NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

2023 YEARBOOK

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Front Cover Photo: Miriki Performing Arts 'Gulgi-barra' (Sand Stories), Mimi Tannaka Art Photography

We welcomed new Cowboys player ambassadors to our NRL Cowboys House family in 2023 – NRL player Reuben Cotter and NRLW player Tahlulah Tillett

The Boys Learning Centre is a hub of activity as students return from school or sport and knuckle down to study, with their dreams of university, trades or full-time employment fostered daily by the support of Wilson Security, whose naming partnership now spans four years.

WELCOME

We'd like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which NRL Cowboys House operates. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions and the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation.

As NRL Cowboys House continues to grow and evolve, some of our most valued strengths have been the courage and resilience of our students, families, staff and supporters.

Like the story of 'Mundarlbi' by artist Renee Wilson, which adorns this year's House polo, they've 'stayed strong like the reef' as 2023 brought new faces, friends, experiences, challenges and change.

We continue to build strong relationships through our partnerships, and our connection to Miriki Performing Arts has been a central part of our creative arts program this year.

NRL Cowboys House dancers have had the extraordinary opportunity to perform in front of audiences in a number of spectacular locations, including Cairns Festival, Murama Youth Summit in Sydney, Jezzine Barracks in Townsville, Pacific Championships at Queensland Country Bank Stadium and our own NAIDOC Day celebrations.

It has been fantastic to expand our dance troupes with more 'girl power' this year, encouraged by their 'big sister' and House player ambassador and Cowboys NRLW player Tahlulah Tillett, who also took to the stage to Island Dance with the kids.

Our annual NAIDOC Day celebrations continue to go from strength to strength, as we united under the National NAIDOC Week theme, 'For Our Elders', and we were especially proud to welcome Elders from community who shared stories and culture, with our students and attendees soaking in their knowledge and learning new skills.

Our focus and access to the arts has grown through 2023 as students from year 7-12 use different mediums to learn more about themselves and their culture and to express themselves, through programs like the Young Indigenous Printmakers.

We were proud to see our House Captain Leland Michael leading by example, presenting Nando's with his painting to thank them for his employment opportunity through one of their local stores.

Leland's kindness and gratitude are representative of our whole senior cohort – including the 17 graduates we farewell this year – who will take these essential qualities wherever they go, whether taking on a traineeship or apprenticeship, tertiary education or employment.

We wish them all the very best as they embark on a new journey in their young lives, and we can't wait to see how they forge new friendships, new opportunities and a bright future.

Rochelle Jones

GENERAL MANAGER, NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

OUR VISION

NRL Cowboys House will be celebrated for ensuring every student graduates to gainful employment or further education.

OUR PURPOSE

To empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth for a positive future.

OUR VALUES

FAMILY

Together we make a family

We care for and trust each other. We are each other's strength.
We earn respect. We develop positive relationships.
We have pride in our culture, land and community.
We all belong. We accept individual difference.
We value all life. We do no harm.

INTEGRITY

Truth in all that we say and do

We are honest, fair and trustworthy. We are our own role models.
We choose to always do the right thing. We respect the rights of others.
We have the courage to 'stand up' for what is right and just.
We own our behaviour and accept the consequences.
We are committed to doing a quality job responsibly, with passion and pride.

RESILIENCE

I can. You can. We can.

We never 'give up'. We have the strength and courage to seek help.
We accept our challenges and help others to bounce back.
We stay strong, we believe in ourselves and we chase our dreams.
We learn and grow stronger from our mistakes.
We celebrate our achievements and those of others, without shame.

HOUSE STAFF

Absent:
Louisa Babia, Alastair Caine, Susan Falkenhagen, Matthew Jones, Betty Mabo, Bradley Michael, Helga Nona, Rhonda Payne, Kevin Tamwoy, Sophie Turner, Mabel Walit

ROCHELLE JONES
GENERAL MANAGER

NICCI ANGUS
ADMINISTRATION & STUDENT WELLBEING

VINSON BABIA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

OSMOND BAKER
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

SHAYE BAKER
ABSTUDY TRAVEL OFFICER & ADMINISTRATION

TRACEY BRYANT
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

JONATHAN CINI
HEAD OF BOYS CAMPUS

BYRON DIMECH
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

ZARA DOHERTY
CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER

ASHLEY DUNN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

ANGELA FEIRCLOUGH
CHEF

GLEN FEIRCLOUGH
CHEF

RAELENE FRANTZ-DAVIS
STUDENT & STAFF WELLBEING, LEADERSHIP & EVENTS DIRECTOR

MABATA GAMOGA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

KATE HOLZNAGEL
PROGRAMS MANAGER

KAREN HAUGHTON
BUSINESS MANAGER

CHARMAINE KNOX
PSYCHOLOGIST
SUPPORTED BY NQPHN

KYLIE LUKASIK
HEAD OF GIRLS CAMPUS

JOSEPHINE MAREKO
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

NATHAN MELLOR
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

TYREECE MICHAEL
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

SAREKA MOOKA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

DAVID NONA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

RENA O'CLOUDY
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

HOUSE STAFF (CONTINUED)

DEREK RESTON
CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER

RENEE RESTON
ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES MANAGER

JOSHUA ROWAN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

MICHAEL RULE
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

HELEN SANTO
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

TONY STEEN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR MAINTENANCE

ANGELA STOCKS
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

GLEN THOMAS
CULTURAL EDUCATION MANAGER

LEITA WASON
CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER

MICHAEL WEBSTER
EDUCATION FACILITATOR

They work behind the scenes to keep our unique boarding facility squeaky clean – thank you to Biniris team members Maruia Nekeare, Susan Morris and Catherine Ngatupuna and the broader Biniris team for your ongoing support and long-term partnership.

HOUSE BROTHERS & SISTERS

Isaac Accoom
Year 11
Heatley Secondary College
Lockhart River

Antwone Agie
Year 11
Kirwan State High School
Bamaga

Amaziah Ah Wing
Year 8
St Margaret Mary's College
Doomadgee

Anaclita Ahmat
Year 11
St Margaret Mary's College
Badu Island

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Badu Island

Marina Aruba
Year 9
Pimlico State High School
Boigu Island

Elson Asai (Wosomo)
Year 7
Townsville State High School
Yorke Island

Keiriarna Baker-O'Keefe
Year 7
Heatley Secondary College
Doomadgee

Naraira Bann
Year 8
William Ross State High School
Yam Island

Samjoe Baragud
Year 12
Pimlico State High School
Yam Island

Bruce Baudu
Year 11
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island

Kylorren (Kylie) Beetham
Year 12
St Margaret Mary's College
Yam Island

Racyna Binawel
Year 7
St Margaret Mary's College
Moa Island

Fransica (Steph) Bob
Year 12
Queensland Pathways State College
Warraber Island

Kesia Bob
Year 9
Pimlico State High School
Warraber Island

Peter Bob
Year 10
William Ross State High School
Warraber Island

Maurice Cameron
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Woorabinda

Kelly Dalton
Year 12
Queensland Pathways State College
Normanton

Patrick Daniel
Year 7
Ignatius Park College
Kowanyama

Denzel Daniels-Misi
Year 9
William Ross State High School
Thursday Island

Tshak Daniels-Misi
Year 10
William Ross State High School
Thursday Island

Jonathan Dau
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island

Walter Dau
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Badu Island

Mayarna Donahue
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Mossman

Domarion (Zecky) Doolah
Year 9
Townsville Grammar School
Old Mapoon

Narzaliah Doolah
Year 10
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon

Destiny Escott
Year 11
William Ross State High School
Doomadgee

Taraleah Finta-Burton
Year 10
Kirwan High State School
Cairns

Lhere Forester
Year 10
Calvary Christian College
Coen

David Foster-King
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Doomadgee

Milleah Fulford
Year 8
Kirwan State High School
Palm Island

Zoe Gavenor
Year 9
St Margaret Mary's College
Mornington Island

HOUSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS (CONTINUED)

Makeilla Gibson
Year 11
Kirwan State High School
Cooktown

Ty Gibson
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Hope Vale

Xania Gordon
Year 8
Pimlico State High School
Cooktown

Erin Hobbler
Year 10
Tec-NQ
Manoora

Keelin Hookey
Year 11
Ignatius Park College
Doomadgee

Kairon Hudson
Year 12
Pimlico State High School
Weipa

Rolatielu (Telu) Joe
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Yam Island

Isaiah Kepa
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Yam Island

Jaqlyn Kepa
Year 10
St Margaret Mary's College
Yam Island

Erma Kynuna
Year 8
Heatley Secondary College
Mossman

Lakarna Kynuna
Year 7
Pimlico State High School
Yarrabah

Milton Larry
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Yam Island

Wyatt Lourigan
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Mossman

Grethel Mairu
Year 9
Kirwan State High School
Bamaga

Carnie Malachi
Year 7
Pimlico State High School
Kowanyama

Rahu Mara
Year 11
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon

Irene Mari
Year 11
Heatley Secondary College
Thursday Island

Louish Mari
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Warraber

Beatrice (Timena) Messa
Year 11
William Ross State High School
Yorke Island

Collin Messa (Jnr)
Year 7
Kirwan State High School
Yorke Island

Peah Messa
Year 9
Townsville Grammar School
Yorke Island

Aleeah Michael
Year 10
Kirwan State High School
Cooktown

Leland Michael
Year 12
Kirwan State High School
Cooktown

Fredrick Mick
Year 11
William Ross State High School
Doomadgee

Shontay Mick
Year 12
William Ross State High School
Doomadgee

Jerry Jared Jr Mipari
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Darnley Island

Ellen Mosby
Year 7
Kirwan State High School
Yorke Island

Zaleah Mosby-Nona
Year 11
Kirwan State High School
Yorke Island

Coralie Mundraby
Year 12
Queensland Pathways State College
Mornington Island

Jack Mundraby
Year 11
Kirwan State High School
Normanton

Bobby-James Naawi
Year 12
Pimlico State High School
Moa Island

Hunwaye Ned
Year 7
Heatley State High School
Doomadgee

HOUSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS (CONTINUED)

Jiquarn Nettle-Barney
Year 7
Townsville State High School
Kowanyama

Desharnthie Nona
Year 12
St Margaret Mary's College
Warraber Island

Hezekiah Nona
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island

Walter Nona
Year 8
Townsville Grammar School
Badu Island

Donny Patrick
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Kowanyama

Cooper Pearson
Year 12
Kirwan State High School
Yarrabah

Rathony Pearson
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Warraber Island

Connor Rogers
Year 12
Calvary Christian College
Mornington Island

Aydah Maree Ross-Kelly
Year 10
Kirwan State High School
Cooktown

Kentaro Sabatino
Year 10
Townsville Grammar School
Thursday Island

Jaum (Ralph) Sam
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island

Joseph Sam
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island

Kala (Phillip) Sam
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island

Charlie Seriat
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Thursday Island

Sincere Sibley
Year 10
Kirwan State High School
Palm Island

Jetaeo Smiler
Year 7
Townsville State High School
Kowanyama

Romell Sorogo
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Warraber Island

Elianah Tabuai
Year 10
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon

Elijha Tabuai
Year 7
William Ross State High School
Mapoon

Kyson Tabuai
Year 8
Pimlico State High School
Old Mapoon

Ariel Tapim Wailu
Year 12
St Margaret Mary's College
Murray Island

Carleesha Tayley
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Wujal Wujal

Mungu Toby
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Mornington Island

Taliliya (Tanya) Toby
Year 11
Pimlico State High School
Mornington Island

Kallis Toby-Isaac
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Doomadgee

Steven Tom
Year 11
Ignatius Park College
Boigu Island

Thomas Wilson
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Mornington Island

Kairi Yeatman
Year 8
Kirwan State High School
Yarrabah

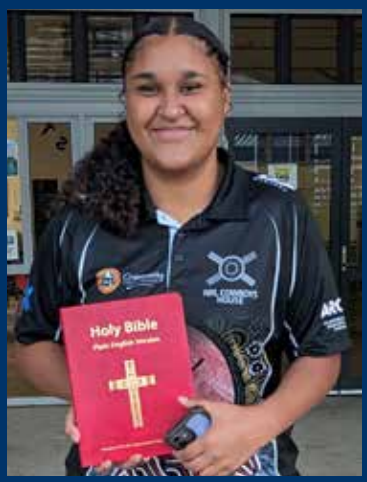
Nahkayia Yeatman
Year 8
Pimlico State High School
Yarrabah

Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble
Year 11
Kirwan State High School
Yarrabah

Kalina Zaro
Year 10
Kirwan State High School
Murray Island

HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Our NRL Cowboys House family of students, staff, parents, community members, partners and supporters are proud of all of our NRL Cowboys House students as they strive for success in their chosen pursuits and create their own pathways. Your effort and dedication are the tools for building the life of your dreams and an inspiration to us!



ACADEMIC

- Heatley Secondary College Indigenous Captain (2024) – Irene Mari
- Heatley Secondary College Distinction Award – Irene Mari
- Heatley Secondary College Subject Award, Certificate II in Workplace Skills – Irene Mari
- Heatley Secondary College Subject Award, Science in Practice – Irene Mari
- Heatley Secondary College Subject Award, Merit Award – Mayarna Donahue
- Heatley Secondary College Senior Rising Star Award – Irene Mari
- Heatley Secondary College Community Education Counsellor Award – Mungu Toby
- Junior ATSIAP Challenge – Denzel Daniels-Misi, Naraira Bann
- Pimlico State High School Junior Academic Award – Nahkayia Yeatman
- QATSIF Scholarship Recipients Year 12 – Shontay Mick, Connor Rogers, Ariel Tapim-Wailu, Desharnthie Nona, Kylorren Beetham, Wyatt Lourigan, Samjoe Baragud, Cooper Pearson
- STARS Matildas Brisbane trip selection for most outstanding students – Nahkayia Yeatman, Mayarna Donahue
- St Margaret Mary's College Emerging Leaders Gold Award – Amaziah Ah Wing, Anaclita Ahmat, Desharnthie Nona, Ariel Tapim-Wailu
- St Margaret Mary's College Emerging Leaders Silver Award – Kylorren Beetham, Racyna Binawel
- St Margaret Mary's College Emerging Leaders Bronze Award – Jaqlyn Kepa
- St Margaret Mary's College Certificate for Highest Level of Attendance at Homework Program Year 8 – Amaziah Ah Wing
- St Margaret Mary's College Certificate for Highest Level of Attendance at Homework Program Year 12 – Ariel Tapim-Wailu
- St Margaret Mary's College Certificate for High Work Ethics – Desharnthie Nona
- St Margaret Mary's College First Nations Pastoral Middle Leaders Award – Amaziah Ah Wing
- Townsville State High School 95%+ Attendance Award – Jetaeo Smiler
- William Ross State High School Indigenous Caption (2024) – Timena Messa
- William Ross State High School Visual Art Award – Naraira Bann

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Interact – Leland Michael, Bruce Baudu, Kentaro Sabatino, Mungu Toby, Phillip Sam, Ralph Sam, Amaziah Ah Wing, Zoe Gavenor, Shontay Mick, Grethel Mairu, Racyna Binawel, Ellen Mosby, Timena Messa, Peah Messa, Elianah Tabuai, Desharnthie Nona
- 2023 NRL Youth Leadership Summit – Bruce Baudu, Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Timena Messa, Rahu Mara

THE ARTS

- NRL Cowboys House Dance Group – Anaclita Ahmat, Phillip Sam, Ralph Sam, Kentaro Sabatino, Kesia Bob, Lakarna Kynuna, Mayarna Donahue, Naraira Bann, Peah Messa, Steven Tom, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Xania Gordon, Collin Messa
- NOISE – Anaclita Ahmat, Charlie Seriat, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Walter Nona, Desharnthie Nona, Elianah Tabuai, Peah Messa
- Gulgi-barra – Anaclita Ahmat, Phillip Sam, Ralph Sam, Kentaro Sabatino, Kesia Bob, Lakarna Kynuna, Mayarna Donahue, Naraira Bann, Peah Messa, Steven Tom, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Xania Gordon
- Young Indigenous Printmakers – Kesia Bob, Marina Aruba, Cooper Pearson, Naraira Bann, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Grethel Mairu, Ellen Mosby, Racyna Binawel, Amaziah Ah Wing, Zoe Gavenor, Desharnthie Nona, Rahu Mara, Telu Joe, Peah Messa
- NRL Cowboys House Band – Colin Messa, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Anaclita Ahmat, Peah Messa, Timena Messa, Amaziah Ah Wing, Elianah Tabuai
- 1st place Year 10 Watercolour QATSIF Creative Arts Competition – Tshak Daniels-Misi

SCHOOL SPORT

- NQ Track and Field team – Keelin Hookey, Isaac Accoom, Kairon Hudson
- Townsville State High School – U12 Swimming Age Champion – Jiquarn Nettle-Barney
- Townsville State High School – New U12 Boys Butterfly Record Holder – Jiquarn Nettle-Barney
- Pimlico State High School – New Open Boys 100m Record Holder – Kairon Hudson
- Pimlico State High School – New Open Boys 200m Record Holder – Kairon Hudson
- Pimlico State High School – New Open Boys 400m Record Holder – Kairon Hudson
- Pimlico State High School – New Open Boys Triple Jump Record Holder – Kairon Hudson
- Pimlico State High School – New Open Boys Long Jump Record Holder – Kairon Hudson
- Heatley Secondary College – Athletics Age Champion Open Boys – Isaac Accoom
- Heatley Secondary College – Cross Country Age Champion Open Boys – Isaac Accoom
- Heatley Secondary College – Cross Country Age Champion U15 – Charlie Seriat
- Heatley Secondary College – Overall Age Champion – Isaac Accoom
- Heatley Secondary College – Senior Sports Person of The Year – Isaac Accoom
- Heatley Secondary College - Cross Country Age Champion Girls – Irene Mari
- Ignatius Park College – U12 Athletics Field Age Champion Bronze – Patrick Daniel
- Ignatius Park College – U15 Athletics Field Age Champion Silver – Jared Mipari
- Ignatius Park College – U16 Athletics Field Age Champion Bronze – Jonathan Dau
- Calvary Christian College – Cross Country Age Champion – Elianah Tabuai
- St Margaret Mary's College – Sports Certificate Rugby Union – Amaziah Ah Wing, Jaqlyn Kepa, Racyna Binawel
- St Margaret Mary's College – Sports Certificate Rugby League – Desharnthie Nona
- Interschool Athletics Team representation – Zecky Doolah, Peah Messa, Kentaro Sabatino, Xania Gordon, Naraira Bann, Kairi Yeatman, Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Patrick Daniel, Jared Mipari, Jonathan Dau, Elianah Tabuai, Narzaliah Doolah, Rahu Mara, Connor Rogers, Maurice Cameron, Keelin Hookey, Bruce Baudu, Charlie Seriat, Ty Gibson, Isaac Accoom, Jiquarn Nettle-Barney, Bobby-James Naawi, Kairon Hudson, Donny Patrick
- Interschool Swimming Team representation – Jack Mundraby, Jiquarn Nettle-Barney

CLUB / REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

- Centrals U17 International Player of the Year – Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- Centrals U17 Most Consistent Player – Makeilla Gibson
- Centrals U17 Player of the Year – Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- Centrals U17 Best Back Award – Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- Cowboys Academy Women's – Makeilla Gibson, Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- First Nations Warriors Bangkok Rugby 10s (2024) – Maurice Cameron
- Ignatius Park College Players Player – Wyatt Lourigan
- Ignatius Park College Player of the Year – Wyatt Lourigan
- Kirwan State High School Grizzlies – Makeilla Gibson, Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- NQ U16 Rugby League – Narzaliah Doolah
- NQ U18 Open Rugby League – Makeilla Gibson, Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- QLD QMC Cup – Narzaliah Doolah
- QLD QMC Rugby League U15 – Aydah Maree Ross-Kelly
- QLD U17 Country Team – Zaleah Mosby-Nona
- Souths Rugby League U16 Gene Miles Best & Fairest – Hezekiah Nona
- Townsville Blackhawks U17 – Makeilla Gibson
- Townsville Blackhawks U19 – Makeilla Gibson
- Centrals Spirit Award – Racyna Binawel
- Centrals Best Forward – Racyna Binawel
- Upper Ross Rams Best Back Award – Elianah Tabuai
- Qld Clontarf Academy State of Origin Team selection – Cooper Pearson, Isaac Accoom

PARTNER SCHOOLS

Thank you to our 11 partner schools for their amazing support of NRL Cowboys House students. Through their close relationships with the education team, these valuable school communities are facilitating the growth and personal development of our young people to learn, grow and achieve academically, on the sporting field and in their cultural activities.

- Calvary Christian College
- Heatley Secondary College
- Ignatius Park College
- Kirwan State High School
- Pimlico State High School
- Queensland Pathways Secondary College
- St Margaret Mary's College
- Tec-NQ
- Townsville Grammar School
- Townsville State High School
- William Ross State High School

With the support of Variety - The Children's Charity of Queensland, our Girls Learning Centre plays a vital role in equipping our young women with essential skills to obtain a high school education, smoothly transition to further studies and secure meaningful employment, ultimately paving the way to achieve economic independence.

TUTORS & VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteer program continues to grow and we were thrilled to welcome new faces to our volunteer family this year! With volunteering opportunities at the House and the Cowboys Community Foundation's 50-50 Charity Raffle, we loved having volunteers from diverse backgrounds supporting our activities. We hope this has been a rewarding and enriching experience for all of our volunteers and we are so grateful for you sharing your time, skills and knowledge with us.

TUTORS

Debra Backer
Jarrod Bates
Victoria Bonyhai
Taylah Collins
Cheyenne Coote
Toni Goodhew
Amelia Grant
Elizabeth Habjan
Therese Higgins
Ashton Hogan
Harrison Leavers
Rikisha Phineasa
Sheree Smith
Sinouya Tuckerman
Jackson Wilde

VOLUNTEERS

Sheri Ayoub
Jordyn Chapman
Chia Miin Chua
Aysha Coker
Kiran Craperi
Liam Crossland
Baily Crump
Brian Dobson
Susan Falkenhagen
Isabel Griffin
Andrew Ishak
Roslyn Kemp
Solokara Lankathilake
Charlotte Michael
Lincoln Miller
Halimat Olaniyan
Gonam Pillay
Meenatchamma Pillay
Scarlett Pountney
Cameron Powell
Aidan Raheb
Dylan Rao
Judy Robertson
Kiruthika Sornamoorthy
Jacob Stevenson
Kelly Stone
Anaya Suarna
Katharine Terry
Clement Wong
Sangweon Yun

50-50 CHARITY RAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

John Allen
Tyler Andersen
Kerry Bogie
Jayden Calder
Lisa Dent
Emma Eriksen
Sue Gardner
Lotte High
Beshonia Keo
Richard McCasker
Lax Paudel
Nikhil Philip
Jimmy Porter
Barbara Robinson
Jennifer Sutton-Haynes
Katherine Thomson
Judy Tietzel-Berry
Jacqui Trugar
Teegan White
Cassie Windsor
Paul Windsor

50-50 CHARITY RAFFLE CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

AMA Group
Able Programs
ARC
Concentrix
Downer Group
GHD Pty Ltd
Lexus of Townsville
Mike Carney Mahindra
Mike Carney Toyota
Queensland Police Service Academy
SMEC
Telstra
Unilodge / JCU

PARTNERS

We're grateful to share our vision of every student graduating to gainful employment or further education with our dedicated partners who support this journey every step of the way. Their generosity can be seen in the myriad ways they contribute and still seek to do more. Thank you for a fantastic year and for being part of our House family.

PARTNERS

Australian Government

- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – program support
- Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) – program support
- Department of Education – Emerging Priorities Program Grant
- Department of Industry,Science, Energy and Resources – career opportunities and Pathways for Women Grant

Queensland Government

- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy – program support
- QBuild – program support
- Department of Education – education and learning centre support
- Department of Environment and Science – Community Sustainability Action Grant

NRL – program support

BGIS – transportation

Biniris – cleaning services

CBRE & Corporate Travel Management – Sistas Stand Strong empowerment program

Cowboys Leagues Club – students and programs

Downer Group – Boys Campus

Toyota – student transportation support

Variety – the Children's Charity of Queensland – Girls Campus Learning Centre

Veolia – Boys & Girls Campus recreational areas

Waanyi Joint Venture – Career Transitions Team & Driver's Licence Fund

Wilson Security – Boys Campus Learning Centre

The Ian and Shirley Norman Foundation – DAT program and tertiary transitions

ARC – House polo sleeve partner

Hand Heart Pocket – supporting our impact and capacity building

The John Villiers Trust – supporting our impact and capacity building

BURSARY PARTNERS

AMA Group – support of student training and education programs

FRIENDS OF THE HOUSE

Ergon Energy

Frontier Voice & Data

Fulton Hogan

Intersport

LiteHaus International

Morris Family Foundation/ The Ville Resort-Casino

Parcorp Group/ McDonald's

Peak ARE

Project Outback Dental

Regional Express (REX)

Tip Top

Vivid Property Services

Through the support of House partner Waanyi Joint Venture, our Transitions team works alongside our students and Education team to map individual career pathways, engaging industry partners to give students real-world work experience and employment and training opportunities.

PATRONS & DONORS

We cherish the amazing support of our donor family across a variety of activities and channels and thank all contributors for their generosity and commitment.

We have endeavoured to capture all of our valued donors on our acknowledgement list, however please reach out if your name is missing (email enquiries@cowboysfoundation.org.au) and we will update our digital yearbook, available at www.cowboysfoundation.org.au/yearbook.

PATRON

- Toni Frame

STUDENT CARE BURSARY

- Kate Campbell + Robert, Charlie, Teddy & Rosie Magdics
- GHD Pty Ltd

DONORS

- 3RAR Madden Club
- 4x4FNQ
- Scott & Annette Abraham
- Accor
- John Affleck
- AMA Group
- Jane Andersen
- Rachael Andersen
- Ray Andersen
- Robyn Andersen
- Will Andersen
- Rhonda Batson
- Greg Beavis
- BG Group
- Biniris
- Madonna, Chris & Tahlie Blackburn
- Keith Blake
- BNI Foundation
- Natalie Bottomley
- Jenni Bowman
- Robyn Bowman
- Fran Boyd
- Michelle & Ross Bradford
- Bridgewater Townsville
- Richard & Rose Broomhead
- Michael Brunker
- Bunzl Safety & Lifting
- Calcino Family
- CBRE Australia
- Chubb Fire & Security
- Bill & Debra Clark
- Clemments Family
- Cameron & Sue Cole
- Coles Fairfield
- Kate Cornish
- Cowboys Leagues Club
- Peter Cross
- Daniel Crowley
- Katrina Davis
- Ron & Vicki Degenhart
- De La Cruz / Spry Family
- Deborah Derbyshire
- Don Smallgoods
- Doug Hall Foundation
- Gavin Douglas
- Cayley Downey
- Patricia Dye
- Deborah & Gary Eales
- Event Cinemas
- Geoff Favell
- Becci Fazldeen
- Toni Field
- Bob & Del Flemming
- Gavin Foster
- Ian Frazer
- GHD Pty Ltd
- Rory Gibson
- Julie Goedhart
- Grill'd
- Robyn Grogan
- Brett Haagsma
- Elaine Hagenbach
- Mavis Hall
- Maya Hall
- Lisa Hall
- Hands in Harmony
- Barbara Hannay
- Happy Hampers
- Col & Eva Harkness
- Robyn & Tim Harvey
- Nick Henry
- Hey Caddy
- Narelle Hibberd
- John Honeycombe
- Patrice Honnef
- Mina Howard
- Lyndal & Ross Hughes
- Maggie Hughes
- Hutchinson Builders
- James Cook University
- James Home Services
- Leonie Johnson
- Robyn & Ian Jones
- Sarah-Jayne & Lincoln Jones
- Rocky & Sherry Jordan
- Kyal Jorgensen
- Daisy Jumelet
- Ron Jumelet
- JVT Testamentary Trust
- Robbie Katter
- Jess Keir
- Kenilworth Dairies
- Dinah Kennedy
- KickAss
- David Kirchner
- Shane Knuth MP
- The Koletti Family
- Christopher Lal
- Lamberts Fresh Produce
- Lancini Family
- Jenny Lancken
- Denise Lanskey
- Mary Laughren
- Lexus of Townsville
- Ted Lindsay
- Peter Logan
- Janine & Simon Lucas
- Mark Maguire & Family
- Greg Marlow
- Shane Martin
- Amber McGinness
- Cathy McGovern
- McKenzie Family
- Peter Michael
- Steve Mitchell
- Anna Moynihan
- Brian Murphy
- Nando's
- George & Emily Nona
- Russell Norton
- NQ Pipe & Civil
- Clive O'Connor
- Ineke & Geoff Oliver
- Wayne O'Riley
- Greg & Margie Osborne
- Pacific Islands International
- Phoenix Constructions
- Pickles
- Pitstop Racing
- Players Club
- Sally-Anne & John Potter
- Queensland Country Bank Stadium
- Scott Radford-Chisholm
- M. Rayment
- Peter Reitano
- Rex Airlines
- Xan Richmond
- Jill Roberts
- Avan Roberts
- Rotary Club of Mundingburra
- Rotary Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy
- Andrew Rowan
- Rowes Bay Golf Club
- Patrick Ryan
- SEA Locksmiths
- Tarun Sen Gupta
- SEQ Muster
- Bev Sipos
- Carol Skeffington
- Dannielle & Brian Small
- James Smith
- Shane & Donna Smith
- Shirley Ann Smith
- Smith + Elliott
- Smit Lamnalco
- Catherine Spencer
- Andy Stocks
- Sunrise Rotary Townsville
- Mason Taylor
- Telstra
- The Cathedral School
- The Churches
- The Digimen
- The Family & Diabetic GP Clinic
- The Rural Shop.com
- Thuringowa Central Rotary
- Tahlulah Tillett
- Tip Top
- Barry & Donna Toohey
- TORO
- Tosco Business and Education
- Townsville Civic Theatre
- Townsville Earthmoving
- Townsville Fire
- Treasury Wine Estates
- UBX
- Veolia
- Virginia Park Station
- Waanyi Shamrock United
- Allan Walker
- Wandarra Pty Ltd
- John Wharton
- Evelyn Williames
- Wilmar Sugar and Renewables
- Bevan Wilson
- Sue Winter
- Merewyn Wright
- David Xabregas
- X-Golf Townsville
- XRX Business Services
- YETI
- Terry Young MP
- Rita Zappulla
- Robert Zigterman
- Anonymous Donors

MEDICAL SERVICES

Our valued health services partners support NRL Cowboys House's wraparound model of care, ensuring our students' physical and emotional health needs are met.

Through a combination of on-site and visiting services, these specialists are an important part of our House team as we work together to nurture and build the physical, mental and emotional health, strength and resilience of our young people.

We thank these partners for their commitment to our students in 2023:

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

Enabling an on-site psychologist and youth mental health worker to provide personal support and emotional resilience programs for our students.

Dr Kenny Clark and the Diabetic GP Clinic team

Providing visiting and on-call general practice services to meet the physical health needs of our students.

Mary Ann and Dr Garret at Outback Dental

Visiting the House each term to undertake dental hygiene.

QML Pathology

On-site attendance supporting the students' annual 715 health check.

House psychologist Charmaine Knox, supported by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

All is quiet at NRL Cowboys House until the students return from school and the Boys and Girls basketball courts come alive with the sound of their excited calls and laughter and the rhythmic bounce and rebound as another shot is taken! Our recreational areas are an essential part of our boarders' lives, thanks to partners Veolia.

NEW FACES, NEW FRIENDS

The start of the school year brings eagerness, excitement and optimism. Education is the overarching purpose of NRL Cowboys House, and our students make us proud every time they put on their uniforms and head off in search of knowledge - but there's something very special about that first day back!

EMPOWERING OUR WOMEN

NRL Cowboys House students started International Women's Day with inspirational words from those dedicated to working towards gender equality. Thanks to Sammy-Jo Kupfer and Les Tanner for inspiring our students to embrace equity. It was an opportunity for our Sistas Stand Strong program to shine, thanks to partners CBRE and Corporate Travel Management.

STRONG LIKE MUNDARLBI

A special connection between Mornington Island and NRL Cowboys House brought a unique design to life for the 2023 House polo and Cowboys Indigenous jersey. Lardil woman Renee Wilson shares the story of 'Mundarlbi' through her design, teaching those who wear it to show strength and resilience like the reef. House students were the first to get a glimpse of the design at the annual shirt presentation event, with senior students presenting shirts to their younger peers.

Mundarlbi

The painting is about a reef on Mornington Island called Mundarlbi. It is a traditional dance that is performed by us; in the dance you can see the actions represent waves and the reef with the waves trying to wash the reef away, but the reef remains. The story of this teaches us to be strong like the Mundarlbi reef. We can use this in our everyday life because it teaches us to never let anything bring us down. It teaches us Pride, Strength and Resilience that generates from our foundations and connections like Identity, Family, Culture and Country. Mundarlbi is a traditional Lardil song that was Dreamt by one of our senior songmen Cecil 'Ngawalin' Goodman, Ngawalin meaning "hard rock". This painting is a dedication to him as he has now passed on. – Renee Wilson.

2022 House graduate Josh Daniel took on a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) apprenticeship with Boys Campus Naming Partner, Downer Group

INTRODUCING REUBEN & TILLY

NRL Cowboys House welcomed two new inspirations in 2023, with North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Reuben Cotter and Tahlulah Tillett announced as House player ambassadors. Reuben and Tilly were presented with their NRL Cowboys House polos, featuring Renee Wilson's 'Mundarlbi' design, and were introduced to students at a special meet and greet.

REFLECTION & RECONCILIATION

NRL Cowboys House students, staff and partners came together to mark National Sorry Day and reflect on past injustices towards Indigenous Australians, particularly the Stolen Generations. Following speeches, dance performances and a minute's silence, attendees enjoyed breakfast together in reflection and support of reconciliation.

A taste of university life – thanks to the House's Development Achievement Team and the support of our dedicated partners including the Ian and Shirley Norman Foundation, our students are gaining vital knowledge to help them make choices on their education and employment journey.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Our NRL Cowboys House Interact Club has grown in its second year, making a meaningful impact on the lives of many. With activities including knitting teddy bears to send to Doomadgee and fundraisers like community car washes, the club has also added a coffee van to their pie van. Proceeds contribute to the costs for students nominated to represent their schools and the House in academic, sport, the arts and cultural activities.

GULGI-BARRA

Our House dancers performed 'Gulgi-barra' (Sand People) alongside an outstanding cast of Uncle David Mundraby, Dabul Dancers, Miriki Performing Arts and Kingdom Voices on some of the nation's biggest stages. This was our second year of collaborating with Miriki, as we continue to connect and educate our young people on culture.
Thank you to Miriki Performing Arts for the supply of performance photos.

Worn with pride by House students, staff, partners and supporters, and with an exciting design each year, the House polo is a popular fundraiser for the Cowboys Community Foundation. Thanks to the generous support of the Cowboys Leagues Club, all proceeds from sales through the Cowboys Team Shop go back to the charity.

FOR OUR ELDERS

This year's NRL Cowboys House NAIDOC Day was our biggest and best so far! With the theme 'For Our Elders', it was fantastic to have House students, families, staff and partners come together for this special annual event celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, traditions, and knowledge. This event was supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

GROWING OUR LEADERS

Under the guidance of our House staff, our year 11 students learned mentoring and leadership skills through team building and cultural and values-based tasks to help support their year 7 peers. Leadership skills are skills for life, and our students are well-equipped as they head into year 12 in 2024!

RAZZLE DAZZLE RUGBY

Congratulations to our outstanding teams who participated in the Townsville Festival of Rugby 7s! Our students displayed exemplary sportsmanship, playing fiercely and giving their all on the field. Not only did they showcase incredible skill and teamwork, but they also had a blast while doing it! A special shoutout to Tahlulah Tillett for her fantastic efforts in organising Gold Stars kit for the NRL Cowboys House girls team.

"It's all about the journey"

Thanks to BGIS, our House students continue to ride in style in our two Toyota Australia HiAce buses wrapped with Indigenous artwork, titled Ngeyarankinba (One Team), developed in a collaborative workshop led by internationally recognised Aboriginal artist Saretta Fielding of the Wonaruah Nation.

OPENING CAREER DOORS

What a fantastic opportunity for our senior students to learn about different industries, roles and pathways at our first Careers Expo! Employers from a range of industries visited the House to show students what they could expect in different careers, with our students getting an important glimpse of life after high school.

GAME DAY GIGS

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved on Cowboys game day at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, the biggest stage of all! Through the season students volunteered to help out with the Toyota Hilux Kick, while Deadly Choices Round was a great chance for a special pre-game dance performance. There was even an opportunity to meet Australian Idol winner Royston Noell!

Students again volunteered their time in 2023 to set up and pack down for the Toyota Hilux Kick, the popular pre-game segment at North Queensland Toyota Cowboys home games, supporting local charities and organisations as they kick for cash – thanks to partners Toyota and the Cowboys for this exciting opportunity!

WELCOME TO OUR HOME

We opened the doors to our students' 'home away from home' for our term commencement dinners this year, welcoming teachers, tutors, partners and friends for House tours and dinner. The student-led nights gave our young people a chance to show off our facility and give our wider House family an insight into boarding life at NRL Cowboys House.

House ambassador and proud Torres Strait Islander woman Tahlulah Tillett has spent quality time with us over the year, getting to know the students, sharing a meal and learning more about the journeys that brought them together. Their bond embodies the Sistas Stand Strong program, proudly supported by CBRE and Corporate Travel Management.

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GRATITUDE GALLERY

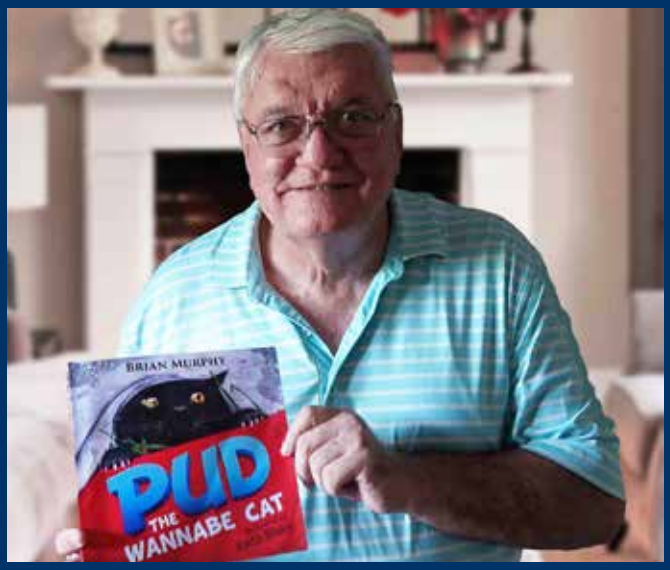
We love to welcome our partners, Friends of the House, donors and supporters to NRL Cowboys House – our campus is filled with energy, activity and children's laughter and is a special place to visit. We thank all of our supporters for their contribution to removing distance as a barrier to education for our young people from some of the most remote communities in Australia.

AMA GROUP

Bursary partners AMA Group are fantastic supporters of our House, not only providing valuable work placements but volunteering their time at Cowboys home games to sell 50-50 Charity Raffle tickets. Thank you, AMA!

KEITH BLAKE & BRIAN MURPHY

"Pud, The Wannabe Cat" – what a team! Illustrator Keith Blake has generously donated his royalties from book sales, while author Brian Murphy has donated copies of his book for fundraising. Awesome work!



FULTON HOGAN

It was great to have local and visiting team members from Friend of the House Fulton Hogan join us for NAIDOC Day celebrations – our partnership goes back to the beginning of our House and is part of our success today.

LEXUS OF TOWNSVILLE

Thank you to the amazing Rebecca Gravelle and the teams at Lexus of Townsville, Mike Carney Mahindra and Mike Carney Toyota for helping to sell 50-50 Charity Raffle tickets at three Cowboys home games in 2023!

ERGON ENERGY

Ergon Energy are a very hands-on Friend of the House, helping us with our yarning circle and also getting creative with didgeridoo making and sand art at NAIDOC Day – we love having you involved in our House!

FRONTIER VOICE & DATA

We welcomed the arrival of two new interactive digital learning boards, installed by Frontier Voice & Data Townsville and made possible by the Australian Government Department of Education's Emerging Priorities Grant.

LITEHAUS INTERNATIONAL

Making connections – LiteHaus continues to bridge the digital divide at the House with their donation of laptops for student use while staying at their 'home away from home' – thank you!

NANDO'S

It's one of our favourite nights on the calendar - Nando's Night! Their signature chicken is a treat for dinner, plus their kind donation of sleeping bags was a great boost for school camps!

GRATITUDE GALLERY

SMIT LAMNALCO

Thank you to bed donors Smit Lamnalco for their unique gift inspiring our students to connect, cope and stay grounded – a daily source of encouragement for our young people and staff.

TEAM JOHN

Huge thanks to the inspirational 'Team John' – John Andersen and John Hall – who tackled the 1,000km Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia to raise over $20,000 to support our social enterprise program.

TOWNSVILLE SUNRISE ROTARY

We are fortunate to have the continued support of our friends at Townsville Sunrise Rotary in driving our social enterprise program and pie van through the Interact Club – thank you!

VIVID

Fantastic to share NAIDOC Day with our Friend of the House, Vivid Property Services and to share the cultural activities and connection to students, families and Elders with General Manager Lisa Agnew.

TELSTRA

Bed donors Telstra brought their A-game as corporate volunteering partner for the Cowboys v Storm home game, giving up their Sunday afternoon to fundraise with the 50-50 Charity Raffle. Thanks to Josie, Rachel and the team!

TIP TOP

Keeping our students in 'tip top' health with excellent nutrition is a priority shared with Friend of the House Tip Top, who generously donate bread and bakery products – thank you to Shaun and his team!

WAANYI SHAMROCK UNITED CIVIL

Our bush tucker program is thriving, thanks to WSU Civil and funding from the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science, through the Community Sustainability Action Grants.

WANDARRA

It was fantastic to host Mary, Wade and Steve from Wandarra, NRL Cowboys House bed donors – a great opportunity to show them around our unique boarding facility and talk with students.

With the support of philanthropic partners The John Villiers Trust and Hand Heart Pocket, we are learning about our impact – transformative impact in the lives of our students from remote communities – like 2023 House Captains Leland and Desharnthie, who have led our House with courage and integrity and now step out into the world.

OUR GRADUATES

Through unwavering dedication, resilience and hard work, our graduating students have tackled their studies to lay a strong foundation for their futures. Guided by the education and transitions team, these young people have shown strength and commitment through the successes and challenges along the road while remaining committed to their culture, identity and purpose.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023.

We wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

Angela Stocks

EDUCATION FACILITATOR, NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona

Samjoe Baragud

Kylorren Beetham-Kepa

Steph Bob

Kelly Dalton

Kairon Hudson

Isaiah Kepa

Wyatt Lourigan

Leland Michael

Shontay Mick

Coralie Mundraby

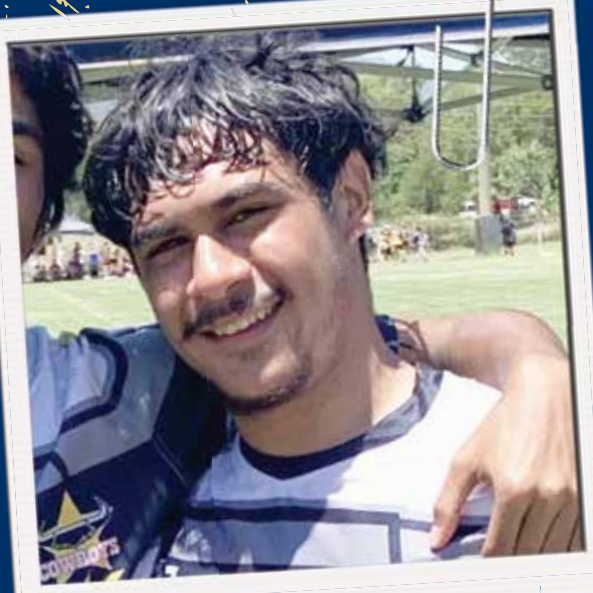
Bobby Naawi

Desharnthie Nona

Cooper Pearson

Connor Rogers

Ariel Tapim-Wailu



Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona

Charismatic Ruhkoa is certainly known to enjoy a laugh around campus with both staff and students. A respectful, driven and hard-working young man, the Badu Island teen shows absolute commitment to his studies through Tec-NQ, seemingly always on work experience placement. Because of this work ethic and infectious personality, Ruhkoa has already been offered job opportunities.

In his final year at NRL Cowboys House, Ruhkoa moved one step closer to achieving his dream of becoming an electrician after signing up for his school-based apprenticeship with All Air Electric and is set to commence a full-time apprenticeship with All Air after graduation.

Ruhkoa has played rugby league and rugby union during his time at the House and is often seen enjoying a laugh and socialising with his mates. Coming out of his shell at the leadership camp, Ruhkoa was the leader of the toad hunters! Said to have taken the position very seriously, he even tried to convince everyone around the fire to eat them!

With his positivity towards life, his cheeky demeanour and a very happy personality, we're sure Ruhkoa will be just fine with whatever pathway he takes after graduation.

Samjoe Baragud

Samjoe is an educator's dream, known to always submit his work on time – if not early! The Yam Island teen, son of Sammy and Jessie Baragud, is fondly remembered as one who always completes his work to the highest standard and never has to be reminded of the due date for his assessments.

Defined as a quiet, reliable and mature young man, the Pimlico State High School student is always willing to lend a hand to someone in need and can often be found socialising with his peers.

Following high school, Samjoe has shown an interest in pursuing a career as an electrician or diesel fitter.

Kylorren Beetham-Kepa

NRL Cowboys House staff admit every day is a lucky dip with Kylie! An incredibly bright young lady, Kylie is a go-getter who will let you know very quickly how she feels.

From Yam Island in the Torres Strait, the St Margaret Mary's College student is hoping to pursue a career in nursing, majoring in midwifery at James Cook University post-high school. With a very kind and caring nature, especially towards the younger House students, Kylie's fierce determination and hard work are sure to set her on the right path.

Already chasing her dream, Kylie attended the Mater Health Adventure during the July school holidays where she gained new experiences including holding a placenta from twins. This work experience built on the work placement she completed at Rosslea Medical Centre in 2022. In addition to this, Kylie has also completed a Certificate II in Hospitality, which saw her undertake many different roles in the St Margaret Mary's College café.

While in year 11, Kylie was also recognised alongside fellow House students for their high achievements in Townsville Catholic Education's First Peoples Emerging Leaders program. The accolade recognised Kylie's high attendance, academic improvement and growth in confidence to engage in school and the wider community – skills she will carry for life!

Steph Bob

Kind, compassionate and with a smile that can light up any room, Steph is an extremely kind and compassionate young lady with a big heart who is fiercely protective of her family and friends. From Warraber Island, and daughter to Winifred Mauga and Stephen Bob, the Queensland Pathways State College student's personality is sure to be a perfect fit for her hopes to pursue a career in aged care.

Off to a good start, Steph has undertaken work experience at Blue Care's Shalom Elders Village during term 2 of her final year at the House.

She has extended her experience and confidence through employment at the House as a kitchen assistant, and in education and transition administration.

Kelly Dalton

A quiet achiever who likes to keep to herself, Kelly flies under the radar at NRL Cowboys House. From Normanton, Kelly came out of her shell at the House leadership camp and showed just how funny she is! Although shy, she is very direct and will let staff know how she feels.

Culturally strong, the Queensland Pathways State College student has been engaged in her employment in Cultural Walking – overseeing excavation on traditional land and finding artefacts – on her family's land.

Kelly has also expressed interest in working at rural and remote airports following high school.

Kairon Hudson

A quiet, confident and well-mannered young man, Weipa's Kairon has left an indelible mark on everyone at NRL Cowboys House.

Active and athletic, Kairon is still choosing his career path with thoughts of joining the Australian Defence Force or becoming a diesel fitter. That will, of course, take a back seat if his beliefs that he will one day become an Olympic champion come true!

Kairon has emerged as one of Queensland's fastest runners, holding the Pimlico State High School record for 800m, 200m and 100m as well as high jump, triple jump and long jump. He has represented the district for all these events and been chosen for North Queensland trials on multiple occasions. With a love of rugby union, rugby league and AFL, he's a sporty individual who is often found shadow boxing in his spare time. Fitness won't ever be a problem!

With Kairon progressing well towards his QCE, we know that his determination to do his best will mean he will be just fine in whatever he chooses to do.

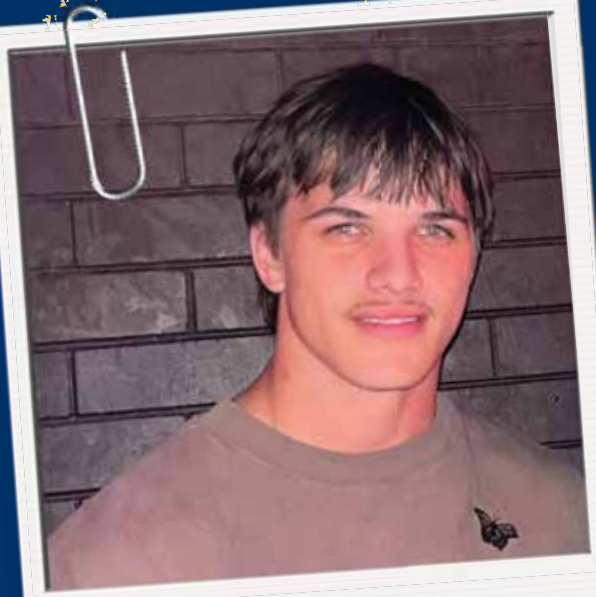
Isaiah Kepa

Shy but confident, Isaiah is a young man who shows a deep commitment to planning for his future. The Yam Island teen, son of Raina and Harold Kepa, Isaiah is often seen around the House simply throwing a footy around and having a laugh with his mates – but despite his relaxed nature, Isaiah has spent his final years at the House finding his place and creating a future for himself.

Isaiah has worked hard to complete all the work required to attain his QCE while simultaneously working hard in his work experience placements. Studying through Tec-NQ, Isaiah has been working with employers with real opportunities and potential to offer him a position should it be the right fit.

A bit of a joker, Isaiah made House staff laugh at the rugby union at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, when he ruined Bruce's big moment in the spotlight! Bruce was super excited when the ball came to him in the crowd and he tried to catch it, only for Isaiah to knock it from his grasp as he went up for it. It certainly led to plenty of banter amongst the boys at the game.

With aspirations of taking on an apprenticeship in plumbing post high school, Isaiah has set the foundations for his success, taking on a full-time paid apprenticeship with Tropic Roofing and Plumbing in his final year at the House. With his confidence, commitment and hard work, we're sure Isaiah will find the right pathway to success after graduation.



Wyatt Lourigan

Confident, respectful and independent, Wyatt is an athletically gifted young man who is pursuing his dream of playing for club and country in rugby league.

The Mossman student plays front row for his school, Ignatius Park College, and has already signed a development contract with the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys commencing post high school. Known by staff to have a good command over his future, Wyatt is working very hard to complete his QCE to open the door to follow his dreams.

Outside of his sporting pursuits, Wyatt has shown interest in gaining an apprenticeship in refrigeration and air conditioning.

Leland Michael

The 2023 NRL Cowboys House Boys' Boarding Captain, Leland has become a leader among the boys at NRL Cowboys House with his quiet and gentle nature.

The Kirwan State High School student from Cooktown, son of Bradley and Charlotte Michael, carries himself with a thoughtful and considered demeanour. Whilst he may not be the loudest voice in the room, his presence has a serene and calming aura that makes others around him feel at ease – the perfect temperament around younger students. With aspirations of heading to university after high school to become a fully qualified nurse, Leland has taken steps towards that pathway having attended James Cook University's Winter School in 2023.

Leland has shown leadership and maturity many times at the House, hosting official events throughout the year as boarding captain. He has displayed many of the same skills outside of the House and carried the voices of his peers while speaking at the Townsville First Nation Youth Council launch. Leland worked on his speech with his fellow House students to ensure topics close to them were heard.

Holding down a part-time job at Nando's Fairfield in his final year, Leland has made a strong impression on his employers, even designing, painting and donating cultural artwork to their head office and CEO. His work was designed to signify the connectedness between the House and his employer and showed significant gratitude for the opportunities given to him. Having seen how Leland carries himself, we just know he will succeed in whatever path he sets his mind to.

Shontay Mick

With a heart of gold, Shontay's incredible strength of spirit has shone through in her final years at NRL Cowboys House. From Doomadgee, and daughter to Shonae O'Keefe and Solomon Mick, Shontay's kindness radiates through her interactions with both staff and students. Those around her are inspired by her resilience in the face of life's challenges, with her friends and loved ones admiring her capacity for compassion and kindness.

Working hard at William Ross State High School, Shontay carried aspirations of working in hospitality, particularly as a café attendant, taking on work experience at Cowboys Leagues Club and Podium Café. Shontay was remembered by her work experience hosts as someone who was willing to work hard and try her hand at a range of new tasks, especially succeeding with coffee making.

Shontay brought tears to the eyes of many House staff and students towards the end of her year 12 studies as the first graduating student to celebrate her school formal. Many of the staff in attendance remarked on the young lady Shontay had become, with her growth from a shy student to confident young woman one of the greatest transformations the House has seen.

Thanks to her hard work and effort, Shontay has built a strong foundation for her future, and is sure to succeed in whatever she puts her mind to.

Coralie Mundraby

Articulate and driven, Coralie Mundraby knows exactly what she wants and is willing to do whatever it takes to make it. A very respectful and mature student, 'Coco' is an independent, strong and bright young lady, sure to make her parents Jacinta and Dwayen Sabo very proud.

From Normanton, the Queensland Pathways State College student has become a role model and leader for younger students at NRL Cowboys House and is often referred to as their "big sister". A House Boarding Leader, Coco doesn't shy away from responsibility in boarding and was employed by the House to assist in the kitchen, and education and transition administration. She also attended the Townsville City Council Youth Summit as an emerging leader.

Academically strong, Coco fast-tracked her graduation by completing more work than was required of her in her final year, receiving outstanding grades and feedback for her year 12 coursework. With a strong interest in working in the hospitality industry post high school, she is already taking proactive steps in the right direction, securing employment at the Weipa Golf Club.

As one who likes to laugh at her own jokes, Coco's bright and bubbly personality is sure to be missed by everyone at NRL Cowboys House, but with a strong foundation thanks to her hard work and perseverance, we are sure Coco will find success in her future endeavours!

Bobby Naawi

A bright, likeable, fun-loving young man, Bobby has a positive attitude and is often found socialising with his peers. From Moa Island, and son to Yunita Naawi and Justin David, the Pimlico State High student has progressed extremely well in his final year at school. Working towards his QCE, Bobby often spends plenty of time on his assignments to ensure they're submitted to the highest standard.

In his final year at NRL Cowboys House, Bobby spent a week of work experience with North Queensland civil infrastructure and plumbing business, GNM Group, getting a taste for one of his future career aspirations. Bobby was applauded for his effort during his time there and is now looking forward to landing a plumbing apprenticeship following graduation.

As part of his school's Structured Workplace Learning program for senior students, Bobby also completed a stint of work experience at Cowboys Leagues Club during year 11.

Not only succeeding academically, Bobby is also extremely talented on the athletics track, representing Pimlico State High School at the Townsville District Athletics Carnival in the 200m sprint and gaining selection in the school's 400m relay team.

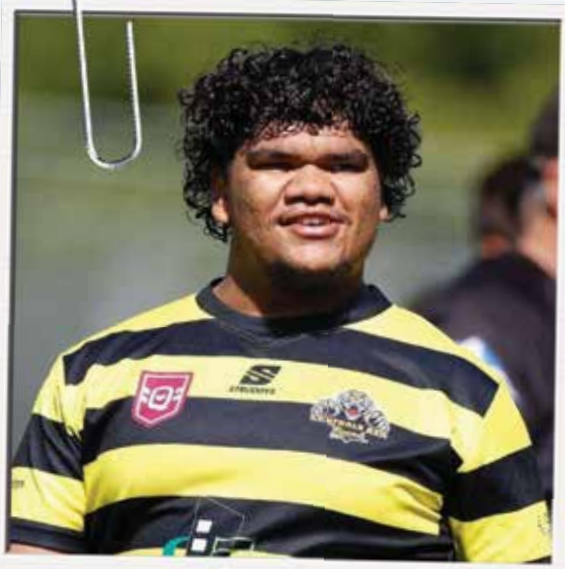
Desharnthie Nona

The 2023 NRL Cowboys House Girls' Boarding Captain, Desharnthie has shown leadership qualities beyond her years as a senior role model for younger students. From Warraber Island in the Torres Strait, she follows in her brother's footsteps, graduating a year after Haley to make mum Helga Nona very proud.

Sharnty, as she is affectionately known, is described by House staff as a fierce leader who is very outspoken and strives to get what she wants. This will set Sharnty in good stead as she follows a university pathway, planning to study nursing with a major in midwifery. She's already on the road to success having participated in the Mater Health Adventure in July and attended James Cook University's Winter School where she was exposed to the lifestyle of a university student, really enjoying the experience.

In her House leadership role, Desharnthie has been involved in leading many major events at the House as an MC, alongside boys' captain Leland. She was a familiar face hosting the 2023 NAIDOC Day celebrations, and also spoke at the National Sorry Day breakfast. She was also one of the very first to model this year's NRL Cowboys House polo on the day of its launch!

Sharnty certainly won't be remembered by those who know her for her poker face, said to be unable to hide her feelings because you can see it in her facial expressions. However, she is very, very funny, with her infectious laugh meaning you simply can't help but join in.



Cooper Pearson

With aspirations of becoming an Indigenous Ranger, Cooper Pearson has been working hard to pursue his career aspirations. Known for his laid-back demeanour and easy-going approach to life, the Yarrabah teen is known for taking each day as it comes, with a reputation for keeping calm under pressure and preferring to 'go with the flow'.

Studying hard at Kirwan State High School, Cooper has undertaken certificate courses in order to gain the knowledge and experience required for his future career as a ranger. While he has a firm backup plan to move into construction, we're sure that based on his teacher's feedback, he'll be just fine – they also describe him as an easy going, laid-back student who achieves exactly what he needs to.

Cooper had a taste of the alternative year 13 pathway after attending James Cook University's Winter School, enjoying the opportunity to live on campus and take part in academic lectures and team-building activities. On the last day he got to experience a mini version of what it's like graduating at a university level, making staff very proud!

Cooper also showed his talents on the football field, selected for Queensland in the Clontarf Foundation State of Origin game at Queensland Country Bank Stadium – due reward for working hard at school.

Connor Rogers

Another quiet achiever around NRL Cowboys House, Mornington Island's Connor Rogers is a very caring student with a strong work ethic. Culturally strong through her connection to both her home community and family, the Calvary Christian College student will be remembered as one who looks out for her fellow students.

Daughter to Selina Toby and Dwayne Rogers, Connor has an extremely strong connection to family and her home community. Connor is always prepared for study and school ensuring she completes everything she needs to succeed academically. With aspirations of getting into hairdressing or beauty therapy, Connor has taken a big step by completing work experience in the beauty therapy industry in her final year.

Connor is also athletically gifted and was chosen for the North Queensland Athletics Trials in her final year at the House. However, it was a far cry from when she gave staff a big laugh, climbing a tamarind tree but getting caught on a branch and left hanging when trying to get down – it was quite a sight!

Connor is also culturally strong and enjoys fishing when back home in community. Otherwise, she is content with simply spending time with her family. With the world at her feet, we just know Connor will put her work ethic and strengths to good use, building a bright future for herself.

Ariel Tapim-Wailu

Murray Island's Ariel will be fondly remembered as a kind, compassionate young lady whose smile lights up the room. An independent and diligent worker, Ariel is loved by students and staff at the House alike.

Daughter to Priscilla Wailu, Ariel attended St Margaret Mary's College where she undertook a Certificate II in Hospitality. Many of the staff at the House were fortunate to get to taste Ariel's cooking, with her chicken curry – a recipe from her Island home – one of the standouts. It wasn't the only taste of home that Ariel shared with staff and fellow students, taking part in cultural dance after really coming out of her shell at leadership camp.

While in year 11, Ariel received a high achievement in Townsville Catholic Education's First Peoples Emerging Leaders program alongside some of her fellow House and St Margaret Mary's College students. Ariel was recognised for her high attendance, improving academically and growing in confidence to engage more in her school and wider community – setting her in good stead for year 12.

Ariel is the second graduate from her family from the House, following in her brother Absalom's footsteps a year after his graduation. With career aspirations in aged care, we wish Ariel all the best knowing she only has to follow her heart to find success.

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We were proud to welcome ARC - The Australian Reinforcing Company as partners of NRL Cowboys House in 2023! Their logo features on the official House polo, reinforcing their commitment to creating opportunities for House students through training and employment pathways.

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For more information on how you can be involved, visit:
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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions and the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people across the nation.

Design: "Mundarlbi" by Renee Wilson