



Queensland  
Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
Foundation

## Newsletter

Issue 3 - Term 3  
2017

# QATSIF

*Building tomorrow's leaders*

## QATSIF partners with Universities and Schools to celebrate

Welcome to our Term 3 QATSIF Newsletter which again reflects the passion and concerted efforts around the achievements of our QATSIF Scholarship Recipients.

As I write, I sense great delight at recent QATSIF Celebrations. Most recently, QATSIF Schools came together at James Cook University in Townsville to share in a "feast" of culture through Professor Gracelyn Smallwood's presentation, the courageous Didgeridoo player who played despite being ill, the insights offered to us by students about their Work Experience and the sharing about Cultural Arts Classes. In addition, the amazing family of a current QATSIF student, her mother and older Sister a former QATSIF student and now at JCU shared their stories and hopes for the future. Geoff Lui a Project Officer from JCU told a great story of what motivates him to keep learning and had a genuine sense of welcome for students to experience JCU as their next step. That the QATSIF celebration was held on the same day on which QTAC applications opened had great significance. Congratulations to all Townsville QATSIF schools for both your inspiring work with QATSIF students and your generosity in sourcing speakers and performers. A huge "Thank you" to JCU for your warm hospitality.

### In This Term's Edition

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

One of the interesting features about the development of QATSIF has been the growing number of partnerships with Queensland Universities. Term 2 saw a significant QATSIF/USQ "National Sorry Day" Celebration at the University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba and a QATSIF/USQ Reconciliation Gathering at the University of Southern Queensland at Springfield. In total, both



events drew over 30 QATSIF schools to these events, again demonstrating significant input from past and present QATSIF Scholarship Recipients. Thank you also USQ!

Our QATSIF NAIDOC stall at Musgrave Park was almost washed out due to the heavy rain which we braved at our stall for some hours, but the spirit of NAIDOC was very much alive at the Laidley State High School Annual QATSIF/NAIDOC Gathering at Laidley. QATSIF Board Member and former Bronco, Jharal Yow Yeh who spoke at the gathering also commented following this celebration that "our culture is alive and well." Thank you to Laidley State High School!



Central Queensland University will be hosting QATSIF Scholarship Recipients for Graduations in Rockhampton and for the first time in Mackay in October. The Brisbane Graduation will again be at the University of Queensland in October and we will celebrate Graduation in Cairns at Peace Lutheran College. For the first time, there will be a Year 12 QATSIF Graduation at Bond University on the Gold Coast...also in October. Thank you to CQU, UQ, Bond and Peace Lutheran College.

The welcome from Queensland Universities will hopefully give our QATSIF students a sense that they too can consider university as a possible pathway to their future. At the same time, we often hear from QATSIF students about their Traineeships, Work Experience and Apprenticeships – all valuable pathways to a meaningful future.

Again, thank you to all QATSIF schools for the strong partnerships which we at QATSIF enjoy with you.

-Narelle and the QATSIF Team – Sonia, Tiana and Billy



## Commitments to Reconciliation

The Reconciliation Week Gathering included a special feature. QATSIF schools were invited to state their commitment to Reconciliation and such commitments inspire us every day in our office as they feature on our wall! We support each of the schools in your commitment that you made:



The students of **Beenleigh State High School** will work towards taking the next step of Reconciliation by;

- encouraging local organisations to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- seeking to re-name or co-name places with significant meaning and Indigenous connection with their Aboriginal name.
- encouraging local organisations to acknowledge the local Indigenous group by placing an explanatory plaque in their office foyer.

The students of **Brisbane Boys' College** will take opportunities to create and promote unity and respect with the non-indigenous staff and students at their college. *"We must always remember that we are representatives of our people and therefore must promote positive interactions and behaviours. If we keep our standards high and dreams big, each individual is playing their role in Reconciliation."*

The students of **Canterbury College** will invite Elders and Traditional Owners to share their stories and speak to children, students and staff about the history and culture of the local area.

The students of **Groves Christian College** acknowledge that this year's Reconciliation Week is a milestone marking 50 years of the Referendum that took place in 1967, and 25 years since the Mabo Decision was passed. *"The week reminds us that big changes take persistence and courage. So we will celebrate together and take the next step to do something GREAT. Let's close the gap and do better for the nations First People."*

The students of **Ipswich Girls' Grammar School** will;

- teach and share our culture and history with all non-indigenous students at their school
- learn to be tolerant of all people and to not judge

- others by their background, religion and inequality.
- treat all as equals.

The students of **Ipswich State High School** will attend school every day to ensure they achieve a successful education which will provide for a positive future. *"Reconciliation is about working together as one and respecting our peers and listening to what everyone has to say."*

The students of **Loreto College Coorparoo** will *"create fun ways"* to raise awareness of Indigenous history, culture and issues at their college.

The students of **Marsden State High School** will build on the respect towards Indigenous and non-indigenous relationships in Australia by;

- working together
- creating equality and
- sharing our information and stories

*"We work towards our formal commitment to Reconciliation with Acknowledgement of Country at all school parades and murals on and around our Indigenous Unit to increase the perspectives of the Non-indigenous students at our school. We also give access to both teachers and students to our yarning circle and all our buildings within the school are named to mirror the educational purpose of the subject in each block. And, we are working towards getting all students involved in placing traditional totem poles around the school."*

The students of **Pine Rivers State High School** will successfully complete school, follow their dreams and become successful in their goals. *"We want to build positive relationships between Non-indigenous and Indigenous people by breaking down stereotypes and promote our culture."*

The students of **Redbank Plains State High School** will continue *"to uphold the traditions and values of our people."*

The students of **Rosewood State High School** will develop a Reconciliation Action Plan for their school community so they can continue to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity of their Indigenous students, whole school and community. *"Our time has come to embrace and reconnect to our culture which has been denied for many of our generation."*

The students of **Saint Augustine's College, Augustine Heights** will work together to increase the exposure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. *"We will help our peers learn to look at our shared history with honest and unbiased eyes so that we can move forward in a united Australia, confident of a shared future of peace and equality."*

The students of **St James College** will work together to make sure that all young Indigenous Australians have a better education. *"Let us not forget the Elders past and present for the journey they have walked for the past fifty years and make sure that our voices will be heard and be strong enough to walk our talk."*

# QATSIF Student News



QATSIF saw this beautiful photo of Round 8 Recipient, **Janita Langton of Murgon State High School** in the latest edition of the Koori Mail. Here she is with Queensland Reds player James Slipper, holding her design for the Reds Jumper. QATSIF adds our congratulations also to Janita. Photo courtesy Koori Mail.



The 30 recipients of the 2017 Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education include 20 Year 12 students and one that we know of is Round 8 QATSIF Recipient, **Jordan Hall, School Captain from Springfield Central State High school**. Congratulations Jordan!

**Tannum Sands State High School** Round 8 Year 11 student **Courtney Sullivan** has been selected to join the Indigenous Student Ambassador program.



**West Moreton Anglican College** held a free BBQ of Kangaroo meat to celebrate NAIDOC. Uncle Val joined them that day to award Round 7 Year 12 student **Dylan Woods** with his QATSIF Leadership badge.

**Toowoomba State High School** would like to share where their 2016 graduates are now; **Tashauna Duncan** completed a Cert III in Business and is now working as a receptionist at Goolburri Medical Centre. **Sharni Snelling** is now undertaking sports and fitness at Griffith University in Brisbane. **Lincoln King** completed a Cert III in Business at NAB Bank and is now working full time as a teller at the bank. **Jasmine Robinson** completed a Cert III in Early Childhood Education and Care and is now working at Kath Dickson Centre Family Day Care Centre. **Clayton Flute** completed a Cert I in Construction, Cert II in Engineering and now has a full time apprenticeship as a carpenter. And **Beau Liddle McNamara** completed a Cert II in Engineering and is now living in Brisbane undertaking an apprenticeship.



Round 6 recipient, **Latia Schefe of Mitchelton State High School** was awarded Youth of the Year at this year's NAIDOC National Awards. Latia has had to overcome a serious illness and endure multiple operations. Despite these major setbacks, she was still able to complete Year 12 and for her future she wants

to join the police force, or drive the giant trucks in the mining industry!

Round 4 recipient of **St Patrick's College Shorncliffe**, **Nathan Pitt** has been named the inaugural Francis Xavier Conaci Scholar. Nathan was named the first student to be awarded the scholarship, which allows him to study at the Rome campus of ACU. He is currently studying Psychology in Brisbane and plans to pursue a career providing mental health support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## QATSIF Round 9 is now open for your school's application



**QATSIF**  
Building tomorrow's leaders

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation

QATSIF QCE Round 9 Scholarship applications in Queensland Secondary Schools open 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and close 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Please check with your school or [qatsif.org.au](http://qatsif.org.au) for eligibility criteria

Enquiries: QATSIF Office 2/301 Water St, Fortitude Valley 4006  
[enquiries@qatsif.org.au](mailto:enquiries@qatsif.org.au) Phone 07 32571777

Closing 28th August



Application

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, applications for our 9th Round of scholarships opened. So far, over 100 schools in Queensland have started their application. Has your school started theirs? **Applications close 28th August 2017.**



We remind all QATSIF Scholarship Recipients to:

1. be proud that you have been granted the scholarship
2. maintain an attendance of above 90% to ensure you can keep the scholarship
3. do your best with each subject to stay on track to get your QCE by the end of Year 12
4. with pride, involve yourself in your school's cultural activities and be a strong leader and role model for other students
5. remember that your scholarship is the legacy of the old people who had their wages stolen. Make those old people and their spirits happy with your efforts to succeed.



### Important dates and deadlines:

- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August** – Round 9 closes – no extensions possible
- By early November 2017 it is hoped that schools will be notified of outcomes.

*We take this opportunity to once again thank our current QATSIF Schools for all that you do to work with QATSIF in making this scholarship program possible. Thank you to those schools who regularly give feedback to us about students' progress. Thank you to those schools who actively engage in the wider QATSIF arena of celebrations, gatherings and graduations and have generous students willing to participate in a public way. Above all, thank you to all those in schools who work so hard to try to ensure that the students can succeed in gaining their QCE by Graduation and can rightly be proud of their achievements. It is not lost on us at QATSIF that this can be more challenging at times. Your dedication and perseverance and belief in your students inspire us here at QATSIF.*



## **QATSIF Leadership Badges** - The list continues to grow

Students in Leadership roles that attended our recent events, Toowoomba National Sorry Day, Springfield Reconciliation Week Gathering and NAIDOC celebrations at Laidley State High School were very happy to receive their QATSIF badge for their achievement. Presenting these badges at the time of an event emphasises the importance of school leadership roles.

We congratulate the following students.

### **Albany Creek State High School**

- Kiara Ah Boo – 2017 School Captain
  - Laine Jeston-Fenton – 2017 Indigenous Ambassador
- Laine is also the Ambassador leader for the ISAN program through Education Queensland

### **St Saviour's College**

- Lottie Beschel – 2017 College Captain

### **Toowoomba State High School**

- Samuel Dempsey – Year 12 School Cultural Leader
- Madison Sedeek – Year 12 School Cultural Leader

### **West Moreton Anglican College**

- Dylan Woods – Patterson House Captain, Rugby Captain & Sports Captain
- Rebecca Gill – Patterson House Captain & Dance Captain

### **Kingston State College**

- Kaitlin Thomas – Indigenous Captain and Senior Leader
- Kane Szeleky – Sports House Captain and Senior Leader

### **Centenary Heights State High School**

- Lidia Kelly – Indigenous Captain
- Brianna de Joux – Vice-Captain

### **Laidley State High School**

- Janaya Burchell – Indigenous Captain
- Bailey Williams – Indigenous Captain

QATSIF will continue to congratulate students for their leadership efforts until the end of the year. Graduation events will be coming in Mackay, Rockhampton, Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Don't let any of your QATSIF students who have received a leadership role at the school go unnoticed. Please contact us and let us know so we can present a leadership badge to them at these next events.

# The QATSIF Office

New member to the QATSIF Board of Advice, and former Round 2 QATSIF Recipient Kellie McDonald had the task of organising her school's NAIDOC Week Celebration. Kellie is also a teacher at **Alexandra Hills State High School** and her efforts paid off with a successful gathering. QATSIF Board Chair, Professor Cindy Shannon also attended this event.



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Each year **St Teresa's College Abergowrie** celebrates NAIDOC with a combined sports carnival with other schools from around the Townsville area. This year, QATSIF Board of Advice Member,

Mark Brand visited their celebration.

\* \* \* \* \*

QATSIF wishes to pay our respects and express our condolences to the family of Aunty Margaret Stevenson following the news of her passing. Aunty Margaret regularly endorsed applications for QATSIF Scholarships from **Kingston State College** in support of students wishing to complete Grade 12 with their Queensland Certificate of Education. QATSIF remains grateful for Aunty Margaret's support.

## QATSIF Dates for 2017

Please take note the closing date for Round 9 Applications is the 28th of August 2017. Graduation time is almost here and we have added two more areas that we will be visiting. Make sure your school does not miss out.

|                   |                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 28th 2017  | Round 9 applications close.<br>Unfortunately because of tight timelines for the Board and Public Trustee there can be no extensions. |
| October 11th 2017 | Mackay Graduation Celebration at<br>CQUniversity 10:30am                                                                             |
| October 13th 2017 | Rockhampton Graduation Celebration at<br>CQUniversity 10:30am                                                                        |
| October 18th 2017 | Brisbane Graduation Celebration at<br>University of Queensland 10.30am                                                               |
| October 19th 2017 | Cairns Graduation Celebration at<br>Peace Lutheran College 10:30am                                                                   |
| October 20th 2017 | Gold Coast Graduation Celebration at<br>Bond University 10:30am                                                                      |