



QATSIF's Term 4 Wrap Up

Dear QATSIF students, families, schools and supporters,

Thank you for all your great work and support over term 4.

We are especially grateful to the dedicated staff from over 360 schools who supported their students to apply for a Round 15 QATSIF Scholarship.

QATSIF celebrated our 15th Anniversary on November 25 and in the same week, announced that all 2,246 students who had applied for a QATSIF Scholarship in 2024 were successful. This brings the total number of students supported by QATSIF to over 18,500. This means that 6.8% of all First Nations Queenslanders will have been supported by a QATSIF Scholarship.

Over term 4, as well as working on approval for our next round of scholarships, we also:

- Farewelled Kellie McDonald from our QATSIF Board after 6 ½ years of dedicated service. Kellie was our first past QATSIF student to serve on the Board.
- Launched our **2024 Yarning With Our Elders Project**.
- Had online presentations from Australia's deadliest comedian Sean Choolburra and two of Australia's leading women of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Got to experience Aunty Ruth Hegarty's award winning book "*Is That You, Ruthie?*" live on stage.

As always, I am very grateful to our small but dedicated QATSIF team (Shalana, Sonia and Teagan) who always go the extra mile to support our young people and their schools.

We wish our Year 12 graduates all the best for the brightest of futures and thank our schools and families for supporting these young people with their lives and studies.

We also wish all our QATSIF Elders, supporters, families, school staff and students a wonderful Christmas and a deadly new year.

Michael Nayler

QATSIF Secretariat Director



QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 – TERM 4 2023

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO YOUR QATSIF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES.

QATSIF Graduations and Celebrations

QATSIF would like to thank all the universities that have supported our young people by hosting our QATSIF events this year.

We are especially grateful for the hard work and hospitality of the Indigenous support teams who oversaw the arrangements that made our graduations and celebrations so successful.

QATSIF would like to publically recognise each of our university partners:

- ★ Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- ★ Bond University
- ★ Central Queensland University (CQUni)
- ★ Griffith University
- ★ James Cook University (JCU)
- ★ Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- ★ University of Queensland (UQ)
- ★ University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ)
- ★ University of the Sunshine Coast (Unisc).

QATSIF is also very grateful to the representatives from the Public Trustee's main and regional offices who came along to present our graduation certificates on behalf of the Public Trustee of Queensland and also to all of our Elders, special guests and speakers.

We are especially grateful for our talented student MCs who lead our ceremonies and the deadly students who read, performed and assisted at our graduations.

We were very blessed to have the support of our many amazing Elders across Queensland.

We wish all of our graduates the best for the brightest of futures. We are also very grateful to their loving families and the dedicated educators who have supported them across their senior schooling.







Farewell to Kellie McDonald

QATSIF farewelled the inspirational Kellie McDonald from our QATSIF Board after 6 ½ years of dedicated service as the first past QATSIF student to fulfil this important role.

QATSIF students who have been fortunate enough to hear Kellie speak at our QATSIF events have experienced her passion for seeing First Nations young people achieve their dreams and face any challenges put before them.

Kellie is a passionate educator and health influencer who even took on the challenge of **SAS Australia** with her incredible strength, resilience, and always caring and compassionate heart.

We wish Kellie the brightest of futures and thank her for all that she has done for QATSIF and our deadly young people.



QATSIF's Floral Friday Fundraiser

Au Esoau (Meriam Mer), Koeyma Eso (Kala Lagaw Ya/Kalaw Kawaw Ya), big thank you to the schools, organisations and businesses who participated in our 2023 Floral Friday Fundraiser. Below are a few photos shared with QATSIF.





ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE



BURDEKIN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



JOHN PAUL COLLEGE



Scott Darlow Visits St Mary's College (Maryborough): Whole School Concert & Student Workshops

Scott Darlow, Australian singer/songwriter is on a mission to unite cultures through his love of music, pride in his Aboriginal heritage and as an ambassador for Indigenous culture. He is a passionate Indigenous activist and World Vision spokesperson about his Indigenous culture, Australian history, racial tolerance and harmony. Scott's message is **FLUTE** – an acronym for **F**orgiveness, **L**ove, **U**nderstanding, **T**olerance and **E**mpathy.

Scott was greeted and welcomed by *Butchulla* Elder Uncle Glen who also gave a Welcome to Country before the whole school concert commenced. **W.Y.L.D. (Where Youth Live Dreams) Projects** was represented by Brother Bruce who is also from *Butchulla* country.

The whole school concert featured interactive Q&A with staff and students as well as hits from Scott's albums promoting his message. Following the concert four workshops with middle years History, Wellbeing, Music, Drama and Art classes were held after a lovely morning tea with the participants of W.Y.L.D. Projects and a yarning circle which also included Uncle Glen and Brother Bruce.

It is hoped that programs like W.Y.L.D. and Scott Darlow's visit helps to bridge the gap in our school's journey with our First Nations students and all our students.



Sean Choolburra Q&A Session



QATSIF is very grateful to the deadly Sean Choolburra for sharing his inspirational, powerful, hope-filled and challenging messages with our young people.

As well as speaking about his comedy career, Sean spoke about many important issues including pride in Culture, challenging racism and on becoming your best self.

Schools, organisations and community groups can book Sean to share his inspirational message via **Nexus Arts**: <https://nexusarts.com.au/performer/indigenous-comedian/>.

Thank you Sean! You are a national treasure and a ground-breaking champion for comedy and the arts!

Good Shepherd Catholic College Deadly Stories

A great opportunity was given to some of Good Shepherd Catholic College – Mount Isa students to attend the **Walter and Eliza Hall Deadly Science & Pathways Program** in Melbourne. Students were made aware of the pathway programs to support First Nation students at the University of Melbourne.

Good Shepherd Catholic College also shared a few photos of some of our many deadly QATSIF students proudly taking up Aunty Ruth's challenge to **"Dream Big"**.

Congratulations to all the talented students and dedicated staff at Good Shepherd College.



Inspiring Women in STEM

QATSIF is very grateful to the deadly Dr Morley Muse and Dr Ruwangi Fernando for their online workshop to inspire young women from across Queensland who are interested in a career in STEM (Science Technology, Mathematics and Engineering).

Dr. Ruwangi Fernando is an accomplished IT expert and AI specialist and Dr. Morley Muse is a Chemical, Environmental and Renewable Energy Engineer.

Both of these incredible STEM champions are passionate about increasing the numbers of women in STEM and especially First Nations women, women of colour and women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

As well as sharing their own inspirational journeys, Dr Morley and Dr Ruwangi spoke about:

- ★ Exploring STEM Careers
- ★ STEM Disciplines and their Applications
- ★ Exciting STEM Career Opportunities
- ★ Women in STEM Success Stories
- ★ Benefits of Pursuing a Career in STEM
- ★ Educational Pathways and Scholarships
- ★ Women in STEM Scholarship Opportunities.

QATSIF thanks Dr Morley, Dr Ruwangi, **ISTEM Co** and **Blaq Diamonds** for supporting young women in STEM.



Nanango State High School Community Pride

JT Academy

Congratulations to Alanah, Rebecca, Charlie, Indianah and Jennayah who have participated in the Jonathon Thurston program that Nanango State High School have been running within their school community. The program aims to empower individuals with confidence, courage, self-belief and incorporate wellbeing and mental health conversations. The goal is to create amazing individuals and leaders who will not only step up to influence policy and drive change, but also empower those who will be ready and inspired to enter employment with full confidence. Ultimately, by offering this program to students, schools are aiming for them to achieve sustainable positive life outcomes.

Don't the girls look fabulous in their shirts!



Trip to the Songlines Exhibition

A group of First Nations students were invited on a rewards trip to the **Cobb & Co Museum** to see the **Songlines Exhibition**. The purpose of the exhibition is to show cultural connectedness of First Nations people to places and how this influences their identity, sense of belonging and perceptions of a place. As a school community, Nanango SHS celebrates their students' commitment to sharing their culture, following the school values and taking on new opportunities.



Free NBN

Free School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) – providing free internet connections (including modems) for up to 30,000 economically disadvantaged families without current internet access.

The program is primarily intended as an affordability measure to help those with school-aged children who may be experiencing financial hardship.

To be eligible, families must:

- ☑ Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school.
- ☑ Not have an active National Broadband Network (nbn®) Internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.
- ☑ Live in a premises that can access the National Broadband Network via a standard connection – this will be checked for you.
- ☑ Not have had an active nbn connection during the previous 14 days.

To find out more, call the National Referral Centre (Mon to Friday) 1800 954 610 or complete an online expression of interest at: www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet/.



Is That You, Ruthie?

Live on stage

Our much-loved and respected QATSIF Patron, Aunty Ruth Hegarty's award winning book, *"Is That You, Ruthie?"* has been turned into a stage play by the deadly Leah Purcell.

Tickets are now on sale through QPAC for shows starting on December 2. Please visit:

www.qpac.com.au/whats-on/2023/is-that-you-ruthie.



QATSIF Creative Arts Competition Winners

Celebrate Queensland's talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary school artists from our **2023 QATSIF Creative Arts Competition** at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mFXPN4q_xA.

This year, we had a record **189 entries** in diverse media including visual arts, sculpture, poetry, story writing, music and photography.

Congratulations to all our deadly young artists for sharing your incredible talent and deep cultural pride with us.

QATSIF thanks **Griffith University** for sponsoring our competition and all of our judges who had the tough task of deciding between so many deadly entries.

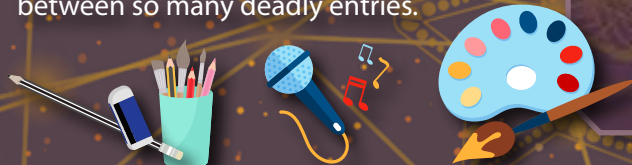
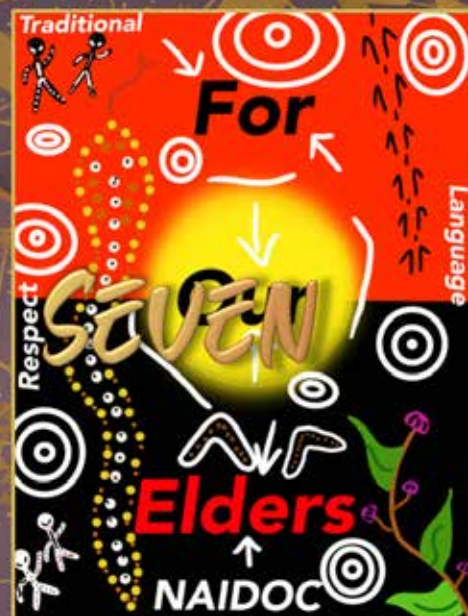
Totems

Amber Jones –
Mount St Bernard College

"I used these colours because it represents my culture of Aboriginal people."

"My Nanna inspired my artwork because she is my elder. She has told me stories and taught me to respect my culture and be respectful to my elders who have raised me since I was a baby."

"My artwork shows respect and tradition for our elders."



QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award

QATSIF is extremely proud of the **162 deadly young leaders** (below) who were recognised by their school communities for their outstanding leadership.

QATSIF's motto is *"Building tomorrow's leaders"*. We hope that this recognition will continue to inspire these young people to *"Dream Big"* as our Patron Aunty Ruth always says. QATSIF also hopes that these leaders' role-modelling to younger students will also help to inspire a whole new generation of leaders.

Congratulations and thank you for your outstanding efforts!



Aaliyah Oram

Year 11, Beenleigh SHS

Ailia Dow

Year 11, Heights College

Akayla Gander

Year 12, Bremer SHS

Alex Loft

Year 12, Runcorn SHS

Amara Peate

Year 12, Brisbane SHS

Amber Brown

Year 12, Corinda SHS

Amelia Levinge

Year 11, Southport SHS

Amy Meacle

Year 12, St John's School (Roma)

Andre Robson

Year 12, St James College

Annakye Evans

Year 12, Grace Lutheran College (Caboolture)

Arabella McCarthy-Starr

Year 12, Brigidine College

Ashleigh Smallwood

Year 11, Gilroy Santa Maria College

Ashleigh Ung

Year 12, St Monica's College

Ava-Lia'i Mose

Year 12, Arcadia College (Robina)

Bailey Manix

Year 12, Iona College

Benjamin Simpson

Year 12, Columba Catholic College

Bethany Davis

Year 12, Windaroo Valley SHS

Billie Wild

Year 12, Redbank Plains SHS

Billy Neale

Year 12, Mabel Park SHS

Blake Mitchell

Year 12, Clifton SHS

Brianna Morrison

Year 12, Cleveland District SHS

Bronson Malezer

Year 11, Tamborine Mountain SHS

Camryn McPherson

Year 12, Rockhampton Girls Grammar School

Charlie Rattray

Year 12, Ignatius Park College

Charlize Barrett

Year 12, St Patrick's College Townsville

Chloe Gilfillan

Year 12, Varsity College

Chloe Schmidt

Year 12, Bundaberg SHS

Cohen Stoute

Year 12, St Mary's Catholic College Woree

Dakota May

Year 12, Cairns SHS

Danzel Lewis

Year 12, Bowen SHS

Destiny Mallie

Year 12, Mackay Northern Beaches SHS

Dimity Hewitt

Year 11, Faith Lutheran College - Plainland

Ella Raciti

Year 12, St Margaret Mary's College

Ella-Rose Betheras

Year 12, Flagstone State Community College

Emerson Kucks

Year 12, Lourdes Hill College

Emmah Bayliss

Year 12, St Peter Claver College

Emmerson Mitchell

Year 11, Charleville SHS

Eva Williams

Year 12, Gympie SHS

Farani Burns

Year 12, Laidley SHS

Georgia Storrar

Year 12, Springfield Central SHS

Georgia Tattam

Year 12, Dalby SHS

Gypsy Woodward

Year 12, Oakey SHS

Hamish Chalmers

Year 12, Indooroopilly SHS

Hannah Beeron

Year 12, Tully SHS

Hannah Eastwell

Year 11, Lowood SHS

Hannah Edwards

Year 12, St Monica's College

Harper Langwe

Year 12, Trinity College (Beenleigh)

Harris Martens

Year 12, Sandgate District SHS

Harry Hulett

Year 12, Bellbird Park State Secondary College

Hayley Smyth

Year 12, Trinity College (Gladstone)

Ilyaree Snider

Year 11, Cooktown State School

Imogen Atkins

Year 12, Suncoast Christian College

Inatia Suey
Year 12, Toowoomba SHS

Isabella Allan
Year 12, Proserpine SHS

Izaak Bridge
Year 12, Runcorn SHS

Isabella Harch
Year 11, St Joseph's College (Toowoomba)

Jack Kimlin
Year 11, St Catherine's Catholic College

Jacob Lasserre
Year 12, St Mary's College (Toowoomba)

Jamall Nelson
Year 11, Xavier Catholic College

Jamie Scotter
Year 12, Innisfail State College

Jarlo Dart
Year 11, St John's College (Nambour)

Jasmin Harris
Year 12, Spinifex State College

Jasper Arnold
Year 11, Kilcoy SHS

Jayda Strathie
Year 12, St James Lutheran College

Jorja Luton
Year 12, St John's College (Nambour)

Jorja McAlpine
Year 11, Kedron SHS

Jorja Triffett
Year 12, St Patrick's College Townsville

Jorjya Gostelow
Year 12, Moranbah SHS

Joshua Fisher
Year 12, Northern Beaches SHS

Jossie Law
Year 12, Chanel College

Juliri Johnson
Year 11, Gladstone SHS

Katelin Craig
Year 12, Victoria Point SHS

Katie Langton
Year 12, Murgon SHS

Keeley Campbell
Year 12, Pimlico SHS

Keely Janke
Year 12, St Peter Claver College

Keiriana Dargin-Clark
Year 12, St James College

Laurel Scammell
Year 12, James Nash SHS

Leithyn Stoddart
Year 12, Cavendish Road SHS

Lenniece Wright
Year 12, Deception Bay SHS

Lewis Malone
Year 12, Blackwater SHS

Lillian Caulfield-Anning
Year 12, Atherton SHS

Limferd Lui
Year 11, Mount St Bernard College

Lucas Marsh
Year 12, West Moreton Anglican College

Lucy Tak
Year 12, Mt Maria College Petrie

Ma'ayan Michaelis-Thorpe
Year 11, Kedron SHS

Malachi Munns
Year 12, Good Shepherd Catholic College

Maylifa Pelesuma
Year 12, Gordonvale SHS

Mia Matthews
Year 11, Beaudesert SHS



Jayden McCann
Year 11, Dysart SHS

Jayme Cullen
Year 12, St Mary's College (Ipswich)

Jayme Hunter
Year 12, St Augustine's College (Augustine Heights)

Jazmin Grant
Year 12, Emmaus College (Rockhampton)

Jemma Vanderkolk
Year 12, Kingaroy SHS

Jennifer-Joyce Donaldson-Stevens
Year 12, Heatley Secondary College

Jessica McGregor
Year 12, Caloundra SHS

Jimmy Thomas
Year 12, Kirwan SHS

John Seaton
Year 12, Townsville SHS

Jordan Hubbert
Year 11, Hervey Bay SHS

Jorja Ealson
Year 12, St James College



Kiaerriah Drury
Year 12, Gin Gin SHS

Kiahna Goworowski
Year 11, Miami SHS

Kiara McMahon
Year 12, St Saviour's College

Kiesha Muckan
Year 12, St James College

Krystalee Pohlman
Year 12, Clifton SHS

Ky Fulwood
Year 12, The Gap SHS

Lachlan Rawson
Year 12, Ambrose Treacy College

Laila Ramsay
Year 11, Mitchelton SHS

Lakeeta McGrath
Year 12, Coombabah SHS

Landon Law-Palm
Year 11, Marist College Ashgrove

Laura Beschel
Year 12, St Ursula's College (Toowoomba)



Michael Hunnisett
Year 12, Carmel College

Nathan Moss
Year 12, Woodcrest State College

Nathaniel Maloney
Year 12, Bentley Park College

Nicholas Anderson Currie
Year 12, Bremer SHS

Nicolah Burns
Year 12, St Ursula's College (Yeppoon)

Nila Billy
Year 12, Woree SHS

Olive Ahwang
Year 12, Balmoral SHS

Oliver Fawcett
Year 12, Alexandra Hills SHS

Olivia Bryce
Year 12, Northern Beaches SHS

Owen Fourmile
Year 12, St Edmund's College

Paris Bosse
Year 12, Brigidine College

Pauleeja Mau
Year 12, Ipswich Girls' Grammar School

Poppy Atkins
Year 11, Grace Lutheran College (Rothwell)

Quaintina Kynuna
Year 12, Bentley Park College

Rayna Laifoo
Year 12, Peace Lutheran College

Relna Wuruki-Hosea
Year 12, Ipswich Girls' Grammar School

Reyanna Rankin
Year 12, St Augustine's College (Augustine Heights)

Rhylee Price
Year 11, St Anthony's Catholic College

Rhys Saunders
Year 12, Padua College (Kedron)

Rowena Stephen
Year 11, All Souls St Gabriels School

Rubie Traves
Year 12, Chancellor State College

Ruebin Sonio
Year 12, Hymba Yumba Independent School

Ryan Bassett
Year 12, Gin Gin SHS

Ryan Harris
Year 11, Capella SHS

Sarah Morgan
Year 12, Suncoast Christian College

Savanah Tass
Year 11, Mackay Christian College

Scarlett Magin
Year 12, Groves Christian College

Schemyah Ford
Year 11, Peace Lutheran College

Seamus Lamb
Year 12, St George SHS

Shanieka Sampson-Booth
Year 11, Calamvale Community College

Shimahl Wotton
Year 12, Ingham SHS

Sienna Willmet
Year 11, Lourdes Hill College

Sinevah Mari
Year 12, Mount St Bernard College

Sophia Eurell
Year 12, Keebra Park SHS

Stacey Ruthenberg
Year 12, Shalom College

Tahla Healey
Year 12, Meridan State College

Tahlia Trenerry
Year 12, Yeppoon SHS

Tahnee Pittman
Year 12, Pimlico SHS

Tahnyalla Saltmer
Year 12, Kingaroy SHS

Taj Van Dyken
Year 11, Forest Lake SHS

Tallis Croker
Year 11, Aviation High

Tamilyn Ah Kee
Year 12, St Monica's College

Tarren Boyce
Year 12, Harristown SHS

Tashaun Button-Wright
Year 12, St James College

Tayah Carne
Year 12, Sandgate District SHS

Taylah Darwen
Year 12, Noosa District SHS

Teresa Gorey
Year 11, Mirani SHS

Tiana Darby-Iuli
Year 11, St Francis College

Tianiwa-Aroha Lenoy
Year 11, All Souls St Gabriels School

Tiara Bryce
Year 12, Northern Beaches SHS

Tori-Lee Sherriff
Year 12, Mountain Creek SHS

Yasserie Kyle-Smith
Year 12, Mount St Bernard College





JACK



JACOB



JAMALL



JASPER



JAYME



JORJA



KIESHA



LAURA



LAUREL



LIMFERD, SINEVAH & YASSERIE



LUCAS



MALACHI



OLIVIA, JOSHUA & TIARA



PARIS



SCARLETT



SOPHIA



STACEY



TAHLIA



TORI

Opportunities for your Year 12 graduates

QATSIF would like to wish all our Year 12 QATSIF graduates and their families the best for the brightest of futures.

We hope that our scholarship has assisted you in your educational journey as you now look forward to the next exciting chapter in your life.

To assist with your move beyond school, this link has some opportunities for any graduating Year 12 First Nations students:

www.qatsif.org.au/2023graduateopportunities.

If you are aware of other opportunities, could you please email them to enquiries@qatsif.org.au so we can update our list in preparation for supporting our deadly First Nations young people.

As Auntie Ruth, our Patron says **"Dream Big!"**

Photo: Spinifex State College (Mount Isa) 2023 QATSIF graduates.



Do you know an outstanding young First Nations Leader?

7NEWS Young Achiever Awards QLD recognises outstanding young leaders with awards including the Kennelly Constructions Pty Ltd Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Past QATSIF students who have won this award include:

- ★ Myiesha Yoelu (2023) 2023 Queensland Young Achiever of the Year
- ★ Jakob Hearn (2022)
- ★ Kyle Ryan (2021) 2021 Queensland Young Achiever of the Year
- ★ Zane Ratcliff (2019)
- ★ Claudia Moodoonuthi (2018)
- ★ Justice King (2016) 2016 Queensland Young Achiever of the Year

Please nominate them for a 7News Young Achiever Award at: www.awardsaustralia.com/young-achiever-awards/qld



QATSIF Students in Focus

MAWAI WHAP & JIKIDDA MANUEL

Navy Cadets Mawai and Jikidda (Tagai State College) from **Training Ship Carpentaria** on Thursday Island, finished their week-long journey on board the **Young Endeavour** with a day sail in Cairns.

These girls showcased all of their new skills, including navigation, working in the galley and climbing the 30-metre main mast to set and furl the sails.

They would like to thank **Young Endeavour Youth Scheme** crew for facilitating this once in a lifetime opportunity for our Australian Navy Cadets.



CYRESS DEWIS

Cyress from Tagai State College has had a busy term 3. He attended work experience for the first time, working in the laundry at the **Star of the Sea Aged Care Facility** on Thursday Island. He coped well with the new environment and managed to work productively.



Cyress also completed a Lego Technic helicopter project without any assistance. The purchase of the helicopter was made possible by QATSIF funding. The project included the need for Cyress to assemble complex drive trains incorporating gears, cams and clutches.

Cyress continued making valuable contributions to the class life skills program and continued his active participation in the Malu Os Café coffee-making service. He also continued his career as a crooner, treating us to a rendition of *'Beyond the Sea'* using a radio microphone.



DANZEL LEWIS

Congratulations to Bowen State High School School Captain, Danzel Lewis, who was awarded the QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award. Danzel is an outstanding leader and role model to students at Bowen SHS. He was one of 12 students in Queensland to have been awarded an **Order of Australia Secondary Schools Citizenship Award** for his outstanding work at school and in the community. Danzel was also a regional finalist in the **2023 Queensland Training Awards in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year** category - all whilst completing year 12, a school-based traineeship and undertaking a Certificate III in Business.

As a student leader, Danzel has consistently initiated addresses to the school community to deliver inspirational messages to students.

In his final address at the whole school parade in Week 7, Danzel encouraged students to never let anyone tell them that they cannot achieve their goals; to believe in themselves and if no-one else does, then he believes in each student's abilities to dream big and achieve.



QATSIF Students in Focus

SAHARA DEMPSEY

QATSIF wishes the deadly Sahara "Desert Storm" Dempsey (QATSIF student from Pimlico State High School) all the best as she aims for the **2032 Olympics**.

Since she began competing, Sahara has won regional, state, and national titles in her weight class. She's the first ever female Australian boxing champion from Townsville.

The talented boxer recently discovered her abilities run in the family. Her great-great grandfather is former US heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey.

The ABC has a great story on Sahara at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-31/preparations-underway-for-2032-olympic-hopefuls/102814308>.



JAMARON & MALACHI



JAMARON MOTHE & MALACHI MUNNS

Congratulations to Jamaron Mothe and Malachi Munns (QATSIF students from Good Shepherd Catholic College) who joined their fellow Emerging Leaders from across the Townsville Diocese by attending the Blak Excellence Lunch followed by the Year 12 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Graduation Liturgy. Both students received a Certificate of Graduation and were presented with a Stole to take back and wear with pride at their school's graduation ceremony.



A big congratulations to Malachi who received the **Bishop Michael Putney Student of the Year Award** and Good Shepherd Catholic College who received the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education School Recognition Award**. Malachi was also awarded the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trade Student of the Year** held by TAFE Queensland (Mount Isa) on Thursday 7 September.

Well done Jamaron and Malachi.

MAYLIFA PELESEUMA

Congratulations to the multi-talented Maylifa Peleseuma, QATSIF student and Indigenous Captain from Gordonvale State High School.

This year, Maylifa was nominated as a QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award as well as receiving a Captain's & Personal Excellence Award. She also did a brilliant job as the Master of Ceremonies at our QATSIF graduation in Cairns.

Maylifa recently won an **International Boxing Title Belt** for the **67kg female division** in Scotland. She then went on to Egypt to train with female boxing coach Sally Hassona, where she also had a meet and greet with the Australian Ambassador in Cairo and was recognised as the first Indigenous female boxer to be welcomed at the Australian Embassy.

She also travelled to Tasmania as part of the Queensland team to compete in the Australian titles in Hobart on 23rd-25th November.

Too deadly Maylifa. Keep on making your Mob proud!



HAYLEY SMYTH

Congratulations to Hayley Smyth (QATSIF student from Trinity College – Gladstone) who has been nominated by Nhulundu Health Services for the **Australian College Student of the Month Award**.

Hayley, a school-based trainee at Nhulundu has been nominated in the *"Contribute to Sustainable Work Practices"* section.

Nhulundu says that Hayley's dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed and that she has had a positive impact on their leadership team.

Well done and best of luck Hayley!



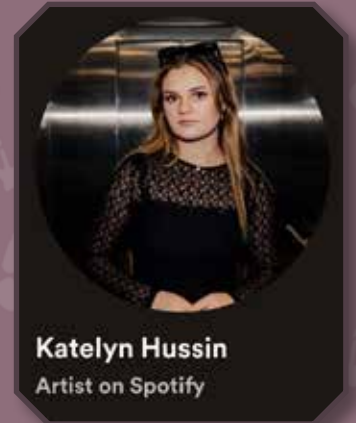
KATELYN HUSSIN

Check out music by the very talented Katelyn Hussin (QATSIF student) on Spotify: <https://spotify.link/jSv4dL5P3Db>.

Katelyn joins our other deadly past QATSIF students who have taken on a musical career including the incredibly talented:

- ★ Emily Wurramara (www.emilywurramara.au)
- ★ Tia Gostelow (www.tiagostelow.com)
- ★ Syccho (sycchoworld.com) and
- ★ Stelle (www.instagram.com/stellesmusic).

Please support Katelyn and all these talented young artists.



SIENNA WILLMETT

Congratulations to Sienna Willmett (QATSIF student from Lourdes Hill College) on being featured in The Catholic Leader.

The College STAR Captain and 2023 QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award nominee has been actively pursuing advocacy and representation of First Nations students. She is dedicated to inspiring young women to create a better world through academic excellence, commitment to service and endless opportunities for students to succeed.

Too deadly Sienna.



QATSIF Young Achievers

JORDAN BLISS

QATSIF congratulates Jordan Bliss (proud Torres Strait Islander woman, past QATSIF student and school Captain of St Patrick's College, Mackay) on playing for the **Australian Jillaroos (Hockey)** as their goalkeeper in the junior World Cup!

Jordan is currently studying at university while also representing Australia.

The Jillaroos open their World Cup campaign at 2:00am (AEDT) on Nov 30, with a blockbuster against the top-ranked Netherlands.

All matches are available to watch in Australia on the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)'s Watch.Hockey** app, with either an Event Pass or the new FIH+ Pass.

Go to www.hockey.org.au/home/ for all you need to know about the Jillaroos and the **2023 FIH Women's Junior World Cup**.

Go Jordan! Go Jillaroos!



QATSIF Young Achievers

2023 QUEENSLAND TRAINING AWARDS

Congratulations to all of this year's deadly **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year** finalists in the **Queensland Training Awards**.

We especially congratulate our four past QATSIF students – Luke, Tayah, Jorja and Brianna as well as Dana who has been a great supporter of QATSIF.

Wishing all of the finalists the brightest of futures.



SELWYN COBBO AND EZRA MAM

QATSIF congratulates past QATSIF students Selwyn Cobbo (Murgon State High School) and Ezra Mam (Ambrose Treacy College) on making the **2023 NRL Grand Final** with their deadly Broncos.

Although they didn't get to lift the trophy, Ezra and Selwyn played with the incredible pride and determination that we have come to expect from these two deadly young men.

Hopefully a hat trick of tries for Ezra helped to ease the pain of defeat.

We look forward to seeing Selwyn and Ezra continue to excel in the years to come.



KYLE RYAN

Congratulations to the deadly Kyle Ryan (past QATSIF student and Ambassador and Australian Indigenous Doctors Association Student Board Director) who has added another award to his impressive list of achievements.



Kyle has received the **LIME Excellence Award** in Indigenous Health Education. Previously, he has been recognised as **Queensland's Highest Achieving First Nations Secondary Student** and **7News Young Achiever of the Year**. As a QATSIF Ambassador, Kyle has also travelled Queensland to share his educational journey to inspire other younger First Nations students to achieve..

Kyle said, "I am so honoured to be recognised by my Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Maori brothers and sisters at the **Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education Connection X Conference** in Canberra on Ngambri and Ngunnuwal Country."



EMILY WURRAMARA

Congratulations to the extremely talented Emily Wurramara (past QATSIF student) on her latest award in a stellar music career.

Well done to Emily for winning the **Best Folk Music Act of 2023** at the **National Live Music Awards**. She has previously won four **Queensland Music awards**, an **Australian Independent Record award** and has been nominated for more than 10 other awards including the **ARIA Music Awards**.

Too deadly Emily!



ETHAN WENBAN

Ethan Wenban, past QATSIF student from Stanthorpe State High School has taken on one of the toughest jobs in the **Australian Defence Force** as a Navy Clearance Diver.

As a Clearance Diver, some of the tasks Ethan and his team will undertake include: neutralising and disposing of underwater explosives, search missions, underwater engineering and maintenance, tactical operations and underwater demolitions.

Seaman Clearance Diver Ethan Wenban, who salvaged a submerged motor vehicle and simulated deceased remains as part of the training, said the team had to be prepared at any given time.

"Swell, surge, visibility, current and using equipment to remove the deceased remains could be a challenge in some conditions," Seaman Wenban said.

Seaman Wenban has been part of the Navy's Clearance Diving Team since November 2022, after working as a banker in finance before joining the **Royal Australian Navy** two and a half years ago.

"As an Indigenous man, it has always been a huge achievement for me to join the clearance team. It has been extremely rewarding yet challenging at the same time," he said.

"Despite the challenges, when the chips are down, we just keep cracking on."

You can read Ethan's inspirational story at: www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-03-01/deep-dive-real-time-readiness. To find out more about a career as a Navy clearance diver, visit navy.adfcareers.gov.au.



TAYLAH WENBAN

The University of the Sunshine Coast has a great article on the deadly Taylah Wenban, past QATSIF student from Stanthorpe State High School.

Taylah is currently studying Paramedicine, but is keen to move into medicine and eventually to become a psychiatrist.

Taylah says, *"A large part of what I want to do after Uni comes from wanting to learn more about my culture at the same time as giving back to my community."*

You can read Taylah's inspirational story at: www.usc.edu.au/about/unisc-news/news-archive/2023/june/science-sparking-big-dreams-for-scholarship-student.

QATSIF wishes Taylah all the best for her future studies.



GET INVOLVED THIS CHRISTMAS

Are you looking for a Christmas gift that makes a real difference to the lives of young First Nations Queenslanders?

Why not make a tax-deductible donation to support QATSIF's vital work supporting 4,200 First Nations young people to complete Years 11 and 12 in 2024.

To donate, please go to: www.qatsif.org.au/get-involved.

If you choose to donate online, you can get an automated tax-deductible receipt.

Thank you from Shalana Claus and her QATSIF Elves!



Calling past QATSIF graduates to volunteer as QATSIF Ambassadors



Did you receive a QATSIF Scholarship? Are you keen to give back to your mob? Do you want to help to inspire the next generation of young leaders?

Then become a volunteer QATSIF Ambassador by emailing your contact details and current work, course or career to enquiries@qatsif.org.au.



Did you receive a QATSIF QCE Scholarship in Year 11 or 12?



Are you prepared to share your own in educational journey to inspire others?



Do you want to help inspire younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students?



Our QATSIF Ambassadors have the opportunity to share their inspirational stories through school visits, corporate talks, videoconferencing and social media.

We are looking for QATSIF Ambassadors from all fields – employment, tertiary studies, sports, arts etc.

Our 2024 QATSIF Yarning With Our Elders project is NOW OPEN!



AUNTY RUTH HEGARTY
(QATSIF'S PATRON)



Yarning With Our Elders

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

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 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 e.g., video, voice recordings, essay, poetry, music, interviews etc.

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

You can check out our previous entries and grab an entry form at:
www.qatsif.org.au/yarning-with-our-elders-project.

ENTRIES CLOSE: FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024

****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.***

2024 QATSIF CELEBRATION DATES

Thursday 22 February	QATSIF New Recipients' and Student Leaders' Celebration (UniSQ – Ipswich)
Friday 23 February	QATSIF New Recipients' and Student Leaders' Celebration (ACU – Banyo)
Tuesday 27 February	QATSIF New Recipients' and Student Leaders' Celebration (Griffith University – Nathan)
Thursday 18 July	QATSIF Graduation at QUT (Kelvin Grove)
Monday 29 July	QATSIF Graduation at Bond Uni (Gold Coast)
Friday 2 August	QATSIF Graduation at CQU (Bundaberg)
Friday 9 August	QATSIF Graduation at UQ (St Lucia)

Monday 12 August	QATSIF Graduation at CQU (Rockhampton)
Tuesday 13 August	QATSIF Graduation at CQU (Mackay)
Thursday 15 August	QATSIF Graduation at UniSC (Sunshine Coast)
Tuesday 20 August	QATSIF Graduation at UniSQ (Toowoomba)
Thursday 22 August	QATSIF Graduation at Griffith (Logan)
TBA	QATSIF Graduation at JCU (Townsville)
TBA	QATSIF Graduation at JCU (Cairns)

QATSIF is looking forward to celebrating with our students, their families and schools.

All celebrations will run from **10:30am – midday + lunch afterwards.**

We will be asking for students and schools to assist with providing MCs, readers, dance troupes and performers, ushers and parent speakers.

Invitations and more details will be sent out closer to our celebrations.

Our graduations occur in term 3 as schools are busy in term 4 with final preparations before their students' external exams.

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.

OFFICE CONTACTS

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Visit and LIKE or FOLLOW our social media pages.



QATSIF
Building tomorrow's leaders

