

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 – TERM 3 2021

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## Welcome to QATSIF's Term 3 Newsletter

Dear QATSIF students, families, schools and supporters,

Term 3 has been an exciting, busy and challenging term for QATSIF, our schools and students.

QATSIF has received over 1,900 applications for our Round 13 Scholarships since they opened on May 31. The number is a little down from our record 2,030 applications last year and we were wondering if this could be a sign of some COVID-related fatigue for our students, families and schools.

Sadly, COVID restrictions meant that most of our graduations and our planned trip to meet with Cape York communities at the Laura Festival had to be cancelled.

We were very lucky that we managed to still hold our Townsville and Cairns graduations with a mixture of good luck and the kindness of JCU and some of our Cairns schools.

Shalana, from our QATSIF office had been visiting some of her family in Cairns when the SE Queensland COVID lockdown was called. Despite being in Cairns with no equipment, certificates etc. between Shalana and Mike (in Brisbane) and with the support of JCU, St Monica's College and Cairns State High School we managed to run both our Townsville and Cairns graduations. We would particularly like to thank Nikki Strano (JCU), Jennifer King (St Monica's College) and Mark Harland (Cairns State High School) for their wonderful support.

QATSIF has been blessed to have Professor Cindy Shannon AM as our QATSIF Chairperson since we started nearly 13 years ago. We will farewell Professor Shannon with a special recognition dinner on Thursday 25 November which is also QATSIF's 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Across Professor Shannon's time as Chair, QATSIF has supported over 14,300 young people with their senior studies. We can't thank Professor Shannon enough for the huge difference she has made to so many young lives.

We are looking forward to an exciting final term ahead and wish all of our 1,600 QATSIF graduates the best as they plan for their futures. As Auntie Ruth says, "Dream Big!"



**Please forward this Newsletter on to your QATSIF students and families.**



# QATSIF schools celebrate NAIDOC

## Benowa State High School

The students at Benowa State High School were invited to participate in a range of activities during their NAIDOC celebrations in Week 2 of Term 3. Deputy Principal, Glenn Chippendale, working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, organised a range of activities including music, art and Yugambeh language workshops, weaving and special presentations from Mrs Paula Nihot (Gold Coast Public Health Unit) and Mr Mark Williams.

The school has a long history of working closely with the community to promote reconciliation and an appreciation and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and language. Well done Benowa State High School.



## St Mary's College, Maryborough



A sea of hands were decorated by St Mary's students and were placed proudly at the front of the College under the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. The display symbolises the support from our school community for reconciliation, equal rights, and respect.

Aboriginal student, Zettlan Hughes proudly displayed his decorated cross created during NAIDOC Week celebrations.





## Narangba Valley State High School

Congratulations to the deadly students and staff of Narangba Valley State High School who celebrated the 2021 NAIDOC Week theme, 'Heal Country'.

As a school community, they called for respect to be given to the spiritual, physical, emotional, social and cultural needs of this precious land that we all call home.

Narangba Valley SHS paid tribute to the rich heritage and culture of the *Gubbi Gubbi* people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which their school was built.

The school's Indigenous Support committee offered activities for students to help to recognise, protect and maintain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Activities included: hand painting a mural, re-vamping the Bush Tucker Garden planter boxes, creating a chalk walk near the Administration building, an excursion for some of the Indigenous students to QAGOMA, and the making of Indigenous art pieces at lunch time.

NAIDOC 2021 has left its mark on Narangba Valley SHS with a memorable mural and two planter boxes celebrating the importance of the land and the rich culture of the *Gubbi Gubbi* people.





## Caloundra State High School

Caloundra State High School's seniors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students worked with a local artist, Mr Kahl Noy to create an artwork that represented their school, community, the Traditional Owners of the land – the *Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi* people and the animals who call this place home.

Mr Noy also treated the students to some story-telling, place name meanings and explained the meaning behind this year's NAIDOC week theme, *Heal Country*.

The students were thoroughly engaged and have done an amazing job creating their beautiful artwork. Our QATSIF recipients and future QATSIF students were involved in the planning and painting of this artwork.

To celebrate the unveiling of their artwork and the school's appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture and connection to Country, parents, students, community members and staff were invited to a special NAIDOC week BBQ.

The BBQ provided an opportunity to unveil the artworks and have a yarn with each other over a sausage sizzle.

A special guest, Traditional Owner, Kerry Neil from *TribalLink* shared the most amazing Welcome to Country. There was also a representative from the Sunshine Coast First Nations' Group, Kerry Turner who operates *Murris on the Move*.

Caloundra SHS are thankful to have wonderful community members to support their students.





## Craigslea State High School

Craigslea State High School celebrated NAIDOC Week with a beautiful ceremony. As usual Uncle Dennis was present and delivered a PowerPoint presentation through art work of the Indigenous Culture and History from the early settlements in Australia to the present day (from the Hidden Histories Training).

The students participated in drawing, painting and telling the story of the Rainbow Serpent to connect to Healing Country.

Craigslea's Aboriginal students presented a film of how our curriculum incorporates Indigenous perspectives in the teaching and learning at the school through interviews with teaching staff and students.

The celebration concluded with a luncheon with Uncle Dennis, school staff (including the Principal – Mark Farwell), the students and their parents/carers, invited guests from the community, Regional Education Office and Deadly Choices.



## Marymount College

In Week 1, the Marymount Mob were proud to conduct a NAIDOC Assembly for the whole school. Mob students used this time to talk about the origin and purpose of NAIDOC Week, and the importance it holds in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander calendar each year.

They explained the sacred connection that First Nations' people have with their Country, and that because of this, NAIDOC's *Heal Country* theme had a two-fold meaning. On the one hand referring to the restoration, protection, and preservation of Australia's physical land, waterways, plants and animals, and on the other hand, calling for healing of our First Nations' peoples as a necessary first step towards healing our nation.

In keeping with the theme, the Mob set up a Healing Tree in the library, and invited students and staff to add a leaf to the bare branches. The response was so great that the tree outgrew its display board, completely laden down with leaves covered with patterns, drawings, and heartfelt messages of support. The Healing Tree idea was also adopted by the Year 9 pastoral classes who designed their own artwork to represent the *Heal Country* theme.





## Moranbah State High School

### Monday – Traditional Games on the oval

Students played *Ida/Idor* on the oval during Lunch break. *Ida/Idor* is a traditional Indigenous game played on the Torres Strait Islands and Northern Queensland.

### Tuesday – Biscuit Decorating

Students decorated biscuits with the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flag

### Wednesday – NAIDOC Ceremony

The whole school celebrated NAIDOC with a special parade and deadly performances by the *Nidha Gundi Dance Troupe* and the *Urab Dance Troupe*. The Grade 7's spent the afternoon participating in activities with Barada Barna Directors, Cultural heritage workers, artists, language workshops, bracelet making and Indigenous Literature/Story telling.

### Thursday – Floral Thursday

Staff and students dressed in their best floral shirts/dresses to celebrate Torres Strait Islander Culture, with some students taking home prizes for best dressed.

Floral Thursday.



Biscuit Decorating.



NAIDOC Day.

Traditional Island dancing.



Indigenous Literature/Story telling.



*Ida/Idor* on the oval.





## St Andrew's Catholic College

At St Andrew's Catholic College, all homeforms were encouraged to take part in the Deadly Doors competition and asked to decorate their doors to represent the NAIDOC theme of *Heal Country!* Three winning doors were selected to represent each sector of the College: Junior Years, Middle Years and Senior Years.

Each winning homeform were awarded with a class party catered by the tuckshop and a framed picture of their Deadly Door.

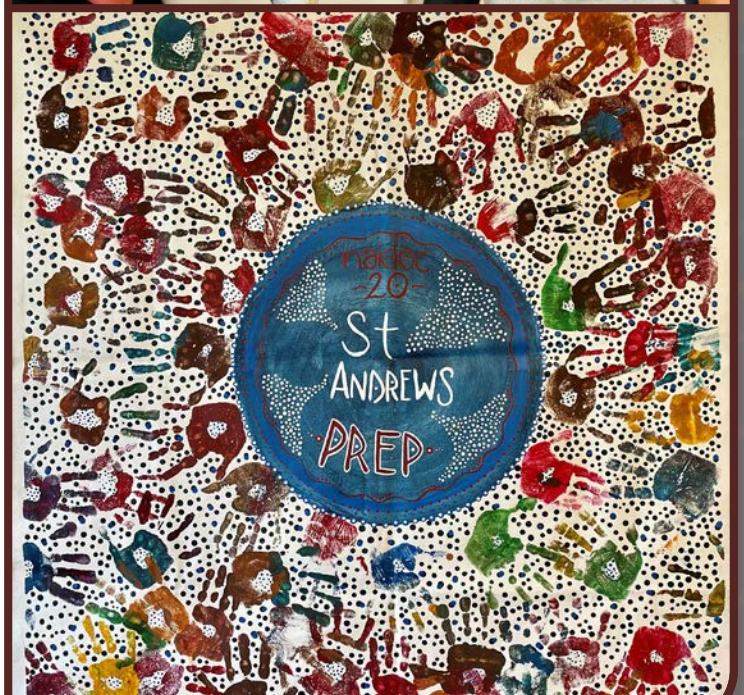
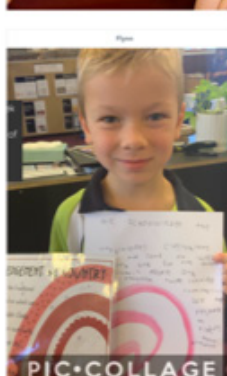
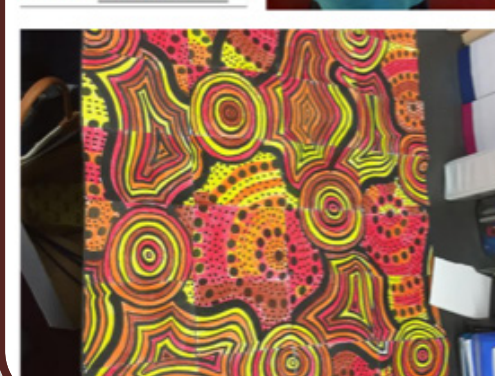
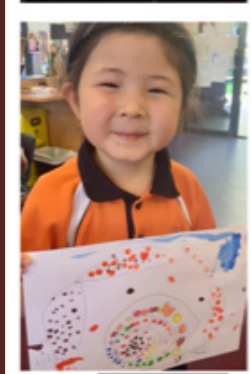
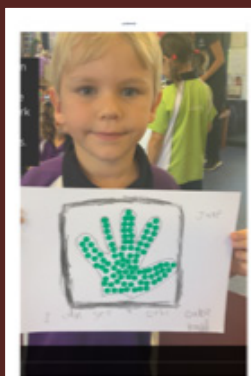
St Andrew's Catholic College recently celebrated its 20 year anniversary and were honoured to have Carl Fourmile and the Minjil Aboriginal Peoples attend to conduct a smoking ceremony and the Welcome to Country.

St Andrew's Catholic College also recently celebrated NAIDOC with a whole College assembly that featured performances from the Minjil Aboriginal Peoples, AFL Cape York House for Boys, AFL Cape York House for Girls and representatives from Boigu Island Peoples.

The photo of Dahjah & Harrison (bottom left) epitomises the essence of NAIDOC, the teaching & communication between cultures starts at an early age.









# The Star of Taroom Walk

The Marymount Mob were moved by the story of the **Star of Taroom** and its return to country during NAIDOC Week. Although they were not able to join the walk in real time, the Mob decided to make our own symbolic journey and be a part of this historical milestone in spirit.

Over two weeks, the Mob invited Marymount College's students and staff to join them in walking laps of the oval each lunchtime, recording the distance covered each day and charting their progress on the way to reaching the goal of 500km.

After a slow start, the number of walkers – and kilometres – increased each day, and by the end they not only reached our goal, they smashed right past it! With the generous support of dozens of staff and hundreds of students, they not only made it from Brisbane to Taroom, but back again, with a grand total of 1,067km!

As the walkers symbolically crossed the traditional lands of the *Turrbal/Yuggera*, *Jinibara*, *Gubbi Gubbi*, *Wakka Wakka*, *Wulli Wulli*, and *Auburn Hawkwood* people, they reflected on the spiritual journey that had initially inspired them, and celebrated the generosity of the College community who had come together to honour the significance of the Star's return to its rightful resting place.







## Cultural Burn at Taabinga Station – *Heal Country*

As a culminating activity to NAIDOC Celebrations, Indigenous students in Year 7, 8 and 9 from Nanango State High School were invited to attend a Cultural Burn at an iconic station on *Wakka Wakka* country. Murri Rangers facilitated the event and highlighted the importance and cultural significance of the burning. Students had a great day being empowered by the Rangers.

A big thank you to the owners of Taabinga Station and the Murri Rangers for creating this most worthy cultural experience for our students.





## See I.T. Be I.T. Initiative

There is a huge digital divide between students who can afford technology and those that can't. QATSIF, ACS (Australian Computer Society) and Substation 33 want to try to help to close this gap.

The *See I.T. Be I.T.* initiative aims to get refurbished laptop and desktop computers into the hands of some of Queensland's most economically disadvantaged students and families.

We want disadvantaged students to *See I.T.* (i.e. have access to it) and *Be I.T.* (i.e. develop the skills needed to use technology in their future careers).

We have begun approaching schools and businesses who are replacing their current devices and asking them to donate them to help students who otherwise couldn't afford a device. Our friends at Substation 33 will refurbish these devices and then we will provide them for schools to give to struggling families.

By the end of term 3, we had already had 600 devices donated by businesses and schools.

As part of the project, Substation 33 is also providing real life I.T. training to help to get more young people into I.T. careers. ACS have been working hard to connect



these young people with businesses that need their skills.

Schools and businesses who are interested in donating devices to our *See I.T. Be I.T.* Initiative can contact our QATSIF office or one of our partner organisations.

## Bella's Australian Indigenous Oztag selection

QATSIF scholarship recipient Bella Mahoney, from Runcorn State High School, has recently been selected to play in the Queensland Under 19 Women's team at Australian Indigenous Oztag's inaugural Battle of the Nations tournament at Kingscliff in November.

As a proud Bundjalung girl it will be very special for her to play on her home country and where her Dad and great Grandfather Les Slockee and his brothers played in years gone by.

Bella has been selected along with fellow QATSIF students and past students: Aleah Trindall, Bree-Anna Neal, Paris Campbell, Tomiko Hirakawa and Wabee Tahtiyana Tapau.





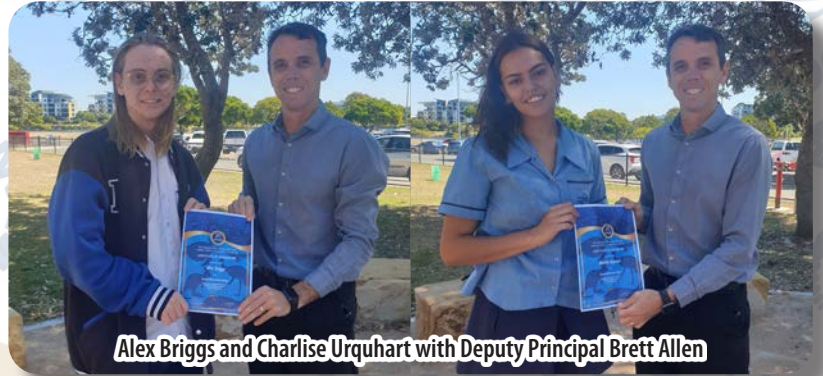
# QATSIF Schools' Graduations

## Kawana Waters State College

Kawana Waters State College held a Graduation Ceremony for their two QATSIF graduates, Charlise Urquhart and Alex Briggs at their school's Yarning Circle.

The graduates were moved by the Aboriginal Fire Blessing which was given by Kylie Boyd (CEC).

We wish Charlise and Alex all the best for a deadly future. Dream Big!



Alex Briggs and Charlise Urquhart with Deputy Principal Brett Allen

## St Patrick's College (Mackay)

St Patrick's College hosted a QATSIF graduation ceremony and invited Holy Spirit College to participate with staff, students and families in attendance.

Students reflected upon their final years and how QATSIF has made a positive impact upon their final school years.

Messages of hope and good will were received from the Minister of Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership; the Principals of both Colleges as well Aunty Ruth Hegarty, QATSIF's Patron.

Well done to all of the graduates and thank you to staff and families from both Colleges for supporting a lovely afternoon.



## St Mary's College (Ipswich)



## St Saviour's College





**Emmaus College (Rockhampton)**



**Redlynch State College**



**Smithfield SHS**



**St Mary's Catholic College Woree**



**Blackheath and Thornburgh College**



**Pacific Pines SHS**



**St Patrick's College (Townsville)**



## Meeting with Torres Strait Elders and Adoption Commissioner

Dr Sean Mangan, Principal of St Andrew's Catholic College, and Indigenous Liaison Officer Amanda Stephen attended a meeting with C'Zarke Maza, the newly appointed inaugural Commissioner of *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kaziwa* (Traditional Islander Adoption) and Elders from the Torres Strait Islands.

The meeting was an opportunity to introduce the new Commissioner and also to provide information about the new office and how Torres Strait Islander families can access this support and also engage with them in all areas of Traditional Adoption.

Many Elders around the table said how pleased they were to have Dr Mangan with them. They commented several times that when leadership team members are part of the journey, it shows their genuine interest in the First Nations students, their families and communities.



## Thank you letters to Aunty Ruth and our QATSIF Board

Each year, we invite our graduating Year 12 QATSIF students and/or school communities to write a **letter of appreciation to Aunty Ruth and our QATSIF Board**.

As part of their thank you, we would encourage and remind your students to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible.

We put these letters and any photos together into a book which we then present to Aunty Ruth later in term 4. We also share some of these thank yous on our social media pages and in our publications (i.e. newsletter and Annual Report).

Please email any thank you letters and/or photos of your graduating seniors to [enquiries@qatsif.org.au](mailto:enquiries@qatsif.org.au). You can check out our letters from previous years at: <https://www.qatsif.org.au/thank-you-letters-from-our-qatsif-graduates>

*Thank you!*

## QATSIF Lunchtime Q&A Sessions

In Term 4, QATSIF will again hold our QATSIF Lunchtime Q&A Sessions.

Our Q&A sessions will run from 12:30pm – 1:15pm to try and fit in with the many different lunch times across Queensland. We will also record these sessions, so that schools can use them at a more appropriate time. More details and dates will be emailed out to schools shortly.

As well as having talks from past QATSIF students about their current study, training or work choices, we are also hoping to have a number of special guest presenters, including:

- ★ Taylah Griffin (Aerospace Engineer)
- ★ Young film makers
- ★ Cybersecurity staff from Baidam Solutions.





## Transurban Paiabun Kurumba STEM Scholarship

In Term 4, **current Year 10 students** from the Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan regions who have applied **Round 13 QATSIF Scholarship** can also apply for a Transurban Paiabun Kurumba STEM Scholarship.

The Transurban Paiabun Kurumba (Yuggera: Dream Big) STEM Scholarship was created to help to give students a taste of where an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) could take them. It will also provide these students with a front row seat into the inner workings of one of the world's largest toll road operators.

In addition to their Round 13 QATSIF Scholarships, these students will also receive (depending on COVID restrictions):

- ★ An additional \$500 to spend on an IT device or peripherals.
- ★ Work experience opportunities with Transurban Queensland in technology and engineering.
- ★ Access to mentoring, tutoring and career coaching with Transurban Queensland.
- ★ Visits to Transurban Queensland's offices, construction sites and state-of-the-art traffic control centres.
- ★ Tunnel maintenance experience – go behind the scenes to see what it takes to maintain and operate a road tunnel.
- ★ Invitations to Transurban Queensland networking and career development events.

Application forms will be sent out to schools within Transurban's region in Term 4.

## Queensland Ambulance Service School Based Scholarship

The Queensland Ambulance Service School Based Scholarship is available to **current Year 10 students** with an interest in working for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and who have applied for a **Round 13 QATSIF Scholarship**.

In addition to receiving a QATSIF QCE scholarship of \$2,000 (funded by the QAS) over a two-year period to assist with your educational expenses, you will also receive (depending on COVID restrictions):

- ★ \$300 towards driving lessons
- ★ Funding towards gaining a First Aid Certificate
- ★ access to mentoring and career coaching through the QAS.
- ★ opportunities to experience what a career in the QAS could look like.
- ★ if possible, visits and work experience at local QAS centres.

Application forms will be sent out to schools in Term 4.

## QATSIF – Pearl Duncan Scholarship Winners

QATSIF congratulates our deadly past QATSIF students who were awarded **2021 Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships and Grants**:

- ★ Jaylana Taoso (*pictured left* – Brisbane SHS),
- ★ Morgahan Egan (Moranbah SHS),
- ★ Lili Mills (Maroochydore SHS),
- ★ Shauna Fisher (*pictured right* – St John's School Roma),
- ★ Moniqua Lui (Gordonvale SHS) and
- ★ Mimma Sporne (Yeppoon SHS).

The Pearl Duncan Scholarship aims to encourage and support our aspiring teachers.

The scholarship is named in honour of Dr Pearl Duncan, an Aboriginal teacher who has dedicated her life to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in education.

We congratulate all of these deadly young people and thank them for choosing teaching to inspire a whole new generation of young people.





# 2021 Queensland Training Awards

QATSIF congratulates all of the regional winners and finalists in the 2021 Queensland Training Awards.

Our **State Finalists** include:

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year**

- ★ Kya Bob: Mabel Park SHS
- ★ Jasper Malthouse: Bracken Ridge SHS
- ★ Litia Pitt: working at Isaac Regional Council.

**School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year**

- ★ Jasper Malthouse: Bracken Ridge SHS
- ★ Mataya Vikionkorpi-Bin-Garape: Woree SHS.

Our **Regional winners** include:

- ★ Mataya Vikionkorpi-Bin-Garape: Tropical North Queensland School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year from Woree SHS
- ★ Kya Bob: South East regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year from Mabel Park SHS

## Queensland Training AWARDS 2021

Our **Regional Finalist** include:

- ★ Keegan Nolan: Woree SHS
- ★ Tyrona Sonogan: Kirwan SHS
- ★ Litia Pitt: working at Isaac Regional Council
- ★ Matthew Washington: working at Golden West Apprenticeships
- ★ Maddison Wiggs: St Columban's College
- ★ Colin Barney: St James College
- ★ Jasper Malthouse: Bracken Ridge SHS

## 2021 Creative Arts Competition Prize Winners





# QATSIF Students in Focus

## Estelle (Stelle) Synnott

Congratulations to the very talented Stelle on her deadly new single "Song about u" –

<https://open.spotify.com/album/0lF6iRC4nlKslrsKXyD8Mf>

Stelle is a QATSIF student from St Mary's College, Ipswich and joins our other deadly talented musos – Emily Wurramara ([www.emilywurramara.com.au](http://www.emilywurramara.com.au)) and Tia Gostelow ([www.tiagostelow.com](http://www.tiagostelow.com)).

We wish Stelle all the best with her senior studies and musical career.



## Deakoda & Shakaya Costello

Congratulations to the deadly Deakoda & Shakaya Costello from Proserpine State High School.

Over the September school holidays, these two champs competed at the **Queensland Murri Cup** in Brisbane and then flew straight to Mackay for the Queensland Rugby Union championships.

QATSIF wishes Deakoda and Shakaya all the best!



## U17 Indigenous Girls Rugby 7s

Congratulations to the deadly Breeana Mackay (pictured), current QATSIF Scholarship holder from Proserpine State High who has just been selected in Queensland U17s Indigenous Girls Rugby 7s side to compete in Queensland State Championships.

Breeana will be joined by lots of QATSIF team mates including: Laura Bob, Deakoda Costello, Shakaya Costello, Waverley Marsh, Aquilla Malone and Eve Doull.

We wish all of our deadly QATSIF players and the entire team all the best for the championships.



## QATSIF Young Achievers

### Tom Weatherall

The very talented Tom Weatherall (a past QATSIF student from Marymount College) made his commercial television debut in *RFDS* on Channel 7.

Tom plays Darren Yates in the series and previously made his TV acting debut in the 2018 ABC miniseries – 'Deadlock'.

QATSIF would like to say "Break a leg" Tom! (in the acting sense not in the RFDS / Health sense).



### Juliette Levinge

Congratulations to Juliette Levinge (a past QATSIF student from the Queensland Academies Health Sciences Campus) who has been awarded a Bond University Indigenous Medical Scholarship.

You can read Juliette's story at:

[www.bond.edu.au/news/68350/juliette-living-and-learning-kombumerri-country](http://www.bond.edu.au/news/68350/juliette-living-and-learning-kombumerri-country)

Photo: Cavan Flynn





# QATSIF's Floral Friday Fundraiser

We would like to thank all of the schools and businesses who supported our Floral Friday Fundraiser. We have raised almost \$9400 this year, which will directly support 10 students to complete their senior studies. While there are too many donors to thank individually, we would particularly like to acknowledge some of our larger corporate donors:

- ★ Deloitte
- ★ Aura Holdings
- ★ Hutchinson's Builders
- ★ Queensland Ambulance Service / Queensland Fire and Rescue / State Emergency Service
- ★ Sacred Heart Parish Booval
- ★ Phronis Consulting
- ★ Institute of Molecular Biology (UQ)
- ★ Public Trustee Queensland offices.

We were also very pleased to see so many schools using the Torres Strait Islander resources that we shared.







## Institute of Molecular Biology (UQ)



## Tamborine Mountain SHS

Last term in Week 3, Tamborine Mountain State High School held their NAIDOC celebrations and incorporated Floral Friday and a disco was also held with black UV lights, glow in the dark face paints created by Indigenous artists. Staff and students successfully raised \$338 towards supporting QATSIF students complete their senior studies.



## Officeworks Charity of the month

Thank you to Channy and the team from Officeworks Windsor who chose QATSIF as their Charity of the Month.

We are very grateful for the \$100 gift card which has allowed us to purchase a webcam to assist with our online meetings and were able to replenish our stock of copier paper.

As a charitable trust, we use every dollar possible to pay directly for the education of our 3,600 current QATSIF students.

You can find out how to donate to support QATSIF's vital work at:

<https://www.qatsif.org.au/getinvolved>





# Yarning With Our Elders

One of our greatest gifts is our Elders' incredible wealth of knowledge, wisdom, strength and experience.



Auntie Ruth Hegarty (QATSIF's Patron)

QATSIF (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation) in partnership with ACU (Australian Catholic University) is inviting all Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students to yarn with, learn from, and share the stories, wisdom and cultural heritage of our Elders.

Over Term 4 and the Christmas holidays, we are inviting students to yarn with an Elder and record one important aspect of their life. Some examples could be:

- What was it like growing up in their local community?
- Their Stolen Generations or Stolen Wages story.
- What is their advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people?
- Important local traditional language words, their meaning and pronunciation.
- Important local traditional stories, dances, technology or history.
- What did they learn from their own Elders?

Students are invited to share their Elder's story using any appropriate media eg. video, voice recordings, essay, poetry, music, interviews etc. Preferably, presentations should be less than 10 minutes or 5,000 words in length (or equivalent).

ACU will assist with collating and preserving these important stories for future generations and offer prizes for outstanding entries. All entries will be recognised with a certificate.

**ENTRIES CLOSE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2022.**

**\*NB - Students need to adhere to COVID Safe practices if yarning in person with Elders and need to seek their Elder's permission to share any information.**



*QATSIF acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Australia.*

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