverick Ransom

A huge congratulations to BCHS Drama Star Maverick Ransom whose excellent HSC Drama monologue has been recognised by the external HSC examiners as among the best in the state with an OnStage nomination.

OnStage is an annual showcase of the top HSC performances by students from across NSW.
What an achievement!

Maverick's monologue, a wild, hilarious speed date featuring all the Greek Gods, was also selected to close the show at the North Coast Drama showcase - and a crowd favourite!

Bravo Mav on a fabulous performance and well done to all our Drama students on completing their practical exams with flair.

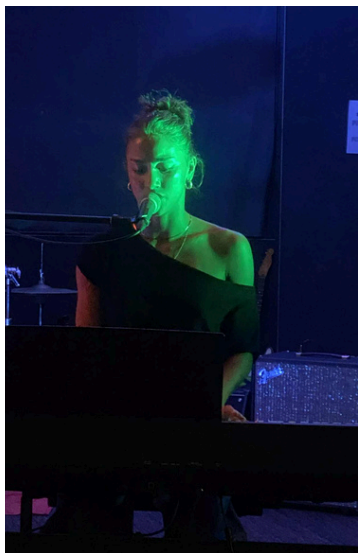
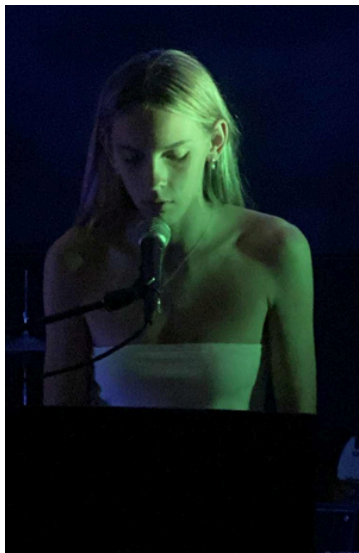


HSC Music Showcase – A Celebration of Talent

Our Year 12 HSC Music students recently took to the stage for their HSC Music Showcase, and what a spectacular event it was! Their performances highlighted the incredible talent, dedication, and creativity of our seniors as they prepared for the HSC Music Performance examination.

Audiences were captivated by the outstanding vocal performances of Storm, Rocco, Kaela, Ezra, Eliza, and Kahlila, while Tahj, Maverick, Harrison, and Ziyah impressed us all with their exceptional instrumental skills. It was truly inspiring to see so many of our students not only master multiple instruments but also compose and perform their own original works.

Thank you to Maverick, who did a fantastic job as our compère, to Year 11 students Odyne and Chris for their invaluable assistance, Archie who was our go to guy, and to Mr Jackson Somerville for his dedication in coordinating this special event for our school community.



Congratulations to Our Public Education Awards Recipients!

We are incredibly proud of our students, staff and community volunteers who have been recognised in the NSW Public Education Awards!

Student Recipients:
Shakira Hargrave, Millie Ledgard, and Olivia Van Zwieten



Staff And Community Recipients:
Aden Haywood, Odette Aitchison, Tina Peate, Ray Arnott and Wendy Brindley



Your dedication, excellence, and contribution to our school community truly embodies the spirit of public education. Well done and thank you for all that you do!

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Strengthening Partnerships Shaping the Future Workforce

We extend our sincere thanks to the local industry and community representatives who attended our Business Breakfast. Your presence and contributions were greatly valued.

Strong partnerships between education and industry play a vital role in helping students discover their passions while equipping them with the skills, confidence, and experiences needed to thrive in the modern workforce.

Together, we continue to strengthen the local economy by shaping and inspiring the workforce of the future.



SOUND WAVES INCAR TECHNOLOGY REVVS UP STUDENT FUTURES

A massive thank you to Paul and the incredible team at Sound Waves Incar Technology, who recently connected with us through our BCHS Business Breakfast event. This exciting new partnership has already opened meaningful doors for our students—proving the power of community collaboration.

After attending the breakfast, Paul generously offered a Shadow Day placement to Year 10 Big Picture student Edward King—a passionate young automotive enthusiast. Edward had the opportunity to roll up his sleeves and get hands-on during the installation of sound-deadening materials in a LandCruiser undergoing an audio upgrade. The experience was such a success that Edward has now been invited to continue with a Learning Through Interest (LTI) placement. This next step will allow him to further develop his skills and explore future career pathways in automotive electronics.

This is a brilliant example of how local businesses can inspire and empower young people by sharing their expertise and opening their doors. We're incredibly grateful to Paul and the Sound Waves team for their generous support and commitment to student learning.

If your business would like to get involved and help shape future career pathways for young people, we'd love to hear from you.



Love Bites: Empowering Year 11 Students

This term our Year 11 Life Ready students have participated in the Love Bites program – a powerful initiative designed to promote respectful relationships.

Through weekly sessions, students explored vital topics including communication, consent, boundaries, domestic violence, and the foundations of healthy relationships.

The program created a safe and supportive space for open discussion, reflection, and learning.

To conclude, students engaged in an artistic expression workshop, creatively representing what respectful relationships mean to them. Their artwork highlighted not only their understanding but also the personal growth they achieved throughout the program.



We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students for their thoughtful engagement in Love Bites. They leave the program equipped with important skills and knowledge to foster positive, respectful, and healthy relationships in their lives.





Shakespeare Comes Alive for Year 9

On the 1st of August, Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to kick off their Shakespeare studies with a live performance of *Such Sweet Sorrow* by the renowned Bell Shakespeare theatre company.

This hour-long adaptation offered a dynamic and engaging summary of *Romeo and Juliet*, covering key plot points and character arcs while also providing valuable historical context and insightful analysis of the play's major themes. It was a fantastic way to bring Shakespeare's work to life and deepen students' understanding of the text.

Adding to the excitement, BCHS teacher Rose White made a special cameo as the Prince — a proud and memorable moment for all in attendance.

This enriching experience was the perfect introduction to *Romeo and Juliet*, and a wonderful way to inspire enthusiasm for Shakespeare's timeless work.



Music Achievement



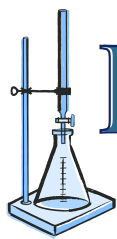
Congratulations to

Max McCann!

A massive shoutout to our talented Year 7 musician, Max McCann, who performed with the State Wind Ensemble at the Sydney Opera House!

What an incredible achievement — well done, Max!





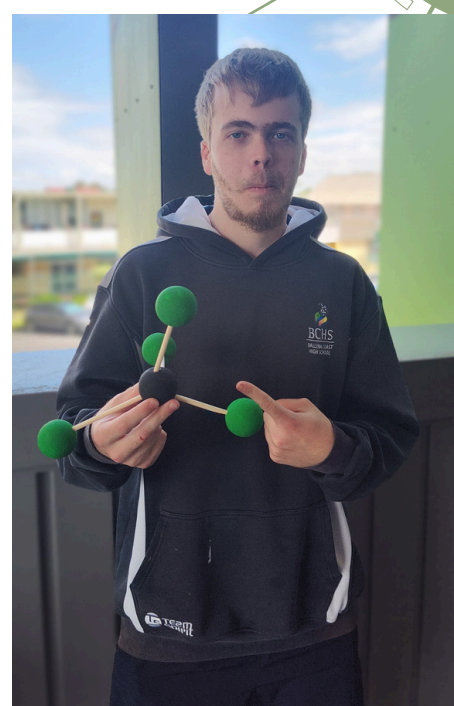
Investigating Science

Year 11 Investigating Science students this term completed their extensive 21+ hour Depth Study. For this task, they conducted experiments of personal interest and created models to demonstrate scientific concepts. They presented their models to peers, explaining their strengths, weaknesses, and possible improvements.

This project gave students a valuable chance to research and investigate their own inquiry questions. Topics included the greenhouse effect on ocean temperatures, maggot hatching times at different temperatures, the best pickle juice as an electrolyte booster, and the fastest biodegrading fast-food wrapper.

Investigating Science focuses on asking questions and using the Scientific Method to find answers. Thank you to all the students for engaging so thoroughly in the task and for making the most of this learning opportunity.

Mr Hogden, Investigating Science teacher.



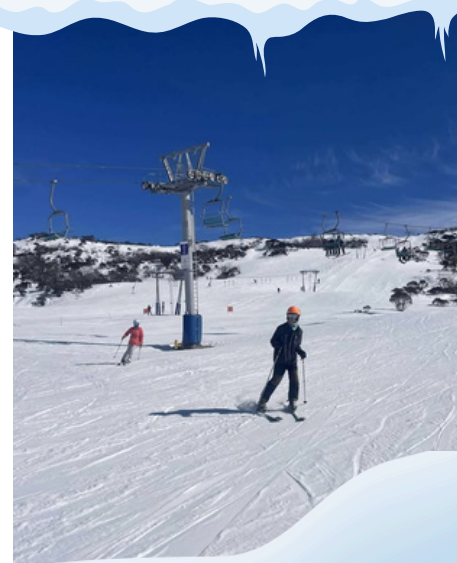
YEAR 10 SKI TRIP

Year 10 Ski Excursion – A Memorable Alpine Experience

The highly anticipated Year 10 ski excursion to Perisher Valley took place this term, offering students an unforgettable opportunity to develop their skiing and snowboarding skills in a stunning alpine setting.

Over the course of six days, students embraced the challenge of the slopes with enthusiasm, progressing rapidly and supporting one another along the way. A standout moment was night-time skiing, capped off with a spectacular fireworks display that added to the magic of the experience.

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff, whose energy and support were instrumental in making the excursion such a success.



Middle School Program

Year 7 Cross-Curricular Project: HSIE and English Integration

As part of the Middle School program, Year 7 classes L and M participated in an engaging cross-curricular lesson combining their Term 3 units of work in HSIE and English. This collaborative initiative brought together the study of Investigating the Ancient Past (HSIE) and an Introduction to Shakespeare (English).

In a creative group challenge, students were asked to design and construct a Shakespearean-era artifact inspired by Macbeth. Using only natural materials and pieces of litter collected from the school grounds, each group recreated an object of historical significance, such as a sword or dagger, that might have been used during Shakespeare's time.

Following the construction, students researched the historical context and significance of their chosen artifact and delivered group presentations to share their findings with the class.

Below is a showcase of some of their impressive creations!



MOMENTUM PROGRAM

Our Jullum Learning Centre, was proud to partner with Real Futures to deliver the Momentum program.

Through the program, 33 of our students were able to access essential milestones such as obtaining their birth certificates, learner driver licences, and driver training—valuable tools that build independence, create opportunities, and strengthen connections within our community.

As part of the program:

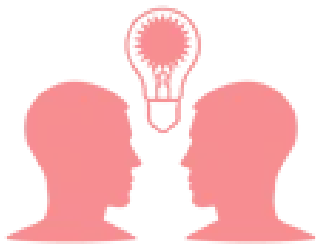
- 17 students successfully completed the 4–6 hour interactive Driver Knowledge Test online course, which included practice tests, quizzes, and the final test to gain their learner licence.
- 16 students who already held their learner licence were supported to progress further.
- All 33 participants received 10 professional driving lessons with local instructors, contributing 30 logbook hours each.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication, commitment, and achievements throughout the program.

A special thank you goes to Kelly Smith for her ongoing support of our students.

Congratulations to all participants—and remember, safe driving!





REAL-WORLD LEARNING IN ACTION

At our Big Picture Academy, students are learning through their passions and gaining real-world experience that connects deeply with their future goals. Here's a look at some of the incredible journeys our students have taken this term.

Will Walker – Exploring My Interests & Gaining Skills

Each Thursday, Will heads to Ballina Bait & Tackle, where he's been interning since Term 2 under the mentorship of store owner, Brett. Will has been learning valuable skills in customer service, stock management, and what it takes to run a small business.

Inspired by his experience, Will is now planning to launch a small business project of his own, applying everything he has learned on the job.

"The internship with Brett has been awesome. He's helped me improve my customer service skills and supported me every step of the way. Big Picture helps me learn through what I'm interested in and connect it to the real world. It's helped me figure out what I want to do in the future." – Will



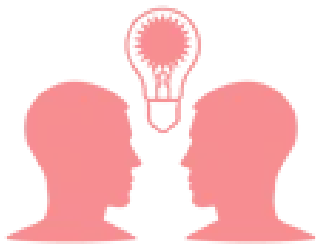
Shakira Hargrave – Finding My Place in Big Picture

Shakira has turned her love for animals into a learning journey that's both meaningful and inspiring. This year, she's spent time at Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Seabird and Turtle Rescue and is now planning a Shadow Day with The Turtle School in Byron Bay. Since joining Big Picture, Shakira says her confidence has soared, and her anxiety has eased thanks to the supportive Advisory environment.

"Big Picture lets me follow my passions. I feel supported and safe, and now I'm confident enough to present to public audiences. It's been life-changing." – Shakira

Her mum, Maxine, shared her gratitude: "Big Picture allows my daughter to truly live her passions now. She's not just preparing for her dreams—she's living them. It's been such a gift to watch her confidence grow."





Ava Dewhirst – Discovering My Path Through Big Picture

At the start of the year, Ava wasn't sure school was for her.
But joining Big Picture changed everything.

Now, Ava is thriving. She's doing an internship at SEEDS Early Learning Centre, studying Early Childhood Education and Care through TAFE, and is on track to begin a School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) next year.

"Big Picture has been the best decision I've ever made. I finally feel like I belong at school. My learning is personal and connected to what I want to do with my life." – Ava



ADVISORY VISIT TO SES – LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our Year 9 and 10 students recently visited the State Emergency Service (SES) to learn about the vital role it plays in our community.

Students participated in hands-on activities, learning about teamwork, disaster response, and the real-life skills required in emergency operations. It was an eye-opening experience that showed the power of community service and practical learning.



LEARNING THAT MATTERS

These stories show just how powerful education can be when students are supported to explore their passions and connect learning to the real world.

Big Picture isn't just about school—it's about building confidence, purpose, and future pathways that matter to each student.

NASCA YOUTH AWARDS SUCCESS

Congratulations
to Aaliyha Roberts who has been recognised for
her commitment to culture in the NASCA Youth
Awards 2025.

Aaliyha was successfully nominated for the
NASCA Culture Award in recognition of her high
achievements throughout the year towards her
culture which she represents with pride.

Well known in her community for her unique
style and passion for dance, Aaliyha is a
dedicated student who shows a high level of
leadership skills in and out of the classroom. She
shines when expressing her culture to the
people around her and shows great gratitude
towards her elders and culture by performing
for her school and wider community and
mentoring younger students.

Aaliyha and her family will travel to Sydney in
November to accept her Award.



Totem Poles:

History, Meaning & Art with S6

As part of our unit on Native American Indian Culture, S6 has been learning about the history and meaning of totem poles. We discovered that totem poles were traditionally carved from red cedar wood and served many different purposes – including as memorials, house posts, ancestry markers, and even mortuary poles.

Each figure carved into a totem pole tells a story or represents an important symbol from the carver's culture.

We were lucky to have our own poles to decorate in the classroom. Each student added their own designs, inspired by traditional styles and meanings. We think they turned out great and are proud of how they brighten up our room!



A Powerful Day of Culture & Connection at Gungahair

Ballina Coast High School, Jullum (Aboriginal Learning Education Centre), and our feeder primary schools came together at Gungahair for a day of deep cultural learning, storytelling, and connection.

Students celebrated Aboriginal culture through performances, shared experiences, and Traditional Indigenous Games, thanks to NASCA. A special thank you to Aunty Trudy for leading the cultural walk, and to Elders Rani Ferguson, Amanda Roberts, Aunty Deb, Uncle Shunder, Sam, Uncle Mook, and Alwyn for their inspiring contributions.

This meaningful event fostered pride, belonging, and connection to culture, strengthening ties between schools, families, and community.

Thank you to everyone who made it such a memorable day.





Sporting Achievements



Japanese soccer tournament for Jakob

Congratulations to Jakob James on being selected to represent Northern New South Wales in the team travelling to Japan this September—what an exceptional achievement! Your selection at this level is a testament to your talent, dedication, and passion for the sport. We will be there to support you every step of the way!

Regional Netball Champions!

Our U15 Girls Netball Team are the regional champions after a strong 43–33 win over Hastings Secondary College in Port Macquarie!

Brooklyn Berry led early with sharp long-range shooting, supported by Asker Klerck and Jasri Spencer in the circle. The mid-court trio of Makenzi Alchin, Harlow Fox, and Tayla Franklin kept the attack steady, while Aliyah Gerada guided the team with outstanding leadership.

Defenders Millicent Goldsmith, Aliyah Gerada, and Maddie Mikaere worked tirelessly to win back possession in a tough, physical game.

A huge team effort and 100% commitment saw us through.

Next stop: Top 16 State Finals in Illawarra this November!

Go team!



Lawn Bowls Team Qualifies for NSW State Finals

The BCCHS Lawn Bowls team—Archie, Emerson, and Ryan—recently competed in the Bowls NSW Interschool Challenge in Alstonville. After a narrow one-point loss in their opening match against Evans River, the team bounced back with strong wins against Xavier and Trinity, demonstrating impressive skill and determination.

In the final against host school Alstonville, BCCHS overcame a slow start and a two-point deficit. With guidance from their coach and renewed focus, they rallied to secure a decisive 9–4 victory.

Congratulations to the team on earning a place in the NSW State Finals in Sydney.

Ten Pin Bowling Off to Sydney for NSW State Championship!

Good luck to our tenpin bowling champions Logan Hudson, Bronx Walsh, Max Egan, and Tyler Watson who are currently competing at the NSW State Championships.

Logan, Bronx, Max and Tyler secured their spot in the finals after winning the Far North Coast competition with a total point score of 887. What a fantastic achievement.

We're very proud of our tenpin bowlers and wish them all the best for finals in Sydney!





Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to Our Rugby 7's Squads!

Congratulations to our U16 Boys and U16 Girls Rugby 7's teams who competed at the NSW State Titles on the Central Coast!

You've made us proud!



U16s Basketball Team Heading to State!

Congratulations to our U16s basketball team on a hard-fought win against Bishop Druitt College in the final of the All Schools Tournament in Coffs Harbour!

The team now progresses to the State Finals in Sydney — best of luck in the next round!



Fit For Life Program



We're proud to support the Fit for Life Program with Lismore PCYC, helping young people aged 10–16 improve fitness, learn about nutrition, and build confidence and leadership skills.

This valuable program promotes healthy habits, positive relationships, and stronger connections between youth and local police — all in a safe, supportive space.