



Queensland  
Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
Foundation

## Newsletter

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2017

### Round 8 Celebrations “hit the rooftop” at Brisbane State High School

To all QATSIF Students, QATSIF School Staff Members and Families... In this, our first QATSIF Newsletter for 2017, nothing we from the Secretariat Office could say would be as inspiring as the speech given on Wednesday 22nd February by former QATSIF Scholarship Recipient, Kellie McDonald. Kellie is now a trained teacher and teaching back at the school from which she graduated, Alexandra Hills State High School in Brisbane.

How proud we all were of the sixty three Brisbane QATSIF Schools and the Scholarship Recipients who came together at Brisbane State High School to whom we are indebted for being such gracious hosts. We gathered on the rooftop “Kurilpa” (the place of the Water Rat) for the Round 8 New Recipients’ Brisbane Celebration.

Ensuring that all of Queensland’s QATSIF Schools were remembered, I quote from QATSIF Board Member Jharal Yow Yeh’s final words from the day:

*“We have 62 QATSIF schools represented here today! Please now give the 1,390 Round 8 QATSIF Recipients, in the 244 Round 8 QATSIF schools throughout Queensland and QATSIF families a round of Applause”* and the final words from the two outstanding MCs from Brisbane State High School, Samar-Joel and Jess:

*“To all Special guests, students, staff and families from the Brisbane QATSIF schools. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Students – Go back to your schools and learn. Go back to your schools and be good leaders of your school and your people.”*

We hope that you all can enjoy sharing in Kellie’s wisdom and the insights of Year 12 Rochedale Recipient Faith Vanderkolk:

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





My name is Kellie McDonald and just like all of you who sit before me today, I too was a QATSIF Scholarship Recipient in 2011. The financial advantages of being a QATSIF Recipient are indeed helpful to families and students by allowing you to access education and embrace all the opportunities that are available to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I was fortunate enough to attend leadership camps during my senior years and I encourage you to take on similar opportunities, as the personal growth that can be achieved is priceless. These are the immeasurable advantages of being a part of the QATSIF family, to which I am so grateful for the opportunities it presented me with during my high school years and are still offering me today.

After graduating from Alexandra Hills State High School, I went on to study a Bachelor of Health Sport and Physical Education at the University of Queensland. Since graduating from University, I am now a teacher at my old high school and enjoying every moment of it. I have set an expectation for myself to strive to be the best possible person I can, which has seen me take on numerous opportunities and experience success. When my teacher hat isn't on, I am a group fitness instructor, a fitness model & sports model competitor and an Ambassador for an all natural supplements company Protein Supplies Australia. My very latest achievement is having a feature article about my health and fitness journey in next month's March edition of the Women's Health and Fitness magazine, an achievement that I still cannot believe, so keep your eyes out for that. In saying this, I stand before all of you today, living proof that you can achieve absolutely anything you set your mind to, because at the end of the day thoughts become things.

With this in mind, the question I want you all to think about is what are you going to do with your remaining years of high school? I want you to think about what drives or motivates you, what do you aspire to be, what goals do you have and what do you want to achieve not only in high school but throughout the course of your life.

Greatness and success come from a lot of small things done well every single day. Think about what small things you need to put into place to ensure you are getting the most out of your high school years. Small things such as

bringing the right equipment to class, showing up on time, treating others how you want to be treated, staying on task in class, completing your homework and completing your assessment tasks. Each of these small things can contribute and reflect who you are, what you value, your work ethic and how much effort you are willing to put into things now and in the future.

Now is the moment for you to plan to reach your goals. If you are sitting back waiting for those goals to be met spontaneously, it's not going to happen. You have to create the time and the perfect situation. Now is the time to start creating opportunities for yourself, start to discuss with your teachers, peers, parents and your guidance officers the path that you envision for yourself, whatever path that may be. It is now up to you to start putting into place those small stepping stones that will lead you to bigger and better things.

Your senior high school years are going to be tough, but if you want to be successful in your studies, you need to make sacrifices. These years are going to challenge you, but life outside of high school will be just as challenging if not more. You are not going to have the school gates protecting you, you're not going to have teachers constantly supporting you and you are going to have to learn to be independent and start making your own adult decisions. Life will throw many opportunities and challenges at you and it is up to you whether you let them defeat you or whether you let them change you for the better. If life knocks you down, try and land on your back, because if you can look up, then you can get up. Nothing is impossible until someone crazy enough comes along and makes it possible. I challenge you to be that crazy person and complete high school knowing you have given it nothing short of your best.

If you have any questions after these presentations or you just want to have a chat, please don't be shy. I would love to meet as many of you as possible to hear about your stories and what you want to achieve.

Thank you for having me today. It has been my absolute pleasure to address you all.

I wish you all the very best of luck for the rest of your high school years and in your future pathways that you choose to create and walk.





Hi, my name is Faith Vanderkolk. I am in Grade 12 at Rockdale State High School. I am a new Round 8 Recipient this year as school has not always been easy for me. I have definitely had my fair share of bumps along the way, with struggles at school and mishaps with the principals.

However, in Grade 11, I made some great choices and decisions and I have realised that the world is definitely my oyster and what I make of it. My future is mine to own and with that I have made the decision to go to University at the end of Grade 12 and study a bachelor of Social Work at Griffith University. Something I dream of is to become a foster carer.

I am extremely proud to be a new QATSIF Recipient. I have always been a proud Aboriginal woman. QATSIF means I can afford to buy my uniforms and assist mum with our fees. I can become a proud Aboriginal woman, make my family proud, achieve my studies and go on to help disadvantaged children who are in bad situations achieve everything in life.

There are many things I could say to help new Year 11 Recipients get through, but a few main points consist of the use of time management, take the steps to go towards your goals and assignments, as well as always try your best and never think you can't achieve your goals, because I did. Year 11 was miserable for me until I got into that mindset. Always look for feedback and help. No question is silly or unimportant, teachers are here to help us succeed and can help out anytime. If you are struggling, get help. Plan out your days, I know it sounds silly, but if you plan out times to study, times to have fun and times to hang out with friends, Year 11 will be so much easier.

What got me through Grade 11 was always having the support of my school's Indigenous Teacher Aide to talk to and help me wherever she could, as well as having my family, teachers and staff supporting me in every decision I had to make. I learnt that everyone is actually here to help me and wants me to be happy and succeed. I never thought that at the start.

Congratulations to all the new recipients. Ask yourself if what you are today is going to get you closer to where you want to be tomorrow. No dream is too big and can always be achieved.

Thank you.





## The QATSIF Office Resumes for 2017

We sincerely thank Darius Zarghami for his service to the QATSIF Office and to our QATSIF Schools.

Darius has completed his Business Degree and is now taking up a full time position with an Accountancy Firm.

We welcome back Tiana Brockhurst from Maternity Leave.

The QATSIF Team now consists of Sonia Norbido, Tiana Brockhurst, Billy Neagle and Narelle Mullins.

### QATSIF Claims for Semester Instalments

- Please note that the claim form is Attachment 2 of your Agreement. You complete it and email it in to: [enquiries@qatsif.org.au](mailto:enquiries@qatsif.org.au)
- The Public Trustee has changed its system. To date schools have received both an email and fax notification that funds have been paid into the schools account. The emails are sent to the usual contact email for the school. From now on, schools will no longer receive a hard copy fax or letter notifying that QATSIF funds have been paid - just the email.
- Please ensure that you are receiving the emailed notification as schools (BSMs) would need these emails for the purpose of completing your Acquittal at the conclusion of a Round. If you are not receiving the emails, please contact the Public Trustee Office on 32139390

## QATSIF Continues its Support as Badges Make a Comeback for School Leaders

Throughout last year QATSIF congratulated and handed out up to 70 QATSIF pins to Recipients in leadership roles at their school. We believe these badges have made an impressive impact within school communities and encouraged more QATSIF students to do better and make the most of their senior years. QATSIF has decided to continue its support for students with roles in the Senior Leadership Team of a school or college. Congratulations to:

### Marymount College

- Tom Weatherall - 2017 College Cultural Captain

### Ipswich State High School

- Ty Marshal - Vice Captain



### New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Opportunity for high achieving, science minded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that are currently in year 12 (or on gap year) that are seeking a career in the natural health sector!

Endeavour College of Natural Health is Australia's largest provider of Higher Education to the complementary medicine sector with a national campus footprint that includes two Qld campuses in Brisbane, Fortitude Valley and Gold Coast, Scarborough, Southport.

For the first time Endeavour College is offering 2 full scholarships, plus bursary, for ATSI year 12 school leavers looking to study a Bachelor of Health Science degree in Naturopathy, Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine, Myotherapy or Acupuncture in 2018.

Applications are open online from July 2017 and close November 2017. This could be a great stepping stone for high achieving QATSIF recipients. Please pass this onto anyone that may be interested.

For further information visit <https://www.endeavour.edu.au/future-students/indigenous-scholarship-for-school-leavers> or email the National Manager for School engagement [anne.seville@endeavour.edu.au](mailto:anne.seville@endeavour.edu.au)

**Congratulations to all 2017 QATSIF recipients!**

- Shannon Suey - Sports Captain & Senior Indigenous Captain
- Jitarna Ellis - Senior Indigenous Captain
- Nicholas Short - House Captain
- Misteria Towler

### Coolum High School

- Sherrie Scott - Indigenous Leader
- Sarah Moroney - Student Council Leader
- Burnett State College
- Zane Ratcliff - 2017 School Captain

### Chancellor State College

- Jacob Gillmeister-Denyer - 2017 College Ambassador

### Wellington Point State High School

- Holly Harwood - Cultural Captain
- Colin McGilvray - Sports Captain
- Angela Holcroft - Sports Captain
- Skye Black - Sports Captain



### Brisbane Bayside State College

- Cody Miller - Integrated Student Services Leader
- Sarah Johnson - Indigenous Leader
- Noah Trevor - College Captain

### Clairvaux MacKillop College

- Jayden Ruska - 2017 School Captain

### Australian Christian College

- Allannia Durante - 2017 Sports Captain

### Glenala State High School

- Justin Roe - 2017 Student Representative Council President

### Rochedale State High School

- Kirsten Write - ISAN Ambassador
- Keyra Saunders - Sports Captain
- Georgia Saunders - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leader and House Captain

### Woree State High School

- Ted Anson - School Captain
- Darby Nolan - School Captain
- Dakota Peeters - Apollo House Captain
- Cuban Meil - Gemini House Captain
- Alista Joseph - Apollo House Captain
- Alan Broad - Trojan House Captain
- Sharach Getawan - Student Council
- Montenna Chong - Student Council

### Stanthorpe State High School

- Harley Brien - 2017 House Captain

### Forest Lake State High School

- Lucinda Colbert - 2017 School Captain

### St Eugene College

- Jared Welfare - Spirit Leader
- Chantilly-Rose Naylor - Spirit Leader

## Student News

Over the school holidays, we recieved the following news about QATSIF Recipients.

### Round 6 recipient, Cassius- Clay Khalu from Annandale Christian College in

Townsville recently opened his school's Graduation Ceremony in cultural dress and welcomed everyone speaking the Yugumbeh language. Cassius identifies with the Mununjali and Bidjiru tribes and is Annandale Christian College's first QATSIF Scholarship Recipient. He graduated Year 12 with a Queensland Certificate of Education and a Certificate II in Construction. For 2017 Cassius has enlisted in the Australian Army where he hopes to gain a carpentry apprenticeship.



Some exciting news for students from **Deception Bay High School**, **Tayla Collins**, School Captain for 2016, received the prestigious award, The Principal's Award. This was well deserved as she was a highly



respected leader of the school and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school community. Tayla received an OP 9 with an early offer at Griffith University studying Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Arts.

**Zeiai Gibuma** received the Calvin Porter Memorial Award in memory of Mr Porter who was Zeiai's teacher. On the 6th June last year the school community lost a much loved and respected member of staff, Calvin Porter. Calvin was diagnosed with Motor-Neuron disease late 2015. Zeiai was a worthy recipient.

Round 6 Recipient, **Giselle Kilner-Parmmenter from Palm Beach Currumbin High School** and has been offered an Indigenous scholarship commencing at Bond University in January 2017.

Round 6 Recipient, **Sidney Ruthven from Kilcoy State High School** is now studying a Bachelor of Engineering at University of Melbourne.



The QATSIF office loves to learn what present and past QATSIF students are achieving. Please email us, [enquiries@qatsif.org.au](mailto:enquiries@qatsif.org.au) or [sonia.norbido@qatsif.org.au](mailto:sonia.norbido@qatsif.org.au) along with a photo.



# St Columban's National Sorry Day

On National Sorry Day, St Columban's College Caboolture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and a representative group of parents gathered with their Principal and staff to reflect on the significance of the day and to learn how to access local opportunities available to them.

Narelle Mullins from QATSIF also addressed the gathering to congratulate the QATSIF Scholarship Recipients and reminded them of their need to continue to earn the scholarships throughout Years 11 and 12. Younger students were also encouraged to aspire to possible scholarship in the future taking note of attendance and academic requirements as well as pride in their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

The gathering was graciously served with food which contained traditional ingredients

of Bush tomatoes, Mountain Pepper, Pumpkin and Sweet Potato as well as Lilly Pilly and Rosella Jam.

The emphasis that "education is power" was echoed by both the Principal and one student who had thought that Grade 10 was enough to take her into her future, but after a year out of school, had realised that her full potential may only be realised if she was to complete Grade 12.



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## QATSIF Dates for 2017

Be sure to mark your 2017 calendars for these proposed QATSIF events.  
**All event venues will be advised closer to date of event.**

May 15th 2017	Preliminary advice regarding Round 9 to schools
May 26th 2017	National Sorry Day/QATSIF Gathering at Toowoomba USQ 10:30am
May 31st 2017	Reconciliation Week/QATSIF Gathering at Springfield USQ 10:30am
June 21st 2017	Round 9 opens for applications from schools
July 7th 2017	QATSIF stall at Musgrave Park Family Fun Day <i>We would love some Scholarship Recipient helpers from 10am - 2pm ... Brigidine College paved the way in 2016. Can you help us? Free lunch included!</i>
July 20th 2017	QATSIF Cluster schools Toowoomba at Laidley State High School 10am
August 2nd 2017	QATSIF Cluster schools Townsville at Heatley Secondary College 10:30am
August 25th 2017	Round 9 applications close. Unfortunately because of tight timelines for the Board and Public Trustee there can be no extensions.
October 11th 2017	Mackay Graduation Celebration at CQUniversity 10:30am
October 13th 2017	Rockhampton Graduation Celebration at CQUniversity 10:30am
October 18th 2017	Brisbane Graduation Celebration TBA
October 19th 2017	Cairns Graduation Celebration at Peace Lutheran College 10:30am
October 20th 2017	Gold Coast Graduation Celebration at Bond University 10:30am TBC