

NRL COWBOYS
HOUSE

2022
YEARBOOK



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Thank you and farewell to our House player ambassador and Ken Stephen Medal finalist Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow – good luck in the next chapter of your career!



Wilson Security

LEARNING CENTRE



"Education is what gives you options in life. These students here are changing the pathway that the next generation of young people will be able to see is available to them." – Christie Peterson, Wilson Security – naming partner of NRL Cowboys House Boys Learning Centre



WELCOME

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

While adaptability has been essential in education over the past few years, 2022 has been an important return to normality.

This year we celebrate a special milestone for our House, as we prepare to farewell our four foundation students who joined us in the Boys Campus back in 2017.

Kody, Elijah, Zayryn and Brody have all been part of our House story from the beginning, and with the help of our incredible support network, we now have the privilege of seeing them complete their year 12 studies.

Their bravery and courage to step into the unknown is inspiring, and to see the confident, hard-working young men they've become is testament to the efforts of all who've helped them on their journey.

In addition to academic performance, a strong focus this year has been on developing our young people as individuals.

The NRL Cowboys House Interact Club through Sunrise Rotary Townsville is providing a new platform for students to give back to the community, learning the importance of 'service above self' through community service and developing leadership skills and international understanding.

The Sistas Stand Strong program with CBRE and Corporate Travel Management is empowering young women, providing activities to challenge students' thinking about themselves and others.

In the middle of the year, we welcomed more than 30 parents travelling from community for our second annual senior parent information sessions, highlighting the value of parental guidance in creating the individual plan that's right for their child.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our 17 graduates, we've also welcomed students from four new communities – Napranum, Umagico, Kowanyama and Aurukun – giving us a chance to not only guide them, but for us to learn about their culture and traditions.

Thank you to everyone who has made a difference to the lives of our young people this year, as we wish our 2022 graduates all the best for what lies ahead.

Rochelle Jones

GENERAL MANAGER, NRL COWBOYS HOUSE



STRATEGY 2022-2023

OUR VISION

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

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR VALUES

FAMILY

Together we make a family

We care for and trust each other. We are each other's strength.

We earn respect. We develop positive relationships.

We have pride in our culture, land and community.

We all belong. We accept individual difference.

We value all life. We do no harm.

INTEGRITY

Truth in all that we say and do

We are honest, fair and trustworthy. We are our own role models.

We choose to always do the right thing. We respect the rights of others.

We have the courage to 'stand up' for what is right and just.

We own our behaviour and accept the consequences.

We are committed to doing a quality job responsibly, with passion and pride.

RESILIENCE

I can. You can. We can.

We never 'give up'. We have the strength and courage to seek help.

We accept our challenges and help others to bounce back.

We stay strong, we believe in ourselves and we chase our dreams.

We learn and grow stronger from our mistakes.

We celebrate our achievements and those of others, without shame.

HOUSE STAFF



ROCHELLE JONES
GENERAL MANAGER



KARL ADAMS
CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER



LEIGH ALLENDER
DIRECTOR OF BOARDING



NICCI ANGUS
STUDENT WELLBEING



ROY BAIRA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



SARBI BAKER
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



JODIE BEAUMONT
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



ANDY BLIESNER
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



TRACEY BRYANT
EDUCATION FACILITATOR



JONATHAN CINI
HEAD OF BOYS CAMPUS



BYRON DIMECH
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



ZARA DOHERTY
CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER



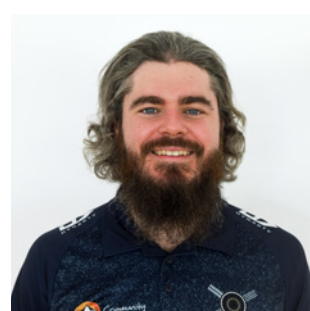
ASHLEY DUNN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



ANGELA FEIRCLOUGH
CHEF



GLEN FEIRCLOUGH
CHEF



BRADLEY FISSORE
PSYCHOLOGIST
Supported by NQPHN



MABATA GAMOGA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



APRIL GELA
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



KAREN HAUGHTON
BUSINESS MANAGER



PATRICIA HOOLIHAN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



GEORGIA HOREWOOD
EDUCATION FACILITATOR



THERESA HUEN
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



FIONA KENNEDY
ABSTUDY TRAVEL



ASHLAN KERSH
TRAINEE ADMINISTRATION
OFFICER



JOSH LANE
CHAPLAIN



KYLIE LUKASIK
HEAD OF GIRLS CAMPUS



JO-JO MAREKO
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



NATHAN MELLOR
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



TYREECE MICHAEL
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



MOSES MOSES
BOARDING SUPERVISOR



SANETTA NONA
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



RENA O'CLOUDY
BOARDING SUPERVISOR

HOUSE STAFF (CONTINUED)



DEREK RESTON

CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER



RENEE RESTON

TEACHER ASSISTANT & ADMIN



HELEN SANTO

BOARDING SUPERVISOR



**NIKIESHA-ROSE
SINGLETON-GEARY**

BOARDING SUPERVISOR



SAMANTHA SMORFITT

EDUCATION MANAGER



TONY STEEN

BOARDING SUPERVISOR



ANGELA STOCKS

EDUCATION FACILITATOR



JEAN SUNAI

BOARDING SUPERVISOR



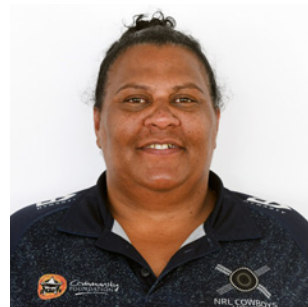
GLEN THOMAS

CULTURAL EDUCATION
MANAGER



LEITA WASON

CAREER TRANSITIONS OFFICER



SONJA WATSON

BOARDING SUPERVISOR



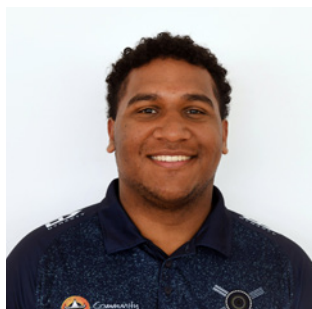
MICHAEL WEBSTER

EDUCATION FACILITATOR

Biniris team members Maruia Nekeare, Susan Morris and Catherine Ngatupuna are dedicated to keeping NRL Cowboys House sparkling – thank you to our partners Biniris who have been with us since our unique facility opened in 2017



HOUSE BROTHERS & SISTERS



George Abednego
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island



Isaac Accoom
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Lockhart River



Brody Ah Kit
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Mornington Island



Amaziah Ah Wing
Year 7
St Margaret Mary's College
Doomadgee



Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona
Year 11
Tec-NQ
Badu Island



Marina Aruba
Year 8
Pimlico State High School
Boigu Island



Topaz Baragud
Year 9
Kirwan High State School
Warraber Island



Bruce Baudu
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island



Liana Bee
Year 12
Calvary Christian College
Normanton



Kylorren (Kylie) Beetham
Year 11
St Margaret Mary's College
Yam Island



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



Fransica (Steph) Bob
Year 11
Queensland Pathways
State College
Warraber Island



Peter Bob
Year 9
William Ross State High School
Warraber Island



Jalara Creek
Year 9
Townsville State High School
Cooktown



Kelly Dalton
Year 11
Calvary Christian College
Normanton



Josh Daniel
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island



Denzel Daniels-Misi
Year 8
William Ross State High School
Thursday Island



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



Shawndel De Bosch
Year 10
Tec-NQ
Old Mapoon



Domarion (Zecky) Doolah
Year 8
Townsville Grammar School
Old Mapoon



Narzaliah Doolah
Year 9
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon



Trefena Dugong
Year 12
**Queensland Pathways
State College**
Morningson Island



Taraleah Finta-Burton
Year 9
Kirwan High State School
Cairns



Lhere Forester
Year 9
Calvary Christian College
Coen



David Foster-King
Year 11
Tec-NQ
Doomadgee



Zoe Gavenor
Year 8
St Margaret Mary's College
Morningson Island



Makeilla Gibson
Year 10
Kirwan High State School
Cooktown



Ty Gibson
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Hope Vale



Xania Gordon
Year 7
Pimlico State High School
Cooktown



Keelin Hookey
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Doomadgee



Kairon Hudson
Year 11
Pimlico State High School
Napranum



Elijah Joe
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Morningson Island

HOUSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS (CONTINUED)



Rolatielu (Telu) Joe
Year 8
Heatley Secondary College
Yam Island



Isaiah Kepa
Year 11
Tec-NQ
Yam Island



Kieshaya Kepa
Year 10
Townsville Christian College
Umagico



Milton Larry
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Yam Island



Bretttaequa Leo
Year 9
Pimlico State High School
Hope Vale



Kadanji Leo
Year 8
Kirwan High State School
Hope Vale



Jaylee Linden
Year 12
Calvary Christian College
Mornington Island



Wyatt Lourigan
Year 11
Ignatius Park College
Mossman



l'Holarnie (Larnie) Mara
Year 12
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon



Rahu Mara
Year 10
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon



Jaylen McMullen
Year 12
Kirwan High State School
Normanton



Tekelu Mene
Year 12
Ignatius Park College
Warraber Island



Beatrice (Timena) Messa
Year 10
William Ross State High School
Yorke Island



Peah Messa
Year 8
Townsville Grammar School
Yorke Island



Aleeah Michael
Year 9
Kirwan High State School
Cooktown



Leland Michael
Year 11
Kirwan High State School
Cooktown



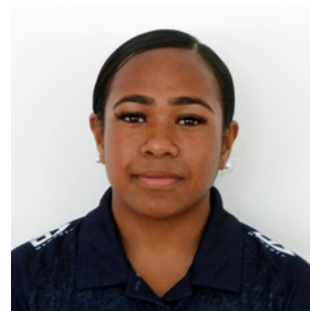
Fredrick Mick
Year 10
Carinity Education Shalom
Doomadgee



Rodneisha Mick
Year 12
Queensland Pathways
State College
Doomadgee



Shontay Mick
Year 11
William Ross State High School
Doomadgee



Zaleah Mosby-Nona
Year 10
Kirwan High State School
Yorke Island



Mavontae Moses
Year 7
St Margaret Mary's College
Lockhart River



Coralie Mundraby
Year 12
Queensland Pathways
State College
Normanton



Jack Mundraby
Year 10
Heatley Secondary College
Normanton



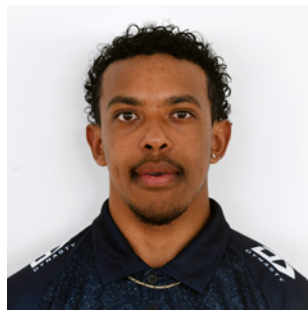
Bobby-James Naawi
Year 11
Pimlico State High School
Moa Island



Desharnthie Nona
Year 11
St Margaret Mary's College
Warraber Island



Hezekiah Nona
Year 9
Ignatius Park College
Thursday Island



Manuifua Nona
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Thursday Island



Walter Nona
Year 7
Townsville Grammar School
Badu Island



Donny Patrick
Year 7
Ignatius Park College
Kowanyama



Gracie Paul
Year 8
Pimlico State High School
Mornington Island



Tyrick Paul
Year 10
Townsville State High School
Mornington Island



Chasidy Pearson
Year 12
Calvary Christian College
Yarrabah

HOUSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS (CONTINUED)



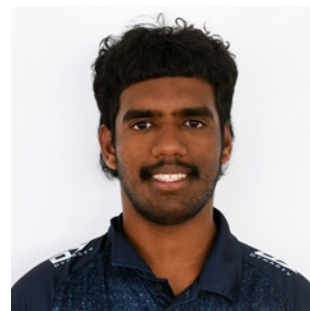
Cooper Pearson
Year 11
Kirwan High State School
Yarrabah



Haley Pearson
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Warraber Island



Rathony Pearson
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Warraber Island



Kody Rogers
Year 12
Heatley Secondary College
Mornington Island



Connor Rogers
Year 11
Calvary Christian College
Mornington Island



Zayryn Rosendale
Year 12
Tec-NQ
Hope Vale



Kentaro Sabatino
Year 9
Townsville Grammar School
Thursday Island



Bruce Sailor
Year 7
Calvary Christian College
Coen



Jaum (Ralph) Sam
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island



Joseph Sam
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island



Kala (Phillip) Sam
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Saibai Island



Charlie Seriat
Year 8
Heatley Secondary College
Thursday Island



Romell Sorogo
Year 8
Ignatius Park College
Warraber Island



Eliannah Tabuai
Year 9
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon



Kyson Tabuai
Year 7
Calvary Christian College
Old Mapoon



Ariel Tapim Wailu
Year 11
St Margaret Mary's College
Murray Island



Mungu Toby
Year 9
Heatley Secondary College
Mornington Island



Tanya Toby
Year 10
Pimlico State High School
Mornington Island



Kallis Toby-Isaac
Year 8
Heatley Secondary College
Doomadgee



Steven Tom
Year 10
Ignatius Park College
Boigu Island



Shanika Upton
Year 8
St Margaret Mary's College
Aurukun



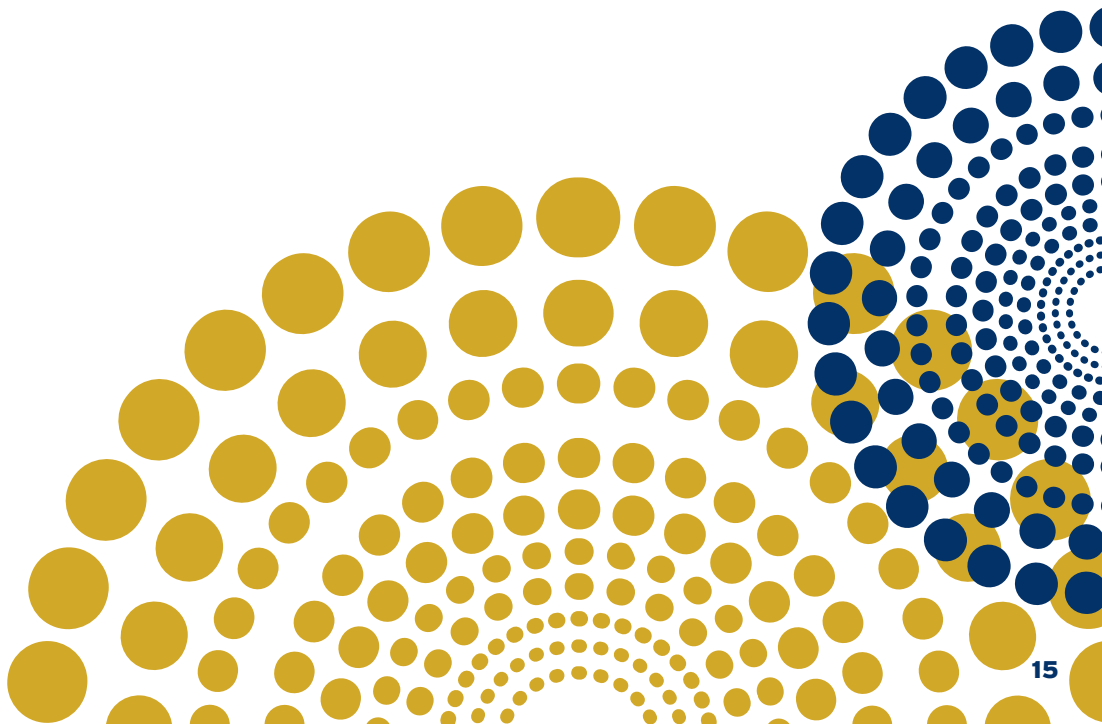
Cordell White-Benson
Year 12
Townsville State High School
Rockhampton



Nahkayia Yeatman
Year 7
Pimlico State High School
Yarrabah



Kunjurra Yeatman-Noble
Year 10
Kirwan High State School
Yarrabah



HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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

ACADEMIC

- Kirwan State High School 100% Attendance for Yr 8 Term 1 Award: Peah Messa
- Kirwan State High School Positive Behaviour Champion Award: Peah Messa
- Kirwan State High School Gratitude Champion Award: Peah Messa
- Calvary Christian College – Calvary In Action (CIA) for demonstrating one of our College Values: Lhere Forrester, Rahu Mara, Kelly Dalton
- Calvary Christian College – Academic Excellence: Rahu Mara
- Ignatius Park College - Mark Mewburn Medal: Hezekiah Nona

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Interact: Leland Michael, Kentaro Sabatino, Eliah Tabuai, Amaziah Ah Wing

THE ARTS

- Ignatius Park College musical "Beauty and the Beast": George Abednego, lead (Gaston)
- NRL Cowboys House Dance group: Kentaro Sabatino, Ralph Sam, Phillip Sam, Kadanji Leo, Walter Nona, Steven Tom, Bruce Sailor, Donny Patrick, Kyson Tabuai, Hezekiah Nona

SPORT

- Heatley State High School - House Captain: Kody Rogers
- Ignatius Park College - House Vice Captain: Brody Ah Kit

Rugby League

- Confraternity Cup Winners – Ignatius Park College: Brody Ah Kit, Tekelu Mene, Elijah Joe
- Aaron Payne Cup Winners – Ignatius Park College: Brody Ah Kit, Tekelu Mene, Elijah Joe
- Phil Hall Cup Runners Up – Ignatius Park College: Brody Ah Kit, Tekelu Mene
- Kirwan State High 2022 Team of the Year - Grizzlies: Zaleah Mosby-Nona, Makeilla Gibson
- Centrals U16 Most Consistent Player: Bruce Baudu
- Townsville Blackhawks U16: Keelin Hookey
- TDRL Souths U13 - Premiers: Domarion Doolah
- TDRL Souths U13 - Grand Final Man of the Match: Domarion Doolah
- TDRL Souths U13 - Best and Fairest: Domarion Doolah
- TDRL Souths U17 - Premiers: Josh Daniel
- Townsville Blackhawks U17 (undefeated): Makeilla Gibson
- Townsville Blackhawks U18: Elijah Joe
- Centrals U18s Premiers: Brody Ah Kit, Cordell White-Benson
- Northern Pride Training Squad U21 (2023): Elijah Joe
- Townsville Blackhawks Training Squad U21 (2023): Elijah Joe
- Gold Stars Training/Development Academy (2023): Narzaliah Doolah, Makeilla Gibson
- NRL Toyota Cowboys Green Horn Academy Program: Bruce Baudu

- North Queensland Schoolboys Rugby League U18: Elijah Joe
- Qld Rugby League Merit Team: Elijah Joe
- Qld Clontarf Rugby League: Kody Rogers
- Qld U17 Country Team: Makeilla Gibson
- Qld U18 Country Team: Tekelu Mene
- Qld Emerging NRL squad: Tekelu Mene

AFL

- Suns AFL Academy: Brody Ah Kit
- Suns U18 Premiers: Brody Ah Kit

Athletics

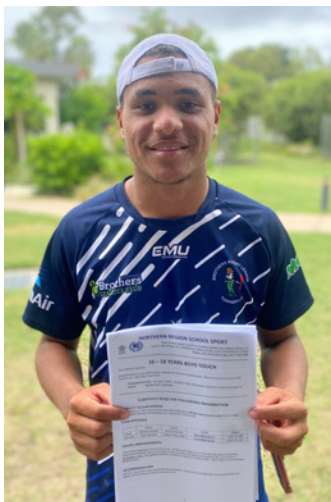
- NQ track and field team – long jump, 100m: Keelin Hookey
- Pimlico State High School – 17 yrs age champion: Kairon Hudson
- Calvary Christian College – age champion: Narzaliah Doolah

Touch Football

- North Queensland Schoolboys Touch U18: Elijah Joe

Rugby Union

- NQ Rugby Union Healers: Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona



PARTNER SCHOOLS

Thank you to our 13 amazing partner schools for their support of our students and close collaboration with our NRL Cowboys House education team. The school communities are tireless in their care and commitment to helping our students to learn, grow and achieve in the classroom, on the sporting field and in their cultural activities.

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



LEARNIN CENTRE



"The House staff care for these kids and their passion and drive to make a difference in each individual's life is really obvious, even more so for us when we're trying to impact on kids."

– Steve Wakerley, Variety – The Children's Charity of Queensland – naming partner of NRL Cowboys House Girls Learning Centre

TUTORS & VOLUNTEERS

The contribution of our dedicated tutors and volunteers to the success of NRL Cowboys House is priceless. We are grateful for their commitment and hard work behind the scenes to support our students and the operations of our House. You are the heroes of NRL Cowboys House and we thank you!

TUTORS

Matthew Astbury
Debra Backer
Abinaya Balaji
Jarrod Bates
Victoria Bonyhai
Eliza-Jane Carlson
Sinead Coles
Cheyenne Coote
James Darlington
Alex King
Braithen Knox
Zed Kretschmer
Christopher Kyle
Lauren Reichard
Carly Sopronick
Sinouya Tuckerman

VOLUNTEERS

Chia Miin Chua
Aysha Coker
Liam Crossland
Baily Crump
Susan Falkenhagen
Amelia Grant
Elizabeth Habjan
Andrew Ishak
Solokara Lankathilake
Harrison Leavers
Shaye Lukasik
Lincoln Miller
Halimat Olaniyan
Gonam Pillay
Scarlett Pountney
Cameron Powell
Aidan Raheb
Dylan Rao
Kiruthika Sornamoorthy
Anaya Suarna
Katharine Terry
Clement Wong
Sangweon Yun

50-50 CHARITY RAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

John Allen
Sue Blair
Jayden Calder
Craig Crichton
Lisa Dent
Sue Gardner
David Fuller
Greg Gilbert
Donna Gilbert
Maria Helou
Laura Lambton-Young
Richard McCasker
Sarah Major
Hoang Nguyen
Laxim Paudel

Jimmy Porter
Barbara Robinson
Tony Russo
Sharron Russo
Kieran Ryan
Jimi Sherpa
Joe Skuse
Peter Spencer
Shiralee Spencer
Judy Tietzel-Berry
Keeley Tietzel-Berry
Jacqui Trugar
Jonathan Webster
Teegan White

50-50 CHARITY RAFFLE CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

AMA Group
Apricus Health
GHD

Newlands
Telstra
Queensland Police Service





PARTNERS

NRL Cowboys House is dedicated to building a best-practice model for Indigenous student boarding facilities, for our current and future students, and Indigenous boarding students across Australia. The committed and shared vision of our valued partner family is helping to remove distance as a barrier to education and creating life-changing opportunities through education equity.

PARTNERS

Australian Government

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

Queensland Government

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

NRL – program support

BGIS – transportation

Biniris – cleaning services

CBRE & Corporate Travel Management – Sistas Stand Strong empowerment program

Cowboys Leagues Club – students and programs

Downer Group – Boys Campus

Toyota – Career Transitions Team

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

Veolia – Boys & Girls Campus recreational areas

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

Wilson Security – Boys Campus Learning Centre

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

The Sebastian Foundation – health and wellbeing programs

BURSARY PARTNERS

AMA Group – support of student training and education programs

FRIENDS OF THE HOUSE

Chemist Warehouse – supporting student health and wellbeing

Fulton Hogan – support of students and education programs

Intersport – student sporting apparel

LiteHaus International – laptops for students

Morris Family Foundation/The Ville Resort-Casino – supporting students and programs

Parcorp Group / McDonald's – student support

Regional Express (REX) – program and community travel support

Tip Top – student programs and support

Vivid Property Services – support of education programs



Waanyi Joint Venture, NRL Cowboys House partner, plays a key role in helping our students launch their careers through the support of career transitions officer Karl Adams. Together, we're empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth for a positive future.

PATRONS & DONORS

We are grateful for the support of our donors which comes in many forms – it's heart-warming to see the impact that giving with purpose has on both our beneficiaries, the students of NRL Cowboys House, and our valued donors.

The generosity of our donors is driving innovation and opportunity to level the education playing field for our students and their contribution will have a lasting impact not only on the futures of our current students, but of those who follow and their families, communities and our region.

PATRON

- Toni Frame

STUDENT CARE BURSARY

- Bravus
- Kate Campbell + Robert, Charlie, Teddy & Rosie Magdics
- Coles Castletown
- Sunrise Rotary Townsville

DONORS

- 3RAR Madden Club
- Althea Projects
- Apricus Health
- Bennelong Energy Services
- BG Group NQ
- Keith Blake
- Katherine Bliesner
- BNI Integrity
- Bravus
- Chapel & York
- Civic Solutions
- Cowboys Leagues Club
- Daniel Crowley
- Russell Davies
- De La Cruz / Spry Family
- Ella Bache Townsville

- EMR Switchboard
- Essential Solutions
- Event Cinemas
- Excellence Property
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
- Frontier Voice & Data
- Sheree & Stephen Heilbronn
- Lisa Hill
- Hutchinson Builders
- James Cook University
- Rocky & Sherry Jordan
- James Jordan Testamentary Trust
- Kenilworth Dairies
- Georghios Koletti
- KU Children's Services
- Gwen Laffin
- Lancini Family
- Danae McCallum
- Matthew McCarthy
- Cameron McDowall
- Nando's
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Newlands Group
- Pacific Islands International
- Phoenix Constructions
- Playrs
- Port of Townsville
- Pretty Pups Grooming
- Queensland Community Fund
- Open Property
- Regional Express (REX)
- Rowes Bay Golf Club
- SeaLink
- Sea Locksmiths
- SecondBite
- Selectability
- Share the Dignity
- Smit Lamnalco
- Sofitel Brisbane Central
- Stockland Foundation
- Andrew Stocks
- Sunrise Rotary Townsville
- Telstra
- The Rural Shop.com
- The Ville Resort-Casino
- TLC with Lisa Marie
- Toro
- Townsville Earthmoving
- Townsville Termite & Pest Control
- Treasury Wine Estates
- Wandarra
- Mitch Wickham
- XRX Business Services



Thanks to Coles Castletown for their support with a Student Care Bursary – the students loved being part of your opening celebrations!

MEDICAL SERVICES

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

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

We thank these partners for their commitment to our students in 2022:

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

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

Dr Kenny Clark and the Diabetic GP Clinic team

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

Mary Anne and Dr Garret at Outback Dental

Visiting the House every six months to undertake dental hygiene.



House psychologist Brad Fissore, supported by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network



We are grateful and very happy to be celebrating five years with NRL Cowboys House partners Veolia in 2022! Veolia have worked with us since year 1 and support our Boys and Girls Campus recreational areas. Thank you!

NEW YEAR, FRESH START

With plenty of new faces and lots of familiar ones, the start of the new school year at NRL Cowboys House was a mix of hope, nerves and anticipation as students settled in to boarding life and the school routine. Friend of the House Intersport made sure that students had the right shoes to kick their year off to a flying start!



JCU FIRE CLINIC A SLAM DUNK

It was an opportunity to impress some of North Queensland's best basketballers as WNBL club JCU Townsville Fire visited NRL Cowboys House for an exclusive skills and drills clinic. Fire players Stephanie Reid, Lauren Nicholson and Courtney Woods joined head coach Shannon Seebohm to teach fundamentals of the game, before the students showed off what they'd learned with a few highly competitive games!



EARNING THEIR COLOURS: SHIRT PRESENTATION

A milestone for every student and staff member on the NRL Cowboys House calendar – receiving your official House shirt! Featuring the 'My Journey My Way' Indigenous design created by Margaret Mara, mother to students Larnie and Rahu, the shirts unite students, staff and supporters.

*My Journey
My Way*

"We as Indigenous people have an affiliation to the land and to the water. Our journey through life is influenced by those affiliations.

On our journey we encounter so many people who love, guide, teach and influence us. Some of us walk in the footsteps of others, some chose their own path, others walk together and very often our journey is a little bit of each.

My Journey My Way is a celebration of the journey we embark on from the moment we are born to the time we become the ancestors guiding our peoples."



Downer

Relationships

BOYS CAMPUS

DESIGN STORY:

MANY INDIVIDUALS
COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN
AND UNDERSTAND

Kadidjny (Noongar word for learn)
By Acacia Collard,
Bedimie Yamatji



NRL COWBOYS
HOUSE



"The beautiful thing about this place is the recognition of families, the recognition of communities, and there's a want to keep the students connected to those communities and family.

That is an amazing thing that happens here."

– Ed Groch, Downer Group – naming partner of
NRL Cowboys House Boys Campus

A TOUCH OF ROYALTY

Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM paid a special visit to NRL Cowboys House during term 2 as part of an extended trip to North Queensland. Her Excellency met with students, staff and parents, toured our unique facility and was also presented with an official House polo by the artist of the 'My Journey My Way' design, Margaret Mara.



TIME TO REFLECT

A poignant and emotional ceremony at NRL Cowboys House marked National Sorry Day, with staff, students and House partners taking time to reflect on historical injustices toward Indigenous Australians, especially the Stolen Generations. Following speeches, dance performances and a moment's silence, attendees joined together for breakfast in support of reconciliation.



SERVING COMMUNITY STARTS EARLY

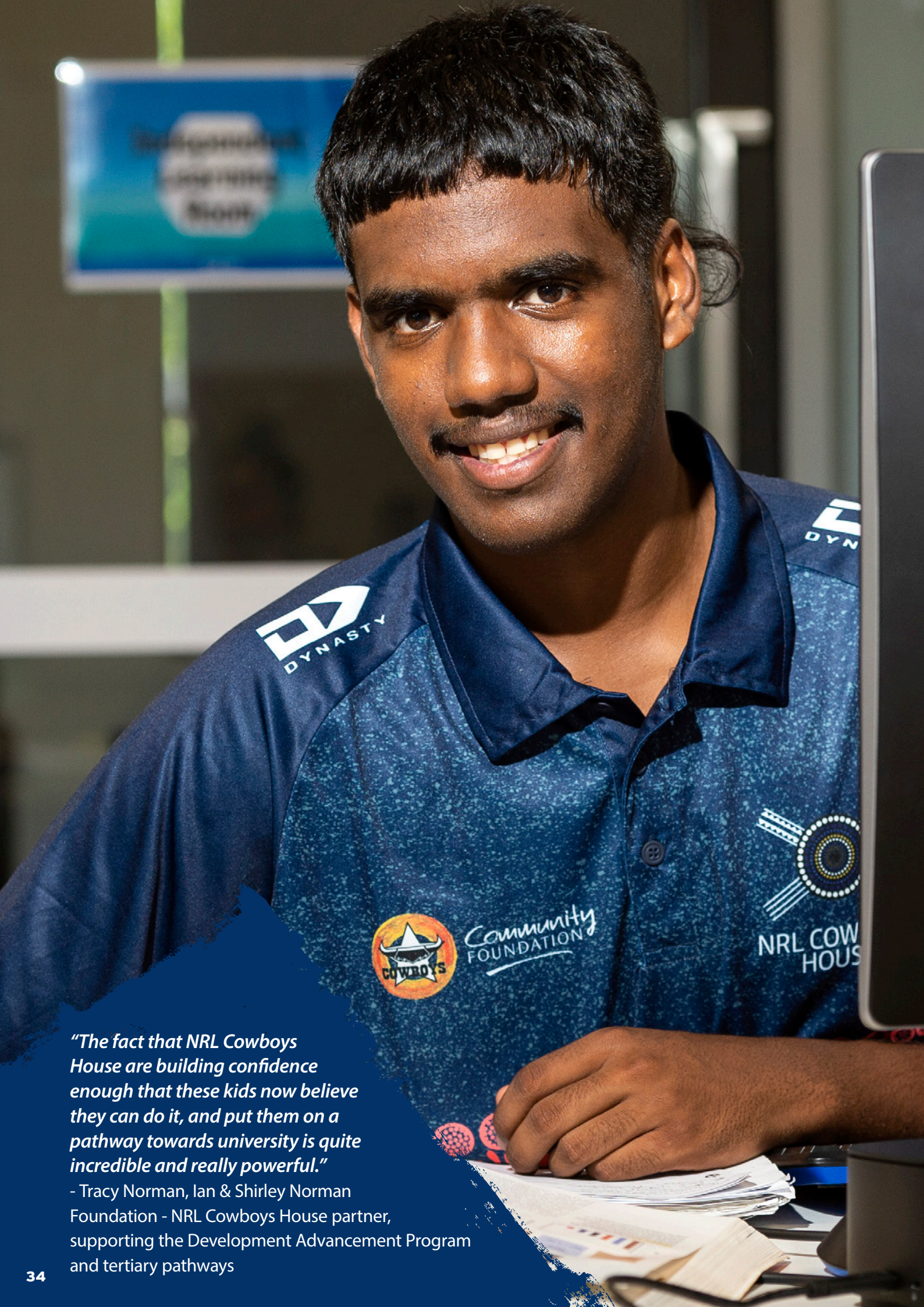
Rising well before the sun on a chilly Friday morning, NRL Cowboys House students and staff rolled up their sleeves to cook breakfast for 150 fundraisers heading off in the 2022 Adventure Kings Variety 4WD Adventure. It was a fantastic way for us to support Variety - The Children's Charity, naming partner of the Girls Learning Centre.



WELCOME TO THE (GLOBAL) CLUB!

Students are developing important skills in becoming school and community leaders as they place 'service above self' through the first NRL Cowboys House Interact Club. Following an inauguration by the Rotary Club of Townsville Sunrise, the 23 founding student members of the House Interact Club join an international cohort of more than 340,000 'Interactors' across 145 countries. Activities include the House pie van, a social enterprise teaching business skills.





"The fact that NRL Cowboys House are building confidence enough that these kids now believe they can do it, and put them on a pathway towards university is quite incredible and really powerful."

- Tracy Norman, Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation - NRL Cowboys House partner, supporting the Development Advancement Program and tertiary pathways

SHARING CULTURE ON THE BIGGEST STAGE

With just under 15,000 members and fans making their way through the gates at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys' Round 14 home game was the perfect platform for NRL Cowboys House students to share their culture for the club's Deadly Choices Round and Cultural Walk activation.



SENIOR SCHOOLING A TEAM EFFORT

Over 30 parents from remote communities across North Queensland made the trip to NRL Cowboys House for the annual senior parent information sessions. Families connected with students and education and transitions staff over two days to ensure year 11 and 12 students are on the right path to achieve their education goals, and plan for their future after school.



DANCE TROUPE GOES ON TOUR

A unique collaboration with Cairns-based Miriki Performing Arts saw nine NRL Cowboys House dancers go 'on tour' for the first time, performing 'Seed of Destiny' at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre as part of Cairns Festival. Learning their part of the dance in Townsville, they joined with Miriki performers to deliver the emotive piece in front of a captivated audience, before teaming up again in October to perform locally with Dance North.



GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP! FOR NAIDOC DAY

The second annual NAIDOC Day saw friends and families travel from 26 remote communities to NRL Cowboys House to celebrate Indigenous culture with students, staff and supporters. Under this year's NAIDOC Week theme of 'Get up! Stand Up! Show Up!', attendees took part in a range of activities including spear making and throwing, didgeridoo making, Kup Murri, yarning circles, arts and crafts and more.



DANCE PERFORMANCES STEAL THE SHOW

NRL Cowboys House Girls Campus came alive with a celebration of culture through dance to round out this year's NAIDOC Day celebrations. Taking the stage were the NRL Cowboys House dance troupes, Komet Dancers, Seisia Dancers and Mornington Island dancers, whose inspiring performances had attendees dancing their way home.



QATSIF GRADUATION

Marking their first step on the road to graduation from secondary education, twelve NRL Cowboys House seniors celebrated graduation from the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) Scholarship program, which supports students working toward their QCE. The students attended James Cook University for presentation of their certificate.





Thanks to the generous support of NRL Cowboys House partner, the Cowboys Leagues Club, all proceeds from the sales of the 2022 House polo through the Cowboys Team Shop are supporting the important work of NRL Cowboys House.

CONQUERING THE FESTIVAL OF 7S

There's some new silverware on the mantle at NRL Cowboys House after the U18 boys took out their age group at the annual Townsville District Rugby Union Festival of 7s, while the U16 boys came agonisingly close, defeated only in their grand final. Sportsmanship and respect for their opposition shone through on the day!



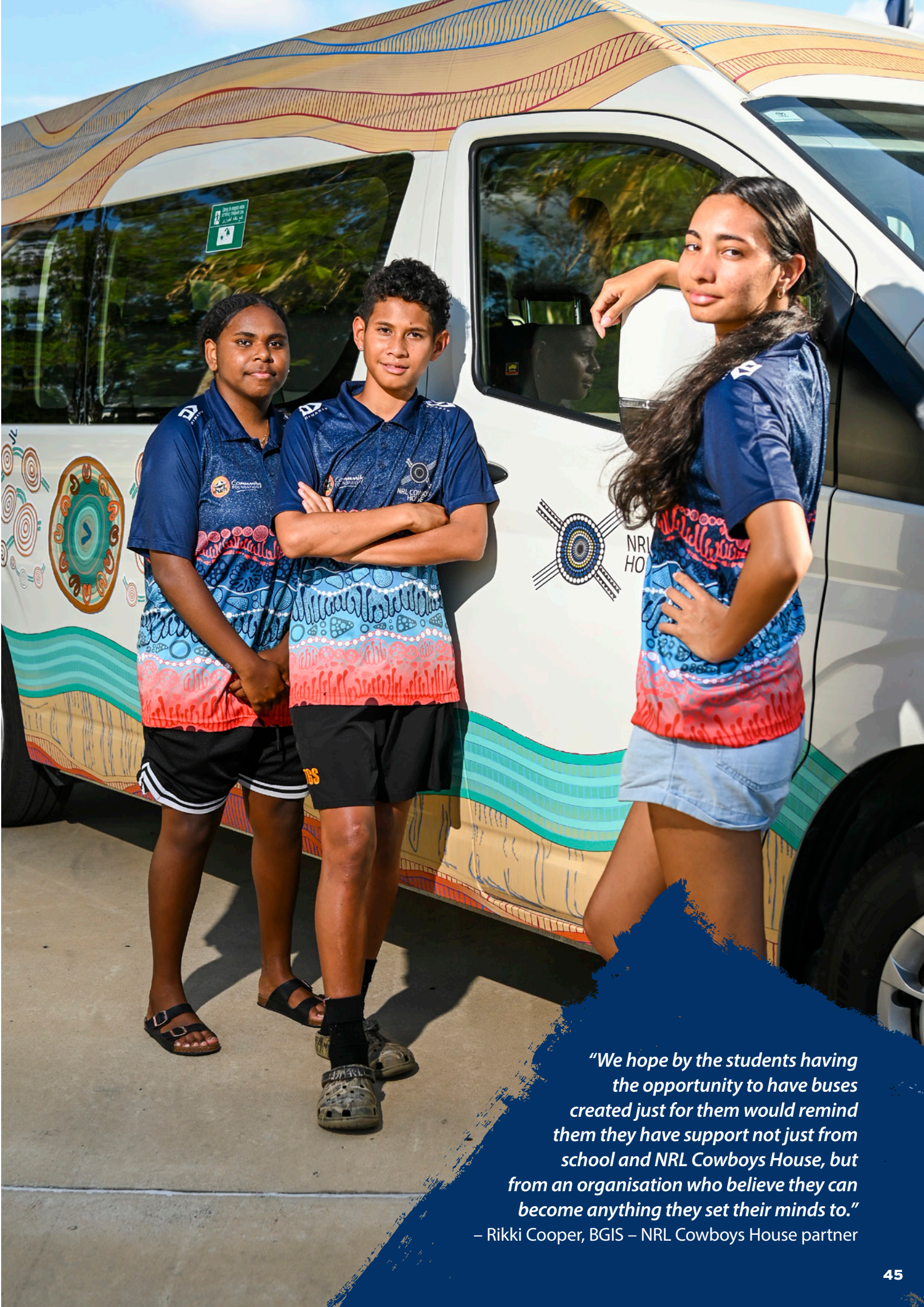


"I moved into the role of Career Transitions Officer, supported by Toyota, in mid-2022. It's so good to see the students succeeding in life and achieving goals. That's why we do it, so each student realises there are no limits to their potential."
– Derek Reston, NRL Cowboys House

DANCE LIKE EVERYONE IS WATCHING!

Our NRL Cowboys House dance troupe is gaining in confidence with each performance, showcasing their culture on numerous stages across North Queensland. Well done to our dancers and the dedicated staff who coordinate rehearsals, travel and their busy schedule of bookings!





"We hope by the students having the opportunity to have buses created just for them would remind them they have support not just from school and NRL Cowboys House, but from an organisation who believe they can become anything they set their minds to."

– Rikki Cooper, BGIS – NRL Cowboys House partner

GRATITUDE GALLERY

2022 has been a bumper year for welcoming partners, Friends of the House, donors and supporters at NRL Cowboys House, after several years of restricted access through COVID. It is amazing to share our unique facility with the people who give so generously to providing access to quality secondary education and wraparound care for our young people. Thank you!

AMA GROUP

AMA Group's Mathew Cooper and Martin Dickinson dropped in for a tour and the opportunity for our bursary partners to meet with the House transitions team.



BGIS

A smoking ceremony to promote safe passage was a feature of the launch of our partnership with BGIS, the Indigenous artwork 'Ngeyarankinba' on the Toyota HiAce meaning 'Us All'.



KEITH BLAKE

Donor Keith Blake is using his passion for portraiture to help fundraise – it was great to spend time with him at the House on his trip to the North!



CHEMIST WAREHOUSE

Thanks to our Friend of the House, Chemist Warehouse for their very popular contribution to our Cowboys Dollars prize cabinet!



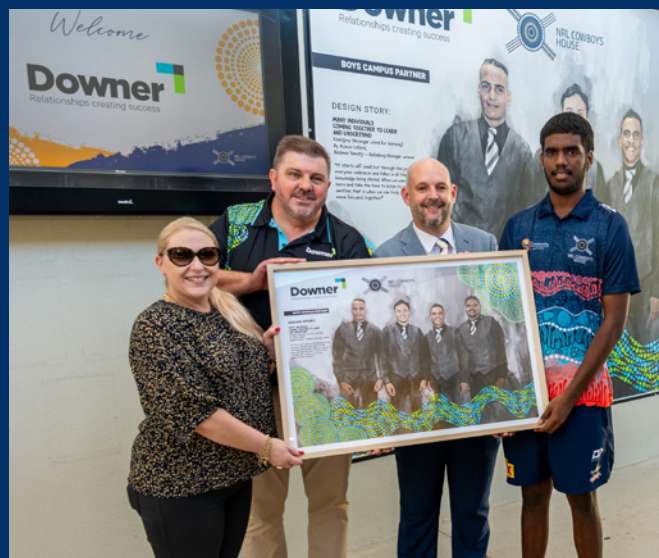
CTM-CBRE

Fiona Keys (CBRE) and Craig Southee (Corporate Travel Management) and their teams were on site for the launch of our new partnership supporting Sistas Stand Strong.



DOWNER

A mural on the Boys Campus featuring our first four graduates is a striking symbol of our partnership with Downer Group, unveiled by Ed Groch and Rebecca Stevenson.



HAMISO

House player ambassador Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow presented Jon Cini with an emu caller and boomerang, gifted to the Cowboys by the Panthers during NRL Indigenous Round.



IAN & SHIRLEY NORMAN FOUNDATION

Building tertiary pathways – great to have Ian and Shirley Norman Foundation founder Tracy Norman, CEO Coralie Nichols and their team visit us for the launch of our partnership.



GRATITUDE GALLERY

LITEHAUS INTERNATIONAL

Our partnership with LiteHaus International has given students the gift of digital devices – thanks to donations from James Cook University and the Port of Townsville.



MORRIS GROUP

We welcomed the Morris Family Foundation as a Friend of the House, meeting Kimberley Wilkinson and Tessa Tracey on National Sorry Day.



REX

Steve Jones from Regional Express flew into NRL Cowboys House to check in on how Term 4 is progressing – thanks to REX for supporting the safe travel of our students and families.



SUNRISE ROTARY TOWNSVILLE

We were delighted to share our first outing of the House pie van with donors Sunrise Rotary Townsville – our social enterprise is underway with their support!



TIP TOP

We're feeling 'tip top' about our new partnership with the iconic Tip Top Bakeries – Shaun Schostakowski and Belinda Curtis were there to help us celebrate!



VARIETY

We were proud to host the Variety - the Children's Charity of Queensland's Kids Sports Camp during the June/July school holidays, and grateful to be part of their work!



VIVID PROPERTY SERVICES

So good to share NAIDOC Day with Dan Carpenter and Donna Fry from NRL Cowboys House partners Vivid Property Services – Fiona Pelling showed them all the sights and sounds!



WILSON SECURITY

It was a pleasure to host Wilson Security's Christie Peterson & Justin Jones with graduates from their Making Tracks program – amazing opportunities for our students in security services!



OUR GRADUATES

As we reflect on the education journey of our 17 graduating students, it has been their remarkable resilience and ability to walk in two worlds that has driven their success. The strength and tenacity they have all shown in navigating new challenges while remaining true to their identity is testament to their unwavering commitment to their education and culture.

Congratulations to all of our 2022 graduates – it has been an honour to be part of your journey.

We wish you every success with your future endeavours.

Sam Smorfill

EDUCATION MANAGER, NRL COWBOYS HOUSE



Starry-eyed and full of character, George Abednego is certainly no stranger to the spotlight – the NRL Cowboys House's resident showman is a superstar to everyone who meets him.

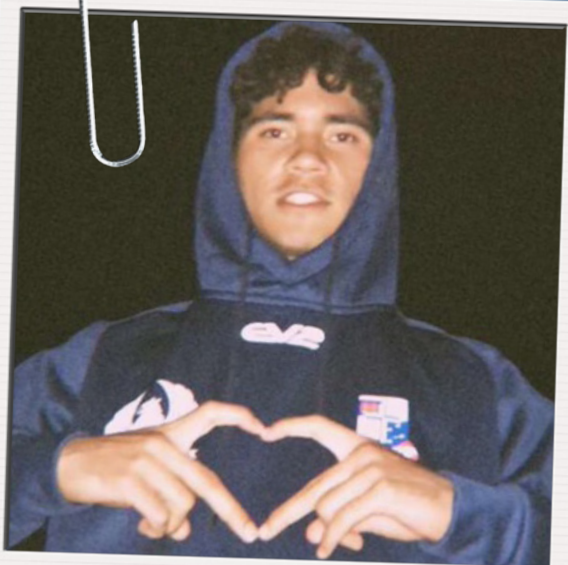
From Thursday Island, this gentle giant is strong and courageous, with his talents and efforts in acting and musicals a sure sign of his ability to step outside his comfort zone. George has become a strong leader in the boarding school halls, willing to help his House brothers particularly during study, something that will help him when he embarks on his future career aspirations in medicine.

Proving his leadership qualities, CDTSGT George Abednego was selected to represent the 151 Army Cadet Unit at Bamaga's Anzac Day dawn service and ceremony. He was joined by his family, including parents Frances and Terry Abednego.

George has made a name for himself in the local theatre scene, flourishing into an all-round entertainer. There's no business like show business for George, who played a starring role as Gaston in the Combined Schools Musical production of *Beauty and the Beast*, playing three times. He also picked up the guitar and sang at Ignatius Park College's Deadly Awards in October, just one month after placing second at Townsville Eisteddfod in the secondary school drama group category.

It's not just the arts that fills George's spare time with the Thursday Island teen also proving himself handy on the sporting field. George has represented teams across two codes, making the first 15 of the Ignatius Park College rugby union team, travelling to Rockhampton. He's also no stranger to the Sherrin, making the senior Ignatius Park College AFL side.

George will be sorely missed around NRL Cowboys House for his bright personality, and we look forward to seeing him shine on whichever of life's stages he chooses.



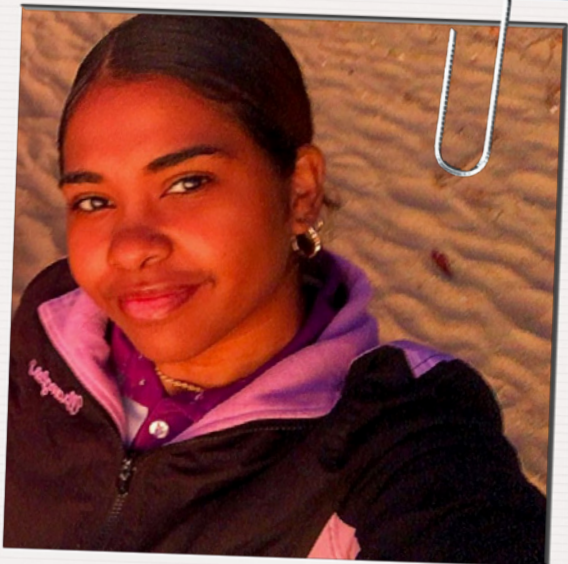
Brody Ah-Kit

A leader among NRL Cowboys House's senior students, Brody Ah-Kit is a happy-go-lucky student with an endearing sense of humour, whose intense focus on his future will ensure great success. Son of Vanita and Joel Ah-Kit, the Ignatius Park College house captain has become a role model for younger students both at school and at NRL Cowboys House.

Brody has narrowed his career aspirations down to three fields – social work, physiotherapy or electrical – with work experience at Ergon Energy already giving the Mornington Island teen a taste of what being an electrician could be like. In August he was one of seven students to graduate from the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation Scholarship Program, supporting students working towards their QCE.

On the sporting field, Brody has shown his versatility across a range of endeavours. Playing A-grade AFL for the Thuringowa Bulldogs, Brody was selected for the U17 Suns academy squad. He also played AFL for his school, Ignatius Park College, while he was a grand final winner with the under-18 Centrals rugby league side. Brody completed the trifecta of footy codes turning out for the Teachers West Rugby Union side.

Brody became a star during the House's annual NAIDOC Day celebrations, appearing on video to share his thoughts on the importance of learning from elders and sharing culture. Embracing his ancestry and stepping out of his comfort zone, Brody shared his hopes of learning about and handing down culture through generations. With his connection to culture and the right attitude to his education and sporting goals, we are sure Brody is heading into his future with a solid foundation to achieve his dreams.



Liana Bee

With aspirations of becoming the first First Nations female ranger back in her home community of Normanton, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Liana's drive and commitment are sure to drive her in becoming a pioneer in this space.

A proud Gkuthaarn woman who loves to be around her family, including parents Sharelle Bee and Dylan Harrigan, Liana is excited to receive her Queensland Certificate of Education so she can return home and get straight to work with the local rangers. Attending school at Calvary Christian College, she is a keen and hardworking student who always makes significant effort to get her work done quickly and accurately.

While she loves being at home and spending time with her grandparents, and annoying her 18 cousins, Liana doesn't agree with her family's description of her as 'loud'. She is, however, a very determined young woman who is driven to succeed, is outgoing and full of life, and happy to play pranks on a few unwilling victims, especially on her mum, but also on House staff and fellow students.

When she's not focused on school, Liana enjoys plenty of interests, including music, sunsets and the moon – three very calming and spiritual things! Liana is also a Marvel fan, enjoys taking photos and watching NRL and Olympics track and field.

With her goal-orientated personality and playful nature, we have no doubt Liana will achieve success and make a pathway for the next generation of female rangers. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours, and in the words of Liana herself: "Peace, thanks Queen."



Josh Daniel

Having become a 'big brother' to many of the younger NRL Cowboys House boys, Josh Daniel is channelling his friendly, caring personality into a potential career in childcare or working with children. From Thursday Island, and son of Linda Daniel and Ronaldo Sailor, Josh says he will always remember his journey at NRL Cowboys House, with the message to his future self to "never regret your choices".

The opportunities for Josh at NRL Cowboys House will help shape his future after he found great enjoyment during his work experience at Barrier Reef Community Childcare. The Ignatius Park College student has also tried his hand at other endeavours, completing work experience as a marine mechanic. With the goal of achieving his QCE, Josh showed great determination and perseverance by adding two whole subjects to his workload in his final year.

Away from the classroom, Josh is fairly confident in attracting the girls, although the House staff aren't too sure if his twerking in the dorms is helping or hindering his hopes! Along with his hilarious quirks, Josh is a friendly, happy individual who encourages others to reach for the stars.

Josh will be remembered for his great manners and leadership and we are sure that he will choose pathways for success for himself and have the resilience to push through if times get tough.



Trefena Dugong

Trefena holds an exceptionally unique position at NRL Cowboys House as both a student and a House parent, exemplifying strength and caring for everyone she comes across.

Daughter to Christina, Trefena is a proud Mornington Island woman who loves sharing her knowledge of hunting and cultural practices from home. As one who takes great pride in helping others around the House, it's no surprise that Trefena hopes to forge a career in childcare or working with youth after graduation. Her experience as a House parent will help her on the right track, as will work experience at Barrier Reef Community Childcare.

Emotionally strong for her age and someone who wears her heart on her sleeve, Trefena is known around the House for her infectious laugh and is good at making others laugh too. She has been described as "without a doubt, the best smelling student" by her teacher at Queensland Pathways State College, after a hilarious moment in a budgeting lesson. When asked where she could possibly reduce spending, the witty teen proudly divulged her collection of 14 different perfume bottles! She's also known to be scared of small creatures and runs away screaming if her family chase her with anything!

The staff at NRL Cowboys House are very proud of the woman Trefena has become during her stay. Having flourished into a respected and approachable House parent, she has proven to everyone she is more than capable of achieving her career aspirations.



Described by House parents as “the okayest bloke on the planet”, Elijah Joe epitomises the role of an NRL Cowboys House senior, with his kind and caring nature making new brothers at the House feel welcome and safe.

From Mornington Island, son to Bernard and Isabelle Joe, Elijah himself is a father to a gorgeous daughter and shows his maturity and leadership qualities daily. Elijah hopes to study education at James Cook University and one day become an English and HPE teacher. His interest in health and physical education aligns with his passion for footy, as he hopes to also play rugby league at Queensland Cup level, having played for Townsville Blackhawks U18.

Elijah has amassed a long list of sporting credentials, including making the finals of the Phil Hall Cup and winning the Aaron Payne Cup as part of his school side, Ignatius Park College, while also making the Queensland Confraternity team along with North Queensland Rugby League Schoolboys and North Queensland Touch representation.

As House boarding captain, Elijah has compered numerous events and welcomed many House supporters and friends on their visits. Elijah was also MC for his school’s Deadly Awards at the end of 2022.

Juggling success in both sport and education, Elijah remains down to earth, leads by his actions, and is always fun to sit and chat with. He is seen as kind and caring, with mental strength ahead of his years and has a strong focus on building a bright future. Elijah is a fierce competitor and never gives up, strengths that will take him far in life no matter the path he chooses.



Boisterous and charismatic, Jaylee shows plenty of personality and life at NRL Cowboys House, but also knows how to knuckle down, working extremely hard on her schoolwork to pass all her subjects. From Mornington Island, daughter to Paul Linden and Desiree Rogers, Jaylee is an outgoing teenager who has shown great commitment towards finishing school strong.

With a keen interest to pursue a career in nursing, Jaylee also loves sport – mainly volleyball and basketball, which she plays with friends.

Having completed six weeks of work experience at Harvey Norman in the photo centre, Jaylee has a penchant for taking photos – although doing so on Tracey’s phone during study might not be quite the time for it!

As vice president of the NRL Cowboys House Interact Club, Jaylee is showing leadership and maturity through the service club and will take these skills and her ability to add sunshine to any room she enters into the bright future she creates for herself.



Larnie Mara

Known for her respectful conduct with staff and fellow students, Larnie Mara has had a very special connection to the House in her final year, proudly wearing her mum Margaret Mara's Indigenous artwork on the official House polo shirt and carrying her Old Mapoon community on her back everywhere she goes.

Larnie has shown a great sense of pride in her studies, especially through year 12, and admits she's had to work harder than she ever thought to graduate and achieve success in her final year at Calvary Christian College. In order to succeed, Larnie has worked hard on her studies outside designated times, learning that the hard yards of studying outside the classroom and study times at NRL Cowboys House is the key to improving. Larnie's favourite subject at school is woodwork, creating things she never imagined she would be able to.

Larnie's highlights at NRL Cowboys House outside the classroom are the weekend activities, including swimming and exploring in new places, with the best days out the ones where students had a whole cinema to themselves or travelling over to Magnetic Island. A usually quiet student, she can also be loud when Bobby is around showing her infectious and easy to get along with personality. Larnie has shown promise in leadership, stepping up to take the role of secretary in the House Interact Club.

Having developed a strong work ethic, Larnie is well placed to succeed in whatever path she chooses post-school. Larnie will stay connected to the House through her sister Rahu and will always hold a special place in the hearts of staff and students at NRL Cowboys House.



Jaylen McMullen

Dubbed the "Old man from Normanton", Jaylen McMullen proudly represented his home community at NRL Cowboys House as the only student from Normanton for some time.

Inspired by his grandmother to attend NRL Cowboys House, Jaylen has made great use of his time at his 'home away from home', becoming the resident barber on the Boys Campus. But he wasn't simply let loose with a pair of scissors, as the Kirwan State High student undertook work experience, assisting with cutting hair at JL Barbers. This has led to a career aspiration in the industry for Jaylen, who has suggested becoming a barber as his future calling or possibly a social worker.

Jaylen has been working hard to finish year 12, showing drive and determination and gaining important experience attending James Cook University's winter school.

Away from the trimmers, Jaylen has unfortunately become known for his sporting injuries, although his love of rugby league and rugby union doesn't keep him down. When he's not studying hard or on the sporting field, Jaylen loves the bush and spending time with his family, and is quite skilled at catching the elusive barramundi – a skill that makes many around NRL Cowboys House jealous!

With a close connection to his culture and family, we are looking forward to seeing Jaylen's progress post-school and may even need him back to address some of our students' interesting hairstyles. Known as a very good storyteller around the House, we look forward to hearing the stories he writes for himself in the coming years.



Tekelu Mene

Already signed to a North Queensland Toyota Cowboys junior contract, Warraber Island's Tekelu Mene has a bright future ahead in rugby league. With dreams of playing the sport he loves professionally, 'Tiki' has also been selected in the Queensland Emerging NRL squad, U17 Queensland Country Rugby League team and Townsville Blackhawks, and been part of the winning Confraternity side.

While he's already achieved so much on the field, Tiki is also firmly focused on building the foundations of a strong future through his school-based apprenticeship in civil construction and marine mechanics with Newlands Group, while attending Ignatius Park College.

Tiki has shown a strong work ethic by volunteering for kitchen duty at the House and is also a year-7 buddy, helping younger students at his school.

Son of Thomas and Patagm Mene, Tiki has grown immensely since day one at the House where he described himself as quiet, lost and feeling like a stranger. But writing a message to his future self, "don't quit, remember why you started," he has grown into a kind, caring, outgoing and friendly student who is now confident to challenge himself and achieve in both sport and education.

While he's been quietly chipping away at his career goals and sporting dreams, Tekelu certainly doesn't always fly under the radar at NRL Cowboys House – he's known for walking around campus with his big speakers, gaining the attention of staff and students.

As he moves into the next phase of his life, Tekelu is sure to achieve big things with his promise already shining through.



Rodneisha Mick

A lover of painting and all styles of craft, Rodneisha Mick is often found combining her passion for the arts with spending time with her siblings. A funny and caring student with a strong bond to her family, including parents Shonae O'Keefe and Soloman Mick, the Doomadgee teen has been working hard to channel her caring nature into a career.

Rodneisha has worked hard to obtain her Queensland Certificate of Education through Queensland Pathways State College (QPSC). She is already putting her career plans into action and has been completing work experience back home at Doomadgee State School, working with prep students. Loving the job, Rodneisha's goal is to now turn it into paid work.

The teachers back at QPSC were in fits of laughter when Rodneisha told the story of her volunteer work with prep students back home, resulting in her hiding from some 5-year-olds in a tree! We're hoping the preppies are kinder to her now.

Outside the classroom, Rodneisha is very creative and has produced some amazing artwork while at the House. She could often be found taking pictures of flowers or the sky using just her mobile phone.

We look forward to seeing Rodneisha at NRL Cowboys House not as a student but as an accomplished teacher in the future!



Manuifa Nona

Despite being a man of few words, Manu has made a big impact at NRL Cowboys House, with his funny personality endearing him to fellow students, for whom he has become like a big brother.

Hardworking and always willing to lend a helping hand, Manu has been working through his school-based apprenticeship in carpentry with BG Group while studying at Tec-NQ.

Manu has a strong connection to culture and enjoys hunting when back home on Thursday Island.

Outside his education, Manu is very handy on the football field. His code of choice is AFL, having been part of the Suns Academy and playing A-grade with the Thuringowa Bulldogs. Outside of AFL, Manu has played rugby union with Teachers West. He has shown his willingness to get in and have a go, helping with the Kup Murri during NAIDOC Day celebrations.

Manu's leadership, maturity and caring nature towards others will be sorely missed at NRL Cowboys House, and we know he will make a big impact in whatever he chooses to do.



Chasidy Pearson

A self-confessed coffee addict, Chasidy Pearson is a bright, bubbly character who doesn't hold back from showing her personality on campus. But despite her energetic personality, the Yarrabah teen, daughter of Kristen Pearson, also has a softer side showing her caring and supportive nature with a strong connection to family.

Chasidy is no stranger to leadership as the girls' boarding captain at NRL Cowboys House and house captain at her school, Calvary Christian College, and is part of the student representative council. They are roles that will serve her well for the future and support her interest in a career path as an army officer, lawyer or business owner. Having undertaken many hours of volunteer work at school, she is also well versed in public speaking, performing numerous MC roles at NRL Cowboys House events. Representing the Girls Campus, she speaks with poise and pride to welcome guests and friends to the House at important occasions.

Outside of school, Chasidy also shows sporting prowess. Netball is her main sport of choice and Chasidy competed for her school including in the premier secondary school competition, the Vicki Wilson Championship. Chasidy shows great versatility on the sporting field, also playing volleyball and rugby league for Centrals for three years.

Having built a strong foundation at the House, and taking important opportunities for leadership and volunteer roles, we have no doubt that Chasidy will succeed in whatever she puts her mind to and that she's on the right path to grow and develop as a strong young woman.



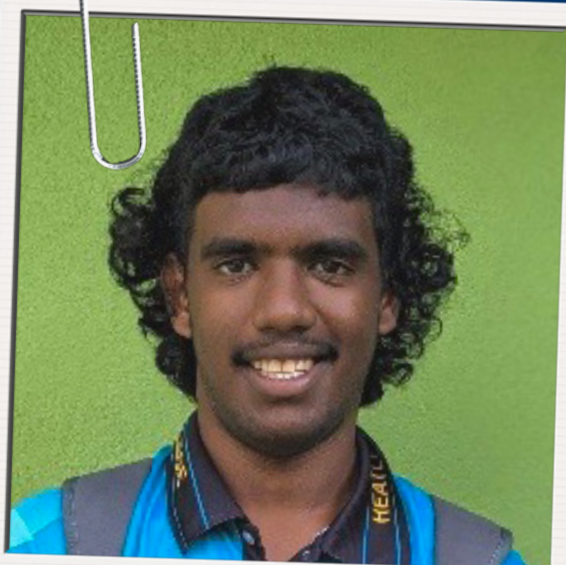
Haley Pearson

NRL Cowboys House staff are able to confirm Haley chose the right career path in construction and not automotive after putting unleaded petrol in a diesel tank! A hard-working, well-mannered teen everybody gets along with, there's no shortage of fun and laughter when Haley is around.

The Tec-NQ student from Warraber Island is kicking goals in his school-based apprenticeship with Paynters as he works quietly through his studies in civil construction. With aspirations to be a construction manager or supervisor, or even a business owner himself, Haley has earned the respect of not only House staff, but those in his workplace. He became known as the apprentice who would make his way around his worksite and shakes each person's hand at the end of each working day, a sure sign of his gratitude for opportunities made possible through his place at the House. It's no surprise he's been described as "incredibly respectful" and "mature." Haley has also racked up an impressive resume through his apprenticeship, having worked on significant projects including the Mater Hospital's five-storey carpark and the major refurbishment of Reef HQ.

Not only a superstar on the work site, Haley is also pretty handy on the sporting field having scored "the best rugby 7s try" in the finals. Haley is also involved in Townsville District Rugby League, and takes pride in his culture, assisting with the Kup Murri at NRL Cowboys House NAIDOC Day celebrations.

Haley is well respected by both students and staff at NRL Cowboys House and is very determined to achieve his goals. He has become a big brother and role model to the younger boys, particularly those from the Torres Strait Islands. His presence will be missed, but he will be farewelled knowing his ambition, strong work ethic and attitude will set him up to make the most of life's opportunities.



Kody Rogers

Mornington Island teen Kody Rogers is not afraid of hard work in his determination to find his true calling.

With the courage and bravery to change his mind, Kody first attended Ignatius Park College before studying automotive mechanics at Tec-NQ, eventually returning to traditional schooling at Heatley Secondary College in term 4, 2021.

With goals to pursue Indigenous studies and physiotherapy at university, Kody has worked hard to complete a Certificate II in workplace skills and outdoor recreation respectively, as well as a Certificate III in information, digital media and technology at school.

His current school principal has described Kody as a "wonderful role model", who is often seen helping younger students or demonstrating leadership both in and out of the classroom, becoming Melton House Captain at Heatley College, captain of Centrals U17 Rugby League Club and taking on the role of president in the NRL Cowboys House Interact Club.

Described by House staff as respectful, hard-working and funny, Kody has shown resilience and adaptability beyond his years as his plans change. His attitude is reflected in his attendance at over 90%, with his high grades just reward for his effort. Kody is sure to make his parents Georgette Reid and Lee Rogers proud, and is set to succeed in whatever he puts his mind to. Having attended NRL Cowboys House since its opening, Kody's absence will certainly be noticed, but his impact will be everlasting.



Zayryn Rosendale

Having joined NRL Cowboys House from Hope Vale in our first year of operation, Zayryn is a foundation student whose maturity and intelligence has made him a well-respected young man around the dorms. Always up for a good yarn, Zayryn is very supportive in times of need and can put a smile on the face of those who may be struggling.

A very sporty individual, Zayryn was a member of the Centrals Rugby League side for most of his junior years before needing major shoulder surgery. Despite his setbacks on the sporting field with injury, he has been able to participate in the Rugby 7s and Indigenous All Black Carnivals and plays touch rugby league socially. Through his challenges, Zayryn has matured into a caring and resilient young man who is always willing to help others through hard times.

An early starter, Zayryn has been the same height since he joined the House in year 7! He is on his way to becoming an independent, mature young man, attending Tec-NQ to become a diesel mechanic.

It's no surprise that Zayryn has become a strong leader at NRL Cowboys House with 12 siblings! Two of those are also boarding at NRL Cowboys House, with a third starting their journey in 2023, adding to the legacy Zayryn leaves. He is keen to see new people and places and will be missed at the House, but we look forward to following his progress and catching up with him when he visits his siblings.



Cordell White-Benson

Despite only joining NRL Cowboys House in his second semester of year 12, Rockhampton's Cordell White-Benson has settled in well and left his mark on the House and his fellow students.

Having grown up playing rugby league, Cordell is both respectful and respected among his peers. An independent, diligent worker, the Townsville State High student is hoping to forge a career in mining back in Rocky. Having already secured casual employment at Bunnings, Cordell has worked hard to consistently achieve in his academic pursuits and is a constant at study sessions.

With a friendly and calm demeanour, Cordell has been a great addition to the House, but keeps everyone on their toes with his mischievous exploits! Despite being as straight faced as they come, Cordell wouldn't normally just tell a 'porky pie', but when he thinks he can pull the wool over you for a laugh, his face gives nothing away.

Away from the classroom, Cordell is a keen sportsman with hopes to one day play NRL. He has racked up a list of sporting achievements, including playing for his school team at Townsville State High. He's also had the opportunity to travel to Sydney to represent Queensland Clontarf Foundation, played in the Brisbane Queensland Murri Carnival and was a winner of the Townsville U19 competition with Centrals.

As he prepares to leave for New Zealand with his family at the end of the year, we are looking forward to seeing the progress Cordell makes as he takes the next step.



Sistas Stand Strong – Women's Empowerment Program

"It will help them develop skills to build resilience and confidence in the face of these challenges, and identify personal and professional pathways for success in whatever they choose to do." – Fiona Keys, CBRE -
NRL Cowboys House partner

"Our aim is to provide young First Nations women with a learning platform aimed at growing confidence, leadership and making good choices."
– Craig Southee, Corporate Travel
Management - NRL Cowboys House partner







"NRL Cowboys House is uniquely poised to make such a difference in the mental health and overall lives of First Nations people in the wider community and bridge the cultural and educational divide that exists."

- Rebecca Oxenbould, The Sebastian Foundation –
NRL Cowboys House partner

THANK YOU

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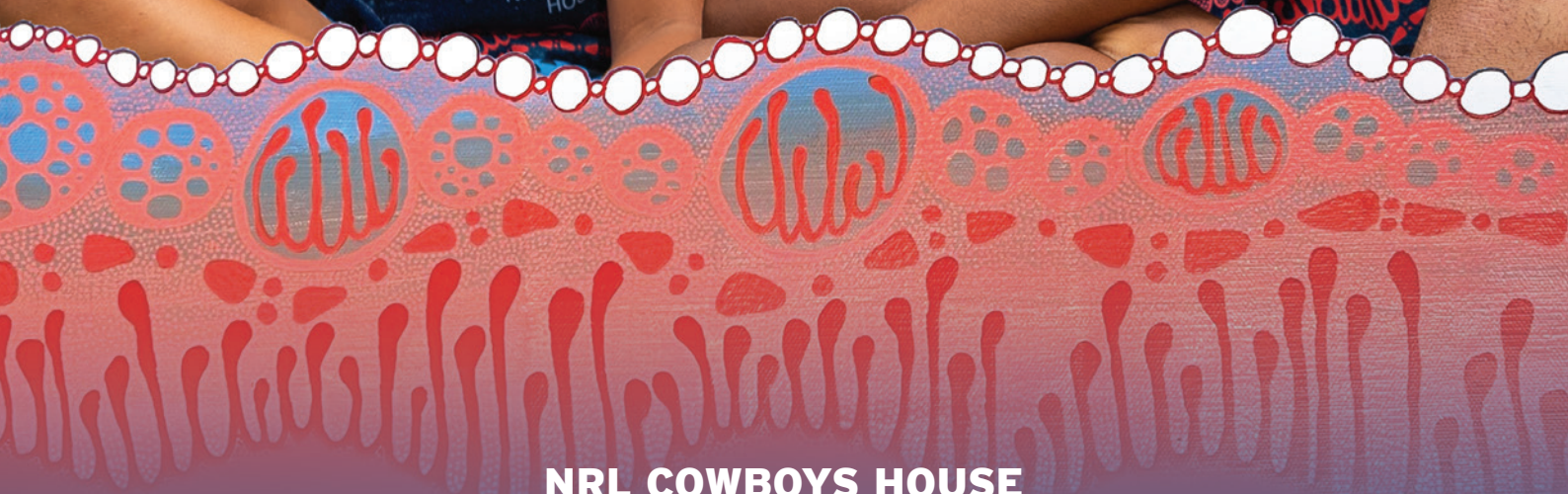
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For more information on how you can be involved, visit:
cowboysfoundation.org.au



NRL COWBOYS HOUSE

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Community
FOUNDATION



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.

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