

# Ontap

Customer newsletter | April-June 2023



Riverina Water engineering staff James Derryhouse (above) and Ryan Thompson (below) assist local high school students at the annual Science and Engineering Challenge.

## Helping inspire the next generation of engineers

Riverina Water proudly supported the 14th annual Science and Engineering Challenge in Wagga coordinated by Rotary and the University of Newcastle.

Sponsorship of \$3500 was provided to help make the event possible, while our engineering staff were on hand again this year to share their expertise and inspire Riverina students about careers in science



and engineering. Sixteen schools and 220 students participated in the challenge. Congratulations to Wagga Wagga High School for winning the Science and Engineering Challenge this year.



### Projects made possible by Riverina Water's grants

The benefits of Riverina Water's grants program are on display around the region, with recipients of the current program finalising their projects - such as a First Nations art program at North Wagga Public School (pictured top) and shade sails over the community fitness park in Walla Walla (above).

### Water issues?

If you're experiencing issues with water supply or a water related emergency, please call us on **6922 0608** 24 hours a day, seven days a week





# Once-in-a-lifetime experience as staff help make Nepal school possible

Since 2018, Riverina Water has partnered with South Wagga Rotary on several aid projects in Sindhuli and Banepa in Nepal.

With COVID-19 putting a hold on the partnership since early 2020, the project was given the green light to recommence this year.

South Wagga Rotary helped establish the institute in Sindhuli, which began with engineering students and has since expanded into nursing and other courses.

Riverina Water staff members Virginia Ricardo and Brenton Pitman, together with 18 other volunteers, have since returned from Nepal where they spent two weeks working on the nurses/teaching accommodation building,

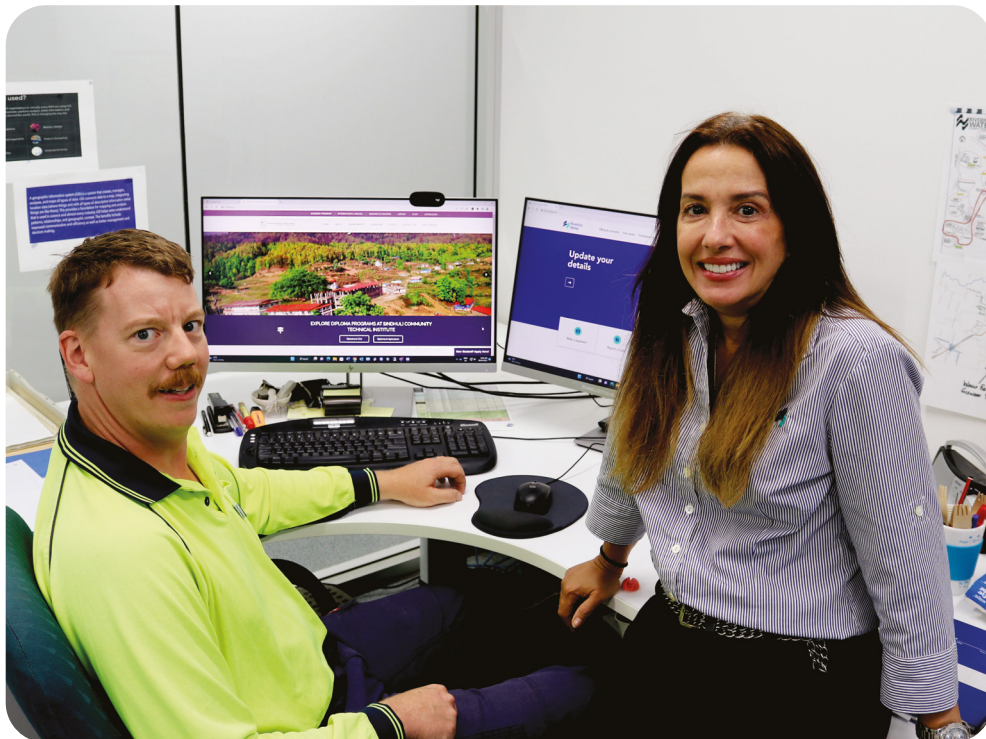
"Riverina Water has been a proud supporter of this project for a number of years and along with providing \$5900 in funding to give this unique experience to staff, we will again be hosting engineering cadets from Nepal in the future," Riverina Water CEO Andrew Crakanthorp said.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Virginia and Brenton, who have had to call on and develop their teamwork, leadership skills and initiative."

When speaking with Virginia and Brenton regarding their trip to Nepal, they expressed how grateful they were for the opportunity to give back to the Sindhuli region.

"The trip was well organised, the team worked together well from day one and we achieve a lot more work than I had expected. It was a great achievement to get so much work completed for the community," Virginia said.

"The Sindhuli Community Technical Institute houses several buildings where they teach a variety of courses and



**ABOVE:** Brenton Pitman and Virginia Ricardo have returned from volunteering in Nepal where they worked on aid projects in partnership with South Wagga Rotary.

**BELOW LEFT:** The educational institute in Sindhuli.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Brenton distributes education materials to the community.



provide accommodation for the students who live in adjacent regions and cannot afford the expense of travel or rent."

Both acknowledged their admiration for Rotary and the sheer amount of work they have completed in Nepal over the years.

"Not only was Rotary and the team working on the institute, but they also managed initiatives including distributing



backpacks, uniforms, shoes, stationery, and sporting goods to primary schools," Brenton said. "Together with supplying sewing machines, providing training to local women, and organising better water sanitation units for local hospitals.

"The experience to be involved in such a great project is one that I will carry with me for life. I hope that the relationship can continue to help benefit more people in need."

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