

# 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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# Stellar 2015 Summary of Achievements

## GOAL

Improve university participation rates of students living in the Clarence Valley

## 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

# 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.

## 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



## The CVIEF partners

- . Southern Cross University
- . University of New England
- . TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute
- . NSW Department of Education & Communities
- . Clarence Valley Council
- . Grafton High School
- . McAuley Catholic College
- . South Grafton High School
- . Maclean High School
- . Induna School
- . Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- . Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – Indigenous Affairs Group

# Stellar Goal and Objectives

## OBJECTIVE 1

Increase knowledge and understanding of higher education and career options.

## 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 Vallev.

## OBJECTIVE 2

Build confidence and motivation towards higher education.

## OBJECTIVE 3

Improve academic readiness for higher education.



# 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.



## 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.

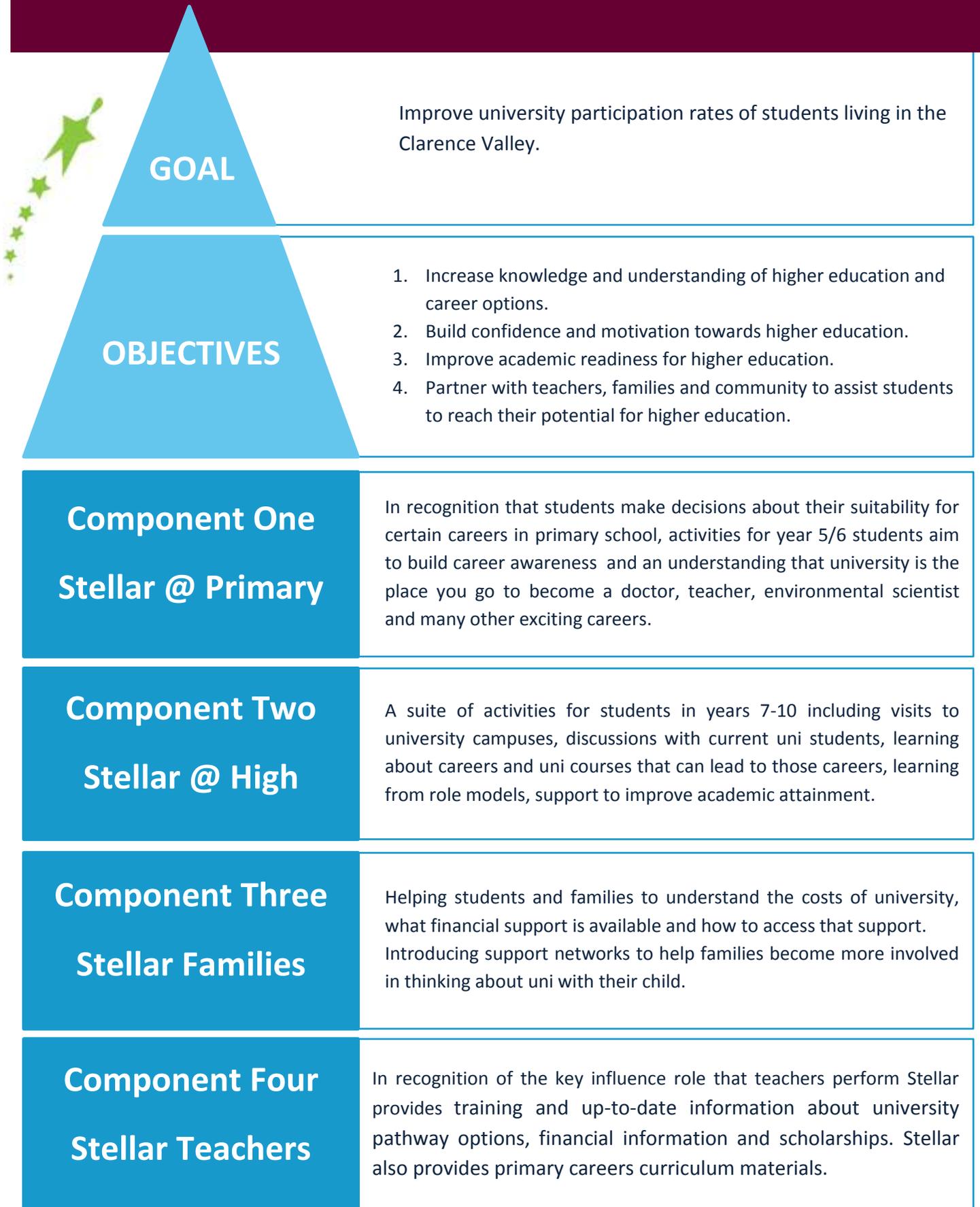


## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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.

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

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



# 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.

## Year 6

Introduction to University  
Widen knowledge of careers

Visit university campus  
Careers unit of work  
Careers day

## Year 7

Recipe for Success at school and university  
Meet university students

Recipe For Success University Day

## Year 8

What's it like at university?  
Widen knowledge of uni courses  
Expand knowledge and interest in careers

Visit a university campus  
Engage with role models

## Year 9

Improved study skills  
Pathways and scholarships  
Courses and careers

Visit a university campus (UNE)  
Get Into University Day at school  
YourTutor study support

## Year 10

Study skills  
Focused courses and careers

YourTutor study support  
Role models

# 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

**“[The Stellar activities] gave me a lot of help deciding if I wanted to go to uni”**

Year 7 Recipe for Success Feedback

**“[Stellar is a] good opportunity and it really helps explain how you can get into uni”**

Year 9 Unlock Your Passions Feedback

**“Really interesting. Really informative. Very interactive.”**

UNE Uni Experience Feedback

# DETAILS OF 2015 ACTIVITIES

## 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

## Year 7 - Stellar Recipe For Success

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

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.



74% said that having the  
**freedom to study**  
**what they were**  
**interested in** would  
be the best thing about  
university

## Year 8 – Stellar Great Race

**85%**

Of students know  
more about  
different university  
courses

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

Year 8 Student, Great Race  
feedback

**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.



## 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.



## Year 9 – Stellar UNE Uni Experience



**“I love how encouraged we were to do great things by everyone involved. It has boosted my confidence”**

Student feedback UNE Uni Experience

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

## Year 10 – Stellar Role Model Careers Day

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

**80%** know

**more about  
university courses  
and careers**

**“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



"University is Possible"



### 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.

## YourTutor

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

## 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

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