



BCHS BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

innovation excellence diversity



EXCITING NEWS FROM THE EDUTECH CONFERENCE!

Six of our outstanding students took to the stage alongside Principal, Peter Howes and Architect, Dr Fiona Young at Australia's largest Education Conference.



Looking Ahead

Kudos to Finn, Millie, Harrison, Trisha, Elliot and Shakira. We've already partnered with students to re-imagine school assemblies and enhance learning spaces. What do you think we should tackle next?

Term 2 Principal News

As Term 2 comes to a close, I want to highlight the remarkable achievements and talent at our school. Our annual MADD (Music, Art, Drama, and Dance) production, "Framed," showcased the high quality and remarkable abilities of our students. A heartfelt thank you to Ali Chigwidden and the dedicated staff for all their time and hard work to make this event possible. It was inspiring to see students take on responsibility for running the show, demonstrating their creativity and leadership. I have no doubt we have discovered some future stars of the entertainment industry both on and off the stage.

This term has been filled with success stories, academic excellence and outstanding teaching practices. I encourage you to follow our journey on Facebook and Instagram to celebrate the amazing potential at BCHS.

At Ballina Coast High School, we aim to create a supportive environment for students to grow into responsible adults. We are committed to providing opportunities for students to collaborate with staff in developing programs and tackling challenges. This term, students worked with industry experts to improve our learning spaces. Our Interact Club and Big Picture Academy also led social impact initiatives, raising awareness about environmental issues and collecting warm clothing for those in need in our community. Our young people are capable of more than they know and they never cease to surprise us when they are given the opportunity.

We have begun a significant program to enhance our learning environments, starting with improvements to the main building's acoustic quality. We consulted with our community to understand their preferred learning spaces, which allowed us to present alongside students at major conferences. This link shows the amazing changes:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YkvZ5R3RUy3O4SmSEnM_ZwQf3DSM1rX/view

Over the past year, we have focused on building a strong school community centred around genuine relationships. Staff have engaged in professional learning on restorative practices. While restorative conversations can be challenging, they are crucial for addressing mistakes, repairing relationships, and providing a voice to those affected. In Term 3, our School Development Day will be dedicated to enhancing our staff's skills in facilitating these important conversations.

Last year we undertook an extensive community survey to hear from students, teachers and parents what we were doing well and what we could improve on. That feedback has informed many of the programs that we have introduced over the past 12 months. We are inviting you to take a few minutes to complete a survey so that we can see if our initiatives are having the right impact and to hear your suggestions. You can find the survey link below.

As I reflect on my year and a half as your principal, I am grateful for our exceptional teachers, supportive staff, talented students, and vibrant community. Together, we are creating a bright future for our young people.

Wishing you all a restful break as we get ready for an exciting Term 3 ahead.

Peter Howes



Your opinion matters!

We're seeking your feedback about our school and the way our students like to use technology.

We would appreciate 5 minutes of your time to complete the following survey.
All responses are anonymous. Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/SkqtN6jp8hUhqQvbA>



Making a Difference: BCHS Rotary Interact Club's Heart Warming Project

Ballina Coast High School Rotary Interact Club has been dedicated to making a positive difference in our community.

The club members agreed that their main focus would be to raise money to buy food for the homeless and collect donations of clothing and blankets to keep them warm.

All contributions were generously donated to Mary's Place in Ballina, who are affiliated with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

To support their cause, members held a bake sale and sausage sizzle, successfully raising over \$400. Mary's Place were extremely grateful for the kindness and empathy shown by the BCHS community, particularly praising the efforts of the Interact Club.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful initiative!

Support Centre News

During Reconciliation Week, our S6 students celebrated the world's oldest living culture by creating a meaningful artwork. We began by finding a template for a Rainbow Lorikeet. We collected eucalyptus leaves from our playground to use for the wings and tail of the lorikeet. Each leaf and feather was inscribed with words that reflected our personal interpretations of reconciliation.

The end result is a beautiful artwork that now proudly hangs on our classroom wall, serving as a constant reminder of our commitment to reconciliation and respect for Indigenous culture.



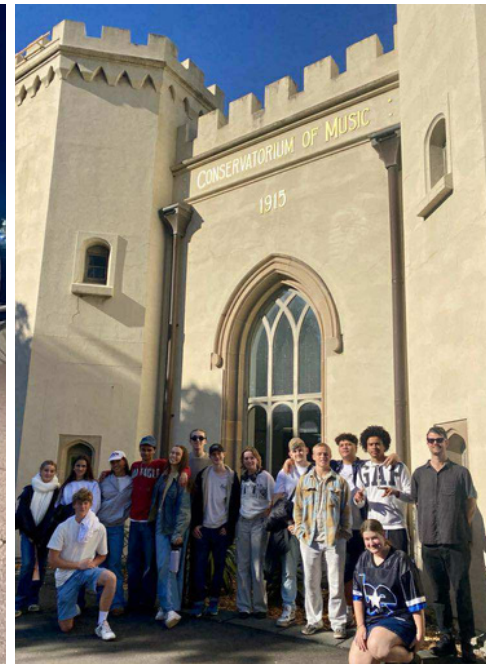
A WONDERFUL TERM FOR STUDENTS

A highlight was a visit from Olympian Alexandra Croak, who competed as a gymnast in Sydney in 2000 and as a diver in Beijing in 2008. Students also worked on their Floodproof Home projects, with Ben Austin taking first place for his design. Additionally, they created beautiful lanterns to coincide with the Lismore Lantern Festival. Miah Johnson received a thoughtful gift from Matty Blanchard, which made her very happy.





Senior CAPA Students Immerse in Sydney's Culture & Creativity

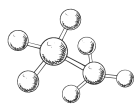


Senior CAPA students had a brilliant time in Sydney, immersing themselves in a variety of artistic workshops and performances.

They participated in engaging workshops at the renowned Conservatorium of Music, enjoyed a stunning orchestral performance featuring the iconic songs of Baz Luhrmann at the Sydney Opera House, and soaked in the impressive Archibald Prize entries at the art gallery. The excitement continued with a thrilling evening watching MJ the Musical.

Vibes were high throughout the week as staff and students embraced city life and created memories. A standout moment was discovering a communal piano in Darling Harbour, where students and staff joined together for a delightful sing-a-long.

A huge thank you to Mr. Somerville for organising such a fantastic cultural experience for our creative students.



Science in action



Year 9 and 10 Julian Rocks Snorkelling Excursion

Year 9 and 10 Marine and Aquaculture Technology students went on the annual snorkelling excursion to Julian Rocks. The students had an amazing time learning about the use and care of snorkelling equipment, riding inflatable boats through the surf and practising snorkelling skills learnt in Module 16 Basic Snorkelling.

During their underwater adventure they encountered an array of marine life including three different species of sharks, turtles, lionfish, moray eels, a giant blue groper and thousands of fish species.

This excursion enhanced student's understanding of marine ecosystems and provided them with practical skills and great memories.



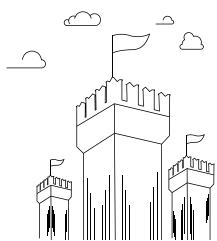
Physics Dreamworld Excursion: A Thrilling Learning Experience

Year 11 and 12 Physics students headed to Dreamworld where they explored the engineering principles behind amusement park rides, including design, construction, and safety measures.

During the session, students delved into the physics principles of forces, Newton's laws of motion, and the conservation of mechanical energy, all of which directly relate to their syllabus outcomes. This real-world application of physics concepts provided invaluable insights into how theory translates into practice.

Afterwards students had the opportunity to experience the thrill of the rides first hand. Taking on the exhilarating Steel Taipan and felt the rush of apparent weightlessness on the Giant Drop, making for a memorable day of fun and learning.

It was a fantastic day combining education and excitement that truly brought physics to life!



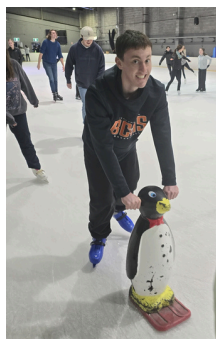
BCHS Historians take on Sydney



Our Year 12 Modern, Ancient and Extension History students recently travelled to Sydney for an unforgettable educational and cultural experience. The highlight of the trip was attending a series of insightful lectures hosted by the History Teachers' Association at Sydney University, where students deepened their understanding of key historical concepts and perspectives directly linked to their syllabus.

The group made the most of their time in the Harbour City – soaking up the light show of Vivid Sydney, taking in the iconic sights of the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, shopping at Paddy's Market, and taking in the stunning collections at the Australian Museum. To top it all off, students laced up their skates for a fun-filled evening on the ice!

A big thankyou to our dedicated history teachers, Amanda Hatcher and Kirana Anderton for accompanying this wonderful group. This annual trip to Sydney is not only an amazing opportunity to enrich our students' historical knowledge and help in preparing them for their upcoming Trial and HSC examinations.





Battle of the BUSINESSES



Business is Booming! Year 12 Students Go Head-to-Head in Tasty Trade-Off!

In a sizzling showdown of entrepreneurial spirit, Year 12 Business Studies students turned up the heat in their very own Battle of the Businesses! The school yard transformed into a bustling marketplace as student-run stalls dished out delicious pizzas, sausages, donuts, and refreshing drinks to eager customers.

Armed with marketing strategies, savvy pricing, and a whole lot of enthusiasm, the budding business moguls competed to see who could serve up the best bites and the biggest profits. The competition was fierce—but the teamwork, creativity, and hustle were even fiercer.

Congratulations to the “Better than Pizza” business who won the battle, with a total sales of approximately \$1400 including a \$680 profit!



NAIDOC Celebrations

This year's NAIDOC theme, The Next Generation, was beautifully reflected throughout our celebrations. It was a day filled with community spirit, student engagement, and staff involvement.

Our community came together to support and guide our young people, showing the strength and unity that continues to carry culture forward. Elders, families, and local organisations shared their knowledge and stories, inspiring our students to stand proud in who they are and to keep culture strong for the generations to come.

Student engagement was a highlight of the day. Our students participated with respect, curiosity, and pride. They listened deeply, asked thoughtful questions, and embraced the learning opportunities provided. Their involvement reminded us of the importance of nurturing and empowering our next generations to lead with cultural pride and understanding. A big thank you to Ballina Primary School (Eli Cook and Jess Matuchet) for sharing their amazing dancers.

Staff involvement was outstanding, with everyone working together to create a meaningful day. From planning and preparation to supporting students in activities and workshops, staff showed their commitment to embedding Aboriginal perspectives and creating culturally safe spaces.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the Aboriginal Education Team and for their dedication and hard work in making our 2025 NAIDOC Week so memorable. Your passion, leadership, and cultural knowledge guided us in creating a day that honoured our past, celebrated our present, and empowered our next generations.

Raelene Fox

Head Teacher Transition and Engagement

Jullum Ganngaang Centre



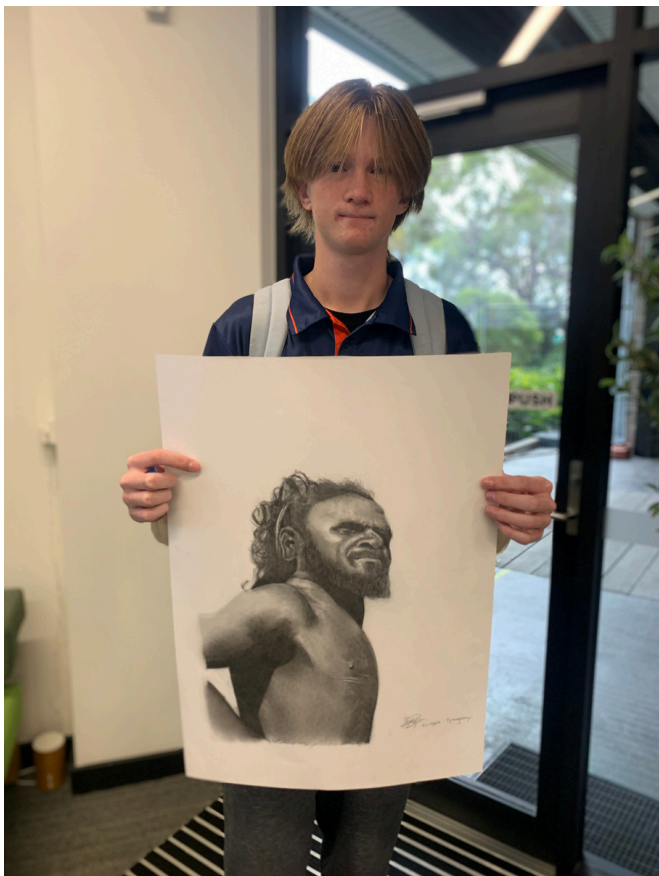
Aussie Rock legend Ray Arnott



As part of our NAIDOC Week assembly this year we celebrated the achievements of Ray Arnott and acknowledged his work for young Aboriginal people in the Ballina community. Ray has a long legacy in the Australian music industry, having drummed live and recorded with renowned artists such as Cold Chisel, Jimmy Barnes and Spectrum and the Dingoes.

Following his music career, Ray has dedicated himself to helping vulnerable young people. For the past 18 months, alongside retired High School Principal Ian Davies, they have been running a weekly Hip Hop Music Therapy program. This initiative engages a variety of students, including master classes for talented individuals, hip hop songwriting, and workshops in the support unit.

During the assembly, Ray was not only acknowledged for his contributions but was also gifted engraved clapping sticks in recognition of his work. Additionally, members of the school community paid tribute to him by performing one of his 1984 singles, "Flaming Heart," a song that was later recorded by Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.



Celebrating Our Emerging Artists

We are thrilled to announce that Year 9 student Levi Roberts' artwork will be proudly displayed at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, alongside remarkable pieces by former students Savannah Roberts Hickling and Daniel Roberts.

The opening exhibition showcases the talents of four emerging local Nyangbal artists: Daniel Roberts, Savannah Roberts-Hickling, Loren Del Signore, and Levi Roberts.

Exhibition Dates: 26 June – 17 August
Location: Northern Rivers Community Gallery

This exhibition coincides with NAIDOC Week and aligns perfectly with this year's theme: "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy."

We encourage everyone to visit the gallery and support our talented artists as they share their vision and creativity with the community!

MADD - “FRAMED”



Reflecting on a Spectacular MADD Performance “Framed”

by Year 12 student, Meg Martin

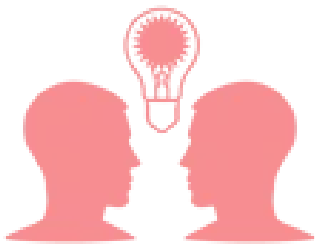
This year was my last MADD, and I am terribly upset about that.

I will be eternally grateful for Ms Chig and her wonderful production, she gives students a unique opportunity to shine, be it dancing or singing, lighting up the stage that kids are being dramatic on.

Everyone is set up to succeed, to have their moment in a production that is glittery, spectacular and professional, a taste of the theatrical life that cultivates a life-long love and appreciation for drama and the arts.

Ms Chig’s scripts are witty and just so fun to read through and perform, the musicians are phenomenal, the dancers incredibly talented and the cast and backstage crew genuinely some of the loveliest people you will ever meet. MADD forms close friendships with people from unlikely places, everyone united in the joy of being passionate about putting together a show to be proud of.

The live music, the beautiful people and our absolutely incredibly lovely director makes the MADD production one of the best experiences I’ve ever had, and it’s truly what I’m going to miss most leaving BCHS.



Big Picture Student's Exemplify our Values in Action

On Friday of Week 7, our Year 9 and 10 Big Picture students showcased our values in action during an exciting outing to Meldrum Park for a fishing competition! Organised by students Jem Titjen and Will Walker, this collaborative event encouraged teamwork as students competed in teams to catch the biggest fish, with a block of chocolate as the prize.

The day was a testament to our values: students communicated effectively to create a detailed schedule, budgeted wisely for a BBQ lunch, and worked together to allocate fishing equipment. Sam Lyons reeled in the winning (and only) fish of the day, earning his team the sweet reward! It was a fantastic day filled with laughter and learning, and we're already looking forward to making this a recurring event. Thank you to everyone who participated and exemplified kindness, empathy, collaboration, communication, and self-regulation throughout the day!



Year 10's Art Project for World Environment Day 2025



Year 10 Big Picture Advisory recently collaborated on a collective art project for World Environment Day 2025, focusing on raising awareness about plastic pollution.

Using discarded materials from local Op Shops, the students created a mixed media artwork that emphasises the value of upcycling and environmental responsibility. A striking digital illustration by student artist Lilly Clifford serves as the focal point, depicting plastic as the dominant predator in today's oceans.

Over three weeks, all students contributed their creativity and teamwork to complete the piece, showcasing the power of art in advocating for change and encouraging reflection on our environmental impact.



Ballina Schools Museum



Ballina Schools Museum is located on the Ballina Coast High School site in the old cream timber building, overlooking the playing fields. The museum is managed by Ballina Schools Historical Society Inc., a not for profit organisation and a member of Australian Museums and Galleries Association.

Volunteers have collected, digitised, sorted, catalogued and displayed items of school memorabilia from across the Ballina Shire. Volunteers are made up of former students, staff and parents of local schools, including Ballina Public School, Southern Cross K-12, Ballina High School and Southern Cross Distance Education Centre.

Since 2016, items have been donated from Ballina Intermediate High School(1929 - 1955), Ballina High School(1956 - 2016), Southern Cross 7-12 (1987 – 2016) and two current schools, Teven-Tintenbar Public School and Ballina Coast High School. Photographs from over the decades at Ballina Shire schools include student class groups, activities, excursions, events, sporting teams, formals, award winners, bands, cultural exchanges, performances, carnivals, musicals, famous former students, staff and buildings.

As well as photographs, the museum houses uniforms, equipment, student note books, punishment records, enrolment records, Year 12 year books, plaques, shields, banners, flags and trophies. The collection of memorabilia is diverse. The list of individual items mounts the thousands. The display is changed regularly, as all the items cannot be displayed at the one time in the museum room.

The museum was officially opened in November last year, with Mayor Sharon Cadwallader and the 2025 BCHS School Captains officiating and cutting the ribbon.

To date, various groups have enjoyed viewing the displays. School reunion groups, former staff groups, family groups, local organisations and individuals have visited. As the museum is located within the BCHS site, museum visits are by prior arrangement. For groups, our volunteers will set up items of special interest to the group in the adjoining room.

If you have items you would like to donate, please email us. We thank all those who have donated items for display and/or monetary donations to help the museum volunteers preserve the history of schooling in Ballina. You can organise a visit by emailing ballinaschoolhs@gmail.com

[Find us on Facebook or visit our website \[ballinaschoolhs.wordpress.com\]\(http://ballinaschoolhs.wordpress.com\)](#)

Patrons: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, Principal Peter Howes, former Principal and Ballina student, Janeen Silcock, and former Ballina Mayor and Ballina student, David Wright.

President: Roslyn Mayberry

Secretary: Mary-Anne Saunders

Treasurer: Betty Spindler

Life member: Tony Klein



Sporting Achievements



Year 9 student, Summer Ransom travelled to Tamworth earlier this year to represent the North Coast in the NSW CHS Girls Softball Championships.

They played against members of the Australian Team and the level of play was high and fast. Summer and the team played really well. Summer made some great catches and won the coach's award (the team bear).



We are proud to announce that our 15s Netball Team are the Far North Coast Champions! Teamwork, determination and positive talk are the three keynotes of our team and focus.

These values saw them progress to the next stage of the CHS 15s Netball knockout.

These mature and experienced representative players are leading the way as positive role models to the new younger teammates. Well done to Makenzi Alchin, Aliyah Gerada, Millicent Goldsmith, Brooklyn Berry, Maddie Mikaere, Harlow Fox, Tayla Franklin, Charlie Short, Charlie Hauenstein, Asher Klerck and Jasri Spencer.



Congratulations Diggy!

Diggy Atkins recently participated in the NSW State Championships in Sydney, and was selected to be part of the 'NSW Junior Rugby Union U16 President XV' team to compete at the NSW President Regionals in Camden on 5-6 July. This is a great achievement and we wish Diggy all the best for this next level of games of ahead.

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AFL - QCUP



Opens Rugby League



Wishing students, staff and families a happy winter holiday break. We look forward to seeing you back for Term 3 on Tuesday 22 July 2025.

innovation excellence diversity