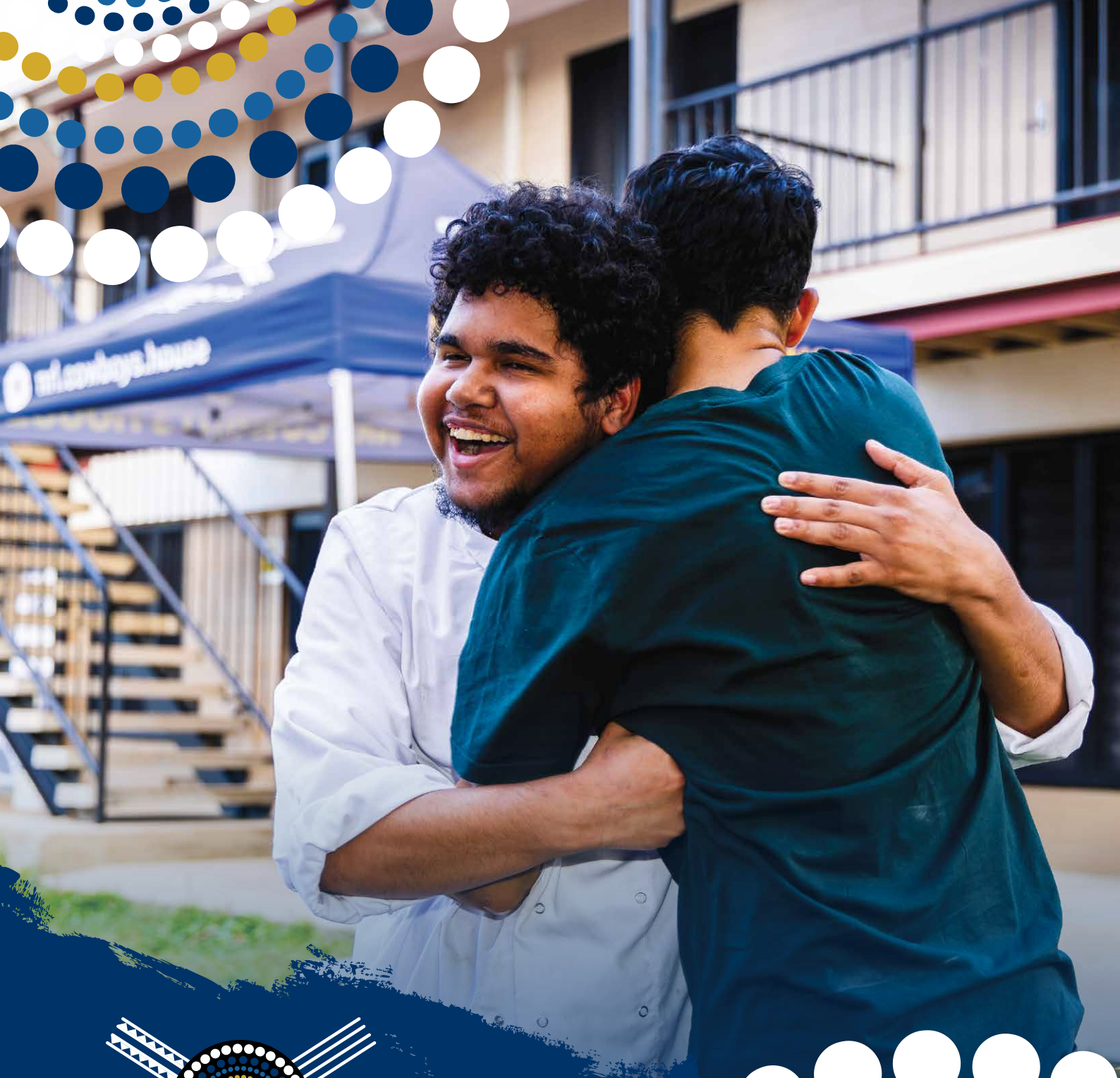




NRL COWBOYS
HOUSE

2025 YEARBOOK



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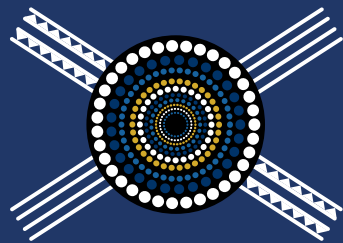
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Above: Our Torres Strait Island dance troupe prepares to perform on-field at Queensland Country Bank Stadium for NRL/NRLW Indigenous Round.

Front cover: 2024 Graduate Fred (Doomadgee) celebrates at the NRL Cowboys House Graduate Campus opening in May.

Back cover: Georgia (Palm Island) dances with the Indigenous Sistas for NAIDOC & Family Day



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 begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, learn and grow – the Wulgurukaba and Bindal peoples. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Their enduring connection to Country, culture and community continues to inspire and guide our work.

Our year at NRL Cowboys House was marked by new beginnings, sparking growth, opportunity and connection. From the opening of new spaces to new programs and cultural initiatives, we embraced change as a chance to strengthen our purpose and create pathways for the next generation of young leaders.

A major milestone in 2025 was the opening of our Graduate Campus, providing supported accommodation for our graduating students who are engaged in work or further study. This initiative ensures that our young people continue to thrive beyond school, with the support and stability they need to succeed.

That same day, we had the privilege of launching the 2025 Cowboys Indigenous design, 'Tagai' by Torres Strait Islander artist Vinson Babia, proudly featured on our House shirt design. Tagai is a powerful figure in Torres Strait Islander culture, revered as a provider of magic, a master hunter and a skilled fisherman.

In the same spirit of learning to navigate the seasons, we expanded our Paddock to Plate program in partnership with WSU Civil, which now includes a thriving garden and language project. This year, we introduced bee hives, thanks to a collaboration with a local family who own and manage them. This initiative not only supports sustainability and food education but also deepens our connection to land, language and culture.

Our cultural program expanded through the student-led introduction of the new Indigenous Sistas dance group (amazing work, Georgia!), with both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dancers showcasing their culture at NAIDOC Day and as part of NRL Indigenous Round.

Another exciting addition this year was The Gathering Place – our House coffee van, supported by Sun Metals and designed by Tshak. This new initiative offers students experience in customer service, teamwork and business operations, while also serving as a successful fundraising venture. It's been wonderful to see students develop new skills and confidence behind the counter, and to welcome our supporters for their caffeine fix!

To all our graduates – congratulations! Your hard work, resilience and leadership have made us proud. You are role models for your communities and ambassadors for the values we hold dear at NRL Cowboys House. We look forward to seeing the paths you forge and the impact you will make.

Thank you to our staff, partners, families and supporters for walking alongside us. Together, we continue to build a strong, culturally rich and empowering environment for our young people.



Community
FOUNDATION





HOUSE BROTHERS & SISTERS

NRL Cowboys House students come from 28 remote and regional communities across North and Far North Queensland, each student bringing with them the pride of their home, culture and Country. Together, we recognise their hard work, dedication and achievements, and acknowledge and celebrate our strong and vibrant House community.



Our students attend 10 partner schools in Townsville:

Calvary Christian College (CCC)
Heatley Secondary College (HSC)
Kirwan State High School (KSHS)
Ignatius Park College (IPC)
Pimlico State High School (PSHS)
Queensland Pathways State College (QPSC)
St Margaret Mary's College (SMMC)
Townsville Grammar School (TGS)
Townsville State High School (TSHS)
William Ross State High School (WRSHS)

BADU ISLAND

Zazward Banu	Year 7	KSHS
Walter Dau	Year 11	IPC
Walter (Wally) Nona	Year 10	IPC
Jonathan Yorkston	Year 8	KSHS
Keith Yorkston (Jnr)	Year 10	KSHS

BAMAGA

Anthony Mara	Year 7	KSHS
Pryce Mara	Year 7	KSHS

BOIGU ISLAND

Marina Aruba	Year 11	PSHS
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CHARTERS TOWERS

Adalei Dines	Year 10	KSHS
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COEN

Lhere Forester	Year 12	CCC
----------------	---------	-----

COOKTOWN

Aleeah Michael	Year 12	KSHS
----------------	---------	------

DARNLEY ISLAND

Jerry Mipari	Year 11	IPC
Loretta Thaiday	Year 8	TSHS

DOOMADGEE

Amaziah Ah Wing	Year 10	SMMC
K'Lani (Betty) Isaac	Year 7	HSC
Katori O'Keefe	Year 8	HSC
Zacariah Punjaub	Year 9	HSC
Kendra Stacey	Year 9	HSC

HOPE VALE

Ty Gibson	Year 12	HSC
Akeelah Gilbo	Year 10	KSHS
Aydah-Maree Ross-Kelly	Year 12	KSHS

INJINOO

Dorothy (Dora) Mara	Year 7	PSHS
Jewlz Mara	Year 9	PSHS

KOWANYAMA

Patrick Daniel	Year 9	IPC
Donny Patrick	Year 10	IPC
Jetaeo Smiler	Year 9	TGS

MER ISLAND (MURRAY ISLAND)

Eli Mabo	Year 9	TSHS
Lillian (Miriam) Mabo (Salee)	Year 7	TSHS
Kalina Zaro	Year 12	KSHS

MOA ISLAND

Racyna Binawel Year 9 SMMC

MORNINGTON ISLAND

Dallas Darby Year 11 HSC

Quade Darby Year 8 HSC

Valentayzia Thompson Year 8 HSC

Mungu Toby Year 12 HSC

Blake Wilson Year 7 HSC

MOSSMAN GORGE

Sophia Burns-Schell Year 9 KSHS

NAPRANUM

Tahliyah (Tahl) Jawai Year 12 KSHS

NORMANTON

Brody Grieve Year 9 IPC

Brooklyn Hookey Year 7 PSHS

Antonio Moses Year 9 KSHS

Makere (Lanii) Ponga Year 10 KSHS

OLD MAPOON

Narzaliah (Narly) Doolah Year 12 SMMC

Zecky Doolah Year 11 KSHS

PALM ISLAND

Ursula Bengaroo Year 9 SMMC

Georgia Clay Year 11 SMMC

Kudjarli-J Marie Nuggins Year 12 CCC

Melikah (Rose) Richardson Year 8 HSC

Sincere Sibley Year 12 KSHS

SAIBAI ISLAND

Ezra Dau Year 7 PSHS

Jonathan Dau Year 12 IPC

Junior (Sam Leon) Dau Year 8 KSHS

Jaum (Ralph) Sam Year 11 IPC

Joseph Sam Year 11 HSC

Kala (Phillip) Sam Year 11 IPC

SEISIA

Zephaniah Whap Year 8 KSHS

THURSDAY ISLAND

Peter Daniels Year 9 KSHS

Denzel Daniels-Misi Year 11 KSHS

Tshak Daniels-Misi Year 12 PSHS

Jonathan Hosea-Peters Year 9 IPC

Brendon Luffman Year 9 KSHS

Taylor Mene Year 9 PSHS

Hezekiah Nona Year 12 IPC

Kentaro Sabatino Year 12 PSHS

Joelle Williams Year 8 TGS

UMAGICO

Zackius Young Year 10 KSHS

WARRABER ISLAND

Peter Bob Year 12 KSHS

Waligaboyd (Boyd) Lui Year 7 TSHS

Jacinta Mari Year 8 HSC

Louish Mari Year 12 HSC

Lekizah Mene-Larry Year 8 KSHS

Brayden Misick Year 7 PSHS

Dorah Pearson Year 8 KSHS

Rathony Pearson Year 11 IPC

Romell Sorogo Year 11 IPC

Samuel Tamu Year 10 IPC

WUJAL WUJAL

Jay'Quarna (Quarna) Murgha Year 7 PSHS

Latrell Sykes-Creek Year 7 TSHS

Carleesha Tayley Year 12 QPSC

YAM ISLAND

Thelrina Akene Year 10 HSC

Naraira Bann Year 10 SMMC

Kesia Bob Year 11 SMMC

Rolatielu (Telu) Joe Year 11 HSC

Jaqlyn Kepa Year 12 SMMC

Milton Larry Year 11 IPC

Jacob Mareko Year 9 PSHS

William Mareko Year 9 PSHS

Florianna Sakail Year 9 SMMC

Frank (Joseph) Sakail Year 10 IPC

YARRABAH

James Jr Fourmile Year 7 KSHS

Zlatica (Lati) Hari Year 7 PSHS

Lakarna Kynuna Year 9 PSHS

Cyprian (CJ) Mossman Year 9 KSHS

Talan Mossman Year 11 KSHS

Benjamin Noble Year 10 KSHS

Nahkayia Yeatman Year 10 KSHS

YORKE ISLAND

Peah Messa Year 11 TGS

Ivan Mosby-Pearson Year 8 KSHS

BADU ISLAND

Walter Dau, Jonathan Yorkston, Keith Yorkston (Jnr),
Walter (Wally) Nona, Zazward Banu



BAMAGA

Anthony Mara,
Pryce Mara



BOIGU ISLAND

Marina Aruba



CHARTERS TOWERS

Adalei Dines

COEN

Lhere Forester



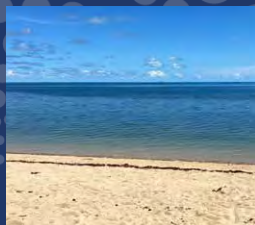
COOKTOWN & HOPE VALE

Akeelah Gilbo, Aydah-Maree Ross-Kelly, Aleeah Michael, Ty Gibson



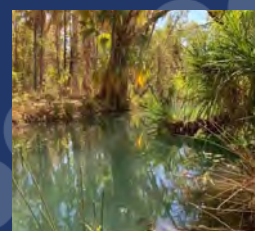
DARNLEY ISLAND

Jerry Mipari, Loretta Thaiday



DOOMADGEE

Zacariah Punjaub, Kendra Stacey, K'Lani (Betty) Isaac,
Katori O'Keefe, Amaziah Ah Wing, Kallis Toby-Isaac



INJINOO

Jewlz Mara,
Dorothy (Dora) Mara



KOWANYAMA

Patrick Daniel, Donny Patrick, Jetaeo Smiler



MER ISLAND (MURRAY ISLAND)

Eli Mabo, Lillian (Miriam)
Mabo (Salee), Kalina Zaro



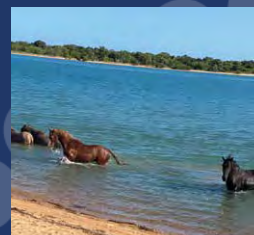
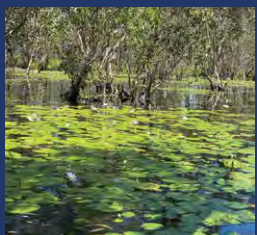
MOA ISLAND

Racyna Binawel,
Jonathan Hosea-Peters



MORNINGTON ISLAND

Valentayzia Thompson, Quade Darby, Mungu Toby,
Dallas Darby, Blake Wilson



MOSSMAN GORGE

Sophia Burns-Schell



NAPRANUM

Tahliyah (Tahl) Jawai



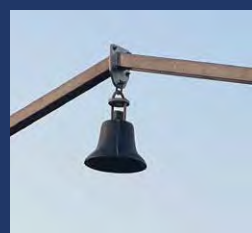
NORMANTON

Makere Ponga, Brooklyn Hookey,
Brody Grieve, Antonio Moses



OLD MAPOON

Narzaliah (Narly) Doolah, Zecky Doolah



PALM ISLAND

Melikah (Rose) Richardson, Georgia Clay, Ursula Bengaroo,
Basil Robertson, Kudjarli-J Marie Nuggins.
Absent: Sincere Sibley



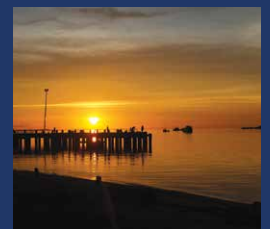
SAIBAI ISLAND

Joseph Sam, Jaum (Ralph) Sam, Ezra Dau, Junior (Sam Leon) Dau, Kala (Phillip) Sam, Jonathan Dau



SEISIA

Zephaniah Whap



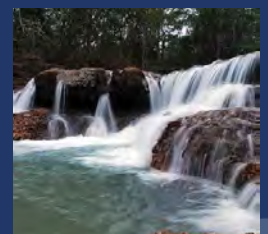
THURSDAY ISLAND

Joelle Williams, Taylor Mene, Peter Daniels, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Denzel Daniels-Misi, Brendon Luffman.
Absent: Kentaro Sabatino, Hezekiah Nona



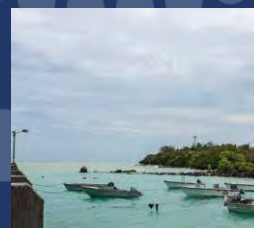
UMAGICO

Zackius Young



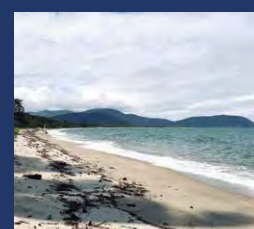
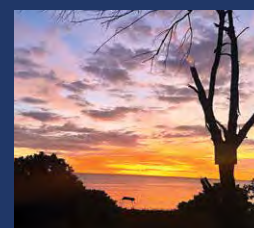
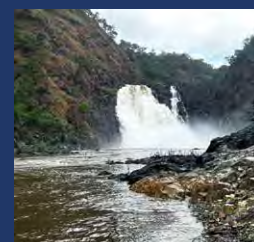
WARRABER ISLAND

Jacinta Mari, Doriah Pearson, Louish Mari, Lekizah Mene-Larry, Brayden Misick, Romell Sorogo, Samuel Tamu, Rathony Pearson, Peter Bob, Waligaboyd (Boyd) Lui



WUJAL WUJAL

Carleesha Tayley, Jay'Quarna Murgha, Latrell Sykes-Creek, Shakwarsha Smith



YAM ISLAND

Kesia Bob, Thelrina Akene, Naraira Bann, Jaqlyn Kepa,
William Mareko, Milton Larry, Rolatielu (Telu) Joe,
Jacob Mareko, Florianna Sakail, Frank (Joseph) Sakail



YARRABAH

James Jr Fourmile, Zlatica Hari, Lakarna Kynuna, Nahkayia Yeatman,
Cyprian Mossman, Benjamin Noble, Talan Mossman



YORKE ISLAND

Peah Messa, Ivan Mosby-Pearson



AWKWARD PORTRAIT CHALLENGE!

While taking our annual community portraits, students had the chance to join in a fun challenge – randomly choosing an awkward photo to recreate. The results were hilarious!



ORIGINAL



ORIGINAL



ORIGINAL

HOUSE STAFF

ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES



Helen Santo
Applications
Officer & Travel

Ashlee Aldridge
Administration &
Student Wellbeing

Renee Reston
Facilities & Administration
Manager

Nicci Angus
Senior Administration
Manager

Emma Williams
Administration
Officer & Payroll

BOARDING TEAM



Front row (L-R): Taylor Lennox, Eileen Jack, Meriana Obed, Mabata Gamoga, Louisa Babia, Kylie Lukasik (Head of Girls Campus)

Second row: Vinson Babia, Taylor Jones, Amelia Sewell, Larnie Mara, Betty Mabo, Rena O'Cloudy, Jo-Jo Mareko

Third row: Fran Comito, Rory Angus, Tyler Pickering, Jonathan Cini (Head of Boys Campus), Ashley Dunn, Guyson Soki

Absent: Bradley Michael, Dion Casey, Nathan Mellor, Tony Steen, Tyreece Michael

Our House staff are caring, devoted and driven to ensure every student's health, happiness and success. Thank you for helping make NRL Cowboys House a "home away from home" and creating memorable and positive experiences for our young people!

EDUCATION TEAM



Kim Bolton
Education
Facilitator

Michael Webster
Education Facilitator

Raelene Frantz-Davis
Education Manager

Hannah Casswell
Education Facilitator

Emma Fuller
Education
Facilitator

CAREER TRANSITIONS TEAM



Shaye Baker
Career Transition
Officer & Travel

Derek Reston
Career Transition
Officer

Lachlan Whitehall
Transitions &
Pathways Manager

Leita Wason
Career Transition
Officer

HOUSE STAFF

CHEFS



Rick Mobbs
Chef

Fred Mick
Apprentice Chef

KITCHEN



Rhonda Payne
Kitchen Mother

Sue Falkenhagen
Kitchen Mother & Volunteer Gardener

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Kate Holznagel
Programs Manager



Brad Fissore
Psychologist



Nathan Mellor
Youth Mental Health Worker



House student J'Quarna (Wujal Wujal) attends a campus study session

HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Our NRL Cowboys House family takes immense pride in the accomplishments of every young person who calls the House their home away from home. Each achievement reflects hard work, perseverance and pride in their journey. Our students remind us that effort and dedication are the true foundations for success and their determination to learn, grow and lead inspires us all.

ACADEMIC

ATSIMS program – Peah Messa, Thelrina Akene
 CALD STEM Changemakers Program Selection – Thelrina Akene
 Indigenous Australian Engineering School UNSW Selection – Thelrina Akene, Mungu Toby, Kentaro Sabatino
 JCU Winter School Selection – Thelrina Akene, Georgia Clay
 QATSIF Graduate – Hezekiah Nona, Kudjarli-J Marie Nuggins, Lhere Forester, Mungu Toby, Narzaliah Doolah, Tahliyah Jawai
 IPC DEADLY Awards: QATSIF Young Indigenous Leadership Award – Hezekiah Nona
 WEX Canberra: Work Exposure in Government – Thelrina Akene
 ADF Exercise First Look (Indigenous Youth Placement Program) – Mungu Toby

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Trade Taster Program Yr 10 – Donny Patrick
 Yr 12 Trade Ready Program, Construction – Jonathan Dau
 Allied Health Connect 'n Grow Program – Kalina Zaro

SCHOOL SPORT

Northern Region Rep, State Championships, Track & Field – Thelrina Akene, Narzaliah Doolah, Romell Sorogo
 Northern Region Rep, Open Girls Rugby League – Narzaliah Doolah, Aydah Ross-Kelly
 Northern Region Rep, Open Boys Rugby League – Jerry Mipari
 NQ Trials Track & Field – Joelle Williams, Junior Dau, Thelrina Akene, Narzaliah Doolah, Romell Sorogo, Patrick Daniel
 TSSS Athletics – Patrick Daniel, Jonathan Hose Peters, Romell Sorogo, Rathony Pearson, William Mareko, Jacob Mareko, Lakarna Kynuna, Brooklyn Hookey, Ezra Dau
 TSSS Cross Country – Thelrina Akene, Lakarna Kynuna, Joelle Williams, Junior Dau, Aleeah Michael
 NQ All Schools Touch Squad – Zazward Banu
 IPC Team NRL Aaron Payne Cup – Jerry Mipari
 IPC First XIII Rugby League – Jerry Mipari

IPC Cowboys Challenge – Sam Tamu
 2025 Confraternity Rugby League IPC Team – Jerry Mipari
 SMMC Rugby League Team – Narzaliah Doolah, Jaqlyn Kepa, Georgia Clay, Kesia Bob, Naraira Bann, Racyna Binawell
 SMMC AFL Team – Ursula Bengaroo
 KSHS Rugby League Team – Aydah Ross-Kelly, Akeelah Gilbo, Adalei Dines, Makere Ponga
 KSHS AFL Team – Aleeah Michael, Tahliyah Jawai, Kalina Zaro
 KSHS AFLQ Finals – Junior Dau, Zephaniah Whap, Ivan Mosby-Pearson, Aleeah Michael, Tahliyah Jawai, Kalina Zaro
 PSHS Rugby League Team – Jacob Mareko, William Mareko
 School Level - Age Champions or Best & Fairest – Jacob Mareko, William Mareko (PSHS Rugby Union Team); Thelrina Akene (HSC Cross Country); K'iani Isaac (HSC Track & Field); Joelle Williams (TGS Track & Field); Jacob Mareko (PSHS Track & Field); Narzaliah Doolah (SMMC Track & Field); Adalei Dines (KSHS Best Forward Rugby League Team); James Fourmile (KSHS Best Back Rugby League Team); Ty Gibson (HSC Netball)
 HSC Senior Sportsperson of the Year - Thelrina Akene
 KSHS Cross Country Age Champion, 14 years – Junior Dau

LEADERSHIP

Youth Ambassador Program – Mungu Toby, Thelrina Akene, Kudjarli-J Marie Nuggins, Makere Ponga
 Pimlico First Nations Ambassador – Kentaro Sabatino
 Pimlico First Nations Year 11 Captain – Marina Aruba
 Heatley Secondary College School Captain – Mungu Toby
 Kirwan High First Nations Captain – Tahliyah Jawai
 SMMC Reconciliation & NAIDOC Committee Emerging Leaders – Narly Doolah, Jaqlyn Kepa, Georgia Clay, Kesia Bob, Amaziah Ah Wing, Naraira Bann, Ursula Bengaroo, Florianna Sakail, Racyna Binawell
 Interact Club – Tahliyah Jawai, Amaziah Ah Wing, Cyntara Cairns, Joelle Williams, Kentaro Sabatino, Phillip Sam, Ralph Sam, Joseph Sam, Miriam Mabo, Brayden Misick
 NRL Indigenous Leadership Summit – Rolatielu Joe, Joseph Sam, Peah Messa, Marina Aruba



CULTURAL/ARTS

Miriki Dance Troupe – Tshak Daniels-Misi, Kentaro Sabatino, Wally Nona, Peter Daniels, Ivan Mosby-Pearson, Peah Messa, Jewlz Mara, Lakarna Kynuna, Taylor Mene, Lati Hari

Indigenous Sistas – Georgia Clay, Ursula Bengaroo, Lakeisha Yam, Melikah Richardson, Amaziah Ah Wing, Shakwarsha Smith, Katori O'Keefe, K'Lani Isaac, Brooklyn Hookey, Lakarna Kynuna, Tay Thompson, Loretta Thaiday, Cyntara Cairns

SMMC Cultural Dancers – Kesia Bob, Naraira Bann, Georgia Clay, Amaziah Ah Wing, Ursula Bengaroo, Florianna Sakail, Racyna Binawell

Pimlico Presents – Tshak Daniels-Misi, Kentaro Sabatino, Marina Aruba, Lakarna Kynuna, Jewlz Mara, Dorothy Mara, Brayden Misick, Ezra Dau

NRLCH Torres Strait Islander Dance Troupe – Kesia Bob, Naraira Bann, Florianna Sakail, Louish Mari, Thelrina Akene, Jacinta Mari, Doriah Pearson, Lekizah Mene-Larry, Tahliyah Jawai, Samuel Tamu, Frank Sakail, Jonathan Hosea-Peters, Brayden Misick, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Denzel Daniels-Misi, Peter Daniels, Zachius Young, Brendon Luffman, Walter Dau, Ralph Sam, Phillip Sam, Rolatielu Joe, Kentaro Sabatino, Milton Larry

Calvary School of Rock – Kudjarli-J Nuggins

Townsville Grammar School NAIDOC shirt design – Peah Messa

Commissioned artwork for GHD – Talan Mossman

Commissioned artwork for Edify Energy - Thelrina Akene

Commissioned artwork for The Gathering Place – Tshak Daniels-Misi

Indigenous Round North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Boots – Ivan Mosby-Pearson, Jacob Mareko, Rolatielu Joe, Zazward Banu, Nahkayia Yeatman, Talan Mossman, Jonathan Yorkston, Peter Daniels, Jewlz Mara, Adalei Dines, Makere Ponga, Kentaro Sabatino

Artwork in NAIDOC Exhibition - Katori O'Keefe, K'Lani Isaac, Tshak Daniels-Misi, Jacob Mareko, Talan Mossman, Jonathan Yorkston, Makere Ponga, Lati Hari, Dorothy Mara, William Mareko, Kalina Zaro, Pryce Mara, Lillian Mabo, Thelrina Akene, Valentayzia Thompson

Pimlico ERAM program – Lati Hari, Brooklyn Hookey, Dorothy Mara, Brayden Misick, Jacob Mareko, William Mareko, Lakarna Kynuna, Taylor Mene, Jewlz Mara

Co-Curricular Award for Art – Peah Messa, Joelle Williams

CLUB / REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

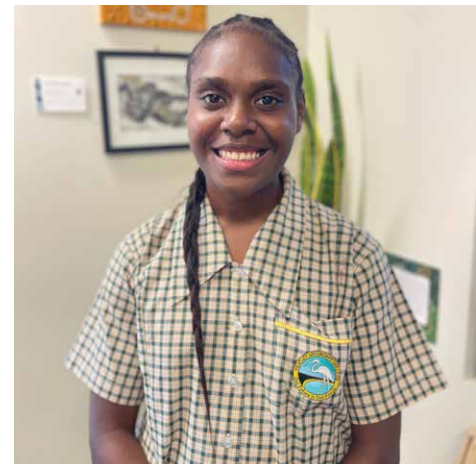
Michael Morgan Cup Grand Final – Marina Aruba

Queensland Golden Gloves Division Winner – Mungu Toby, Rathony Pearson

Townsville Brolga Rugby 7s Rep – Samuel Tamu, Zackius Young

Volunteer of the Year: Upper Ross Rams – Ty Gibson





PARTNER SCHOOLS

A heartfelt thank you to our partner schools for the incredible support they show our NRL Cowboys House students. Their collaboration with our Education team creates a caring environment where our young people are encouraged to learn, grow and thrive in the classroom, on the sporting field and through their cultural journeys.

- 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



EDUCATION PROGRAM

SUPPORTED BY: CQUniversity

Department of Manufacturing, Mines, Rural & Regional Development

Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation

What another amazing year it has been working with our students and their education! The Education team has once again been extremely busy working with our students and schools. We truly appreciate the time the teachers at our 10 partner schools give to our students and thank them for attending our stakeholder dinners each term. Our students love having their teachers at their place!

In addition to our regular education program, we introduced a Year 10 parent information session this year to ensure parents are part of the process of choosing subjects for year 11 and 12. This can be a big decision for students, and we greatly value the insight and support parents bring to the process. It was a treat to also take Year 10 families on a tour of the new Graduate Campus!

STAKEHOLDER DINNERS

Welcoming our partner school teachers to tour NRL Cowboys House and share a meal with our students helps strengthen the connection between the schools and the House. These visits offer valuable insight into the students' living and learning environment, fostering stronger relationships and more tailored support. For our students, it's a meaningful opportunity to proudly showcase their home, study spaces and share their boarding journey.



YEAR 11 & 12 PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

During Term 1, our Year 11 and 12 families were warmly welcomed to the House to meet with their student's case management teacher and transitions officer. These valuable meetings focused on academic progress, future pathways and individual goals. Family involvement plays a vital role in each student's journey, fostering encouragement, motivation and strong partnerships between home and school.



YEAR 10 PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Year 10 marks a significant milestone for students as they manage a full academic load while beginning to make important decisions about their future pathways.

In Term 2, families were invited to the House to be part of their student's subject selection for Year 11. It was fantastic to see parents actively involved, meeting with case management teachers and the Transitions team to discuss goals and options. Their presence helps students feel confident and supported as they plan ahead.



STUDY TIME & TUTORING

From Monday to Thursday at 3.45pm, students take part in Study Time, a dedicated session that reflects the strong learning culture at NRL Cowboys House. The high level of engagement shows how much students value the support and resources available to them.

With focused time for the literacy program LEXIA, homework and assessments, and guidance from case management teachers and tutors, they benefit from a structured approach that builds confidence and independence. This supportive environment helps students stay on track in their academic journey, and we're so thankful to our teachers and tutors for guiding and inspiring our students.

TUTORING PROGRAM

We're proud to welcome tutors from diverse backgrounds whose experience and dedication enrich learning, foster connection and support every study group. This year, the Development and Achievement Team (DAT), supported by the Ian and Shirley Norman Foundation, provided specialist tutoring and university experiences for 26 students who may be considering a post-school tertiary pathway.



TUTORS

Eleanor Barker	Lilian Haigh	Ammon Phineasa
Anneke Bek	Ruby James	Sarah Potts
Tori Bonyhai	Amy Knowles	Lachlan Savage
Mark Gadzikwa	Harrison Leavers	Maggie Stephens
Rowan Greedy	Sasha Pakenam	Molly Swanston
Jennifer Gulson	Amily Phineasa	Elijah Wilson

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Deb Becker
Robyn Potts
Katherine Terry



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Our valued health services are central to NRL Cowboys House's wraparound model of care, supporting the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Through on-site and visiting services, these professionals help our young people stay healthy, build resilience and thrive.

SUPPORTED BY:

CBRE

Corporate Travel Management (CTM)

NQPHN

Tip Top Bakeries

We thank our 2025 partners for their ongoing care and commitment:

- Northern Queensland Primary Health Network
- Project Outback Dental
- The Diabetic GP Clinic
- Lives Lived Well
- The Athlete's Foot

Together, they deliver essential health services, counselling, dental and medical care, and wellbeing support for our students.



PROGRAMS

INTERACT CLUB

Each activity undertaken by the NRL Cowboys House Interact Club this year has reflected their dedication to service above self, leadership and community spirit.

Proudly supported by the Townsville Sunrise Rotary Club, the club's major focus was *Convoy for a Cure*, supporting *The Cure Starts Now* and raising awareness and funds for children's brain cancer research.

Students also organised successful car washes to support House events and wrote personalised gratitude cards for staff, fostering a culture of appreciation and kindness across the boarding community.

The club's commitment shone at the Queensland Emergency Services Cadet Games, where members assisted with the coffee van and helped cater for over 200 participants.

Congratulations to all the students involved – you have made a meaningful difference and should be proud of your achievements.



NRL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT



LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to students who participated in leadership activities throughout 2025.

These included:

- Year 11 Cowboys House Leadership Camp
- Year 11 & 12 Program
- NRL Indigenous Youth Summit
- YAC Youth Ambassadors Program

PROGRAMS

QATSIF (QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FOUNDATION)



YAC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



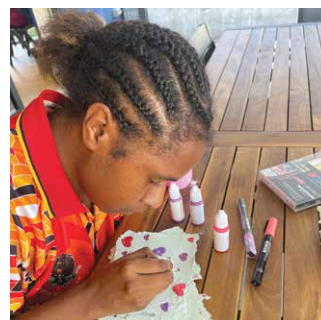
YEAR 11 & 12 PROGRAM



PROGRAMS

WEEK 1 PROGRAM

Each term begins with a dynamic Week 1 program designed to set students up for success. Activities include team-building, community connection and targeted sessions for each year level. This year's program also aligned with Queensland Mental Health Week, focusing on *Connecting with Self*, *Connecting with Others* and *Connecting with Community*. Highlights included a robotics workshop led by QUT Indigenous Australian Engineering students, helping students build skills, resilience and meaningful connections.



YEAR 7 & 8 PROGRAM

Through our Year 7 & 8 program, students build confidence, develop life skills and form strong friendships as they explore, create and connect. The program supports personal growth, wellbeing and resilience through structured activities that help students adjust to boarding life, establish healthy habits and create lasting memories during their first years at the House.



PROGRAMS

YEAR 9 & 10 PROGRAM

Students strengthened their sense of identity, culture and purpose through the *Pathways to Pride* and *Sistas Stand Strong* programs. Using *My Deadly Book About Me*, they reflected on who they are and where they come from. The boys connected with Country at Battle Creek Station, crafting didgeridoos and learning from Traditional Owners, while the girls' camp at Alva Beach explored traditional food gathering, weaving and cultural connection. Together, they lived the House values of Family, Integrity and Resilience.



POWER HOUR

Power Hour is a weekly physical exercise and teamwork program – a fun, high-energy fitness session designed to build strength, endurance and teamwork!

Paddock to Plate

Students gained hands-on experience in growing and caring for their own food through the inaugural Paddock to Plate Program. They designed and prepared garden beds, planted fast-growing vegetables and cultivated bush tucker plants. With support from WSU Civil, they created a vibrant space for learning, connection and sustainable food production.



PROGRAMS

THE GATHERING PLACE - COFFEE VAN

Students transformed our coffee van into *The Gathering Place*, with vibrant artwork designed by Tshak and supported by Sun Metals, with coffee beans donated by Sodexo. Operated by students both in the community and at the House, the van provides hands-on opportunities to develop barista skills, learn how to run a small business and connect with others at events and weekly gatherings.



RAISING HORIZONS

Raising Horizons, delivered by Gunggandji Aerospace and Regional Express (REX), gave students a hands-on introduction to aviation careers, from exploring helicopters and operating drones to observing live operations in the RAAF Base Townsville Air Traffic Control tower. Through leadership sessions, insights from industry professionals and training opportunities, students discovered pathways that can turn their ambitions into real-world aviation careers.

House Supporting Partner - Career Transitions Program, Jet Zero and their partner Airbus collaborated to deliver an engaging module to the students of the Raising Horizons program. Through experiments, VR goggles, molecule building and information sessions, the students were able to gain a deeper understanding into some of the opportunities that exist in the new and exciting world of Sustainable Aviation Fuel.



ARCHERY

Building skill, precision and confidence, 20 students learned professional archery with Full Boar Archers at the range.



CULTURAL PROGRAM

This year's Cultural Program was bursting with creativity and connection! Our students shone in their artistic projects and community events, sharing stories, showcasing culture and warming hearts wherever they went. We're so proud of their talent and spirit!

THE ARTS

CREATIVE TRAILS - INDIGENOUS ARTISTRY

Through the Creative Trails art program, students take a powerful journey of culture and storytelling. Held each week, the sessions give students the chance to explore their heritage, experiment with new techniques and express their individuality through original works that can be shared or sold. The program nurtures creativity, confidence and cultural pride, celebrating each student's voice through art.





THE ARTS

NRL FOOTY BOOTS PROJECT

In its second year, the NRL Cowboys House Boots Project saw students design and paint custom boots for North Queensland Cowboys players to wear in Indigenous Round and go up for auction. Guided by cultural officers and staff, students showcased their culture through unique Indigenous designs, celebrating the connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and rugby league.



CULTURAL DANCE

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



INDIGENOUS SISTAS

Led by Year 11 student Georgia (Palm Island), the Indigenous Sistas made their debut as a vibrant new cultural dance group. Their first performance wowed guests from the US Defence Force, followed by a moving appearance at the Sorry Day Breakfast. Since then, they've been in high demand, performing at NAIDOC Day and dancing at Queensland Country Bank Stadium during Indigenous Round, sharing culture, pride and passion through every step.



MIRIKI PERFORMING ARTS

Our dancers proudly collaborated with Miriki Performing Arts to open the Main Stage at the 2025 Carnival on Collins in Cairns with their powerful production, *Echoes Through Time*. This storytelling journey celebrated the voices of young people, weaving together the past, present and future through themes of resilience, hope and dreams. It was a moving performance that showcased the strength of culture and the spirit of our youth.

CULTURAL DANCE

PIMLICO PRESENTS



TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



TORRES STRAIT ISLAND DANCE GROUP



SORRY DAY





House student Talan (Yarrabah) had the opportunity to design and paint a commissioned artwork for 'Friend of the House' GHD Group, drawing upon his home while showcasing GHD's values and connection to the region.



HOUSE SHIRTS

Students, staff, and supporters have worn their 2025 House shirts with pride, celebrating the powerful story of *Tagai* – a design that embodies culture, community and the House's core values of family, integrity and resilience.

Created by Torres Strait Islander artist and House Parent Vinson Babia, *Tagai* is inspired by the great ancestral warrior and farmer of the Torres Strait. The design pays tribute to leadership, guidance and the deep connection between people and place that continues to shape the journeys of our students today.

The 2025 shirts were unveiled at a special presentation event, where the House community came together to thank Vinson for sharing his story and talent, and to acknowledge our generous uniform partners – ARC – The Australian Reinforcing Company (shirt sponsor) and Wilson Security (shorts sponsor). Their continued support helps our students represent culture and the House with confidence every day.





"TAGAI" By Vinson Babia DESIGN STORY

Tagai is a powerful figure in Torres Strait Islander culture, revered as a provider of magic, a master hunter, and a skilled fisherman. He taught us how to plant, when to plant, how to navigate the seasons, and how to travel across land and sea. The story of Tagai has been passed down through generations, shaping who we are.

The four animals—shark, turtle, dugong, and Kaigus (shovel-nosed shark)—are totems for some Torres Strait Islander communities. The shark symbolises the dry season, while the turtle and dugong represent the hunting skills Tagai taught. Kaigus is the name for the Milky Way, where Tagai is believed to travel. Four Tituil (stars) in each corner represent constellations that help us navigate the night, while the eight-point stars symbolise Tagai's sisters. The five-point stars honour the strength of our Cowboys players, linking their resilience to cultural pride.

Footprints across the Kaygusiw Usul (Milky Way) symbolise the journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders moving forward together with non-Indigenous Australians. The Dhoeri, a cultural symbol, is used to call upon the strength of ancestral warriors, while a Minalay Waku (woven mat) at the bottom represents the knowledge passed down through generations to us. It weaves together our cultural values, stories, and songlines, keeping them alive.

The Zugubal, constellations from the western islands of the Torres Strait, once looked human while they inhabited the island world, but were super-human in strength and performance. As stars, they guide us through the seasons, bringing rain, wind, and tides. Tagai, the leader of the Zugubal, possessed powers which enabled him to summon thunder, lightning, wind, and rain to aid the people, and he could control the moons of the sea. Tagai introduced the method of catching turtle with sucker-fish and imposed conditions on the habits and habitat of sea-creatures.

The Zugubal went up to the sky and became bright stars (Zugubal Tituil) soon after humans appeared in the Torres Strait. As stars, the Zugubal ushered in seasons, and caused rain, wind, tides, and calm. When Tagai dived into the sea" (disappeared from the night sky for a time), he splashed up water which fell as rain. When he throws his spear into the sea, this water that splashes up is the first rain of the north-west season Kuki (Northwest Wind) and Zugubal Ari starts (Monsoon season).

In the night sky, we see Tagai, holding a branch in his right hand and a spear in his left (the Southern Cross). He stands on his canoe, guiding us from March to December, helping us through our planting, hunting, and navigating the sea. When we look up, we know he is telling us the seasons. Even as we face the challenges of today, like global warming, we remember that Tagai has always been there, guiding us like a heavenly clock that never stops. His teachings live on in us, just as they have for generations.

NAIDOC & FAMILY DAY

Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family members travelled from 29 remote communities to join their children and our NRL Cowboys House community for the annual NAIDOC & Family Day celebration. The event holds deep significance for the House, providing a valuable opportunity for families to connect, share culture, strengthen community ties, and celebrate the achievements of the past and the bright future ahead with the theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy". This year's event was supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.









CAREER TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

Our Career Transitions team plays a vital role in guiding Year 9-12 students through one of the most important phases of their journey – preparing for life beyond NRL Cowboys House. Working closely with our Education team, families and students, the team provides personalised support to help each young person build confidence, develop essential life skills and map out meaningful post-school pathways.

This year has been one of growth and impact. From career planning to practical readiness, the Transitions team has been a consistent source of encouragement and empowerment, helping students build resilience and take ownership of their futures.

PRESENTED BY:

Edify Energy

SUPPORTED BY:

AMA Group

Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation

Jet Zero

PPQ

Sodexo

LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM

Building confidence, independence and essential life skills, the Learner Driver Program – presented by PPQ – has been a standout Transitions initiative this year. Led by Year 13 Transitions Officer Derek, who is training to become a certified driver trainer, the program provides students with structured support and access to 10 professional driving lessons, contributing 30 hours toward their 100-hour requirement and helping them take the wheel on their journey beyond the House.

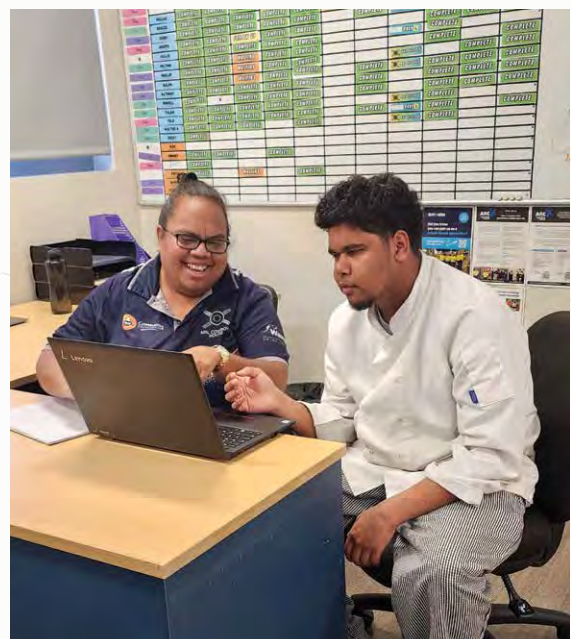


MENTORING

Through tailored mentoring and practical support, the Transitions team helps students build independence, resilience and real-world confidence as they prepare for life beyond school. Their hands-on approach ensures every young person feels informed and ready to take their next steps.

Focused on both personal growth and practical readiness, the program empowers students to move into adulthood with confidence and purpose, through essential support services including:

- Transport coordination and logistics
- Medicals for work placements
- Post-Year 12 housing options
- Employment matching
- University scholarship applications
- Financial literacy and bank account setup
- MyGov & ID support



CAREER EXPO

Year 10, 11 and 12 students gained valuable insights and inspiration for their future careers at this year's NRL Cowboys House Career Expo. The event offered a dynamic space to connect with industry professionals and explore pathways aligned with their interests and goals. With 20 stalls – double last year's number – students learned about the day-to-day realities of different roles, the school subjects that support their aspirations and the practical steps to get involved, leaving motivated and confident about their futures.



EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Our students continue to thrive through meaningful work experience and employment opportunities, made possible by the generous support and collaboration of our House and industry partners.

- **Hezekiah** began his work placement in Term 3 with Peak ARE, where he gained hands-on experience and valuable insight into the workplace. Thanks to Peak's ongoing support, Hezekiah will return later this year to continue developing his skills and exploring future opportunities.
- **Georgia** has been working with Chempro Chemist since 2024, gaining valuable experience in a professional pharmacy environment. Chempro's continued support has provided Georgia with stable and rewarding work that builds both technical knowledge and workplace confidence.
- **Romell, Rathony, Tahliyah and Kentaro** have gained valuable real-world experience and essential workplace skills through their casual employment with Downer Group. Working as gym attendants at the RAAF Base and Lavarack Barracks, they've demonstrated outstanding professionalism and commitment and built confidence, independence and long-term career prospects with the support of Downer Group.



FROM HOUSE TO HOME



A group of NRL Cowboys House students explored career pathways in their home regions through a Weipa career familiarisation tour, with funding from NQ Bulk Ports and supported by Sodexo. The visit gave 10 students firsthand insight into employment opportunities in Cape York, helping them prepare for meaningful, job-ready futures closer to family, community and Country.

Students toured the Bulk Ports Weipa site and met local employers to learn about remote career opportunities. The experience deepened their understanding of regional employment, strengthened community connections and identified options for our young people to build meaningful careers close to home.





House student Ivan (Yorke Island) considers a career in aviation at the Raising Horizons program launch

GRADUATE CAMPUS OPENING

NRL Cowboys House proudly opened our new Graduate Campus in May to support the growing number of graduates in need of safe and affordable housing. The Graduate Campus provides a semi-supported environment for young people who have completed their secondary schooling but wish to continue their education and career journeys in Townsville. This third campus offers our graduates a secure and supported home environment as they take their next steps in life, giving them the stability to pursue their goals while staying connected to family, culture and the House community.





Celebrating the Graduate Campus opening: Jeff Reibel, Rochelle Jones, Fred Mick, Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Fiona Pelling



GRADUATES - YEAR 13+

Our growing network of NRL Cowboys House alumni continues to inspire us. We love hearing where our graduates' journeys have taken them, from study and careers to community leadership and beyond. Each story reflects the values and spirit of the House, showing our current students what's possible and inspiring them to follow in their footsteps. It's always special to welcome our graduates back to NRL Cowboys House and see the lasting bonds they continue to share.

2024

Isaac Accoom (Lockhart River)
 Anaclita Ahmat (Badu Island)
 Antwone Agie (Bamaga)
 Bruce Baudu (Yam Island)
 Destiny Escott (Doomadgee)
 Makeilla Gibson (Cooktown)
 Keelin Hookey (Doomadgee)
 Rahu Mara (Old Mapoon)
 Irene Mari (Thursday Island)
 Timena Messa (Yorke Island)
 Fredrick Mick (Doomadgee)
 Zaleah Mosby-Nona (Yorke Island)
 Taliliya Toby (Mornington Island)
 Steven Tom (Boigu Island)
 Kunjarra Yeatman-Noble (Yarrabah)

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)
 Desharntie 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)
 Tyreece 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 Warria (Moa Island)
 Nathan Widgell (Chinchilla)

2019

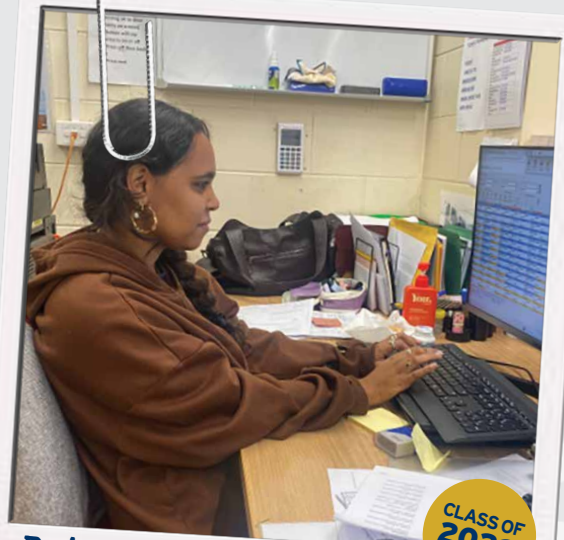
Krystian Bevan (Mossman)
 Rashaan Gibson (Hope Vale)
 Elijah Logan (Normanton)
 Hakeem Peters (Doomadgee)



CLASS OF
2019

Gary Tom

Working in disability support in Cairns, Gary is dedicated to helping others live more independently and confidently.



CLASS OF
2022

Rodneisha Mick

Rodneisha works as a receptionist at the local health clinic in Doomadgee, supporting staff and community members through her frontline role.



CLASS OF
2024

Bruce Baudu

After graduating, Bruce chose to stay in Townsville and is now building his career with Pacific Marine Group.

WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?



CLASS OF
2023

Fransica (Steph) Bob

A FIFO housekeeper at Ayers Rock Resort, Fransica balances her work with completing a Certificate III in Hospitality while living on Warraber Islet.



CLASS OF
2019

Elijah Logan

Working as an Indigenous Teacher's Aide at Spinifex State College Junior Campus in Mount Isa, Elijah is supporting students in their learning and cultural development.



CLASS OF
2020

Ataya Pearson

Employed with Yarrabah Shire Council, Ataya works in accounts receivable and helps coordinate and assign jobs to local contractors.



CLASS OF 2020

Clay George

Working with Bynoe FACE in Normanton, Clay supports family and community engagement and also runs school holiday programs at the local community hall.



CLASS OF 2021

Gershom Kelly

Now in his third year as a roof plumber with Kenny's RPM in Mackay, Gershom is gaining strong trade experience and practical skills.



CLASS OF 2022

Liana Bee

A land and sea ranger and the youngest director on the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation, Liana proudly represents the Kukatj people through her work and leadership.

WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?



CLASS OF 2023

Wyatt Lourigan

Working as a fire technician on the Gold Coast, Wyatt is also part of the Gold Coast Titans Under 20s squad, balancing his trade career with professional sport.



CLASS OF 2024

Makeilla Gibson

Completing a traineeship with Apunipima Cape York Health Council in Mossman, Makeilla is gaining valuable experience in community health and support services.



CLASS OF 2021

Frank Backo

Frank lives in Townsville and works at Golaibi-gan Aitkenvale, supporting young people and families in a caring community environment.

OUR 2025 GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK, OUR CLASS OF 2025!

Your resilience, integrity and dedication have paid off, and you now stand at the end of your secondary school journey. We've watched you grow, work in partnership with your families, celebrate the good times and navigate the more challenging moments with courage and grace.

You've worked through barriers and roadblocks, showing strength and determination every step of the way.

You've represented your families with pride, and we honour the journey you've taken. It has been a pleasure for the Education, Career Transitions and Boarding teams to guide you through to graduation and help prepare you for your next adventure into the 'real world'.

This may be the end of your time at NRL Cowboys House, but it's not the end of your connection. You will always carry a piece of this place with you. We're proud of you and will be here for wherever life takes you next.

NRL Cowboys House Team



PETER



TSHAK



JONATHAN



NARZALIAH



LHERE



TY



TAHLIYAH



JAQLYN



LOUSH



ALEEAH



HEZEKIAH



KUDJARLI-J MARIE



AYDAH-MAREE



KENTARO



SINCERE



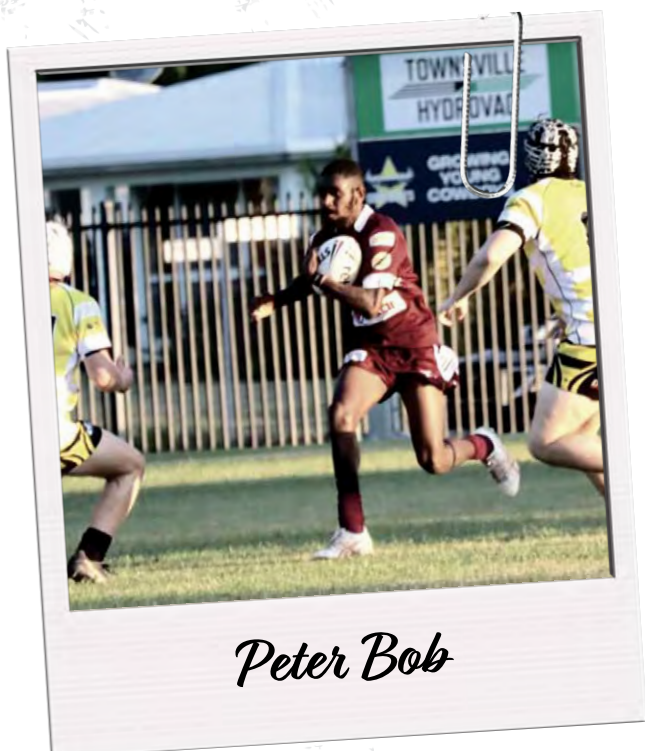
CARLEESHA



MUNGU



KALINA



Peter Bob

Peter – With the Heart of a Lion

Peter has faced life's challenges with quiet strength and determination, working hard to stay on track and complete his studies. Though reserved, he listens deeply, speaks thoughtfully and earns the respect of peers through his authenticity and resilience.

Despite personal hardship this year, Peter showed courage and focus, returning to the House and finishing school with quiet dignity.

His consistent involvement with Clontarf strengthened his confidence and community connections.

A man of few words but great integrity, Peter's humility, perseverance and contagious smile have left a lasting impression – qualities that will serve him well beyond his time at the House.

Career goal: Working in the NT



Tshak Daniels-Misi

Tshak – Creative Leader, Joyful Spirit

Over the past four years, Tshak has been a vibrant, influential presence at NRL Cowboys House.

A natural performer and leader, he's guided dance groups with enthusiasm, mentored younger students with care and brought energy and connection to every stage and gathering.

Known for his humour, warmth and charisma, Tshak's joy is infectious, lifting the spirit of those around him. His growth into a confident, expressive young man has inspired others to embrace creativity, culture and pride.

A true cultural leader, he's helped elevate student involvement, encouraging his peers to step up, take part and celebrate who they are.

Career goal: Performing arts



Jonathan Dau

Jon – Bold Spirit, Quiet Growth

Since arriving at NRL Cowboys House in Year 10, Jon Dau has grown into a young man with quiet strength and a cheeky sense of humour.

A proud Saibai boy, Jon brought bold personality and a few challenges, but over time, he's shown remarkable maturity and growth.

Though he doesn't always show his full self to the world, those in his inner circle know the depth of his character. With a strong interest in hands-on work, Jon is aiming for a trade in tiling or painting.

His determination and evolving work ethic suggest a bright future ahead and we're proud of the journey he's taken so far.

Career goal: Trade



*Narzaliah (Narly)
Doolah*

Narly – Fierce, Fast and Full of Heart

Narzaliah is one of two young women who came into the House in year 7 and have successfully completed their six years of secondary school with us. Known for her gentle spirit and kind heart, Narly is the kind of person who lifts others up with her quiet strength.

But don't be fooled – on the footy field, she's a powerhouse! This year, she dominated in both rugby league and athletics, smashing six school records and representing North Queensland at the State Athletics Championships. Her talent and determination also earned her a spot on the NQ Open Girls' Rugby League team.

Off the field, Narly is just as impressive. She's completing her Certificate in Child Care and has already been offered a job at the centre where she does placement every Wednesday.

With her eyes set on becoming an NRLW player and a child care teacher, Narly's future is as bright as her smile. The world is truly at her fingertips.

Career goal: Child Care



Lhere – From Quiet Beginnings to Bold Ambitions

Starting as a quiet Year 7 student, he has grown into a confident and strong-willed senior, sure of himself and his future.

His time at TAFE was a turning point, where he discovered a genuine passion for welding and a clear path forward.

This journey reflects his personal growth, resilience and readiness to take on the next chapter with purpose and achieve his dreams.

Career goal: Welder



Ty – Heart of Gold, Spirit of Steel

From the moment Ty joined the House, he's been a standout. Honest, kind and hardworking, Ty is the kind of young man who makes a lasting impression.

Always ready to lend a hand, he's earned the respect of staff, students and teachers alike. He's striving to become independent and that drive shows in everything he does, whether it's helping around the House or pushing himself in sport.

He's played all sports, but his biggest commitment has been to rugby league, proudly representing the Central Tigers for five years. Even when things got tough, Ty stuck it out, showing loyalty, resilience and heart.

With big dreams and a heart full of purpose, Ty's journey is only just beginning.

Career goal: Youth worker



Tahliyah – Graceful, Grounded and Leading with Heart

Tahliyah, known to us as TJ, is a gracious, grounded and thoughtful young woman whose radiant smile and calm confidence light up every room.

As First Nations Captain of her school, she led with integrity, pride and quiet strength, inspiring others through her example.

A loyal friend and role model to younger students, TJ has shown determination and focus in preparing for life beyond the House.

Her kind heart, maturity and unwavering commitment to her goals have left a lasting impression on everyone at NRL Cowboys House.

She departs ready to embrace a bright and successful future.

Career goal: Carpentry



Jackie – Style, Strength and Heart

When Jackie arrived at NRL Cowboys House in Year 10, she was quiet and unsure of what lay ahead. Before long, her confidence and creativity began to shine.

Known for her incredible hairstyling skills, Jackie became the go-to stylist in the House, helping others feel proud and confident.

This year, she completed her Certificate in Salon Training at TAFE and emerged as a leader in her hospitality class, showing teamwork and determination.

Deeply connected to family, culture, and Country, Jackie now prepares to call Townsville home again, carrying with her the strength, talent and spirit that define her journey with us.

Career goal: Braiding



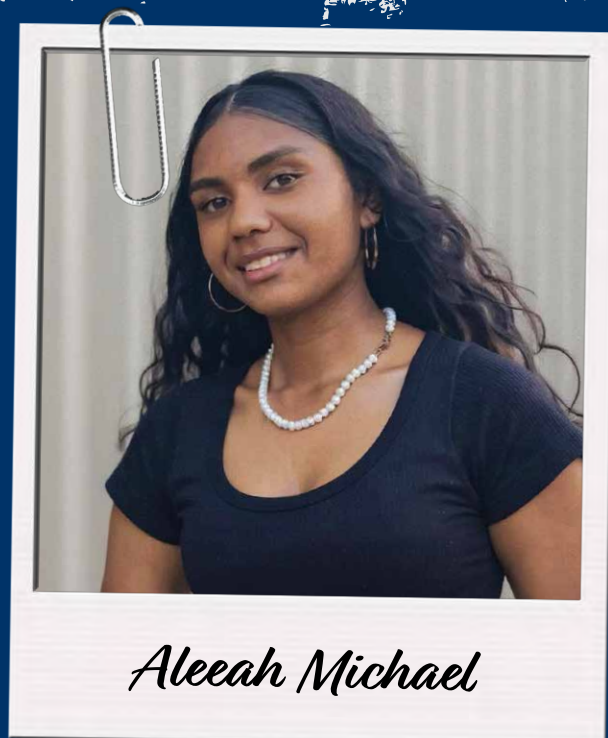
Louish – Quiet Strength, Creative Soul

Louish is our quiet, nurturing big sister to our younger girls and cousins in the House. She has always displayed respect for our staff and fellow students and most of all has shown respect for herself and family in everything she does.

Though Louish may be shy on the outside, her strength and integrity shine through. She stands up for what's right and is a wonderful role model for the younger girls in the House. Her dedication to schoolwork has earned her consistent praise from teachers for her exceptional effort and behaviour.

Louish is deeply passionate about her culture, expressing it beautifully through her artwork and dancing. Her quiet confidence and creative spirit leave a lasting impression, and she'll be truly missed.

Career goal: Defence Force or Engineering



Aleeah – Bold, Loyal and Unapologetically Herself

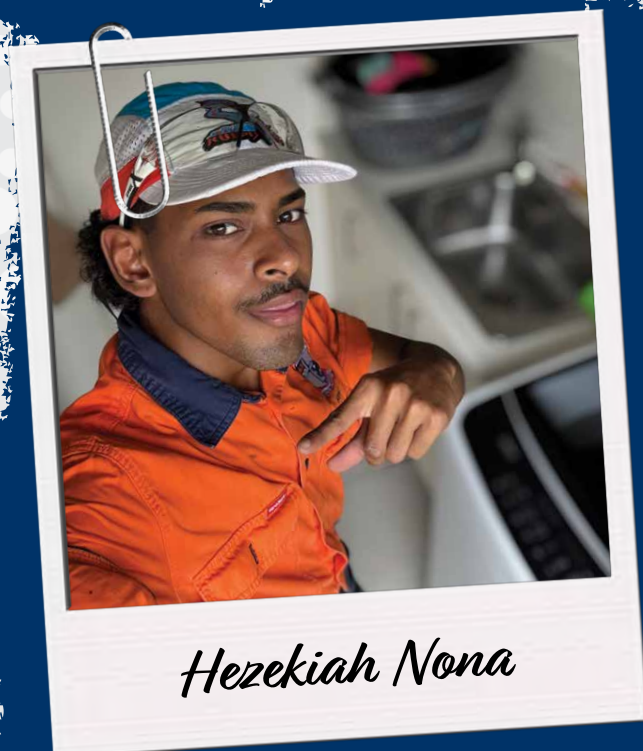
Aleeah, affectionately known as 'Chicko', joined the House as a young Year 7 student and has grown into a strong, confident young woman.

Known for her energy, resilience and authenticity, she's admired for her loyalty and determination, never afraid to stand her ground when it matters.

Creative and culturally proud, Aleeah expresses her love for culture through her art and connection to Country. Away from the canvas, she enjoys hunting and fishing with her dad.

Now working at Boost Juice, she's developed excellent customer service, multi-tasking and teamwork skills, thriving in a fast-paced environment with positivity and professionalism.

Career goal: Carpentry



Hezekiah – Humble, Driven and Ready to Shine

Hezekiah first arrived at NRL Cowboys House in 2020 as a quiet and humble Year 8 student.

Over the years, he has grown into a confident, independent young man with a strong sense of purpose and direction.

Deeply connected to his Torres Strait Islander culture, he leads with quiet strength, respect and pride, always striving to give back to his community. Known for his calm nature and steady determination, Hezekiah approaches every task with focus and heart.

Now set on becoming an electrician, he's ready to light up his future and inspire others to follow their own paths with courage.

Career goal: Electrician



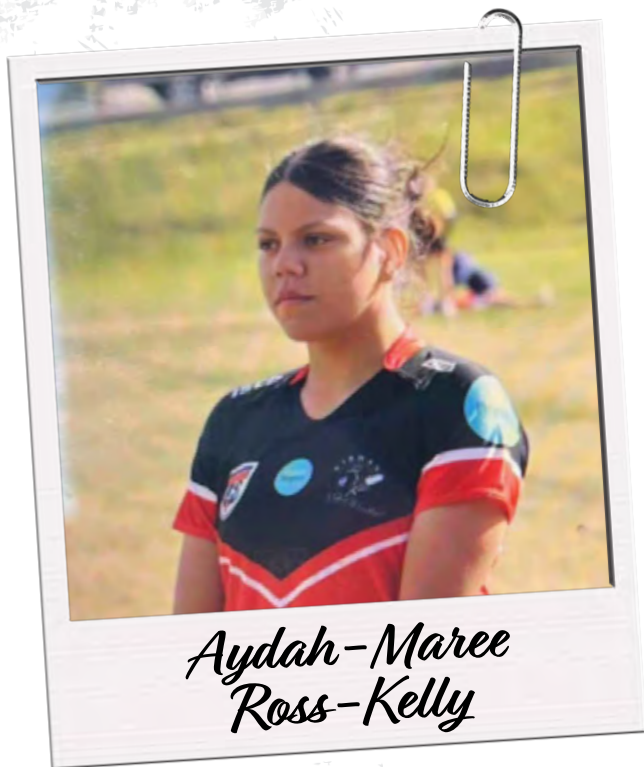
Kudjarli – Independent, Energetic & Ready for More

Kudjarli has brought bubbly energy, confidence and independence to the House over the past two years.

Balancing school and work with maturity and focus, she's demonstrated strong determination and a consistently positive attitude. Her friendly nature and ability to communicate with ease have made her a valued friend and respected role model.

As she prepares to remain in Townsville next year, Kudjarli is ready to embrace new opportunities with enthusiasm and purpose. Her warmth, laughter and vibrant spirit have left a lasting impression, and while she'll be greatly missed, her future shines bright.

Career goal: Lawyer



*Aydah-Maree
Ross-Kelly*

Aydah – Quiet Strength, True Leadership

Aydah has been part of our House for several years, growing from a quiet and shy student into a confident, focused young woman.

Always respectful and driven, she's shown strong dedication to her education and personal goals. She leads by example – reliable, grounded and full of integrity – proving that leadership doesn't need the spotlight to shine.

A talented rugby league player, Aydah's quiet strength and no-nonsense attitude have earned admiration from peers and staff alike.

As she joins the Northern Pride Women's Rugby League team, we're incredibly proud and will be cheering her on every step of the way.

Career goal: Sports Medicine or Beauty



Kentaro Sabatino

Kentaro – Calm, Committed and Leading with Purpose

Kentaro has had an outstanding year as Indigenous School Captain, balancing leadership with cultural, sporting and community commitments.

Polite and quietly spoken, his calm presence and strong sense of responsibility have made him a respected role model in both the school and House communities. A passionate cultural leader, especially through dance, he's helped strengthen pride and connection among the boys.

Dedicated to rugby league and rugby union, Kentaro shows teamwork, reliability and humility in every game.

His travels to Dubai and Japan, along with his role in media and public events, reflect his confidence, pride and commitment to every opportunity.

Career goal: Continue working at Downer



Sincere Sibley

Sincere – Grounded, Resilient and True

Sincere is a free spirit, quietly confident and grounded in who he is. Though reserved, his fierce determination and quiet strength speak volumes. He faces challenges head-on, overcoming them without fuss or fanfare.

He's truly his own person, not easily influenced by those around him and always clear about what he stands for. Sincere has faced some setbacks, but his resilience has helped him push through. He doesn't let tough times define him; he just keeps moving forward.

Sincere has been heavily involved with Clontarf, showing up consistently and building strong relationships through the program. Resilient, authentic and full of heart, he is a remarkable young man with a bright future ahead.

Career goal: Defence Force



Carleesha Tayley

Carleesha – Compassionate, Committed and Inspiring

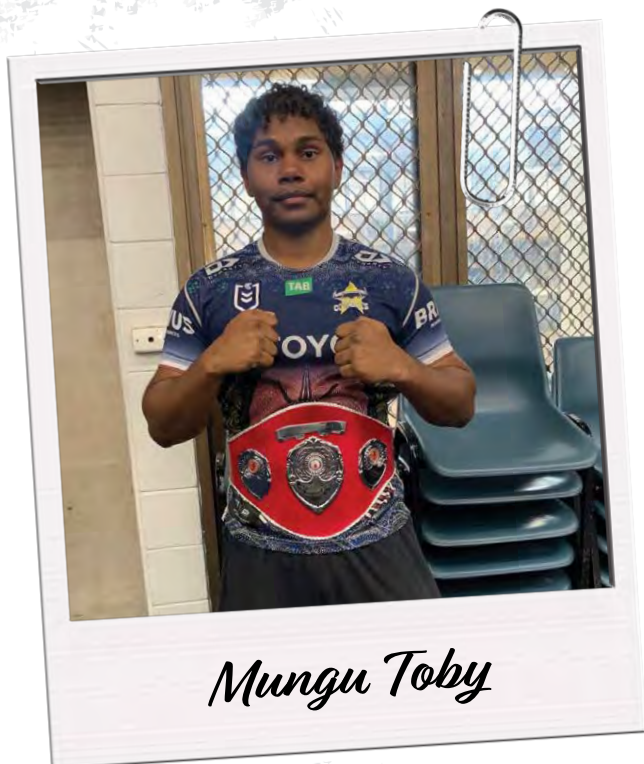
Carleesha lights up every room she enters. With her big smile and very contagious laugh, she brings warmth and positivity wherever she goes. Her caring nature and quiet strength make her a trusted friend and a role model to many.

Carleesha is very caring and has always shown respect to everyone in her life. Always ready to support others, she approaches every challenge with determination and integrity.

Whether in the classroom or in life, Carleesha's resilience and genuine heart shine through. She's admired for her strong work ethic and deeply appreciated by all who know her.

Never stop being the incredible person you are – the world is brighter because of you.

Career goal: Further study in health care



Mungu – Quiet Strength, Bold Leadership

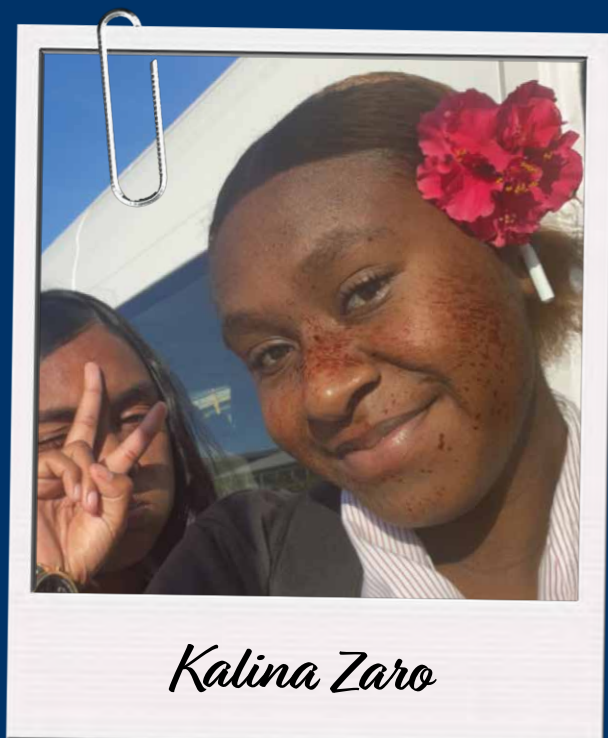
Although softly-spoken, Mungu's presence is powerful. As our first-ever school captain, he's made history – an achievement that fills his family and the House with pride.

Leading with humility and strength, he represents the House with integrity and always steps up when it matters most.

A talented boxer, youth ambassador and participant in the First Nations Australian Defence Force Work Experience program, Mungu has earned respect through discipline and drive.

Guided by the spirit of his Lardil ancestors, he leads with purpose, pride and cultural strength – a true role model whose quiet determination continues to inspire others.

Career goal: Defence Force



Kalina – Growing with Grace

Kalina's journey reflects quiet determination and growing confidence. She's embraced challenges, found her rhythm in school and boarding life, and supported others with kindness and care.

A natural leader and dependable role model, she has earned Certificates II and III in Health Services, completed multiple placements, and holds a current First Aid qualification.

Known for her organisation, teamwork and strong communication skills, Kalina brings positivity and professionalism to every setting. Based in Kirwan and working towards her driving hours, she is ready to take the next step into local employment in the healthcare field.

Career goal: Health care



GRATITUDE GALLERY

We're always delighted to welcome our partners, Friends of the House, donors, volunteers and supporters to NRL Cowboys House. Our campus is alive with energy, laughter and learning – a place that leaves a lasting impression on everyone who visits. We hope each visitor gains a deeper understanding of the impact of their support and takes away special memories of their time with our young people.







DONORS & SUPPORTERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Patron, generous donors and incredible volunteers. Your ongoing support and belief in our program make a lasting difference. A special thank you to our individual donors and volunteers who give so much to create opportunities for our young people.

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Toni Frame

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Teddy & Rosie
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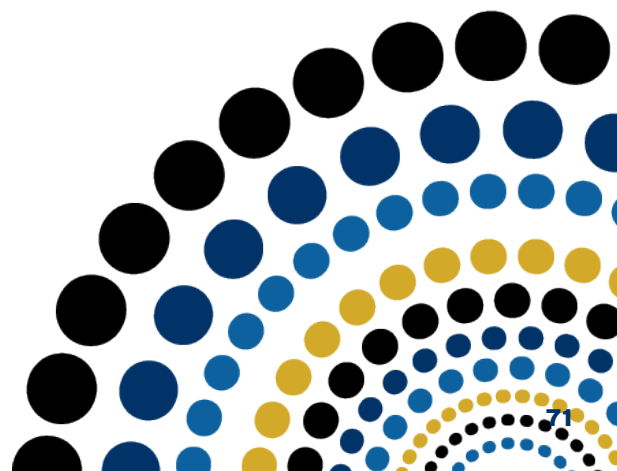
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Women Veterans Network Australia

Thank you!









PARTNERS

Every student graduating to meaningful employment or further education is at the heart of our vision, one we proudly share with our dedicated partners. Their generosity and commitment continue to open doors for our inspiring 2025 graduates and those who follow in their footsteps.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- **Australian Government:**
 - Abstudy
 - National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) – program support
- **Queensland Government:**
 - Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
 - Department of Manufacturing, Mines, Rural and Regional Development
 - Department of Transport and Main Roads
 - Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism
 - Education Queensland

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- AMA Group – Supporting Partner, Career Transitions Program
- ARC – Branding Partner, House Polo
- BGIS – Branding Partner, Student Transport Vans
- Biniris – Presenting Partner, Cleaning Supplier
- CBRE – Supporting Partner, Wellbeing Program (Sistas Stand Strong program)
- CQUniversity – Supporting Partner, Education Program
- Corporate Travel Management (CTM) – Supporting Partner, Wellbeing Program (Sistas Stand Strong program)
- Cowboys Leagues Club – Supporting Partner, Programs & Rewards
- Downer Group – Presenting Partner, Boys Campus
- Edify Energy – Presenting Partner, Career Transitions Program
- Green Energy Technologies – Presenting Partner, Solar & Power Supplier
- Gunggandji Aerospace – Presenting Partner, Raising Horizons Program
- Jet Zero – Supporting Partner, Career Transitions Program
- NRL – Presenting Partner, House Programs
- Northern Queensland PHN – Presenting Partner, Psychologist/ Wellbeing
- PPQ – Supporting Partner, Career Transitions Program; Presenting Partner – Driver Licensing Program
- Regional Express – Supporting Partner, Boarding & Programs
- Sodexo – Supporting Partner, Career Transitions Program
- Tip Top Bakeries – Supporting Partner, Wellbeing Program
- Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Limited – Branding Partner, Student Transport Van
- Variety, The Children's Charity of Queensland – Branding Partner, Girls Campus Learning Centre
- Veolia – Branding Partner, Outdoor Multi-Purpose Facilities
- Wilson Security – Branding Partner, Boys Campus Learning Centre & House Shorts

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- Ampol Foundation – Branding Partner, Centre for Inspired Futures
- Hand Heart Pocket – Impact Project
- Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation – Presenting Partner, DAT Program & Tertiary Pathways (Year 13)
- The John Villiers Trust – Impact Project

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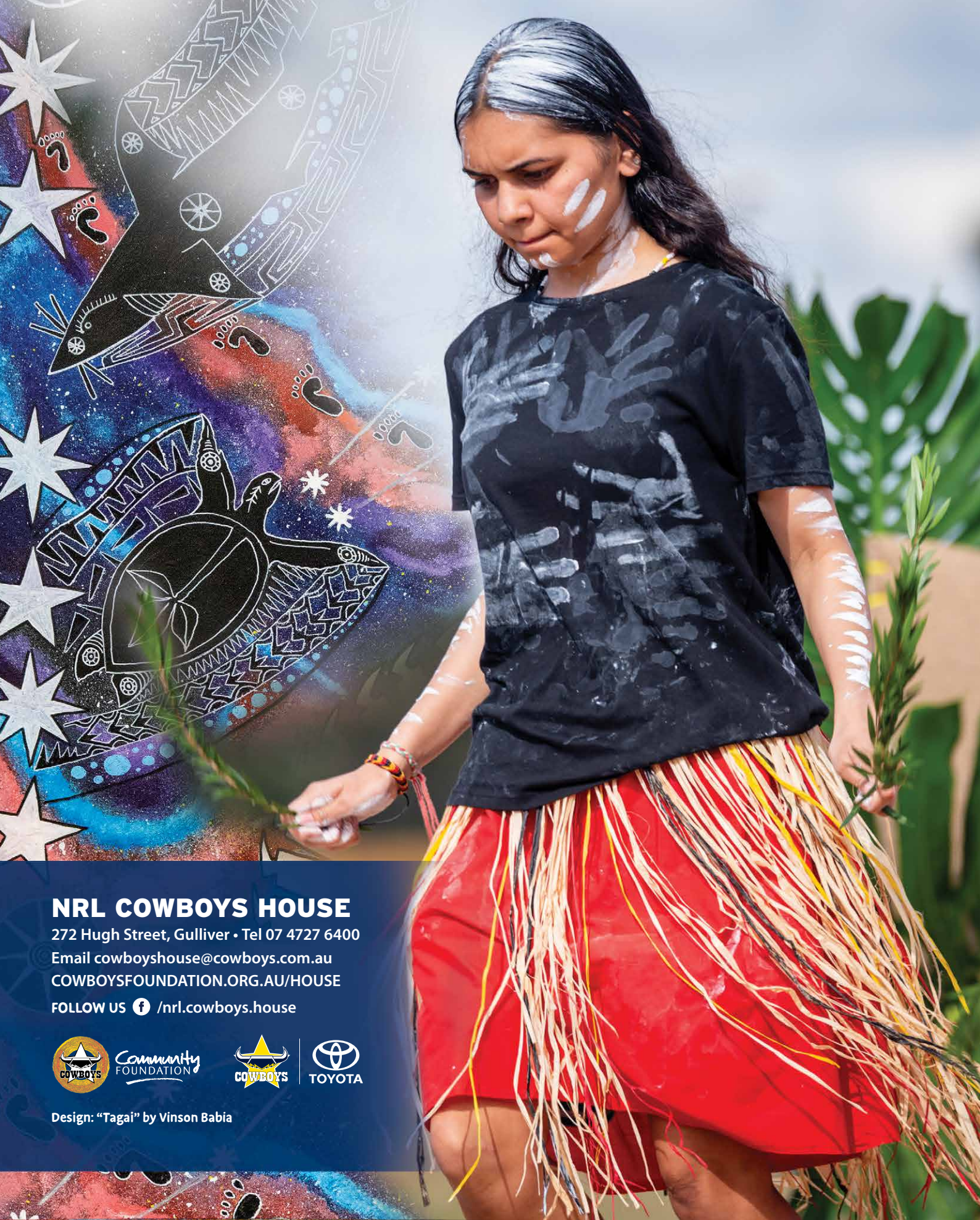


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Community
FOUNDATION



Design: "Tagai" by Vinson Babia

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.