THE STELLAR PROGRAM

“[Stellar] has influenced my life to show me that I can go to uni no matter the case”
Participant Year 9 UNE Uni Exp

Annual Report 2015

Prepared by Southern Cross University Equity and Diversity Office on behalf of the Clarence Valley Industry Education Forum
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**OBJECTIVES**

- Increase knowledge and understanding of higher education and career options
- Build confidence and motivation towards higher education
- Improve academic readiness for higher education
- Partner with teachers, families, and community to assist students to reach their potential for higher education

**2015 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Year 6 Stellar Sessions Workshops – 304 students
- Year 6 Kids on Campus – 336 students
- Year 7 Recipe for Success – 502 students
- Year 8 Uni-challenge – 303 students
- Year 9 Unlock Your Passion – 584 students
- Year 9 UNE Uni Experience – 200 students
- Year 10 Careers Forum – 615 students
- Year 6 Clarence Science Initiative excursion - 50

**2920 students**

PARTICIPATED in Stellar activities

**86%** INCREASED INTEREST in going to university

**78%** intended to TRY HARDER at school

- 715 YourTutor homework support tutorials yrs 9-12
- Year 10 Explore Robotics Classes – 25 students

- Support of the SGHS Clarence Science Initiative
- Support of the SGHS Science Week activities
- Supported MHS school hall AV equipment
- Teachers information sessions – 225 teachers
- Two parent evenings Maclean HS and Grafton Library – 86 attended
- Stellar Cinema Under the Stars – 300 attended
- Stellar information marquee at six community events including Football games, netball carnival, NAIDOC, Maclean Family fun day
The Clarence Valley Industry Education Forum

CVIEF was formed to improve educational outcomes for youth of the Clarence Valley. In recognition that individual organisations working alone cannot provide the whole of community approach needed to make lasting change, the CVIEF brings together diverse groups working toward a single purpose.

The CVIEF partners work together through a whole of community approach to supporting students to reach their goals. Stellar provides information and support to students, families, carers, school staff and community groups necessary for young people to aspire to university.

CVIEF have three inter-related programs to improve educational outcomes:
1. CareerLink – school-based traineeships and pathways to employment;
2. FreshStart – education and employment package for Indigenous students;
3. Stellar – supporting students to strive for and gain entry to higher education

INTRODUCTION

Stellar is an initiative developed by the Clarence Valley Industry and Education Forum (CVIEF) that seeks to improve university participation rates of students living in the Clarence Valley.

Led by the Southern Cross University Equity and Diversity Office, Stellar has three staff – Coordinator and Project Officer located at SCU and a Project Officer at UNE. 2015 is Stellar’s third year of operation with a suite of activities for students in years 6-10 and exciting programs to engage schools, teachers, parents and community.
Stellar Goal and Objectives

**OBJECTIVE 1**
Increase knowledge and understanding of higher education and career options.

**OBJECTIVE 2**
Build confidence and motivation towards higher education.

**OBJECTIVE 3**
Improve academic readiness for higher education.

**OBJECTIVE 4**
Partner with teachers, families and community to assist students to reach their potential for higher education.

**GOAL**
To improve university participation rates of students living in the Clarence Valley.
SOUTH GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL
South Grafton High School is a large, rural, comprehensive co-educational high school with over 1000 students, of which 130 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The school is part of a dynamic Grafton Community of Schools that share resources, school development days, planning and policies.

GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL
Grafton High School is a large comprehensive school community with approximately 1000 students of which 130 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Grafton High School and South Grafton High School have aligned their timetables to facilitate sharing of a range of senior subjects.

MCAULEY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
McAuley Catholic College, Grafton, NSW is a 7 to 12 regional co-educational Catholic secondary college with approximately 600 students, of which 4% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. McAuley College enjoys close relationships with the local community and other local high schools.

MACLEAN HIGH SCHOOL
Maclean High School students come from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds. The curriculum, class structures and education programs are designed to accommodate diverse needs and interests. There are approximately 1200 students with 9% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS
Year 6 students from Grafton Public School, South Grafton Public School, Westlawn Public School, Gillwinga Public School, Yamba Public school, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School Grafton, St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Grafton.

PARTNER SCHOOLS
Thankyou to our partner schools who have provided great support to make the Stellar Program a success. The Principals, Deputy Principals, Year coordinators and teachers have demonstrated their commitment in working with Stellar to instil the belief that university is a possibility for their students.
# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The four Stellar Components are designed to lead to achievement of the goal and objectives.

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## GOAL

Improve university participation rates of students living in the Clarence Valley.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Increase knowledge and understanding of higher education and career options.
2. Build confidence and motivation towards higher education.
3. Improve academic readiness for higher education.
4. Partner with teachers, families and community to assist students to reach their potential for higher education.

## Component One

**Stellar @ Primary**

In recognition that students make decisions about their suitability for certain careers in primary school, activities for year 5/6 students aim to build career awareness and an understanding that university is the place you go to become a doctor, teacher, environmental scientist and many other exciting careers.

## Component Two

**Stellar @ High**

A suite of activities for students in years 7-10 including visits to university campuses, discussions with current uni students, learning about careers and uni courses that can lead to those careers, learning from role models, support to improve academic attainment.

## Component Three

**Stellar Families**

Helping students and families to understand the costs of university, what financial support is available and how to access that support. Introducing support networks to help families become more involved in thinking about uni with their child.

## Component Four

**Stellar Teachers**

In recognition of the key influence role that teachers perform Stellar provides training and up-to-date information about university pathway options, financial information and scholarships. Stellar also provides primary careers curriculum materials.
# ANNUAL STUDENT ACTIVITY THEMES

Stellar student activities (Components 1 and 2) focus around key annual themes which firstly introduce students to the concepts of university and careers and progressively build in detail and complexity as students develop their interests and maturity.

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<td>Expand knowledge and interest in careers</td>
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<td>Careers unit of work</td>
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<td>Engage with role models</td>
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2015
The Numbers

44 events

2920 students participated

Six Community events

715 online tutorials

“[I enjoyed] Seeing what kind of passions I have mostly because I didn’t know my different passions”
Year 9 Unlock Your Passions Feedback

 “[Stellar is a] good opportunity and it really helps explain how you can get into uni”
Year 9 Unlock Your Passions Feedback

“[The Stellar activities] gave me a lot of help deciding if I wanted to go to uni”
Year 7 Recipe for Success Feedback

UNE Uni Experience Feedback
Year 6 – Stellar Kids On Campus and Believe in Your Potential workshops

336 Year 6 Primary School students participated in Kids on Campus and 305 Year 6 students participated in Believe in Your Potential workshops this year. Students came from:

- Yamba Public School
- South Grafton Public School
- Grafton Public School
- Gillwinga Public School
- Westlawn Public School
- St Joseph’s Grafton
- St Mary’s Grafton

**Kids On Campus** – students experience SCU Coffs harbour campus. The program aims to familiarise students through interactive experiences at the university campus and to broaden their knowledge of careers and university courses. The day concludes with a mock graduation which provides students with a feeling of success and completion.

**Believe in Your Potential** - Two hour interactive workshop for Year 6 students at each school designed to explore university and careers.

85% are more interested in going to uni.

“I would tell my friends that uni isn’t as scary as it seems.”
Year 6 Kids on Campus student feedback

“Thank you so much for the experiences that you offered our kids and got them thinking about life and what they want to be when they grow up, more importantly thank you for helping them to understand that they can achieve anything they set their minds too. I try to tell them this but when it comes from someone else but the teacher they seem to listen :)” Teacher feedback 2015
88% of students are more interested in going to uni

“Yeah well I’ve always wanted to be a carpenter or a landscaper and my plan was to drop out of school... but now I’m considering Uni”
Year 7 Feedback

44% said that having the freedom to study what they were interested in would be the best thing about university

Year 7 - Stellar Recipe For Success

Four Stellar University days were designed to reach as many year 7 students at the four high schools as possible.

The events were facilitated by BurnBright an organisation specialising in facilitating leadership activities for primary and high school students.

Students participated in group activities designed to strengthen their resilience and motivation towards university. SCU and UNE students worked with the year 7’s and shared stories of their journey to university.
Year 8 – Stellar Great Race

85% Of students know more about different university courses

303 Y8 students visited the Lismore campus of Southern Cross University as part of The Uni-Challenge.

The Great Race activity was designed to have students experience the campus, learn about courses and create a lasting impression on the students; uni can be a fun, and dynamic place to come.

Lead by university mentors, Y8 students worked in small teams to navigate their way around campus solving puzzles, completing challenges while learning about university courses, resources and uni life along the way.

Y8 students also learned valuable skills like working in a team, getting out of their comfort zone, trying new things; and supporting each other to succeed.

“[I] Would tell my friends it was very informational, I learnt a lot about opportunities”

Year 8 Student, Great Race feedback
Year 9 - Stellar Unlock Your Passion University Days

82% of students are more confident that they can reach university

77% intend to talk about going to university with their parents

Four Stellar University days for year 9s were facilitated by Rising Generations, an organisation specialising in facilitating leadership activities for primary and high school students.

Year 9 students participated in fun activities designed to build confidence and motivation towards higher education. For example skills such as identifying strengths, making most of opportunities and having courage to follow passions.

Three SCU students and two UNE students made key presentations that demonstrated their path to university, their course, their career goals, and some challenges they overcame to get to university.

77% intend to talk about going to university with their parents
200 Year 9s participated in the UNE Uni Experience, an overnight stay at University of New England.

Students were hosted by current university student mentors and stayed overnight in university student accommodation.

The Year 9s participated in fun activities designed to broaden their knowledge and interest in careers and uni courses that lead to these careers.

Sessions included:
- Archaeology / Antiquities
- Zoology / lab session
- Law / Moot court
- Clinical School
- Engineering/Surveying
- Environmental and Rural Science

Students also learnt about current information on pathways scholarships and how life is different as a university student.

After hours activities included rock climbing, inflatable swimming pool obstacle course, Zumba and other active games.

92% of participants in the Stellar UNE Uni Experience are more interested in going to University.

“I love how encouraged we were to do great things by everyone involved. It has boosted my confidence”
Student feedback UNE Uni Experience
Partnering with the Clarence Valley Council and North Coast TAFE.

The aim of this activity is to build students’ confidence and motivation towards university by being able to identify with the journey taken by speakers and start to understand the varied careers that are available via a course of university study.

Students rotate every 20 minutes in a ‘speed dating’ style enabling exposure to 10 different vocations and activities.

Stations include:
- Environmental Health
- Town Planning
- Accounting/law
- Civil Engineering
- Water Management
- Stop motion animation
- Robotics
- Media
- Sport Science
- University Pathways

“The day gave me knowledge and insight about uni and it's a great opportunity to learn more”

Student feedback Role Model Careers Day
Partnering with Community

Community Events
Stellar participated in community events including NAIDOC, Maclean Family Fun Day, Grafton Netball Carnival. At these events Stellar provided information to students, parents/carers and community members about the possibility of university. Stellar’s participation also provides an opportunity to provide information out of school context and also to be seen as part of the community.

Grafton Parenting Festival
Stellar participated in this Festival arranged by Clarence Valley Council by holding a Parent Information Evening and information stall at Festival main event.

Stellar Cinema Under the Stars
- Held at Market Square Grafton
- Approximately 300 attended
- Partnered with Aboriginal Health Service
- Motivational short films about university
- University information
- Music, Laser Skirmish, Competitions

Sponsorship of South Grafton U18 Rugby League team
The benefits of this sponsorship were:
- Stellar marquee at two home games
- Stellar logo on supporter and player jerseys
- Increase awareness of Stellar and the ‘Get into Uni’ message with Indigenous families
- Indigenous families have a positive view of Stellar being a good partner to the community and are more willing to work with and attend future Stellar events
- Players proudly wear jerseys in the community for several years

Parent Information Evenings
- Two evenings - Maclean High School and Grafton Library
- 86 parents/carers
- Presentations from current uni students and parents of uni students
Partnering with Teachers and Schools

South Grafton High School Clarence Science Initiative
- Stellar provided support to the South Grafton High School Clarence Science Initiative (CSI).
- CSI is a unique educational program to enhance the mathematical, scientific and technological education of Year 5 and 6 students in the Clarence Valley. During the year-long program students attend SGHS one day per fortnight to participate in practical and laboratory work, theory and fieldtrips around the local area.
- Stellar provided financial support for CSI operations and hosting an excursion to SCU Lismore campus for 50 Year 6 students to explore robotics.

South Grafton High School Science Fair
- Stellar provided support to the South Grafton High School Science Week activities.
- South Grafton High School host 500 Year 6 Primary School students over two days during science week. The primary school students learn about science and science related careers by listening to keynote speakers and by conducting mini experiments based on the annual science week theme. SGHS year 9 and 10 science students design and conduct the experiments with the primary school students.

Teachers information sessions
- 225 teachers from four high schools.
- Sessions designed to inform teachers of the messages that Stellar is bringing to the students and the research and theory behind those messages.
- Supporting teachers to feel more confident of discussing the possibilities of university with their students.

Maclean High School Hall Audio Equipment
Stellar funded the purchase and installation of Audio Visual equipment for the sports hall. This included screen, projector, speakers, amplifier, etc.

School Subject Selection Evenings
Stellar staff attended three school subject selection evenings.

Work Experience Grants
Stellar provided up to $4000 per high school that can be used by the schools to assist Year 10 student(s) to attend work experience placements that are not available within the student’s immediate geographical area.

MCC Year 10 Robotics extension
SCU staff designed and delivered four hours of robotics extension lessons for year 10 science students at McAuley Catholic College.

“it was great! Well organised and the students thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a lot.” Science Teacher feedback.

YourTutor
- Stellar’s YourTutor is an online afterhours tutorial service for students in Years 9-12.
- Stellar provided 715 tutorials in 2015.
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