

RiversideCurrents

June 2018



The Principal's Report

Girls In Property

Our year 10 guests at the *Women in Property* lunch heard Lisa Wilkinson, media personality and role model for gender equity in the workforce give a strong message about work and its role in your whole life. These eight students, winners of the best property project in Girls In Property (see p.2) enjoyed her message to follow your passions and interests so that work becomes a part of your life and not a chore. Her advice, "Be terrified about the long journey and hours of commitment towards the work life you want but relish the adrenaline that comes from doing something that you love to do."

Sitting amongst 1000 property career diners was nerve racking for these eight students but exciting too. They had finished a week of experiences to explore the variety of careers in the property industry and here they were talking with young women, some of whom had 'fallen into' their property careers from other professions such as accounting and journalism.

This experience was timely considering the subject selection process for yr 10 has just begun. Many of our yr 10 students don't know what they want to do for a career and that is exactly what Lisa talked about. In yr 10 she too had no idea either but answered a three line ad in the 'Jobs for Women and Girls' section of the paper and became a 'Girl Friday' for Dolly magazine. As she loved reading the magazine, she pursued her passion of contributing to Dolly and began a career in media.

Her other advice was to learn how to fail fast and recover and especially to surround yourself with talented people who complement your set of skills. This resonated with the students who had learnt so much about how they had different strengths in their teams and how this diversity contributed to the process of design. Lisa presented a positive female role model who reinforced through her personal story the very specific experiences the students had gone through during the GIP (Girls in Property) week.

Back at school, the conversations with these students have been about persistence and continually building a set of skills that will take you in any direction in the future. According to the latest study by the Foundation for Young Australians, the New Work Order Report, 50 per cent of young Australians will be unable to secure the traditional full time work scenario. Yet, the speed of entry to working fulltime can be increased by 17months if young people do courses teaching enterprise skills like problem solving, teamwork and communication. The GIP project certainly was an opportunity to teach these skills.

Riverside had thirty yr 10 students participate in this GIP initiative through Expression of Interest. The students showed confidence in applying as they knew they would be challenging themselves. Mr Blundell and Ms Tao made sure the students gained every benefit from the experience and the positive energy that came from completing a project with real world significance was amazing.

It's participation in projects like these that support Riverside's vision: **a school that enables young women to become creators who will positively shape their world.**

Belinda Kelly

WHAT'S CURRENT

Girls in Property Winners	2
"Find My Pet" - iAwards Dinner - Our Success	3
Music to Delight	4
Choreography Workshop - Amy	4
Economics Workshop at Ryde Secondary College	5
Acrobatics Excellence takes First Place	6
Zone Athletics Champions	6
North Sydney Regional Volleyball Champions	6
Creativity Expo	8



Girls in Property Winners

An initiative of the NSW Diversity Committee, of the Property Council of NSW, *Girls in Property* invited teams from 8 girls high schools in Sydney to participate in a competition. The primary aim was to raise female awareness of the diversity of careers available to women in the property industry.

Teams were given a choice of 3 briefs :

1. Residential - a housing project for an indigenous family consisting of 8 adults and 7 children of varying ages which addressed overcrowding.
2. 'Creating a Place' for Your School. - to upgrade your school into a "Placemaking" hub opening up the school to the community.
3. Retail - a concept for a revitalised, innovative design for a retail space designed to offer the shopper a retail experience outside the usual.

Students worked during school time and were assisted by a mentor and Ms. Tao whose enthusiasm and creativity seemed limitless.

The teams were required to research their response, communicate their project to a panel, demonstrate a sound understanding of the concepts involved, incorporate feedback from the mentor and apply problem solving and exploratory research skills.

Teams developed a model, plans, electronic sketches and were required to deliver an oral presentation to a panel of judges at an evening showcase in the CBD.



The Riverside Residential team was judged the overall winner.

Girls were congratulated on the ways in which they had approached the problem, listened to their mentor and incorporated advice received from the mentor into the final project

The girls are very fortunate to have the skills and enthusiasm of Ms Tao and Ms. Wark to assist them.

Much of the work on Design Thinking was evident in the girls' approach to the problem.

The school congratulates all the participants and the staff who assisted in this initiative.

They have been invited to pitch their design to Lend Lease to test its feasibility.

The Winning Team

Pictured above (L to R). Anisha S., Mr Blundell, Ruby M., Dr Vasileska, Ruby T., Bella P., Simran K., Aneli H., Ms. Wark and Ms Tao



“Find My Pet” - iAwards Dinner - Our Success

“Find My” Pet was Riverside’s entry in the schools section of the iAwards for innovation. It is an App designed by a Year 7 team in the entrepreneurial unit taught in TAS (Technology and Applied Sciences.) These awards encourage innovation at all levels and Riverside was selected as a finalist in the schools section.

Our entry, “Find My Pet” is an animal tracking device. Its unique features included the use of high tech. scanning technology allowing the pet owner to scan the pets’ chip using a smart phone.

Its point of difference from other tracking devices on the market was its use of fingerprint locking technology, waterproof materials and satellite technology.

The entry was placed in the top three and was highly commended.

The team is pictured below (L to R) CEO Australian Information Industry Association, local M.P. and State Minister for Finance, Mr Vince Dominello, Ms Kelly and the team from Riverside.



JULY - AUGUST 2018

Mon July 9 - Mon. July 23 School Vacation

Mon. 23 - Teachers return for Term 3.

Tues. 24 - Students return for Term 3.

- Wed. - Fri. 25 - 27 Regional Orchestra Tour

AUGUST

- Wed -Fri. 1 - 3 Ski Camp
- Wed. 8- Years 7 & 8 Parent / Teacher meetings
- Mon. -13 HSC External Dance exams begin
- Thurs. 16 - Ryde Eisteddfod Jazz Ensemble
- Fri. 28 - Visual Arts & Music Soiree



Music to Delight

The CAPA faculty hosted a Music Ensembles evening for family and friends of the Riverside Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble recently which was praised by a year 11 parent as the best orchestral playing he has heard from Riverside.

Students from the Jazz Ensemble performed a delightful program of pieces by Gershwin (A Foggy Day, Someone to Watch Over Me), Beach Boys (Fun, Fun, Fun) and several other jazz standards, while the Orchestra performed a selection of exciting movie tunes - The Avengers, Mission Impossible, Game of Thrones, Jurassic Park and Les Miserables. Congratulations to all the girls who performed as they prepare for the school's very first regional music tour to Singleton NSW at the beginning of Term 3. Ms. Wang



Choreography Workshop - Amy

I was selected to be part of a small group of students who would take part in the Romeo and Juliet; reimagined workshop with Paul Rissmann. Paul is a composer, presenter and animateur and currently holds the position of Animateur with the London Symphony Orchestra. The workshop for the dancers was based on improving our skills in the choreographic and composition areas in the HSC Dance course.

We worked very closely with Paul Rissmann, the Sydney Youth Orchestra and the NSW DEC Arts Unit staff to create a twenty-minute performance of *Romeo and Juliet; Reimagined*.

The Sydney Youth Orchestra recreated the music from Sergei Prokofiev's ballet and composed a recreated soundtrack. A group of 12 dancers choreographed a routine which was based on the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. We performed the finished piece at the Sydney University Conservatorium of Music.

Paul introduced the performance telling the audience normally a composer is happy writing 3 minutes of music across a week and the orchestra wrote 24 minutes in only five days. Plus, they had to commit it to memory as they did not create any sheet music. We learnt to work together quickly and we were really challenged with how little time we had. We also had the pressure to create dance that was as impressive as the music and that told the story well.

I really enjoyed taking part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and creating a performance with a group of very talented people.



Economics Workshop at Ryde Secondary College

Year 12 Economics students recently joined with Ryde Secondary for our third workshop, covering Topic 3 Economic Issues.

The third and final workshop for Year 12 was student centred, working in groups to create concept maps using the thinking routine 'generate, sort, connect, elaborate', followed by a gallery walk where students were able to explain their work, and a multiple choice challenge.

Once again the day was a great success, with students connecting, inspiring and empowering each other.

Riverside understands the importance of girls studying Economics, as we need diversity in our Economists to create rigorous economic debate and discourse in the public arena.

Economics Interview on ABC Radio

Recently our Year 11 Economics class, and Teacher Lisa Edwards, were interviewed by the ABC on the decline in students choosing Economics as a subject for Year 11 and 12. The Reserve Bank of Australia suggest this is bad news for our nations overall economic literacy.

You can tune in to this interview on the link below.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-13/rba-concerned-about-a-drop-in-economics-students/9865726>



Preparing for Examinations

Stress can be a positive motivating factor or a negative in preparing for any form of test. Recently Year 12 heard a presentation from Louise Remond, Psychologist, Health Psychology Unit, University of Technology, Sydney on "Managing Stress for Senior Students."

This included many practical tips for managing stress including mastering your mind, taking action and looking after yourself.

As the Trial exams began in week 8, the information was timely and relevant.

Riversidians past and present wish Year 12 all the best for their Trials.

HSC Trials Begin

Year 12 will have completed their trial HSC exams by the time you receive this newsletter.

The girls seemed calm and focussed and all are to be congratulated on their mature approach.

It is hoped that the students see these exams as a practice for the HSC later in the year and use the results as a guide to planning their ongoing revision and study.



North Sydney Regional Volleyball Champions

After a gruelling five set match against Ryde Secondary College, the Open Girls Volleyball Team are now Sydney North Regional Champions. They won 3 sets to 2.

The team consists of Captain Grace F., Olivia G., Emily S., Sienna B., Claudia F., Zahlee F., Victoria C., Emily F. and Amy W. (pictured)

Congratulations Girls! You've done your school, your coach, your families and yourselves proud. State Championships here we come!

Wahoooooooooooo!

Inserted by Mr. Graeme Lowe (a very proud coach).



Acrobatics Excellence takes First Place

The talent of our Riverside students never fails to surprise.

We congratulate the acrobatic trio of Ada R., Alice M. and Anna (a primary school student) who took out the first place in their level 8 section of the National Championships held recently at the Hisense arena in Melbourne.

The trio represented NSW and their club, Gladesville RSL.

The girls competed at two state competitions prior to the event as they needed to qualify to be able to qualify for the nationals.

An outstanding result which comes as a result of many hours of intense training.

Zone Athletics Champions

The North West Zone Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 15th June 2018. Riverside sent a team of 54 students to participate.

We had some outstanding achievements on the day:

- Riverside were age champions in EVERY age group from 12-16 years.
- Alyssa L (pictured right) was Champion of the Zone, placing first in the 100m Champion of the Zone race
- 25 students have qualified to compete at the Sydney North Regional Carnival on Monday 30th July 2018

Some Big News!

Riverside are now the overall Zone champions for 2018, having placed first in the Zone Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals.

Congratulations to each and every student who participated in Zone carnivals throughout the year. Without a team effort, we would not have been able to secure the trifecta!

Our congratulations also to Ms. Armaghanian and all the PE staff who made this result a reality for Riverside.

Alyssa (pictured) broke the Zone 15yrs 90m hurdles record.

CAMP COUNSELORS

USA 92 : US designated J1 visa sponsor
: 30 years of 100% placements
: Biggest and best Camp Job Fairs



VISIT    

CALL 1300 859 040

WWW.CCUSA.COM.AU



Riverside on Air

Recent comments allegedly from the Minister for Education, led to a request from ABCTV to ask our students what they thought about the use of mobile phones at school.

Reporter, Nicole Cheddle, spoke to students and several members of staff and the responses revealed a very sensible attitude to mobile phone use at school.



Ms. Wark and Professor Guy Claxton

Professor Claxton, visiting English Professor of Psychology, made headlines recently suggesting that teachers should be referred to as "Learning Designers".

His message is that teachers should be 'learning designers' who coach and facilitate learning. He advocates that students need to be taught to teach themselves not in an unstructured way but by being provided with the tools and techniques to move their learning forward.

In this way teachers are learning designers who coach and facilitate.

They encourage students to constantly question and to be prepared to formulate creative solutions and accept constructive criticism in order to find answers.

Year 7 students have been exposed to this form of instruction through the year 7 learning coach initiative.

Ms.Wark is currently acting in a Deputy Principal position and is the recipient of a 12 month leadership development initiative with her project "Voice, Choice and Action" which focusses on the design thinking model in action.

Staff Update

This term two new head teachers have been permanently appointed to Riverside through the merit selection process.

Welcome to Mrs Sharon Pietch (HSIE) and Mrs Margaret Tyson (Secondary Studies) to these roles. Ms Tyson's teaching area is English.

It is exciting to have two new executive members bringing their experiences from other schools: Willoughby Girls and JJ Cahill respectively.

Thank you to Belinda Brodrick and Christine Davis, members of the P & C, for representing the community on these panels.

Amnesty International Charity Day

The amnesty international club recently held a fundraising day for refugees at which they raised \$160 for Amnesty.

At the cake stall they discussed refugee statistics/issues and used a virtual reality headset that showed the refugee experience.

The day was great at providing an authentic and empathetic perspective.

This is yet another example of the Riverside tradition of encouraging students to have a social conscience and be aware of their wider community.



Aerobics Success

The Riverside Girls Aerobics team was very successful on the weekend coming 1st in NSW and are now off to represent at the Nationals on the Gold Coast



Creativity Expo

The recent Creativity Expo was an initiative of the Creative and Performing Arts faculty to focus on the very important component of all education, creativity.

Year 8 were introduced to parent and teacher presenters representing a variety of creative occupations from curator, sound technician, dancer / choreographer, visual artist, musician, interior designer and writer.

Each presenter spoke of his/her area of expertise and how creativity had influenced his/her life and benefitted his/her work .

The students were then placed in groups and with the guidance of a mentor they produced a piece of work using the theme, "Our World Today Is....."

The works ranged from a dance, a poem, a video, dramatic interpretation, stop motion animation to artworks suitable for a hospital catering to sick children.

At a later date parents were invited to attend a brief soiree where a selection of the created products were showcased.

One of the presenters, Xanthe Wills, actor, was the first Riverside Performance Captain in 2012.

The Quad Upgrade Begins.....



..... and the saga begins

fencing in place, the digger arrives



..... the quad surface removal begins

work progresses apace



.....and the rains came then out came the sun and work continuesslowly.