



NRL COWBOYS
HOUSE

2024
YEARBOOK



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(Pictured above, and featured on front cover)

The NRL Cowboys House 'On Country' program offers a holistic environment for students to learn and engage in cultural practices whilst out on country and in boarding.





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.



Rochelle Jones

GENERAL MANAGER,
NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

WELCOME

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which NRL Cowboys House operates. We pay our respects to their 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 we turn the pages of our 2024 yearbook, we hope our students and their families feel fulfilled by their experiences and proud of what they have achieved.

This year's polo shirt design by our own Bradley 'Chooky' Michael tells the story of *Nhinhinhi Gurra Bamawi Guugu*, how the giant Nhinhinhi fish swallowed up the clans speaking one language and spat them out speaking all different languages.

At NRL Cowboys House we embrace each other's uniqueness and come together to create a culturally safe environment where our students want to be, and each one can truly flourish.

A huge part of that is working together with our students, their families and their communities to ensure they remain connected to their culture and that connection is nurtured and celebrated.

Our memorable 2024 NAIDOC Day celebration saw a huge number of family members travel to attend the event, along with many additional guests, staff and students. We shared activities including spear throwing, damper and scone making, weaving, grass skirt making, totem pole painting, charcoal drawing, didgeridoo making, raffia fan making, traditional dancing and that amazing feast supplied and cooked by our families.

NRL Cowboys House was also awarded the National Award for Excellence in Indigenous Boarding by the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) at its annual national conference in Canberra. This award reflects the dedication and hard work of our staff, the resilience of our students, and the support of our families and friends. It reaffirms our commitment to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Long term, we intend to expand our support services for students and provide further transitional support for our graduates as they enter the workforce within the context of an affordable housing solution. That work has already begun this year, and we look forward to progressing these plans ready for 2025.

As role models and mentors to our young people, House player ambassadors Reuben Cotter and Tahlulah Tillet continued to offer support, friendship and guidance – often in their own personal time – through 2024. They are a living example of "if you can't see it, you can't be it" for our students and we are grateful for their contribution.

The future is bright for the House and our students, including the cohort of 2024 graduates. Your hard work and determination have led you to this significant milestone, and we are incredibly proud of your achievements. You are the future leaders, changemakers, and innovators of our communities, and we cannot wait to see where your journeys take you.

Congratulations to everyone who has made 2024 such an exceptional and transformative year at NRL Cowboys House.



Community
FOUNDATION





HOUSE BROTHERS & SISTERS

NRL Cowboys House boarders come from 26 remote and regional communities across Far North Queensland, Australia. We are proud of our students' hard work, dedication and accomplishments at their chosen high school.



Our students attend 10 different partner schools across Townsville:

St Margaret Mary's College (SMMC)

Ignatius Park College (IPC)

Townsville Grammar School (TGS)

Kirwan State High School (KSHS)

Pimlico State High School (PSHS)

Calvary Christian College (CCC)

Townsville State High School (TSHS)

Heatley Secondary College (HSC)

Queensland Pathways State College (QPSC)

William Ross State High School (WRSHS)

Our students are a vital part of our House family and local community, and are an inspiration to loved ones back home. This year we acknowledge and celebrate the communities our students are from.

AURUKUN

Shakayla Kerindun Year 9 SMMC

BADU ISLAND

Anaclita Ahmat Year 12 SMMC

Walter Dau Year 10 IPC

Walter Nona Year 9 TGS

BAMAGA

Antwone Agie Year 12 KSHS

Grethel Mairu Year 10 KSHS

BOIGU ISLAND

Marina Aruba Year 10 PSHS

Steven Tom Year 12 IPC

COEN

Lhere Forester Year 11 CCC

COOKTOWN & HOPE VALE

Aleeah Michael Year 11 KSHS

Makeilla Gibson Year 12 KSHS

Trevor Gibson Year 8 TSHS

Aydah-Maree Ross-Kelly Year 11 KSHS

Ty Gibson Year 11 HSC

DARNLEY ISLAND

Jerry Mipari Year 10 IPC

Loretta Thaiday Year 7 TSHS

Nelson Thaiday Year 7 TSHS

DOOMADGEE

Amaziah Ah Wing Year 9 SMMC

Cyntara Cairns Year 9 SMMC

Destiny Escott Year 12 QPSC

Fredrick Mick Year 12 QPSC

Kallis Toby-Isaac Year 10 KSHS

Keelin Hookey Year 12 IPC

Kendra Stacey Year 8 HSC

Zacariah Punjaub Year 8 HSC

KOWANYAMA

Donny Patrick Year 9 IPC

Jetaeo Smiler Year 8 TSHS

Patrick Daniel Year 8 IPC

Tillancia Yam Year 7 PSHS

LOCKHART RIVER

Isaac Accoom Year 12 HSC

MAREEBA

Erma Kynuna Year 9 HSC

Mayarna Donahue Year 10 HSC

MOA ISLAND

Jonathan Hosea-Peters Year 8 IPC

Racyna Binawel Year 8 SMMC

Tishara (Tia) Tamwoy Year 10 SMMC

MORNINGTON ISLAND

Dallas Darby Year 10 HSC

Mungu Toby Year 11 HSC

Taliliya (Tanya) Toby Year 12 PSHS

Valentayzia Thompson Year 8 HSC

MURRAY ISLAND

Kalina Zaro Year 11 KSHS

NAPRANUM

Tahliah (TJ) Jawai Year 11 KSHS

NORMANTON

Brody Grieve Year 8 IPC

Oliver McCann* Year 8 IPC

OLD MAPOON

Rahu Mara Year 12 CCC

Domarion (Zecky) Doolah Year 10 KSHS

Elianah Tabuai Year 11 CCC

Kyra Tabuai Year 8 TGS

Kyson Tabuai Year 9 KSHS

Narzaliah Doolah Year 11 SMMC

PALM ISLAND

Basil Robertson Year 7 TSHS

Georgia Clay Year 10 SMMC

Melikah (Rose) Richardson Year 7 HSC

Milleah Fulford Year 9 KSHS

Sincere Sibley Year 11 KSHS

Kudjarli-J Nuggins Year 11 CCC

Chenille Bengaroo* Year 10 SMMC

SAIBAI ISLAND

Jaum (Ralph) Sam Year 10 IPC

Jonathan Dau Year 11 IPC

Joseph Sam Year 10 IPC

Junior (Sam Leon) Dau Year 7 KSHS

Kala (Phillip) Sam Year 10 IPC

THURSDAY ISLAND

Denzel Daniels-Misi Year 10 WRSHS

Hezekiah Nona Year 11 IPC

Joelle Williams Year 7 TGS

Keith Yorkston (Jnr) Year 9 KSHS

Kentaro Sabatino Year 11 PSHS

Rolatielu (Telu) Joe Year 10 HSC

Tshak Daniels-Misi Year 11 PSHS

WARRABER ISLAND

Louish Mari Year 11 HSC

Dorriah Pearson Year 7 KSHS

Lekizah Mene-Larry Year 7 KSHS

Peter Bob Year 11 WRSHS

Rathony Pearson Year 10 IPC

Romell Sorogo Year 10 IPC

Samuel Tamu Year 9 IPC

Jacinta Mari* Year 8 HSC

WUJAL WUJAL

Carleesha Tayley Year 11 HSC

YAM ISLAND

Bruce Baudu Year 12 IPC

Kesia Bob Year 10 SMMC

Irene Mari Year 12 HSC

Jacob Mareko Year 8 PSHS

Jaqlyn Kepa Year 11 SMMC

Milton Larry Year 10 IPC

Naraira Bann Year 9 SMMC

William Mareko Year 8 PSHS

Thelrina Akene* Year 9 HSC

YARRABAH

Benjamin Noble Year 9 KSHS

Cyprian (CJ) Mossman Year 8 KSHS

Kairi Yeatman Year 9 KSHS

Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble Year 12 KSHS

Lakarna Kynuna Year 8 PSHS

Nahkayia Yeatman Year 9 KSHS

Stirling Ludwick Year 7 TSHS

Talan Mossman Year 10 KSHS

YORKE ISLAND

Ivan Mosby-Pearson Year 7 KSHS

Beatrice (Timena) Messa Year 12 WRSHS

Elson Asai (Wosomo) Year 8 TSHS

Peah Messa Year 10 TGS

Zaleah Mosby-Nona Year 12 KSHS

AURUKUN

Shakayla Kerindun



BADU ISLAND

Walter Nona, Walter Dau & Anaclita Ahmat



BAMAGA

Grethel Mairu & Antwone Agie



BOIGU ISLAND

Steven Tom & Marina Aruba



COEN

Lhere Forester



DARNLEY ISLAND

Nelson Thaiday, Loretta Thaiday & Jerry Mipari



COOKTOWN & HOPE VALE

Trevor Gibson, Aydah-Maree Ross-Kelly, Aleeah Michael, Makeilla Gibson & Ty Gibson



DOOMADGEE

Kallis Toby-Isaac, Amaziah Ah Wing, Keelin Hookey, Destiny Escott, Cyntara Cairns, Kendra Stacey, Fredrick Mick and Zacariah Punjaub



KOWANYAMA

Donny Patrick, Jetaeo Smiler, Tillancia Yam and Patrick Daniel



LOCKHART RIVER

Isaac Accoom



MAREEBA

Erma Kynuna and Mayarna Donahue



MOA ISLAND

Racyna Binawel and Jonathan Hosea-Peters



MURRAY ISLAND

Kalina Zaro



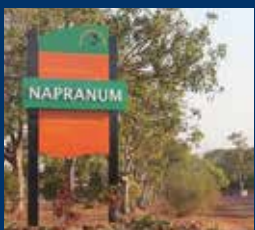
MORNINGTON ISLAND

Taliliya (Tanya) Toby, Valentayzia Thompson, Mungu Toby and Dallas Darby



NAPRANUM

Tahliyah (TJ) Jawai



NORMANTON

Brody Grieve



OLD MAPOON

Kyra Tabuai, Narzaliah Doolah, Domarion (Zecky) Doolah, Rahu Mara, Kyson Tabuai and Elianah Tabuai



PALM ISLAND

Georgia Clay, Melikah (Rose) Richardson, Sincere Sibley, Basil Robertson and Milleah Fullford



SAIBAI ISLAND

Jonathan Dau, Kala (Phillip) Sam, Joseph Sam, Junior (Sam Leon) Dau and Juam (Ralph) Sam



THURSDAY ISLAND

Keith Yorkston (Jnr), Hezekiah Nona, Joelle Williams, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Denzel Daniels-Misi and Kentaro Sabatino



WARRABER ISLAND

Romell Sorogo, Dorriah Pearson, Peter Bob, Louish Mari, Rathony Pearson, Lekizah Mene-Larry and Samuel Tamu



WUJAL WUJAL

Carleesha Tayley



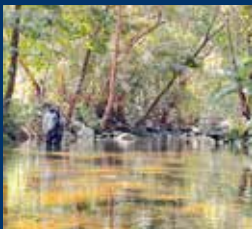
YAM ISLAND

Irene Mari, William Mareko, Bruce Baudu, Naraira Bann, Rolatielu (Telu) Joe, Kesia Bob, Milton Larry, Jaqlyn Kepa and Jacob Mareko



YARRABAH

Lakarna Kynuna, Talan Mossman, Stirling Ludwick, Benjamin Noble, Nahkayiah Yeatman, Cyprian (C.J) Mossman, Kairi Yeatman and Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble



YORKE ISLAND

Beatrice (Timena) Messa, Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Ivan Mosby-Pearson and Peah Messa



NEW STUDENTS

Chenille Bengaroo (Palm Island), Thelrina Akene (Yam Island), Jacinta Mari (Warraber Island) and Oliver McCann (Normanton)



HOUSE STAFF

ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES



Karen Haughton
Business Manager

Nicci Angus
Administration &
Student Wellbeing

Helen Santo
Administration
Officer

Renee Reston
Facilities Manager

BOARDING TEAM



Front row (L-R): Amelia Sewell, Kevin Tamwoy, Kylie Lukasik, Betty Mabo, Jo-Jo Mareko
Second row: Guyson Sok, Cooper Pearson, Tyreece Michael, Ruth Kepa, Ashley Dunn, Roy Auda
Third row: Joshua Rowan, David Nona, Jonathan Cini, Tony Steen, Nathan Mellor
Absent: Bradley Michael, Vinson Babia, Louisa Babia, Mabata Gamoga, Byron Dimech, Rena O'Cloudy

EDUCATION TEAM



Ange Stocks
Education
Facilitator

Kim Bolton
Education
Facilitator

Michael Webster
Education
Facilitator

Raelene Frantz-Davis
Education Manager

Emma Fuller
Education
Facilitator

Sarah Potts
Education
Facilitator

TRANSITIONS TEAM



Leita Wason
Transition Officer

Derek Reston
Transition Officer

Shaye Baker
Travel Officer

Jimmy Spradbrow
Transition Officer

Zara Doherty
Transition Officer

HOUSE STAFF

WELLBEING & PROGRAMS



Kate Holznagel
Programs Manager

KITCHEN



Rhonda Payne
Kitchen Mother

Sue Falkenhagen
Kitchen Mother & Volunteer Gardener

Our House staff are passionate, dedicated and committed to the health, happiness and success of all of our students.
Thank you for making NRL Cowboys House a "home away from home"!





HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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



ACADEMIC

ATSIMS program - Domarion Doolah, Peah Messa

Deadly Start Graduate Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance - Tanya Toby

Connect n Grow Certificate III in Health Services Assistance - Kalina Zaro

Ignatius Park College Diligence Award - Hezekiah Nona

Calvary Christian College Ezra House Leader - Elianah Tabuai

St Margaret Mary's College Emerging Leaders - Anaclita Ahmat, Amaziah Ah Wing, Cyntara Cairns, Georgia Clay, Racyna Binawel, Shakayla Kerindun, Naraira Bann, Jaqlyn Kepa, Narzaliah Doolah

QATSIF Graduate - Anaclita Ahmat, Bruce Baudu, Irene Mari, Keelin Hookey, Rahu Mara, Steven Tom, Timena Messa

Townsville Grammar School Pro Dilegentia Award - Kyra Tabuai

Heatley Secondary College Senior Star of the Year Award - Louish Mari

Heatley Secondary College, Year 10 Clontarf Academic Student of the Year - Dallas Darby

Heatley Secondary College Brilliant Behaviour Award - Zacariah Punjaub, Melikah Richardson

Heatley Secondary College Inspirational Improvement Award - Kendra Stacey

Heatley Secondary College Clontarf Attendance Award - Zacariah Punjaub, Dallas Darby, Rolatielu (Telu) Joe, Mungu Toby, Ty Gibson, Isaac Accoom

Pimlico State High School School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year - Tanya Toby



SCHOOL SPORT

NQ Athletics Running - Jerry Mipari, Milleah Fulford, Narly Doolah

NQ Athletics Shot Put - Samuel Tamu

NQ All Schools Touch Football - Kairi Yeatman

NQ School Girls Rugby League Team - Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Aydah Ross-Kelly, Milleah Fulford, Naraira Bann

Heatley Secondary College Overall Age Champion Open Boys - Isaac Accoom

Heatley Secondary College Dedication in Sport Award (Basketball) - Isaac Accoom

Heatley Secondary College 2nd Place Cross Country - Ty Gibson, Isaac Accoom

Ignatius Park College QLD Schoolboys Merit Team - Bruce Baudu

Ignatius Park College Year 8 Rugby League Team - Brody Grieve

Kirwan State High School Grizzlies Rugby League Finalist - Aydah Ross-Kelly, Makeilla Gibson, Zaleah Mosby-Nona

St Margaret Mary's College Rugby League Team - Anaclita Ahmat, Jaqlyn Kepa, Narzaliah Doolah

St Margaret Mary's College Cross Country Team and Athletics Team - Narzaliah Doolah

Townsville Grammar School Athletics Team - Joelle Williams

Townsville Grammar School Cross Country Team - Joelle Williams, Kyra Tabuai

Townsville Grammar School Touch Team - Joelle Williams, Kyra Tabuai

Townsville State High School Running 2nd place 100m - Trevor Gibson

William Ross Australian Rules Boys Gala Day 2024 - Peter Bob

William Ross Rugby League Blocksport team - Peter Bob

William Ross Rugby League All Stars Gala Day - 9/10 Boys - Denzel Daniels-Misi

Interscholar Athletic Carnival Team - Doriah Pearson, Elianah Tabuai, Jerry Mipari, Kairi Yeatman, Kentaro Sabatino, Milleah Fulford, Peter Bob, Romell Sorogo, Samuel Tamu, Tahlyiah Jawai, Narzaliah Doolah



LEADERSHIP

Heatley Secondary College Indigenous Captain - Irene Mari

William Ross State High School Indigenous Captain - Timena Messa

NRL Cowboys House Interact Club - Amaziah Ah Wing, Bruce Baudu, Cyntara Cairns, Georgia Clay, Joelle Williams, Kentaro Sabatino, Kyra Tabuai, Lakarna Kynuna, Loretta Thaiday, Marina Aruba, Hezekiah Nona, Philip Sam, Ralph Sam, Tahliyah (TJ) Jawai

NRL Indigenous Youth Summit (Sydney) - Elianah Tabuai, Hezekiah Nona, Kentaro Sabatino, Kalina Zaro

Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program - Kalina Zaro, Tahliyah Jawai, Irene Mari, Louish Mari, Ty Gibson, Mungu Toby, Dallas Darby, Hezekiah Nona, Elianah Tabuai, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Joseph Sam, Philip Sam, Ralph Sam, Jonathan Dau

InspireU Program UQ University Brisbane - Peah Messa

Murrup Bank/ University of Melbourne Open Day - Kairi Yeatman, Marina Aruba, Tahliyah (TJ) Jawai

Ignatius Park College Deadly Bala Award - Bruce Baudu

Ignatius Park College Dhabu Connection Djanaya Yamba (On Country) Award - Hezekiah Nona

CULTURAL

Miriki Dance Troupe - Kentaro Sabatino, Lakarna Kynuna, Phillip Sam, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Lekizah Mene-Larry, Peah Messa, Walter Nona, Hezekiah Nona, Samuel Tamu

NRL Cowboys House Dance Group - Anaclita Ahmat, Bruce Baudu, Dorriah Pearson, Hezekiah Nona, Irene Mari, Jaum (Ralph) Sam, Kala (Phillip) Sam, Kentaro Sabatino, Kesia Bob, Lakarna Kynuna, Lekizah Mene-Larry, Loretta Thaiday, Louish Mari, Marina Aruba, Mayarna Donahue, Naraira Bann, Peah Messa, Rolatielu (Telu) Joe, Samuel Tamu, Steven Tom, Tahliyah (TJ) Jawai, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Walter Nona

Artwork in the Library NAIDOC Exhibition - Brody Grieve, Dorriah Pearson, Irene Mari, Keelin Hookey, Kesia Bob, Marina Aruba, Rahu Mara, Tillancia Yam

Artwork in Young Indigenous Printmakers Exhibition - Elianah Tabuai, Kudjarli Nuggin, Lhere Forester, Rahu Mara

Artwork in Compact Print Exhibition - Dorriah Pearson, Irene Mari, Ivan Mosby-Nona, Lakarna Kynuna, Louish Mari, Mayarna Donahue, Nahkayia Yeatman, Peah Messa, Racyna Binawel, Rahu Mara

CBRE Print Auction - Amaziah Ah Wing, Grethel Mairu, Kesia Bob, Marina Aruba, Naraira Bann, Peah Messa, Racyna Binawel, Rahu Mara, Rolatielu Joe, Tshak Daniels-Misi

Commissioned artwork for CBRE - Destiny Escott, Fredrick Mick

Indigenous Round North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Boots - Anaclita Ahmat, Kairi Yeatman, Kentaro Sabatino, Kesia Bob, Lakarna Kynuna, Mayarna Donahue, Nahkayia Yeatman, Peah Messa, Ralph Sam, Tillancia Yam

NRLW Values Artwork - Elianah Tabuai, Anaclita Ahmat, Aydah Ross-Kelly, Destiny Escott, Dorriah Pearson, Grethel Mairu, Irene Mari, Joelle Williams, Kalina Zaro, Kesia Bob, Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble, Kyra Tabuai, Lekizah Mene-Larry, Louish Mari, Marina Aruba, Milleah Fulford, Naraira Bann, Peah Messa, Racyna Binawel, Rahu Mara, Shakayla Kerindun, Tahliyah Jawai, Tanya Toby, Tillancia Yam, Timena Messa, Zaleah Mosby-Nona

People Culture Country Wearable Arts Project - Denzel Daniels-Misi, Peter Bob, Timena Messa

St Margaret Mary's College Torres Strait Dance Group - Naraira Bann, Anaclita Ahmat

Townsville Grammar School Dance Group - Walter Nona, Peah Messa, Kyra Tabui, Joelle Williams

CLUB / REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League Champions - Samuel Tamu

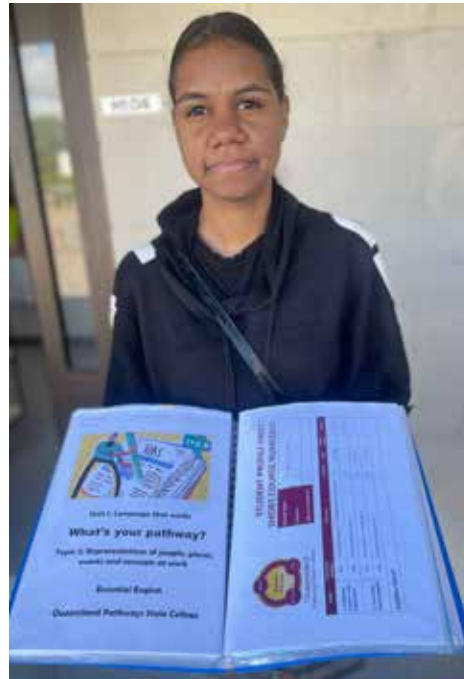
Top Try Scorer in the Townsville District Rugby League - Milleah Fulford

Michael Morgan Cup Grand Final - Marina Aruba

Michael Morgan Cup Grand Final - Denzel Daniels-Misi

Townsville Volleyball - Amaziah Ah Wing





PARTNER SCHOOLS

Thank you to our 10 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 State College
- St Margaret Mary's College
- Townsville Grammar School
- Townsville State High School
- William Ross State High School



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Our valued health services play a crucial role in supporting NRL Cowboys House's comprehensive wraparound model of care, ensuring the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Through a combination of on-site and visiting services, these specialists form an essential part of our House team, working together to nurture and strengthen the health, resilience and overall wellbeing of our young people.

We are deeply grateful to these business for their dedication to our students in 2024:

- **Northern Queensland Primary Health Network** – providing an on-site psychologist and youth mental health worker to offer personal support and emotional resilience programs for our students
- **Mary Ann and Dr Garrett at Project Outback Dental** – visiting the House each term and offering dental care at their practice
- **The Diabetic GP Clinic** – delivering weekly clinics that cover all student health needs, including 715 health checks and immunisations
- **Lives Lived Well** – offering counselling to promote healthy choices and overall wellbeing
- **Synergy Health and Fitness** – educating students on dietary needs, with a special focus on those with complex health conditions
- **The Athlete's Foot** – supplying supportive footwear for our students

We thank these businesses for their unwavering commitment to the health and success of our students.



HEALTH & WELLBEING IN ACTION



Thanks to the generous support of SeaLink, students experienced a day as a surf lifesaver on Magnetic Island.

INTERACT / LEADERSHIP

INTERACT CLUB

The NRL Cowboys House Interact Club is committed to community service and helping others. It is proudly supported by Townsville Sunrise Rotary Club. The club's focus is to bring young people together to develop leadership skills while also discovering the power of service above self. This year the club's major project was donating books, colouring books and coloured pencils to Townsville's Ronald McDonald House. The enthusiastic group of students also ran a number of car washes to raise money for the book drive, Rugby 7s carnivals and the House dance group; wrote gratitude cards to all staff and assisted in the coffee van and feeding participants in the Cadet Games.

Congratulations to the 2024 Interact Club – you have clearly put service above self.



YOUTH SUMMIT



LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to students who participated in Leadership Activities throughout 2024. These included:

- Year 11 Cowboys House Leadership Camp
- NRL Indigenous Youth Summit (pictured left)
- The University of Melbourne Workshops
- University of Queensland InspireU Program
- Townsville First Nation Youth Council
- ABSA Boarder Leadership Conference
- Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program

INTERACT / LEADERSHIP

TOWNSVILLE FIRST NATION YOUTH COUNCIL (TFNYC)



QATSIF



YEAR 11 CAMP



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



PROGRAMS



WEEK 1 PROGRAM

Each term begins with a dynamic schedule of afternoon activities aimed at preparing students for a successful and productive term. These activities focus on developing our core values of family, resilience, and integrity through team-building exercises and workshops led by guest presenters on topics such as life skills, e-safety, making healthy choices, hygiene, and goal setting. Week 1 Programs also include important links with the Transitions Team like an 'Opportunities Showcase', site visits, and 'TAFE Tasters', all of which provide students with a chance to explore career and hobby options.



PROGRAMS

YEAR 7 & 8 PROGRAM

The Year 7 and 8 program at the House is designed to support students' personal growth, wellbeing and resilience through structured activities throughout the year. This program helps students adjust to boarding life while developing critical life skills, forming healthy habits, and building strong peer connections.



YEAR 9 & 10 PROGRAM

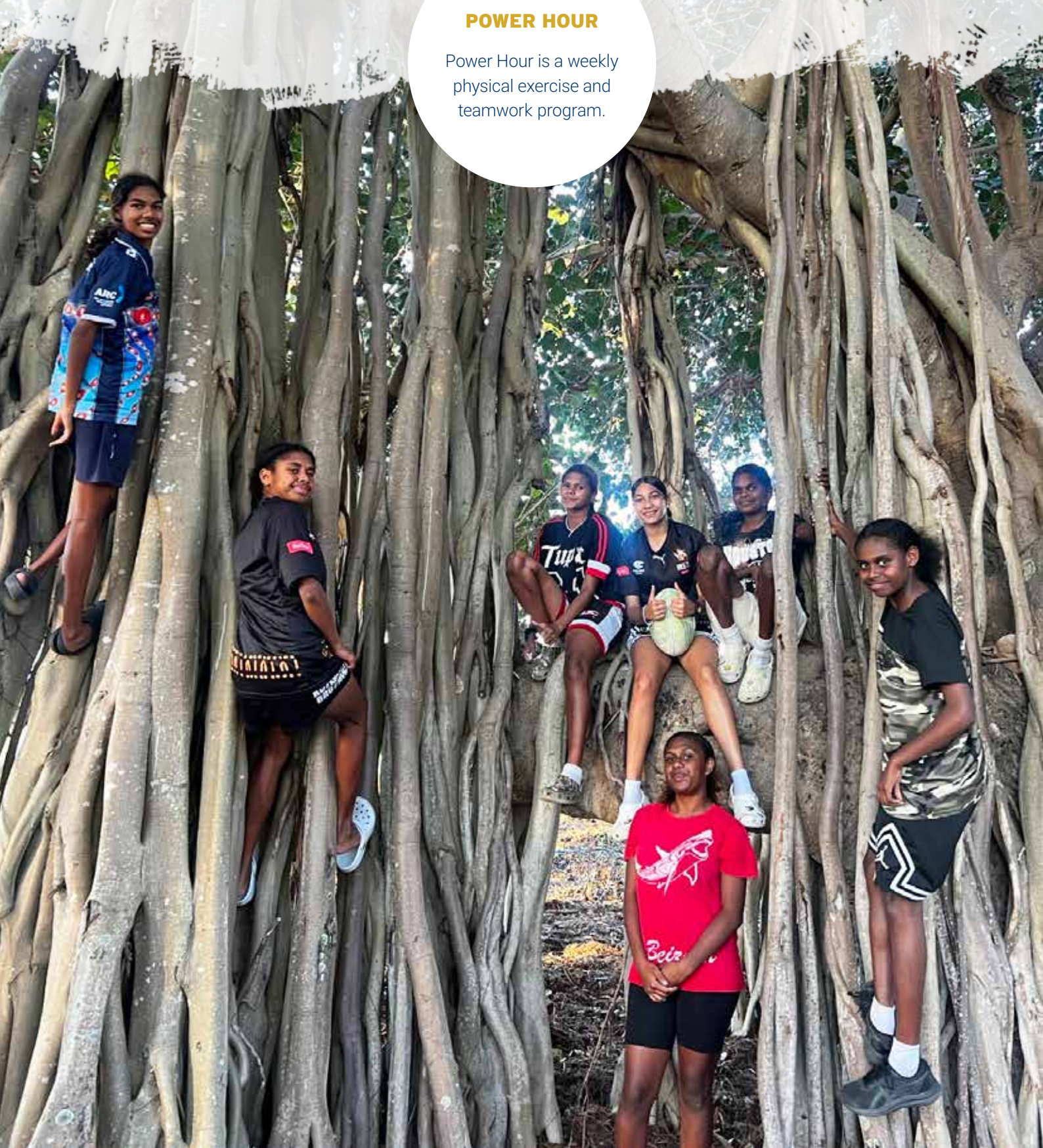
Held once a term, the Year 9 and 10 program focuses on a range of developmental activities. These include team-building exercises, job readiness skills, wellbeing development, strengthening peer relationships, problem-solving strategies, basic first aid knowledge, and personal hygiene education. This holistic approach ensures students are equipped with practical skills and a strong sense of community.





POWER HOUR

Power Hour is a weekly physical exercise and teamwork program.



EDUCATION PROGRAM

The students of NRL Cowboys House are dedicated to their schooling and our Education Team is crucial to the connection between our partner schools, students and families. Congratulations to all the graduating students on receiving their Queensland Certificate of Education – it's a fantastic achievement. Highlights of the year have been our Stakeholder Dinners; Year 11 and 12 Parent Information Sessions; Senior Education and Training (SET) planning meetings with Year 10 students, parents and teachers; and of course, our students' favourite – Study Time. These events clearly show the strong support system we have in place for our students.

STAKEHOLDER DINNERS

Inviting our partner school teachers to tour NRL Cowboys House and have dinner with the students strengthens the bond between the schools and the House. These visits help teachers better understand the students' environment, fostering a deeper connection and more personalised support. It is very rewarding for our students to showcase their home and study space and share their boarding experiences.



YEAR 11 & 12 PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

At the beginning of Term 2, our Year 11 and 12 Parents visited the House to meet with their student's Case Management Teacher (CMT) and Transitions Officer about their progress and future plans. Family involvement makes a significant difference in the education journey, providing encouragement and motivation. The House truly values these connections and works hard to foster them.



YEAR 10 SET PLANNING

Year 10 can be a challenging time for students, as they balance a full range of subjects while making important decisions about their future studies. It's wonderful that parents are involved in this process, attending meetings with the Case Management Teacher and Transitions team.

This kind of support can make a huge difference in helping students navigate their choices and feel confident about their decisions. It's also great that parents get to see where their children go to school and meet their teachers. This not only helps them understand the academic environment but also strengthens the support network around the students.



STUDY TIME & TUTORING

At 3.45pm Monday to Thursday our students attend study. The enthusiasm for Study Time speaks volumes about the positive learning atmosphere at NRL Cowboys House. It's clear that the students appreciate the guidance and resources available to them. Having a dedicated time to focus on their 'Do Now' tasks, homework and upcoming assessments with the support of their Case Management Teacher and tutors is incredibly beneficial. Our well-structured and supportive environment helps students stay on top of their work and feel confident in their studies. We couldn't do this without our teachers and tutors!

TUTORING PROGRAM

We love having tutors from diverse backgrounds supporting our education activities at the House. The Tutoring Program continues to be a rewarding and enriching experience for all of our study groups – we are so grateful to our tutors for sharing their time, skills and knowledge with us.



TUTORS

Deb Backer	Amy Knowles
Anneke Bak	Harrison Leavers
Eleanor Barker	Clio Ozanne-Jacques
Tori Bonyhai	Maggie Stephens
Isabel Griffin	Molly Swanton
Sarah Heames	Sinouya Tuckerman
Ruby James	

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Sheri Ayoub
Tristan Kun
Thomas Rebetzke
Katherine Terry



CULTURAL PROGRAM

House students were involved in many exciting activities and events as part of our Cultural Program this year. They showed incredible artistry across their creative pursuits and built on their skills in community engagement by sharing stories with our local community. Congratulations and thank you to our students who brought smiles to so many faces!

THE ARTS

NRLW VALUES ARTWORKS

NRL Cowboys House students took part in the NRLW Values Artwork project, where they created unique artworks for players who had each chosen their most important personal value for the season, such as 'family' or 'discipline'.

The students interpreted these values into visual art pieces, which were presented to the players before their first home game, celebrating the deep connection between values and sport.





THE ARTS

NRL FOOTY BOOTS PROJECT

The Football Boots Project involved NRL Cowboys House students creating unique Indigenous designs for North Queensland Cowboys players' boots for the Deadly Choices Round.

Under the guidance of cultural officers and staff, the students learned new skills like airbrushing, incorporating cultural stories, and symbolism into their designs. This initiative symbolised the unity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and rugby league, showcasing the students' talents and culture.

After the Indigenous Round, the hand-painted, player-signed boots were auctioned to raise funds for the Cowboys Community Foundation.



THE ARTS

EmpowerINK

EmpowerINK is a dynamic program designed to equip Indigenous youth with the skills to launch and manage their own printmaking businesses. Through hands-on workshops, and mentorship, participants gain both artistic and entrepreneurial expertise.

The program promotes cultural empowerment by encouraging the integration of Indigenous stories and traditions into printmaking, while also fostering community connections and recognition.



'WELCOME': A COLLABORATIVE ARTWORK

The collection showcases 25 unique artworks that explore the theme of belonging, each reflecting the diverse interpretations of 'welcome' from Year 11 and Year 12-NRL Cowboys House students. The students were invited to reflect on what 'welcome' means to them and their communities, drawing inspiration from family and friends back home to collaboratively shape their pieces.

Proceeds from the artwork sales will be used by the students to make a meaningful contribution to their boarding community. They plan to collectively decide on how best to give back, with options such as creating a mural or another significant project that will leave a lasting legacy for future boarders.



ON COUNTRY



DANCE



MIRIKI PERFORMING ARTS

Our dancers collaborated with Miriki Performing Arts in their 2024 production of Seed of Destiny performed in Cairns, North Queensland.



QLD GIVES PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

Our dance troupe performed at City Hall in Brisbane, and also toured CTM's Brisbane office, pictured below.



DANCE

The Cultural Dance Program provides students with artistic spaces to experience, learn and develop cultural and contemporary dance forms.



DIDGERIDOO

The Didgeridoo Program gives young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander men the opportunity to learn basic to intermediate didgeridoo playing techniques - upskilling them with knowledge and protocols that come with committing to learning this sacred instrument.



DRUMMING



SORRY DAY





What an experience! Our House students were honoured to represent their communities and our region at the Queensland Gives Philanthropy Awards, held at Brisbane City Hall.



HOUSE SHIRTS



This year's House shirt features the stunning 2024 Cowboys Indigenous design, 'Nhinhinhi Gurra Bamawi Guugu' (how the giant Nhinhinhi fish changed the languages), designed by our talented House Parent and artist Bradley Michael. Bradley's design tells the creation story of Nhinhinhi, the great giant Queensland Groper, a traditional tale passed down by his grandfather, Tulo Gordon.

A heartfelt thank you to ARC - The Australian Reinforcing Company for their support of this important piece of our House, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and storytelling of our community.





“Nhinhinhi Gurra Bamawi Guugu” THE STORY BEHIND THE DESIGN

My name is Bradley Michael, I'm a proud Balnggarwarra Man from Cape York. My country is located 40km north-west of Cooktown. I am Balnggarwarra from my father's side and Nugalwarra from my mother's side.

This creation story was told to me by my grandfather on my mother's side, Tulo Gordon. This is the story of the great giant Nhinhinhi, the fish that changed everyone's languages. This story reflects the coming together of a lot of different clan groups which is very similar to the strong community here at NRL Cowboys House. All the clan groups from around the North Queensland area are represented by the dots and circles connected in journey lines in the bottom half of the painting. Growing up my elders taught me that a long time ago we all spoke the same language and only one language. Clan groups were called to Ngurrayin which is a big lagoon now known to the locals as Barratt's Lagoon, to celebrate.

After several days of feasting and dancing together it was said that Nhinhinhi (Qld Groper) was annoyed with the noise, so Nhinhinhi travelled underground to the lagoon and swallowed all the clan groups and took them back out to sea. Several months later he returned underground to the lagoon and threw the people back up as pictured in my painting. The lagoon never dries and there is water in it all year round. When they started speaking again they discovered they all spoke different languages. I painted them as spirits heading back towards their homeland. If it wasn't for this fish we would all be too similar and only speak the one language. I reflect on this story as a learning and sharing journey, to respect and learn people's culture, community, family and values.

At the Cowboys we all share the same common goal of learning and sharing of our culture, language, family, values and respect.

NAIDOC FAMILY DAY

This year's NRL Cowboys House NAIDOC Day was an unforgettable celebration! With the theme 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud', 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. With cultural activities, food brought in by families, and great entertainment, the day showed the unyielding spirit & pride of the NRL Cowboys House family. This year's event was supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.









TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

Our Transitions Team play an essential role in supporting our Year 10-12 students and ensuring they have everything they need to transition successfully from education to post-Year 12 outcomes. Working closely with our Education Team, our families and our students, Transitions map out each student's unique journey and equip them with essential skills and resources for the future. Transitions have had an incredibly busy and impactful year, their unwavering commitment and hard work making a significant difference in the lives of our students.

LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM

One of the standout Transitions programs has been the Learner Driver Program, spearheaded by our dedicated Year 13 Coordinator Derek, who has even taken on a qualification to become a registered driver trainer. This program offers students ten lessons, which contribute 30 hours towards their 100-hour requirement, giving them a significant boost towards obtaining their licences.



MENTORING

The Transitions Team offer a wide variety of hands-on support services to help our students feel confident and prepared as they move into the next phase of their lives, including:

- Coordination of transport solutions and logistics management
- Facilitation of medicals for work placements
- Sourcing post-Year 12 housing solutions
- Matching students with relevant employment opportunities
- Assisting with completion of university scholarship applications
- Financial literacy and essentials for independence, including setting up bank accounts
- MyGov accounts and various forms of ID



CAREER EXPO

Our Year 10, 11 & 12 students had an amazing opportunity to explore potential career pathways at our in-house career expo. They connected with various organisations, gaining valuable insights into what their day-to-day roles could look like, the subjects they need to focus on at school, and how they can get involved.



INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

The Transitions Team's collaboration with our partners has been vital in providing students with industry experiences and invaluable exposure to potential future pathways.



Georgia Clay
CHEMPRO

Georgia had the opportunity to complete school work experience with our new Friends of the House. The Chempro team made her feel so comfortable that Georgia was soon working the cash register and learning all about the retail industry.



Jonathan Dau
AE SMITH

AE Smith provided transport for Jonathan to and from NRL Cowboys House each morning to enable him to get the full experience of an early start and a late finish. Jonathan enjoyed it so much he wants to pursue a trade in HVAC and refrigeration.



Keelin Hookey
MIKE CARNEY TOYOTA

Keelin completed his work placement with a smile on his face every day, knowing that he would most likely be working on a Toyota LandCruiser in the workshop. Every day brought a new job that kept Keelin on his toes.

INDUSTRY TRAINING

Year 10-12 students | **TAFE Queensland**

NRL Cowboys House teamed up with TAFE Queensland for hands-on 'TAFE Taster' workshops, introducing the students to a wide variety of trades and short courses available from Year 11. With a new focus each session, the workshops provide early insights on career interests for the students to build meaningful post-school pathways.



EMPLOYMENT

Aleeah Michael, Bruce Baudu, Hezekiah Nona, Steven Tom, Tahliyah Jawai | **Downer**

The students were successful in securing casual positions as gym attendants at the Townsville Army and RAAF bases with our partner Downer Group, providing fantastic opportunities for developing real-world skills and experience.





House Graduate Keelin Hookey, from Doomadgee, with his cultural artwork titled 'Jamarawu (Goanna)', for a school assignment.



NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

GRADUATES

Proudly Donated By

Mary McInnes
Education Manager
2016 - 2020

2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

Alkere Forester <i>"An honour of the NRL for being able to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Ataya Pearson <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Babetha Nona <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Nahlani Ah Kit <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Mara-Leah Sewter <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>			
Daynie Seriat <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Nykia Casey <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Roseina Baira <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Sanetta Nona <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Shakia Sambo <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>			
Chasidy Pearson <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Jaylee Linden <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Larnie Mara <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Liana Bee <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Rodneisha Mick <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Trefena Dugong <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>		
Ariel Tapim <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Desharnthie Nona <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Kyloren Beetham-Kepa <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Coco Mundraby <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Steph Bob <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Kelly Dalton <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Connor Rogers <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>	Shontay Mick <i>"I'm proud to be a part of a team that has made a difference to my life."</i>

GRADUATES - YEAR 13+

Our 68 graduates are part of the fabric of NRL Cowboys House – their aspirations and inspirations have helped shape the unique boarding facility we're so proud of today. We honour their legacy and drive to live their dreams.

2023

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona (Badu Island)
 Samjoe Baragud (Yam Island)
 Kylorren Beetham-Kepa (Yam Island)
 Steph Bob (Warraber Island)
 Kelly Dalton (Normanton)
 David Foster-King (Doomadgee)
 Kairon Hudson (Weipa)
 Isaiah Kepa (Yam Island)
 Wyatt Lourigan (Mossman)
 Leland Michael (Cooktown)
 Shontay Mick (Doomadgee)
 Coralie Mundraby (Normanton)
 Bobby Naawi (Moa Island)
 Desharnthie Nona (Warraber Island)
 Cooper Pearson (Yarrabah)
 Connor Rogers (Mornington Island)
 Ariel Tapim-Wailu (Murray Island)

2022

George Abednego (Thursday Island)
 Brody Ah-Kit (Mornington Island)
 Liana Bee (Normanton)
 Josh Daniel (Thursday Island)
 Trefena Dugong (Mornington Island)
 Elijah Joe (Mornington Island)
 Jaylee Linden (Mornington Island)
 Larnie Mara (Old Mapoon)
 Jaylen McMullen (Normanton)
 Tekelu Mene (Warraber Island)
 Rodneisha Mick (Doomadgee)
 Manu Nona (Thursday Island)
 Chasidy Pearson (Yarrabah)
 Haley Pearson (Warraber Island)
 Kody Rogers (Mornington Island)
 Zayryn Rosendale (Hope Vale)
 Cordell White-Benson (Rockhampton)

2021

Rose Baira (Badu Island)
 Frank Backo (Weipa)
 Nykia Casey (Normanton)
 Gershom Kelly (Yam Island)
 Zane Kyle (Eidsvold)
 Tyrece Michael (Cooktown)
 Sanetta Nona (Badu Island)
 Tyler Pickering (Normanton)
 Charles Roughsey (Mornington Island)
 Shakia Sambo (Normanton)
 Daynie Seriat (Thursday Island)
 Chad Taylor (Doomadgee)
 Absalom Wailu (Murray Island)

2020

Nahlani Ah Kit (Mornington Island)
 Colin Aruba (Boigu Island)
 Alkere Forester (Coen)
 Clay George (Normanton)
 Jarvis George (Normanton)
 Trevor Henry (Normanton)
 Valentine Kahn (Mount Isa)
 Jeremy Logan (Normanton)
 Darby Miller-Diamond (Hope Vale)
 Simeon Namok (Thursday Island)
 Babetha Neliman-Nona (Badu Island)
 Ataya Pearson (Yarrabah)
 Mara-Leah Sewter (Mornington Island)
 Eli Taylor (Doomadgee)
 Gary Tom (Boigu Island)
 Aaron Warriia (Moa Island)
 Nathan Widgell (Chinchilla)

2019

Krystian Bevan (Mossman)
 Rashaan Gibson (Hope Vale)
 Elijah Logan (Normanton)
 Hakeem Peters (Doomadgee)



CLASS OF 2020

Mara Sewter

Now based in Normanton, Mara works with Gidgee Healing as an Indigenous Youth and Family Worker, actively supporting her community with the Family Wellbeing Team.



CLASS OF 2020

Nathan Widgell

Nathan lives in Cunnamulla, south-west Queensland, where he works as a station hand at Yaralla Station, spending his days mustering cattle, sheep, and goats.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



CLASS OF 2019

Krystian Bevan

Krystian was among our first students and is now living in Cairns, having recently completed his trade as an electrical fitter/electrical mechanic with Ergon Energy.



CLASS OF 2023

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona

Ruhkoa is now a full time electrical apprentice with AE Smith and loving his new trade. He will finish off his apprenticeship and one day hopes to start his own business.



CLASS OF 2023

Isaiah Kepa

Isaiah attended Tec-NQ and since graduating has secured himself an apprenticeship as a plumber/roofer.



CLASS OF 2023

Desharnthie Nona

Desharnthie is now a full time Early Childhood Education and Care Trainee at Community Kids Heatley, with plans to become a qualified Early Childhood Educator.

TOGETHER

WELCOME
BACK!

	NRL COWBOYS HOUSE GRADUATES										Proudly Donated by Rotary Club of Townsville	
2019	[Graduate names for 2019]											
2020	[Graduate names for 2020]											
2021	[Graduate names for 2021]											
2022	[Graduate names for 2022]											
2023	[Graduate names for 2023]											
2024	[Graduate names for 2024]											
2025	[Graduate names for 2025]											



GRADUATES - YEAR 13+

It was a pleasure to host a group of our past graduates for dinner and hear about their achievements and adventures since leaving NRL Cowboys House. Always part of our House family!

Front Row:

Josh Daniel (Thursday Island) joined the House in 2019, graduated 2022 – completing an HVAC apprenticeship (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) with Downer

Colin Aruba (Boigu Island) enrolled in 2019, graduated 2020 – recently moved to Townsville seeking new employment opportunities

Cooper Pearson (Yarrabah) joined the House in 2019, graduated 2023 – working at NRL Cowboys House while pursuing a career in the sign-writing industry

(Kylie Lukasik, Head of Girls Campus)

Second Row:

(Ashley Dunn, Boarding Supervisor)

Wyatt Lourigan (Mossman) enrolled in July 2022, graduated 2023 – full-time employment with Wormald Fire and has been offered a contract with the Under 21 Rabbitohs

George Abednego (Thursday Island) joined in January 2018, graduated 2022 – balancing a casual job with his passion for acting through TheatreINQ and their Bridge Program

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona (Badu Island) joined in March 2018, graduated in 2023 – full-time apprenticeship with AE Smith

Zayryn Rosendale (Hopevale) enrolled in 2017, graduated 2022 – full-time apprentice mechanic

Haley Pearson (Warraber Island) joined in January 2019, graduated 2022 – full-time apprentice carpenter

Gary Tom (Boigu Island) joined in 2019, graduated 2020 – employed and living in Cairns

(Nathan Mellor, Boarding Supervisor & Derek Reston, Career Transitions Officer)

Third Row:

(Jon Cini, Head of Boys Campus)

Brody Ah Kit (Mornington Island) enrolled in September 2017, graduated 2022 – working in construction in Townsville

Gershom Kelly (Yam Island) joined in June 2019, graduated 2021 – completing carpentry apprenticeship

Krystian Bevan (Cooktown) joined in 2017, graduated 2019 – qualified electrical fitter/electrical mechanic with Ergon Energy

Tekelu Mene (Warraber Island) enrolled in May 2018, graduated 2022 – employed with BG Group

Tyler Pickering (Normanton) joined in January 2017, graduated 2021 – employed as a youth worker

Frank Backo (Weipa) enrolled in October 2018, graduated 2021 – employed as a youth worker

OUR 2024 GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024.

Your resilience, integrity and dedication have paid off and you're now at the end of your secondary school journeys. It has been a pleasure for the Education, Career Transition and Boarding teams to guide you through to graduation and help prepare you for your next adventure into the 'real world'. It's farewell for now but know you will always be part of our NRL Cowboys House family.

Raelene Frantz-Davis

EDUCATION MANAGER, NRL COWBOYS HOUSE



ISAAC



ANA



ANTWONE



BRUCE



DESTINY



MAKEILLA



KEELIN



RAHU



IRENE



TIMENA



FRED



ZALEAH



STEVEN



TALILIYA



KUNJURRA



From Lockhart River, son to Serina and Ashley, Isaac is a quiet young man with a strong presence amongst his peers.

He is known for his running prowess and has achieved excellence in cross country and athletics winning age champion trophies and being named Senior Sports Person of the Year at Heatley Secondary College.

Isaac's natural leadership qualities shine through in everything he does including on the footy field, earning selection in the Queensland Clontarf Academy State of Origin team.

From kicking a 50 metre drop out to carrying out some harmless pranks on his House peers, Isaac has been a fun, inspiring and considerate student and friend.

Career goal: Mechanic



Ana's 'goofy' personality and flair has brightened the days at Cowboys House. Daughter to Solomon Ahmat and Nikita George, Ana's passion for life extends to dancing and playing footy, as well as going hunting while at home on Badu Island, in the Torres Strait. If Ana could pick her dream job it would be to "work in a crayfish factory and go free diving for crayfish every day" or "be a professional footy player and dancer".

Ana's proudest moments at the House have been those spent with the dance group, rugby 7s team and leadership camp. Her greatest highlight was winning the Confraternity Cup as part of her school's rugby league team. In a true display of her dedication and hard work, throughout 2024, Ana travelled to Sydney over 10 weekends to play club football whilst also completing her secondary education.

Career goal: NRLW player



Antwone Agie

In Antwone's own quiet way, he has made an impact on everyone at the House with his kindness and helpful attitude.

From Bamaga at the tip of Cape York, Antwone is the proud son of Steven Mairu and Latoyah Agie.

A self-confessed chill dude, Antwone also likes to play sport and follows the Cowboys.

He's completed his senior schooling while boarding at the House and graduates from Kirwan State High School.

For Antwone, getting to know new people from new places has been one of the best parts about his House journey.

He says his family is proud of what he has achieved and experienced and he's quietly confident stepping into the next stage of life – "I'm not scared to go into the big world."

Career goal: Mining industry



Bruce Baudu

Leading by example, Bruce's kind manner combined with his work ethic has seen him grow into a role model for his younger family members and home community. He credits his parents, Mesella and Sabaka for helping him become the young man he is today.

From Yam Island in the centre of the Torres Strait Islands, Bruce holds his connection to culture and memories of growing up there close to his heart.

He is known for his footy skills and has excelled in rugby league through his school Ignatius Park College with the highlight winning the 2024 Confraternity Shield. His other passions include fishing, gardening and yarning, particularly with the Elders and hearing about the old stories.

"My goal is just to work hard in the years to come, to support my family and my siblings and show the younger generation to always push and just keep striving."

Career goal: Complete a trade (marine construction or auto electrician)



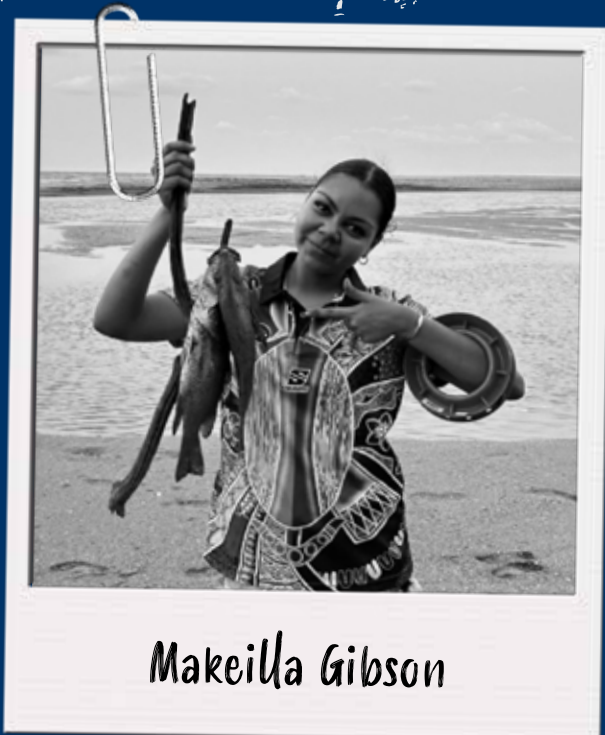
Destiny is known for her gentle spirit, kindness and her wonderful cultural artistry.

While at the House, she has embraced every opportunity to develop her talent as an artist and has had a few amazing opportunities to share her artwork on a national stage. Daughter to David Escott and Maria Mick, Destiny prides herself on her strong personal values and compassion which is at the heart of everything she does.

Destiny's incredible artistic talent and flair has brought so much pride to the House. Never one to say no to an opportunity, Destiny joined with another student to create a Reconciliation Action Plan artwork for a big business.

She was also involved in a fun creative project at the House, eventually gifting her artwork to an NRLW player to motivate them to succeed.

Career goal: Early Childcare



Makeilla's humble nature should not be mistaken for a lack of ability or ambition.

The daughter of Tegan Kulka and Oswald Gibson, Makeilla has shown an impeccable commitment to her studies and her sport has been a feature of her time at the House.

Those who know her best understand not to get between her and a can of Coca Cola and that she's a pocket rocket on the rugby league field.

Makeilla has become a leader and has often been seen hosting our House events including Awards Night.

We know Makeilla will achieve great things in the future, whichever path she chooses.

Career goal: University studies – physiotherapy or social work



Keelin Hookey

If you want a slick new haircut Keelin is your man.

At any given time he could be found cutting his peers' hair in the boys bathroom, and makes sure to take his barber kit back home to Doomadgee too.

His flair for fashion extends beyond hair and one of his aspirations is to launch a clothing brand that represents his community.

The son of Cyantha and Bruce, Keelin is also known for his fast feet as a sprinter and on the rugby league field.

Always polite and respectful, quiet Keelin has grown in confidence over his time at the House.

We're excited to see the exciting and creative things Keelin crafts in his future.

Career goal: Barber apprenticeship



Rahu Mara

Rahu's easy-going and kind nature makes her popular and appreciated by her peers and the entire House community.

The daughter of Margaret and Harold Mara from Old Mapoon, Rahu's journey at the House started in year 7 and she remains a quiet and kind presence six years later.

She is known as a good friend who loves to spend time with friends.

"I like to get involved in whatever activity we're doing. Whether it's with the boys or the girls, as long as we're doing it together."

Rahu has also been involved in work experience in childcare, hospitality and landcare.

Career goal: Service industry (helping others)



Funny, shy and quiet are some of the attributes that come to mind when we think of Irene Mari.

She is the proud daughter of Roy Auda and Ruth Thaiday from Yam Island, Torres Strait, and has a flair and talent for performing cultural dances from home.

While at the House, Irene overcame her shyness and embraced opportunities to showcase her dancing, going on tours and performing in front of huge crowds. Slightly less known talents are her ability for tummy and tongue rolls and doing a Stitch impression. "I just want to try new things out and see how far I can go."

Irene will graduate from Heatley Secondary College and her academic achievements reflect her commitment to study and her consistent hard work towards achieving her goals.

Career goals: University studies (marine biology); self-employment (beauty technician)



Don't be fooled if you see Timena looking a little serious! Underneath that straight face she's a happy and funny young lady – just as her bright smile suggests.

When she's not playing guitar, or working at Kmart, she's likely to be cleaning her room or making sure she has the neatest book work EVER!

Timena is from Yorke Island, Torres Strait, and while at the House she attended William Ross High School.

The daughter of Juen and Collin Messa, her connection to and love for her family shines through just as strongly as her glowing personality.

It's been such a pleasure having Timena at NRL Cowboys House, we'll miss that (very loud) laugh.

Career goal: Administration



Fredrick Mick

Son to Solomon and Shonae O'Keefe, Fred takes the cake for bringing smiles and laughter to those he meets. However, he is also a young man with many talents and dreams!

During his time at the House, Fred has emerged as a clever cookie in the kitchen which is ironic given he absolutely loves Subway and their cookies! The hospitality bug has led Fred to work experience at Nando's, in the Cowboys House Pie Van and as a kitchen hand.

Fred is a very talented cultural artist and was proud and honoured to team up with House graduate Destiny, also from his hometown of Doomadgee, to create a reconciliation artwork for a business in Sydney. Together they came up with the concept and story that is now shared proudly by CBRE.

Fred enjoys getting "lots of beauty sleep" and intends to keep working hard to achieve his dreams.

Career goals: Hospitality industry; creative arts



Zaleah Mosby-Nona

When we think about Zaleah, adjectives like sporty, kind and energetic are top of mind.

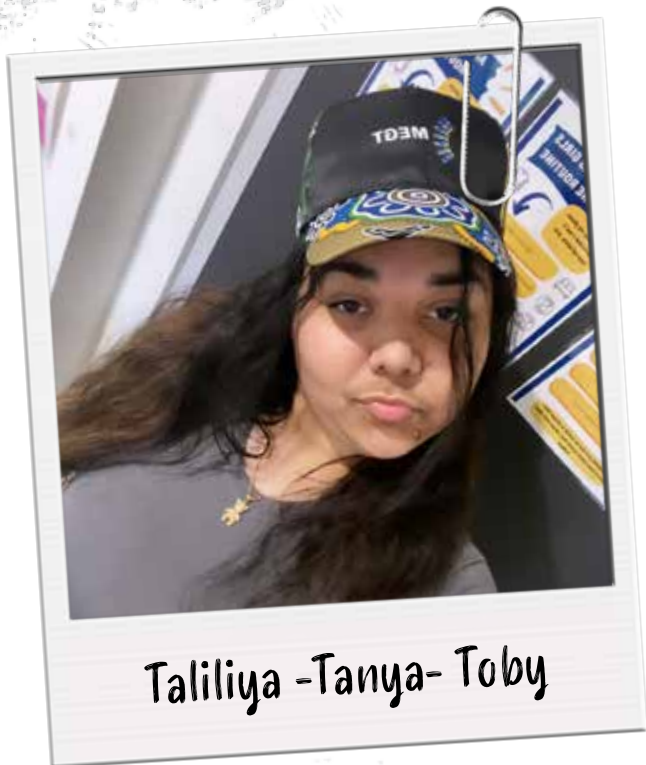
Rugby league is in her heart and soul with her list of achievements on the footy field long and impressive.

Daughter to Helen Moseby, Zaleah is from the community of Yorke Island in the Torres Strait. She attended Kirwan State High School.

Zaleah has displayed kindness to all and beautiful manners across her time at NRL Cowboys House and is known for her ability and commitment to supporting the new young girls who arrive at the House.

We're proud to have played a small role in the wonderful young woman she has become.

Career goal: Sports Science



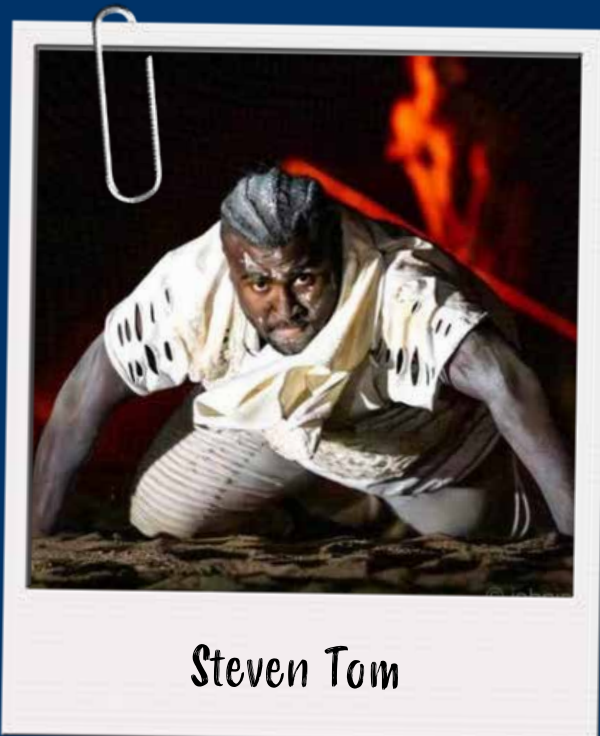
With a love for music, art and helping others Tanya exemplifies what it is to be a quiet achiever.

The daughter of Dane Toby and Christina Thomas, the girl from Mornington Island hopes to use her experience at the House to give back to her community.

She's worked hard, remained focused, organised and self-motivated to complete a Certificate III in Allied Health while also doing her senior schooling.

Always ready with a joke for our House Parents or a kind word for a friend, Tanya has been a pleasure to have on campus. We wish her every success in her next life adventure.

Career goals: Medical imaging; health worker at Mornington Island Hospital



Steven has made the most of his time at NRL Cowboys House by keeping busy and staying positive. From Boigu Island and son of Steven Senior and May, Steven has a great work ethic and a cheeky sense of humour.

Known as the 'Old Man' of the House, Steven arrived here as a year 7 student and has grown into a warm and funny young man.

Steven takes this energy to the sporting field with his love of rugby union, and to the stage as part of the cultural dance troupe. He hopes to bring his own humorous style and flair for problem-solving and de-escalating challenging situations to his working life.

He says the House has been a wonderful home-away-from-home. "We start out here as strangers but then we start bonding with each other and now we are family."

Steven will be sorely missed – we don't know what we will do without his help around the House!

Career goal: Security industry



Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble

Honest, kind and a good listener, Kunjurra is a young woman with big dreams.

From Yarrabah and proud daughter to Tiana Yeatman and Hilton Noble, Kunjurra is known around campus for loving to have a chat.

When asked to name a proud moment from her time at the House she said it was building strong friendships with her fellow boarders. Another of her claims to fame is naming the resident house cat – Jasper.

We've enjoyed all the chats with Kunjurra and look forward to hearing the stories about the great things she achieves in the future.

Career goal: Science field



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.







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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.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- **Australian Government:**
 - Abstudy
 - National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – program support
- **Queensland Government:**
 - Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
 - Department of Transport and Main Roads
 - Department of Treaty, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
 - Education Queensland
 - Office for Youth

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- Edify – Transitions Presenting Partner
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- NRL – House programs
- North Queensland PHN – Psychologist/wellbeing
- Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Limited – Student transport van
- Variety, The Children's Charity of Queensland – Girls Campus Learning Centre
- Veolia – Outdoor multipurpose facilities
- Waanyi Joint Venture – Transitions team
- Wilson Security – Boys Campus Learning Centre & House shorts

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- The John Villiers Trust – Impact Project

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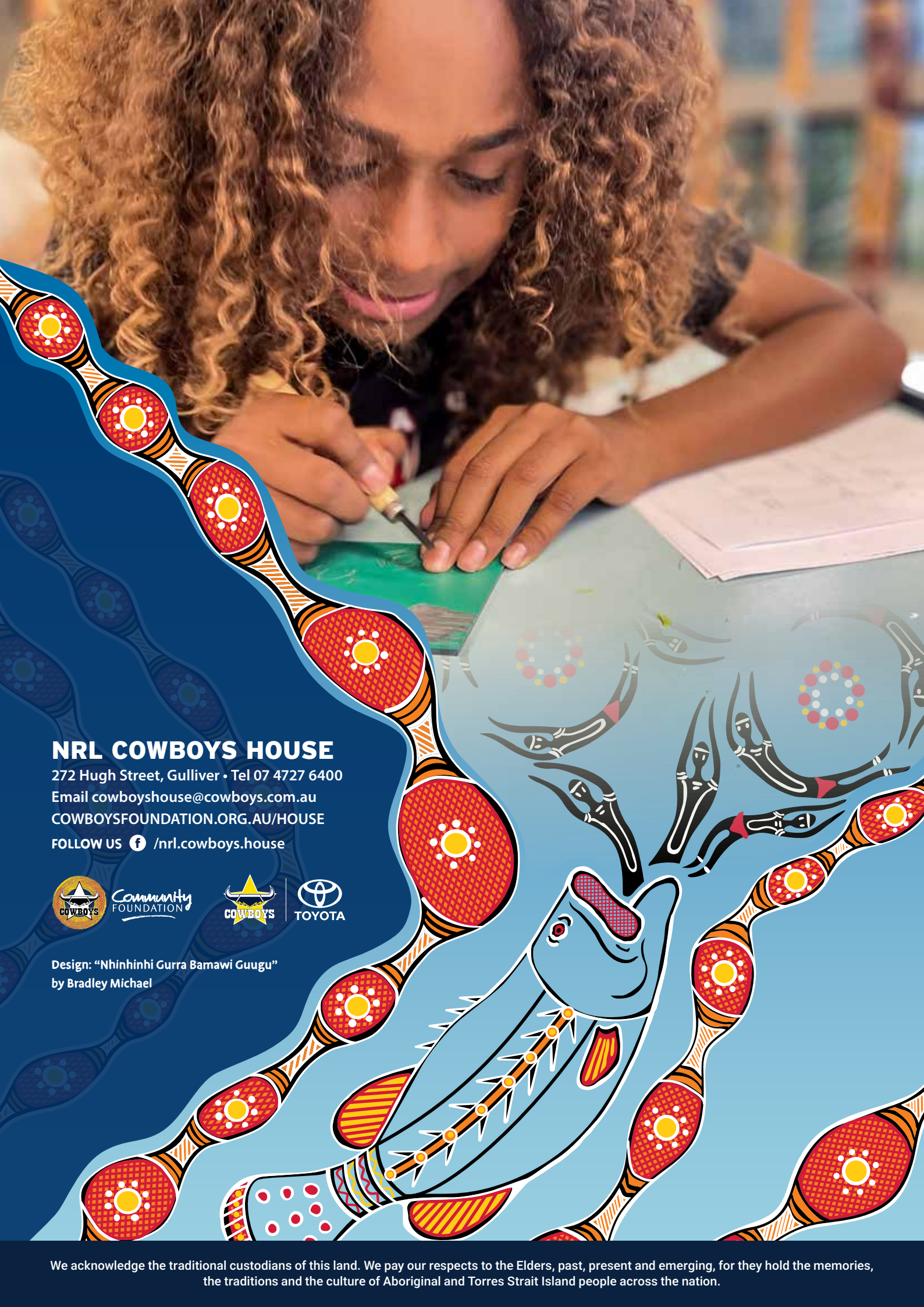


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