

CASE STUDY / **BERWICK COLLEGE**

Berwick College streamlines its printer fleet with Ricoh

Located 45 kilometres south east of central Melbourne, Berwick College is a co-educational school catering for students from years 7 to 12. The college has approximately 1700 students and 160 staff.



The challenge

Since its establishment in 1977, Berwick College has grown to be one of the largest secondary schools in Victoria. Its sprawling campus comprises a mixture of classrooms together with facilities for athletics, performing arts, and crafts.

As the school grew, the size of its IT infrastructure also increased. Equipment was purchased over an extended period of time and added to the mix as demands required.

A significant component of the infrastructure was the school's fleet of printers. In early 2020, this fleet had increased to the point where there were a total of 45 printers scattered throughout the school.

"Many of the printers were actually quite underutilised by both staff and students," says Berwick College Business Manager, Juan Hompart.

"We realised that we needed to both rationalise the fleet and undertake a refresh to bring our printers up to date."

The solution

Working with technology partner Ricoh, the College's IT team examined a range of alternatives. After careful evaluation, a decision was taken to remove all 45 printers, which included eight ageing Ricoh devices.

"The Ricoh devices had served us well but were nearing the end of their service life. The other printers comprised a mix of smaller devices that had been purchased during the past ten years."

“Ricoh’s understanding of the technology and the school’s operations helped to make the entire process very straightforward.”

– **Juan Hompart**, Berwick College Business Manager



The existing fleet was then replaced with 12 Ricoh multifunction devices, including six IM C4500, three IM C6000 and three IM C300F multifunction printers, capable of printing up to A3-sized outputs. Each was strategically placed to be readily accessible by all users.

A swipe-card facility was also deployed. This allows users to receive output from any printer while also tracking usage levels and costs.

“The entire changeover was very seamless and completed in a single day,” says Hompart. “Ricoh’s understanding of the technology and the school’s operations helped to make the entire process very straightforward.”

The benefits

With the new printer fleet in place, the school was quickly enjoying some significant benefits. Operating costs were reduced by \$2000 per month and the new devices were much more reliable than the older units they had replaced.

“Staff are able to send their output to any device which makes everything as flexible as possible and is important in a school of this size,” says Hompart.

The ability to print in A3 format is also a positive step. Teachers rely on producing booklets for use in the classroom and these can be readily created in a single step.

“Staff have also reported that the interface on the printers is very intuitive. Having the same types of devices across the school also makes usage very straightforward.”

Hompart says he expects the new printer fleet to be operational for the next three years which ensures a solid return on investment.

“We are very pleased with the level of support we are receiving from Ricoh. It is great to have just a single vendor who can provide all our printing requirements,” he says.

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