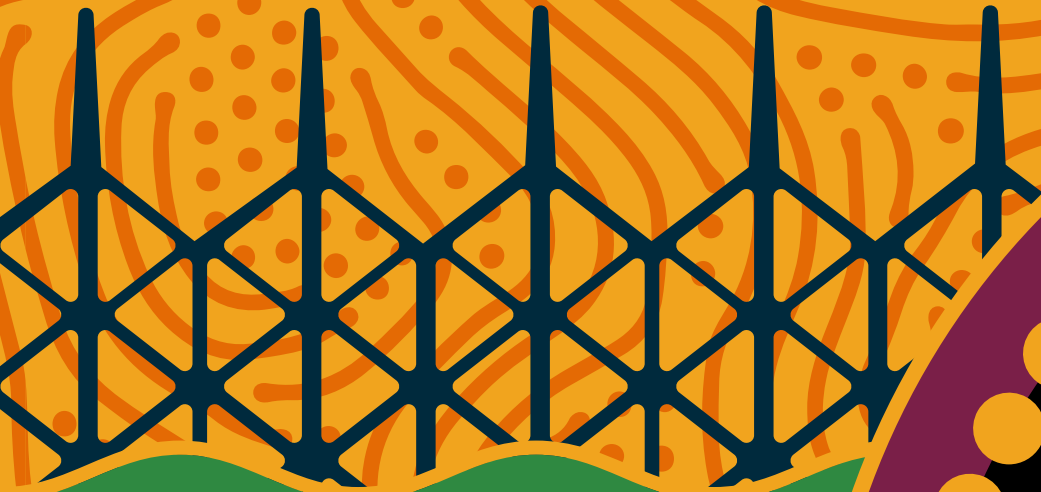




CAPE YORK
HOUSE

YEAR BOOK 2023





Front & Back Cover Design

Bernard Singleton

Featuring

- Robby Toby • Jerome Holland
- Gavin Cobus • Michael Ibuai



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BOYS YEAR OF 2023



Students in Photo:

Callum Liddy
Steven Gilbert-Kean
Peter Dau
Second Row (Kneeling)
Lorenzo Claudie
Lachlan Hobson
Preston Anau
Walter Elu
Peter Bally
Joseph Wallis
Jerome Holland
Brian Koko
Michael Ibuai

Robby Toby
Leyton Rose
Fonzee Tabo
Blaze Deeral
Iothomo Boyd
Grayson Norman
Jack Bambie
Kamal Tranby
Gavin Cobus
Warrkubarran Williams
Ned Mosby
Kai Koomeeta
Massilas Lalara
Abraham Namai

Colin Wasaga
Masie Mosby
Francis Williams
Emmanuel Mosby
Rushon George
Walter Satrick
Sig-E Marou
Troydan Ross
Zaylen Ross
Sarkrino Thompson
Aiaba Satrick
Kale Sewter
Deano Gibson



Absent from Photo:

Gargebal Williams
Niki Warusam
Antonio Tabo
Bruce Sailor
Julio Noah
Charlie Naawi
Micaiah Mosby-Stephens
Nauma Mills
Levi Gorogo
Samuel Dau
Delta Dau
Daniel Claudie
Trent Claremont

Tyriek Armstrong
Malachi Ahmat
Aiden Morris

Cape York House

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BOYS

YEAR

OF 2023



Blaze Deeral
Year 11



Ned Mosby
Year 12



Peter Bally (Deeral)
Year 11



Walter Elu
Year 8



Gavin Cobus
Year 7



Jack Bambie
Year 8



Jerome Holland
Year 8



Sig-E Marou
Year 10

Absent from photos:

Gargebal Williams, Niki Warusam, Antonio Tabo, Bruce Sailor, Julio Noah, Charlie Naawi, Micaiah Mosby-Stephens, Nauma Mills, Levi Gorogo, Samuel Dau, Delta Dau, Daniel Claudie, Trent Claremont, Tyriek Armstrong, Malachi Ahmat



Deano Gibson
Year 7



Sarkrino Thompson
Year 11



Massilas Lalara
Year 11



Michael Ibuai
Year 9



Francis Williams
Year 8



Steven Gilbert-Kean
Year 12



Warrkubarran C Williams
Year 10



Colin Wasaga
Year 10



Troydan Ross
Year 11



Zaylen Ross
Year 7



Iothamo Boyd
Year 10



Kai Koomeeta
Year 12



Kale Sewter
Year 9



Callum Liddy
Year 7



Fonzee Tabo
Year 10



BOYS YEAR OF 2023



Brian Koko
Year 8



Peter Dau
Year 8



Preston Anau
Year 7



Grayson Norman
Year 8



Aiaba Sattrick
Year 8



Lachlan Hobson
Year 8



Kamal Tranby
Year 9



Lorenzo Claudie
Year 7



Joseph Wallis
Year 7



Walter Sattrick
Year 11



Aiden Morris
Year 10



Abraham Namai
Year 10

Absent from photos:

Gargebal Williams, Niki Warusam, Antonio Tabo, Bruce Sailor, Julio Noah, Charlie Naawi, Micaiah Mosby-Stephens, Nauma Mills, Levi Gorogo, Samuel Dau, Delta Dau, Daniel Claudie, Trent Claremont, Tyriek Armstrong, Malachi Ahmat



Masie Mosby
Year 11



Emmanuel Mosby
Year 11



Robby Toby
Year 10



Rushon George
Year 10



GIRLS YEAR OF 2023



Jessie-Ella Mosby
Year 8



Ainsleah Satrick
Year 9



Alice Gamia
Year 8



Ranadi Nadredre
Year 9



Anita Marou
Year 8



Bethalia Biggie
Year 9



Mariah Lalara
Year 9



Makita Kerindun
Year 8



Jeniqua Darkin
Year 7



Amber Daphney
Year 7



Sylvia Lalara
Year 9



Rishaya Durilla
Year 11

Absent from photos:

Emma Pascoe, Shuntay Marpoondin, Sonrae Lui, Jackie Kepa, Hilda Kellermeier, Melba Wurrawilya, Kila Walker



Raejahna Shortjoe
Year 7



Brydie Scholes
Year 10



Rosabella Wasaga
Year 8



Judy Watt
Year 10



Sheryl Watt
Year 9



Shinaya Wilson
Year 9



Edna-Grey Muhamad
Year 12



Charmonnique Olbar
Year 8



**Charlotte
Rainbow-chong**
Year 9



Natalie Williams
Year 11



Pauline Seden
Year 10



Yehusha Lifu
Year 12

Be

GIRLS YEAR OF 2023



Nellie Sailor
Year 9



Marrell Lui
Year 9



Tameika Pamtoonda
Year 8



Thelrina Akene
Year 8



Reyonce Bassani
Year 11



Taum Nona-Lifu
Year 12



Elizabeth Kepa
Year 10



Tottsie Nona-Lifu
Year 10



Sulcie Tamwoy
Year 11



Faith Babia
Year 9



India George
Year 10



Leilany King
Year 7

Absent from photos:

Emma Pascoe, Shuntay Marpoondin, Sonrae Lui, Jackie Kepa, Hilda Kellermeier, Melba Wurrawilya, Kila Walker



Glenis Wilson
Year 7



Skyeleerah Casey
Year 7



Elizabeth Dau
Year 8



Luwina Wurramara
Year 8



Sheona Robertson
Year 10



Ashandra George
Year 10



Jalearah Nunn
Year 9



Talayna Koolatah
Year 7



Paulilla-May Toby
Year 7



Nikkayia Bara
Year 8



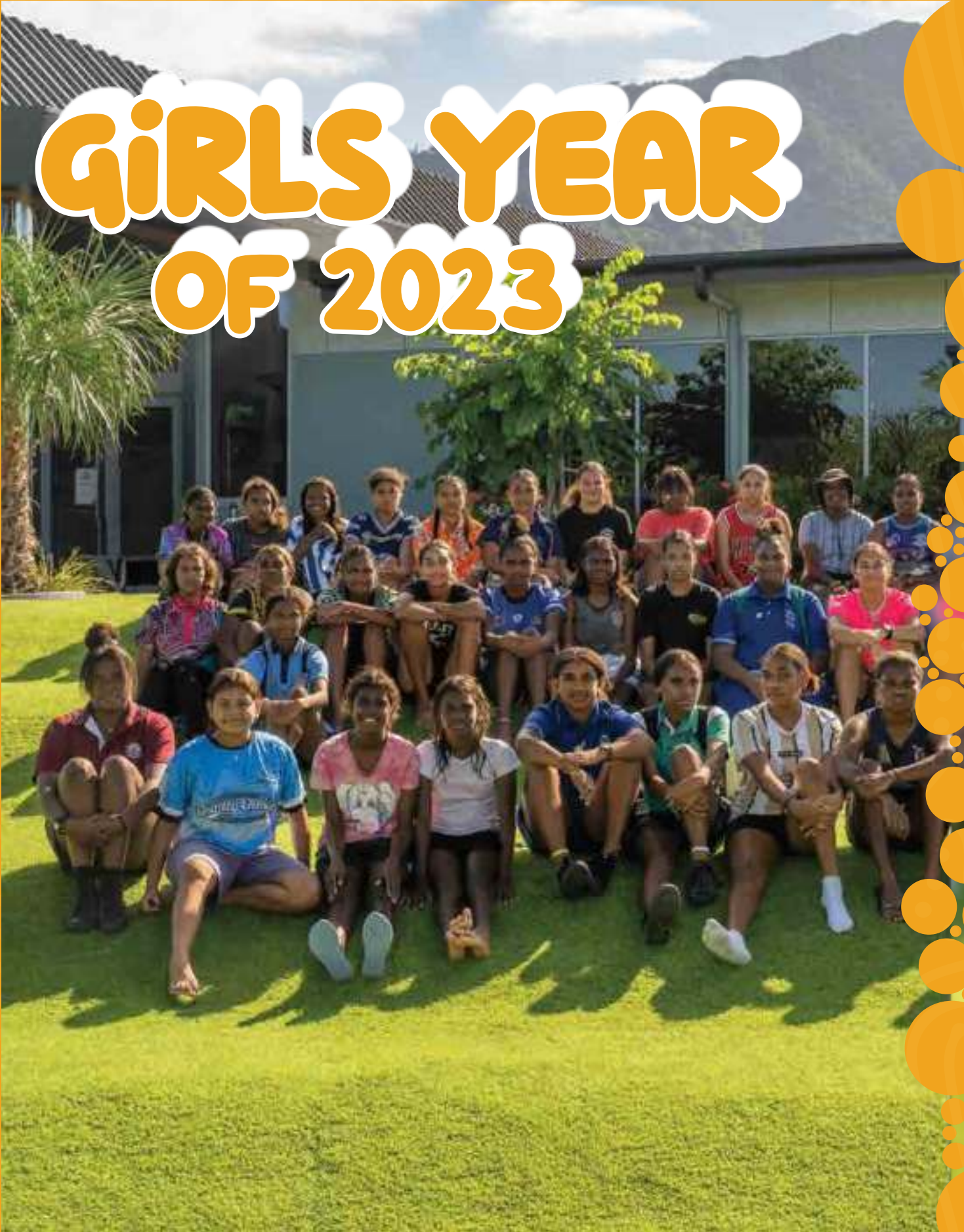
Nakoda David
Year 7



Esther-Grace Bowie-Tamwoy
Year 11

Ben

GIRLS YEAR OF 2023





Students in Photo:

Elizabeth Dau
Glenis Wilson
Sylvia Lalara
Leilany King
Skyeleerah Casey
Jesse-Ella Mosby
Faith Babia
Nellie Sailor
Reyonce Bassani
Esther-Grace Bowie-Tamwoy
Sulcie Tamwoy
Bethalia Biggie
Marrell Lui
Rosabella Wasaga
Makita Kerindun
Melba Wurrawilya
Judy Watt
Brydie Scholes
Shinaya Wilson
Sheryl Watt
Charlotte Rainbow-Chong
Ainta Marou
Sonrae Lui
Hilda Kelleremier
Edna-Grey Muhamad
Pauline Seden
Alice Gamia
Rishaya Durilla
Tameika Pamtoonda
Mariah Lalara
Raejahna Shortjoe
Ranadi Nadredre
Shuntay Marpoondin
Tottsie Nona-Lifu
Ainsleah Satrick
India George
Sheona Robertson
Charmonnique Olbar
Jeniqua Darkan
Elizabeth Kepa
Taum Nona-Lifu

Absent from Photo:

Ashandra George
Emma Pascoe
Jalearah Nunn
Luwina Wurramara
Nakoda David
Natalie Williams
Nikkayia Bara
Paulilla-May Toby
Thelrina Akene
Yehusha Lifu
Talayna Koolatah
Amber Daphney
Jackie Kepa
Kila Walker

BOYS HOUSE

BOARDING LIFE

Boarding Report

Written by Kane Richter,
AFL Cape York House – Boarding Manager for Boys

SOMETIMES Ponder with me for a moment...

SOMETIMES I sit back and think...

SOMETIMES I think... Do we do too much or not enough in terms of providing opportunities for our young men.

SOMETIMES I think... Are our expectations too low?

SOMETIMES I think... Why do we keep doing what we do?

SOMETIMES I think... our environment is too busy for our young men

SOMETIMES I think... Are we really keeping our young men safe?

SOMETIMES I think... Is it ALL worth it?

As you read on, form your own answers.

2023 for our staff focused on reflection both personally and as an environment.

Reflecting on their practices and approach to their role that impacts our young people in so many ways.

Our staff retention has developed over time to a point now where we have 75% of our team have been here longer than 18 -24 months. So how are we challenging

ourselves to re-invent, stay enthusiastic and not get stale, lazy or complacent.

OUR ENVIRONMENT. The year 2023 in AFLCYHB Boarding we have had the most inspiring year here.

In term 1, we started the year at capacity with 52 young people jumping on flights.

We welcomed our new year 7s in to AFLCYHB, Cairns and their new school.

As always together we experience the anxiety, stress, homesickness, and sometimes anger as we navigated the new environments. Young Joseph Wallis from Lockhart tried Drama for the first time and starred in the Woree school play not only with his role as the MOON but played the part of another student who couldn't complete. We started off the year with a Leadership Camp at Northern Outlook where we challenged our thinking on leadership and expectations and how we want to be seen as a learner.

We grew the Junior Reading Program on Tuesday nights as part of bedtime routine which has now evolved from group reading to individual reading. Young people now not only enjoying reading nights but requesting it.



Our Marine Program extended in its second year with uncle Michael has grown where 6 YOUNG PEOPLE across both houses started the course with Radio, Bronze Medallion, Boat Licences and opportunities to hear from the likes of Salty Monkeys and rangers.

Our wellbeing team continued to provided individual support through health and social and emotional wellbeing. Opportunities to hear from key note speakers around positive relationships and health and hygiene is consistent and our young peoples minds, skin and smiles are glowing stronger each day in boarding.

Across the year our Careers Program developed with more YOUNG PEOPLE completing work experience than any other year. This is enabling our YOUNG PEOPLE to try things and gain enormous confidence.

During Term 3 we gave an opportunity for 3 young men who engaged in the Eagles FC to experience life as a professional sportsperson with a trip to the Brisbane Lions for a positive life experience. This challenged the thinking of the young people around Hard Work, Commitment and Consistency.

We also challenged the way we did things in the Education Space, working closely with one young person on an alternate education program to assist with developing purpose, engagement in a strength-based model working with schools, family and our environment to create a plan for him. This ended with Jack Bambie Co-Designing a Cultural Leadership Camp for his house mates on his Country, at his Grandfathers Shack at Elim Beach. Jack taught us his culture and ways of learning.



BOYS HOUSE

BOARDING LIFE

Term 4 we Celebrated our young people and their moments of 2023. Peter cashed in his year, with ABSTUDY flying young people from AFLCYHB and AFLCYHG to Weipa for the continued RIO TINTO INDUSTRY TOUR. This relationship has developed strongly with ex graduates working at Rio.

As part of the Eagles Football Club our young people can now participate in a high-performance training program in the Eagles Development Academy. We have been seeing good numbers already in Term 4 and will start to see growth through COMMITMENT and CONSISTENCY.

The High Tea was again a very special event where our Young Men demonstrated through the engagement how PROUD STRONG & RESPONSIBLE they are when they put their mind to it.

How have you gone with Answers to those SOMETIMES Questions at the top?? If your undecided read some more:

OUR GRADUATES

When we look at our 4 graduates and reflect on their journeys, we can see how the environment at AFLCYHB has been an important piece of the puzzle and helped get them through.

KAI KOOMEETA

This place has become home. It was a rocky beginning at first... STORY... But kai has entrenched himself as an integral part to this family and the fabric of AFLCYHB.

This is a story for the ages and an inspiration to younger peers.

STEVEN GILBERT-KEAN

Growth as a young man. Not just in size... He matches any staff member in the wrestling stakes, but specifically growth in terms of his emotions. Its great to see you smile... it works for you.

NED MOSBY

What this place can be for. Young person who doesn't know what he wants to do but graduates and has options through perseverance and support from our tutors individualised purpose namely Stephen Yamashita. That is why we do what we do.

PETERSON NAAWI

A young man who knows who he is. A unique personality. Only been here a short while however had instant impact in the CIAF Fashion Parade as our first Model. I'm excited to see what's next for you.

The flexibility of our environment here at AFLCYHB has been integral to our 4 graduates pathway success. Would they have thrived elsewhere? That's a question we leave you to ponder. What I do know is that they have developed into proud strong responsible young men and we are extremely proud of who they are and where they are heading. We extend our best wishes to you as they embark on new adventures, carrying with you the resilience, strength, and spirit fostered within these walls.

Again, do we do too much..., are our expectations too low...Is it all worth it...

Thank you to Rick and the Board for your continued support of our environment and to our partners of AFLCY and the Houses thank you for your support.



FINALLY

I would like to thank our team through BOARDING, EDUCATION, WELLBEING & CAREERS. You continue to accept the challenges and consistently strive for better for our young people.

As we close the chapter on 2023, we look forward to continuing our commitment to providing an environment where our young people want to come want to be and want to stay, for the future generations of AFLCYHB boarders. The journey continues, and our passion is only growing.

OH AND MY ANSWERS TO ABOVE:

NOT SURE YET, however both our people and environment here at AFLCYHB are going OK - You only have to look at the Young Men and their efforts this year.

Is it all worth it... YES and I am extremely proud of our team and young people

This is a Special Place

See you again in 2024 where we start again.



GIRLS HOUSE

BOARDING LIFE

Boarding Life Report

Written by Sean Hunter (Boarding Manager)
and Angie Bowie (Boarding Coordinator)

2023 was another BIG and SUCCESSFUL year in Boarding. We continued our commitment to provide a safe and secure environment for our young people (YP) who call this space their home away from home. AFLCYHG was again at FULL CAPACITY; creating an environment enriched with opportunities, positivity and support. In 2023, we created so many individual, group and cohort opportunities for our YP to live, learn and grow throughout the year, both on and offsite, which has allowed them to gain experience and life skills.

This year, across our 45 Young People that live at AFLCYHG; we had twenty-three (23) communities represented across seven (7) Partner Schools or Learning Providers; no small feat! In 2023, we were excited to retain 65% of our 2022 Cohort – after seeing our biggest cohort of Year 12's Graduate in 2022 (9 in total). To start 2023, we welcomed seventeen (10 new girls) into new Girls into our Program of which six (6) were Year 7 Girls, new to Boarding & Secondary Education.

In 2023, we had the pleasure of seeing three (3) of our inaugural cohort (2019 Enrolments) graduate from School & Boarding; Edna, Taum & Yehusha. The place is certainly going to feel different without them onsite.

In reflection, at AFLCYHG we are PROUD to say we have seen young people become CONSISTENT in our environment and showed improved dedication to their Education Journey & Boarding Engagement. Without

question, we always ride an EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER (Ups, Downs, Smiles & Frowns) – but it has been so rewarding to see our girls continue to Grow & Develop in their Academic Pursuits, Extracurricular Activities, Wellbeing Engagements, as well as Personal Relationships with Peers & Staff.

For many of our young people, adjusting to the boarding environment and routine is particularly difficult at the beginning of each term. However, our staff's dedication to maintaining routines enabled our girls to gain time management, independence, and personal development skills while they are with us. We kept using positive reinforcement as a tool for motivation to help our young people perform to the best of their abilities. Positive behaviour for learning tools such as the wheel of fortune and House/Individual Points were a great way to help keep our young people engaged and accountable for their success. We continued with our House Groups, as it ties in well with boarding routines throughout the term.

Our Staff and Environment provide a positive support and structure for our young people – but our consistent rules, routines and expectations are also peer-led. In 2023 we continued our Peer Leadership tradition of appointing a House Captain and Leaders to help create the environment that allows all young people to be: PROUD | UNITED | COMMITTED | SUCCESSFUL.

AFLCYHQ 2023 HOUSE CAPTAIN:

Yehusha LIFU (Year 12, SchoolTech, TAFE)
- from New Mapoon

AFLCYHQ 2023 HOUSE LEADERS:

Edna MUHUMAD (Year 12, Redlynch SC) - from Seisia

Reyonce BASSANI (Year 11, St Andrews CC) - from Coen

Judy Watt (Year 10, Redlynch SC) - from Mornington Island

Elizabeth Kepa (Year 10, St Andrews CC) - from Yam Island

Jesse-Ella Mosby (Year 8, Cairns State High) - from Yorke Island



2023 was our BEST Leadership Process; thus far - by way of Engagement & Thoughtfulness of our Young Pepole. The Engagement was enhanced by the YP's Involvement & Investment at the Leadership Day at the start of the year; which was simply outstanding.

ALL LEADERS - were described to be: Supportive, Caring, Positive, Friendly, Good Influence, Safe, Kind, Confident, Happy & Responsible - by PEERS & STAFF!

Every leader is unique and provides different elements to/from our YP & Environment.

The Peer & Staff votes - MIRRORED the appointments; so the vote was consistent in our Environment. Our 2023 Leadership group is a positive balance and cross-section of our Environment, Cohort & Dynamic.

Throughout the year, boarding activities were based on providing our YP the opportunity to experience living away from home, gain quality education, and maintain a healthy living lifestyle.

Our young people participated in and were exposed to experiences that helped them gain real-world knowledge, develop resilience and skills, and maintain ties to their families and cultures even while they are away from home and their communities. The Girls Enthusiasm, Positive Attitude & Willingness to CONTRIBUTE to the Boarding Environment didn't go unnoticed with many Memorable Moments, Experiences & Activities in 2023.



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GIRLS HOUSE BOARDING LIFE

Here at AFLCYHG, our three (3) Focuses helped us work closely with our YP to give them the best opportunity of gaining:

**QUALITY EDUCATION
STRONG WELLBEING; AND
POSITIVE LIVING AWAY FROM
HOME LIFE EXPERIENCES**

At every opportunity – at school, in boarding or within community; we challenged our Girls to: LEARN LOTS | FEEL GOOD | HAVE FUN | BE AN AFLCYHG YP (Proud, United, Committed & Successful). We feel we were able to get positive outcomes through these focus areas and mantras that created consistency in any environment they entered, creating the foundations of success. We were able to push the girls to experience, try or attempt new tasks which opened doors and we encouraged them to establish and maintain healthy/positive relationships to create fun, safe and positive moments.

Our environment will always be structured around consistent rules, routines, responsibilities and expectations to create familiarisation, accountability but more importantly self-empowerment; so that when life starts outside of School/Boarding – our girls are ready. What we do TODAY affects how we behave TOMORROW.





We are extremely proud of all of our young people for embracing the opportunity to participate, maintaining their interest, and taking part in the daily and weekly planned boarding activities. We would like to express our gratitude to all of our employees and external partners for helping us create a safe, secure and fun filled boarding environment in which our young people can live, learn, and grow.

2023 was BIG! We hope it was a year that has lasting memories, positive life experiences and a sense of accomplishment. We hope all of our Girls felt a sense of direction, purpose and enjoyment.

For the final time, on behalf of everyone at AFLCYHG - we would like to wish Edna, Taum & Yehusha all the best in the feature endeavours as an adult and thank you for your contributions to AFLCYHG.

For the rest of our 2023 Cohort; we want to take the opportunity to encourage REFLECTION of the year that was (Positives & Areas of Improvement), REST & RECHARGE (Ready for 2024) and RECONNECT with Family & Country - you have earned it. Given you have been away from home for a long period re-connect with your Hobbies & Interests, Spend Time with Families/Friends and think about 2024 Goals & Achievements.

2024 shapes to be another big, fun and exciting year for AFLCYHG - we can't wait.

For the last time in 2023 - from EVERYONE at AFLCYHG; Thank You, Goodbye & Happy Holidays



BOYS HOUSE WELLBEING

Wellbeing Report

Written by TJ and Gladys Atkins,
AFL Cape York House – for Boys Wellbeing Team

What an extraordinary year it has been here at the AFL Cape York House for Boys! The wellbeing of our students has remained the cornerstone of our mission, and 2023 has been a year of remarkable growth, heartfelt care, and unwavering commitment to their holistic development.


We're delighted to share some of the highlights from our Wellbeing program, encompassing health education, support, community engagement, and physical and mental health initiatives.

Supporting Homesick Students: Recognizing that being away from home can lead to homesickness, especially at the beginning and end of terms, our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to support our young people in their adjustment to boarding life. We understand that returning to routine is essential for helping them feel safe and secure. For those who find the transition more challenging, our staff engage in thoughtful conversations and organize various activities, such as walks with Aunty Gladys or chats with Aunty TJ over hot chocolates. We appreciate that each young person's journey is unique and are committed to finding individualized ways to provide support.

Physical Wellbeing and Healthcare: We place a significant emphasis on the physical wellbeing of our young people. Thanks to our valuable partnerships with McLeod Street Medical and Cairns North Dentist, we can promptly address any health concerns our young people may have. All young people receive annual 715 health checks, with appropriate referrals made for ongoing wellbeing, including physiotherapy or podiatry when needed. Dental health is equally prioritized, with annual checks and emergency dental support provided. In addition to physical care, we are dedicated to educating our students on various health concerns, empowering them to take ownership of their health.

Community Engagement: Throughout the year, our young people have had the privilege of interacting with various organizations, which has greatly enriched their knowledge and perspective. JCU dental students, Queensland Health, and NDIS representatives have all played an essential role in providing valuable information to our young people. They have learned about the significance of dental hygiene, the importance of healthy relationships, and the value of kindness





and inclusion. Select Junior boys also had the opportunity to participate in the Youth Yarns mental health first aid course, equipping them with the tools to support friends going through challenging times.

Guest Speakers and Mental Health Initiatives: Our commitment to fostering positive values has been reinforced through engaging guest speakers. In Term 3, Daniel Principe delivered an impactful presentation to our juniors and seniors on the effects of explicit content on young minds and the importance of respect in relationships.

Headspace regularly visited us in the second half of the year, promoting open conversations about mental health and the importance of seeking help when needed.

A mental health clinician from RFDS attended the boys house to speak with seniors on mental health and how to reach out to organisations in Community. These interactions have significantly expanded the boys' local support network.

Adventure Therapy and Exercise: In Term 2, we introduced an adventure therapy program led by Dylan Burns. It provided our juniors with the opportunity to explore challenges related to stress, anger, and conflict resolution. Seniors also embraced exercise as a means to manage school-related stress, with many opting for gym workouts and outdoor activities to help cope with the pressures of exam time.

As we close this chapter and look forward to the new year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, our supportive families, and, most importantly, our incredible boys. The journey of wellbeing continues, and we are excited to see what 2024 will bring.

Warm regards, TJ and Gladys

Wellbeing Team

AFL Cape York House for Boys



GIRLS HOUSE WELLBEING

Foundations for Positive Experiences

Written by Luana Healey and Chantelle McAlonan
AFL Cape York House - for Girls Wellbeing Team

The Wellbeing Program this year was jampacked with lots of different learning opportunities, guest speakers, cultural activities and offsite activities. Throughout the year the main focus was supporting wellbeing holistically including connection to culture, physical health, mental health, spiritual health, family connection and supporting the boarding environment. Our young women have invested in their wellbeing and thus have grown in maturity, confidence and with different life skills and learnings.

The Cultural program was heavily supported by Uncle Bernard this year which saw many dance practices, performances, art sessions, visits to country around the local area and teachings/learnings happen. Having a greater cultural connection to yourself, peers, family, community and culture will ultimately allow you to feel most comfortable, included and safe within the Boarding environment. Our young people were apart of Smoking Ceremonies of the facility as given by traditional elder


of Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people- Uncle Henry Fourmile. Having this connection and ability to be grounded with/in culture allows for a calmer, more successful boarding experience.

AFLCY Houses had the unique opportunity to participate in education sessions that emphasized impactful messages from many speakers including;

Tim Class-Auliff speaking on the 'One Punch Can Kill' campaign on behalf of Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group. Tim's presentation highlighted the effects of physical violence in a way that was insightful, engaging and saw our young people across the Houses positively and maturely engage in.

Melinda Tankard Reist from Collective Shout presented to our young people around the effects of social media and body image and the importance of self-care and love.





Lynette Anderson from Mental Health First Aid- Youth Yarns presented for a group of 11 students who engaged in a 2-day program centring on how best young people can support their friends with their mental health in seeking help from a safe and trusting adult. The group were respectful and engaged well in conversation and applied activities.

Brian McAlonan from Australian Federal Police (AFP) visiting to yarn about safe behaviours, being a positive role model and AFP career pathways.

The Wellbeing Team presenting to the junior cohort on Positive Personal Hygiene and highlighting the importance of good hygiene and what it looks like.

Throughout the year the Girls House continued with engaging in key external services/providers with respect to topics relevant to our cohort and age appropriate. All of our young people had their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Checks completed in addition to completing their Yearly Dental Treatment Plans. Furthermore, young people were supported with allied health appointments such as physio, counselling and life coach sessions as well as general medical appointments at the young person's request.



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GIRLS HOUSE WELLBEING

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES ACCESSED FOR ANOTHER YEAR INCLUDE:

Wuchopperen; for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health checks, general medical support and Rheumatic Heart Disease support around Bicillin injections and education

JCU Dental Team; Dental education around upkeep of good oral hygiene, sports injuries and another opportunity to make individual mouthguards in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander colours respectively

Apunipima; for sexual health education age specific and vaping/smoking education

Headspace; education on healthy relationships and communication

Perfect Teeth; supporting our young people with their dental work and treatment plans

Redlynch Medical Centre; for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health checks and general medical support



Maximise Physiotherapy; physio support for injuries, rehabilitation and education on ACL injury mitigation

Every Wednesday morning from Term 3 the Girls House started Wellbeing Walks from 7:00am - 7:30am. Although attendance is not compulsory, as each week went by, we had more young people joined in on walk.

The purpose of the walk was to create another opportunity to engage in some form of physical activity, build on peer to peer and peer to staff relationships and to create another activity to do during morning routine. The girls have developed a greater understanding of road sense and being a considerate walker on pathways while yarning with peers outside of normal friendship groups.

Well done to the girls who engaged in the Eagles FC program through being either a player and/or engaging in our Eagles Walking Program. Physical activity has many benefits that contribute to positive social and emotional wellbeing. Many YP also participated in Deadly Runners Program throughout the year which again adds positive value into your lives.

We thank all you girls for engaging in the many activities that have occurred throughout the year. We're grateful for the yarns and giggles we have shared with you all. We hope you enjoy your holidays and time back home in community/ on country and with family and friends and look forward to seeing you next year.



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BOYS HOUSE EDUCATION

Education Report

Written by Amanda Black,
AFL Cape York House Transition
Support Teacher - Boys House

AFLCY Boys House kicked off the educational year, with young people having an opportunity to create goals and think about the power in developing a strong sense of being a learner. Keeping an eye on what they already know, never losing sight of the fact that First Nations people are the first scientist, first biologist, first historians, first doctors, first engineers and more, allowed the boys to consider their personal position from a strength viewpoint.

Study quickly became routine with junior study two afternoons a week and senior study engaging the older boys in evening sessions, as required. Study has been enhanced through the new iPads gifted to the house, as well as a number of new books, math's games and seasonal calendars displayed on the walls. All young people are encouraged and supported to add to their learner toolkits, strategies to become increasingly independent. It was fantastic to observe independence rise over the year. From the classroom to the junior dorm, reading became a focus. Tuesday evenings became reading night. Starting the year with having an uncle read to a small group, moving into small reading groups and ending the year with each young person, independently reading a novel. However, the highlight of junior reading, has to be reading to our little





visitors. So many little people, listening and learning from a group of confident, reader role models. Rivalling this highlight was Uncle Tobias reading in Creole, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* at our Book Week Dinner.

Year 10's had a big year, with visitors coming into study, sharing their career and life pathways. This was a fantastic grounding for the SETPlan (Senior Educational Pathways Plan) conversations, workshops and decision making that followed. Fire and Reign Academy's, Jillian Bowie led young people, supported by their families in an empowerment workshop, a chance to consider historical impacts on Indigenous people; looking

back and an opportunity to consider the path forward; dreaming big. Bringing families in from community to support their young people at this crucial time in their education, was a delight to see happen for the first time.

At the beginning of every term, all young people create a new short-term goal, as well as a list of actions and decisions that will enable success. This grew into an exhibition of photos. Capturing a moment in time, a record of strong young people navigating, balancing, and growing the three worlds of home life, life at AFLCY House and school life; developing their skillset and toolkit, becoming a lifelong learner.



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GIRLS HOUSE EDUCATION

Education in 2023

Written by Megan Hooper - Transition Support Teacher,
AFL Cape York House for Girls

The year 2023 has been exciting in the journey of Education at our boarding house. With a focus on engaging parents, building relationships, fostering personal growth, and providing enriching experiences. We take pride in highlighting the key moments that have shaped this year.

This year we strengthened Family Bonds with SET Planning: Student Education and Transition (SET) planning occurred at the Girls house with our partner schools coming to engage. A powerful initiative that seeks to actively engage parents in their children's education. This year, SET planning helped bridge and strengthen the connection between parents, schools, and students. Workshops and resources were offered to empower parents to support their children's learning, ensuring a collaborative approach to education.

Trivia Night: Students Teach the Teachers:

One of the highlights of the year was the educational trivia night where our young learners had the opportunity to become the teachers, sharing their knowledge with the teaching staff from our partner schools. This event not only tested knowledge but also fostered a spirit of unity, learning, and a highlight was the young people teaching school staff important dance skills. Thank you and well done to those who engaged and built relationships with our young people.

Literacy, Numeracy, and Cultural Science Education Program:

The introduction of the Year 7 and 8 Literacy, Numeracy, and Cultural Science remediation program every Friday has been a fantastic opportunity for our students. This intensive support program focuses on engagement and learning achievement, ensuring that

students receive the necessary tools to access all curriculum areas and learn content with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, skills, and traditions.

Weekly Afterschool Study Sessions:

Throughout the year, our study sessions have been a learning opportunity, fostering skills and knowledge that supports building our students' confidence in their studies. We thank the dedicated teachers who came to volunteer and support our students during weekly afterschool study, and we also extend our thanks to the teachers who have shared their learning plans and resources this year, making it possible for our students to receive support not only in school but also at home.

Navigating the Transition: Year 6 into Year 7:

The transition from primary to secondary school can be a significant milestone for any young learner. In 2023, we introduced a comprehensive three-stage transition program that allowed students to build relationships and familiarize themselves with their new learning environments, both at school and in the boarding house. This program is instrumental in helping students embrace change, foster resilience, and find a sense of belonging.





Rock Climbing: Conquering Heights and Challenges:

In our quest to encourage personal growth, we introduced rock climbing as a unique tool for students to step out of their comfort zones. This thrilling and challenging activity not only brought fun but also taught valuable life skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and determination. Through rock climbing, students learned by doing, gaining confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Exploring Future Horizons at JCU:

Our Year 7 to Year 10 students had the opportunity to explore their future options through visits to James Cook University (JCU). These visits provided invaluable insights into university life and ignited aspirations for higher education. Students were encouraged to dream big and find their path forward. We also had the outreach and engagement team from The University of Queensland visit us at the beginning of the year to discuss pathways and opportunities to attend future camps.

Mentor Professional Development:

Led by EQ Transition Support Team, Professional development for our mentors is a vital component of improving student learning engagement. Mentors learnt and consolidated their skills and knowledge of prompting strategies to enhance students' learning. We also engaged in a workshop with Sue Larkey to understand ASD & improve student participation and outcomes.

In conclusion, 2023 has been a year of growth. Thank you to the AFLCYGH Education mentors for your support in guiding our young people towards personal and learning growth. Your commitment is invaluable.



BOYS HOUSE CAREERS & PATHWAYS

Careers and Transitions

Written by Peter Cushway,
AFL Cape York House Careers and Transition Coordinator
- Boys House

It has been a big year in the Careers and Transitions space with four Year 12 Graduates.

In addition to our continued relationships with some of Queensland's biggest employers such as Rio Tinto, Sea Swift, Shoreline, Cairns Regional Council and Pacific Hino, we have also developed new partnerships with some great local employers including Cape York Motorcycles, Aussie Marine, NBS Plumbing and Norweld. Having companies of this stature on board and supporting what we are doing is opening enormous opportunities for our young men as they transition out of schooling and into the workforce.

Our Learn to Drive program has been a great success in 2023 with three P'Platers and nine L'Platers currently at the Boys House.

We are delighted to start seeing employment results from our relationship with Rio Tinto. Every year a group of our young men and women travel to Weipa

for four days to tour both the Weipa and Amrun sites and more importantly develop relationships with key Rio Tinto employees. Kai will be joining Johoiakim, our graduate from 2022, at Rio Tinto next year as a Light Vehicle Mechanic.

Special mention should also go to a couple of our future leaders with Walter working through his Cert II in Sports Turf Management with Half Moon Bay Golf Club and completing a week of work experience at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Nauma has begun a work experience placement with Aussie Marine and is working hard to secure a school based apprenticeship in 2024.

Congratulations to Kai, Steven, Ned and Peterson on graduating. All these boys have worked extremely hard to complete their schooling and all have great opportunities ahead of them as they transition into their respective employment pathways.





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GIRLS HOUSE CAREERS & PATHWAYS

Pathways to Success

Written by AFL Cape York House – for Girls Leadership Team

2023 was a big year for the Careers and Pathways department at the Girls House. Throughout the year the young people were fortunate to hear from many organisations sharing career pathways and opportunities. The Australian Federal Police came to visit and highlighted career pathways and ways to get into the AFP. A group of seniors travelled to Weipa to experience Rio Tinto's Amrun site for a two-day site tour, industry talk and exploring different job opportunities. Different cohorts of 9 young people also attended Cairns Regional Council Industry Tours of both the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Tanks and Cairns Museum Gallery as well as the Wastewater Tour, highlighting different career pathways within the council at the different sites.

The following young people have achieved their Learners Licence during 2023; Esther-Grace, Pauline, Judy, India, Brydie and Sheona currently working to complete PrepL. Currently Natalie is on track to have

her P's next year once her birthday rolls around. Massive achievement!

Yehusha, Edna, Pauline and Natalie all achieved their Boat Licences as well.

Many of our grade ten students took part in work experience opportunities during Term 3. Tottsie completed work experience as a Teacher Aide with St. Francis Xavier Primary. While Sheona completed her as a childcare educator and Elizabeth K did Carpentry.

After finalising their final school year Edna and Yehusha completed a week on the road with the AFL Game Development Team visiting communities and engaging with the young people through Auskick, but also sharing their experience as a boarder at AFLCY House.

During Term 3 our senior cohort (years 10-12) engaged in weekly careers and pathways workshops designed to encourage the girls to take accountability



and charge of their future. Over the term the girls applied for different identification items, practiced writing emails, creating/ updating resumes and cover letters, completing PrepL, identifying future career aspirations/employment preferences and following through with job applications and/or application processes.

Term 4 saw Uncle Peter start at the Girls House in a more regular role to help create more employment opportunities, pathways and industry tours.

Our Year 12 students were also busy throughout the year with their final year of schooling but also in setting themselves up for their future. Yehusha has been successful in obtaining a traineeship in diesel fitting through Rio Tinto, through

her completion of a Cert 2 in Engineering Pathways. She also completed a Working at Heights course and is well on her way to achieving her Provisional licence. Edna-Grey will return back to her home and look to begin work in NPARC. She completed the Working at Heights course and has almost completed her 100 hours of driving. Taum will head to Rio Tinto too next year to begin work through the Land and Sea Management Program. Taum is working on completing her driving hours as well.

Thank you to Uncle Pete for your ongoing support, advocacy and patience. Thank you to the many organisations/businesses who have supported our young people through work experience opportunities and /or learnings.



GROOTE EYLANDT TRANSITION PROGRAM



Pathways to Success

Written by The Groote Eylandt Team AFLCYHF

Karningaba (Hello)!

The Groote Eylandt Program at AFL Cape York Boys and Girls Houses is designed to provide extra support to the Young People of Anindilyakwa Country transitioning into boarding and school life in Cairns. We support their educational, emotional, mental and physical wellbeing needs and provide career pathways to give our Young People the best chance of success in school, and after school. The young Groote Eylandt people have shown enormous emotional and educational growth in 2023, learning to navigate and thrive in their secondary education at Smithfield State High School. The Young People have developed brilliant relationships through engagement in boarding house activities and have showed unbreakable connections with their peers across the Boys House and Girls House.

Groote Eylandt is home to the Anindilyakwan People, which is one of the hardest languages in the world to learn! Incredibly, our Young People at our AFL Cape York Houses are confidently able to speak and teach their peers key language to share at the house. Additionally, they are able to adapt English as their 2nd or 3rd language in their new environments. We admire our Young People and their

amazing ability to share and grow their language, culture and identity whilst they spend 36 weeks away from community and family.

2023 wasn't like any other year, 2023 saw a brand-new team with great vision to support the success of our Young People in their educational pathway and emotional well-being. The team this year has been Dylan Burns (Program Coordinator), Natalie Roe (Program Support Officer) and Bernie Wagner (Program Support Officer). We were able to form a brand-new family, and aid our Young People to find and pursue their passions.

Over the past 12 months we have had amazing achievements by our Young People, with Mariah being awarded the 2022 end of year Academic Excellence award for the AFLCY Girls' House, Ezariah passing his Learners Permit test, Nikkayia has kept over a 90% school and boarding attendance (In her first year!), Zacharino was able to improve his attendance to 93% before he decided to take a new pathway back on Groote Eylandt. Sylvia has shown her creative skillsets and has made incredible art pieces, Luwina has shown great improvements in her mathematics subject and continues to go to class early and on time. Rishaya

has formed great relationships with her teachers and has always encouraged the Younger Girls.

Transitioning into boarding away from community and family is one of the toughest experiences and tests the resilience of the Young People. Spending 8-10 weeks four times each year, meaning the Young People spend 36 weeks out of 52 weeks a year to be 2,790km away from home, friends and family to further their education, what amazing commitment.

Our new young people Nikkayia Bara and Luwina Wurramarra transitioned extremely well into Smithfield State High School with support from the EAL/D team to ensure engagement in literacy improvement to access the curriculum. We are always grateful to the school for creating a safe space outside the canteen for the young people to relax at breaks times and for, happily engaging in conversations to support the young people's learning and wellbeing at school.

The Literacy and Numeracy Program at the AFLCY Girls' House led by the Groote Eylandt Team, Megan Hooper (EQ Transition Support Services Teacher) and Bernie Singleton (Cultural Coordinator), is a newly established literacy, numeracy and cultural science program that girls have engaged in for Term 4 on Fridays at the house. This program supports the Young Groote Eylandt students in Year 7 & 8 to improve literacy, numeracy, and science knowledge skills through a first nations lens.

As a part of the Groote Eylandt Program we encourage the success of each young person's learning and pathways, however, we understand the importance of expressing new ideas and creating new adventures as well whilst living in Cairns. This year the Groote Eylandt family have spent educational reward trips to the Great Barrier Reef on the AFL Cape York Boat, cultural trips to Babinda Boulders, Indoor rock climbing, afterschool beach trips, trained and tried out at local Cairns Soccer Clubs, participated in Adventure and Art therapy and numerous adventures, (like cow cuddling!) that we have been documenting in our termly Groote Eylandt newsletters.

The Transitioning Educational Team GEBIPCAC (Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation) led by Josie Skelton, have been a great partnership throughout the year. Assisting the transition of Young Anindilyakwan People moving away from home to access education and career pathway opportunities that they can later bring back to their community.

We at the AFL Cape York Groote Eylandt Project are thankful for the support from Anindilyakwa Land Council, without their great support our Young People might not of had the fantastic opportunities that they have had this year. 2023 has been a rewarding experience for the Groote Eylandt Team and Young People, we are excited to be on this journey with the Young People and hope more Young People from Groote Eylandt will join our family here in Cairns.



CRUSADERS

Crusaders Report

#whichwaysameway

For the first time since 2018 – AFL Cape York Youth Girls “Crusaders” (Representative Team) was given the opportunity to play in a sanctioned AFL Talent Pathway Program, here in Cairns.

On Friday, 20th October 2023, the Crusaders played against an U17 Youth Girls Cairns Representative Team on Cazalys Stadium as the Curtain Raiser to the Inaugural AFL Women’s Premiership Game (Round 8), in Cairns between Hawthorn Hawks vs. Richmond Tigers. Round 8 was also Indigenous Round for the AFLW Competition; a significant event for our Young People.

The Crusaders Representative Team was made up of players from across Cape York, the Torres Strait Islands, Gulf Savannah & Northern Territory Region. AFL Cape York selected a 23 Players that includes a combination of Young People that reside at AFL Cape York House – for Girls (in Redlynch) as well as Remote-Based Players from Indigenous Communities.

Selections started from the Term 3 Angie Nadredre Cup, held in Bamaga (Northern Peninsula Area). The Chris Johnson (Boys) & Angie Nadredre (Girls) Cups is AFL Cape York’s Longest Running Participation & Talent Program – and holds significant importance in both our Game Development & Boarding Program.

The Angie Nadredre Cup is for the following purposes:

Reward School Attendance

Promote Positive AFLCYHG & School Behaviour

Recognition for those YP whom have Consistently ENGAGED in the Eagles FC Program

Leadership & Cultural Experience & Opportunity

Community Engagement & Boarding (High School) Promotion whilst in Community

Talent Pathway Program – for further Representative Games & Opportunities

Similar to all purposes of AFL Cape York – our Crusaders Program is more than just football. It provides an opportunity in Life Experience, Personal Development & Reward for Efforts (& Behaviours).

The 2023 Crusader Team was: Taum Nona-Lifu, Tottsie Nona-Lifu, Esther-Grace Bowie-Tamwoy, Pauline Seden, Shinaya Wilson, Natalie Willians, Nelly Anu, Elizabeth Kepa, Shavinta Bann, Ailiyah Ahwang, Kaylarni Salle, Reyonce Bassani (V/C), Edna-Grey Muhamad, Yehusha Lifu, Pele Lui, Nikata Mosby, Denisha Chilman, Nellie Sailor, Megan Treize, Yunika Naawi (Captain), Marrell Lui, India Nevill, Mistee Sagigi (V/C)

Alongside the players, in 2023, we were able to assemble an absolute ALL STAR TEAM of Officials. Ladies that are extremely well credentialled, re: footy – however, more importantly, outstanding females that have been/are/always will be role models for our YP.

COACHES: Angie, Lu & Shay

RUNNER: Tiarna

TEAM MANAGER: Sodyla

SUPPORT STAFF: Sean, Jake Matt & Kieran

Pre-Game; AFL Cape York’s inaugural female participant, Angie Bowie spoke about “what is means to be a crusader”. Angie emphasised that the program is all about; Pride, Opportunity, Enjoyment & Passion. No one could have summed it up any better: Playing for Family, Community, AFLCY & Themselves

The Program in 2023 had several People & Organisations support the Team – and it would be remiss of us not to further Acknowledge & Thank them for their involvement:

ADLLINS MEDIA (Ange Collins) – Naming Rights Sponsors; plus Jumper & Shirt Sponsor

NQ PARKS & GARDENS (David McConnon) – Jumper & Shirt Sponsor

ELDERS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (David O'Halloran) – Playing Shorts, Shirt Sponsor & Hat Sponsor

BARRON RIVER HOTEL (Colin Doody) – Team Dinner & Shirt Sponsor

TORRES STRAIT YOUTH SPORT & RECREATION ASSOCIATION – Remote-Based Player Travel Sponsor & Shirt Sponsor

AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE FOUNDATION (Rick & Board) – General Program Sponsor

EAGLES FC (Jake & Board) – General Program Sponsor

AFL CAPE YORK (Tills St, GD & AFLCYHG) – General Program Sponsor

TRIBAL SPORT

These People & Organisations sponsored the 2023 Crusader Program; which allowed

us to source: On & Off Field Apparel, Flights & Logistical Expenses for Remote-Based Players, Team Activities as well as Jumper Presentation Venue & Dinner with Players, Officials & Guests.

A special part of the 2023 Crusader Program, was the closely formed connection with JANET BAIRD from the Hawthorn AFLW FC. We were extremely grateful for her Time, Commitment & Genuine Interest; from Pre-Game, During & Post – NOTHING BUT RESPECT!

The result didn't go our way (Carins 5.11-41 def. Crusaders 1.1-7) – however, it wasn't through a lack of effort and/or endeavour. The Crusaders pressure around the contest was fierce and never stopped trying. We had moments through the game where we had control, however weren't able to capitalise on the scoreboard. Mistee Sagigi was awarded our Crusader Medal for her Best on Ground effort. Mistee was everywhere; her endurance, tackle pressure, skill and ferociousness was unbelievable. Other strong contributors were; Denisha Chilman, Shavinta Bann, Reyonce Bassani and India Anu.

After the overall success of the Crusader Program; we hope to see our Representative Opportunities become a regular and annual opportunity for our YP.



BRISBANE LIONS EXPERIENCE

Brisbane Lions Experience

Written by Kane Richter

During Term 3, AFL Cape York House - Boys and the Eagles Football Club supported 3 young men to travel to Brisbane for a life experience around life as an AFL Football Player. Jerome Holland (Mabuiag Is, Torres Strait), Grayson Norman (Lockhart River, Cape York) & Troydan Ross (Yuendumu, NT) spent 4 days at the Brisbane Lions Football Club, immersing themselves in the life as a Player in the AFL.

This opportunity came about through their consistent engagement and commitment to their passion of AFL with the Eagles FC in 2023.

**HARD WORK =
POSITIVE LIFE
EXPERIENCE**

AFLCYHB and the Eagles FC would like to thank the Brisbane Lions for their welcoming hospitality and providing the life experience opportunity for the young men from AFL Cape York.



MARINE PROGRAM

Marine Program

Written by Michael Reisener
Marine Program Coordinator

2023 saw the Marine Program start to grow sea legs. The focus was centred around safety, with the development of strong process and ensuring all safety requirements of vessel and equipment was up to safety standards. For our young people this was initially achieved by completing a Marine Radio course through TAFE.

In 2023 we had 6 YP sign up initially for the Marine Program where the focus for the 3 AFLCYHB and 3 AFLCYHG YP would be involved regularly through sessions and trips to build experiences and knowledge.

With many challenges around School, Sport, Weather and Personal engagements there was limited opportunities through Term 2 & 3, however strong relationships with our Y/P and also our local community businesses and leaders the delivery of the AFLCYH Marine program has remained consistent. Michael Reisener - Residential Boarding Supervisor (Marine Program Coordinator) is currently

involved with Jason Ramsamy Director from TUMRA Section Marine Park Operations Branch. Nicole Senn and Tarquin Singleton from Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef. Gavin Singleton from Gunggandji Land and Sea Rangers. Hannah Kish from Reef Restoration Foundation.

Dennis from Salty Monkeys plus many more connections that will help us guide our Y/P with a better understanding of career possibilities and operations on the water.

We have also created some well-being trips to help our Y/P relax and reduce stress to help them with school and life pressures. Within term 4 of 2023, Young People will be undertaking Boat and Jet ski licensing. We will also do a pilot education program with Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef to help them prepare for 2024 with their education program. We are booked in with RRF at Fitzroy Island to Learn about Reef Restoration. We are hoping to assist the Gunggandji Land and Sea Rangers to collect data. If weather permits, we will also enjoy reward trips to local Island and do a couple of wellbeing overnight camps. 2024 Marine program is currently under planning and will be growing further to support our young peoples experience at AFLCYH Boarding.



BOYS HOUSE CULTURAL PAGE

2023 Cultural Program

Written by Bernard Singleton (Jr)
Cultural Support Officer

The year 2023 has been a year of cultural celebration and engagement at AFL Cape York House – Boys with a range of vibrant events and partnerships that have enriched our young peoples experiences and contributing to their overall wellbeing and connection to culture.

The following various cultural programs, performances, partnerships, and memorable moments that have shaped our boarding environment and given our Young People the opportunity to not only engage and learn but also showcase their culture and open door.

MAR Dance Extravaganza Cairns Performing Arts Centre Opening Performance (Jan 2023)

Sorry Day Term 2 (May 2023) - For Our Elders Exhibition Launch Performance

Throughout the year, our Young People were actively engaged in various NAIDOC celebrations, showcasing their cultural talents. Performances at Smithfield State High School, St. Andrews Catholic College, Woree State High School, St. Monicas Catholic College, St. Joseph's School, and Cairns State High School during July and September were remarkable highlights.

Centrecare Multicultural Harmony Day Performance (Jul 2023)

Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct Exhibition Opening Performance (Jul 2023)

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day Performance – Parramatta School After School Hours Care (Aug 2023)

Australian American Leadership Dialogue (AALD) Performance (Aug 2023)

Thriving QLD Kids & JCU Performance (Nov 2023)

2023 Indigenous Games Performance (Nov 2023)

Indigenous Food & Business Expo Performance (Nov 2023)

DanceRites 2023 Sydney Opera House (Nov 2023) The pinnacle of our Young Peoples cultural journey was their performance at the iconic Sydney Opera House for DanceRites 2023. This extraordinary event celebrated the diversity and depth of Indigenous dance and culture.

Our boarding environment also accomplished several significant milestones throughout the year:

The establishment of the annual AFLCYHB Sorry Day Event to commemorate reconciliation.

The creation of a Cultural Leadership Piece for the annual leadership handover, emphasizing the importance of cultural leadership.

A valuable partnership with Cairns Airport, which provided support in funding and parking for end-of-term and start-of-term travel.

The continuation of Cultural Committee regular meetings, fostering collaboration and cultural enrichment.

Our Young People ' active participation in the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Fashion Performance, with special mention to Charlie Peterson Naawi, a male model who shone on the runway.

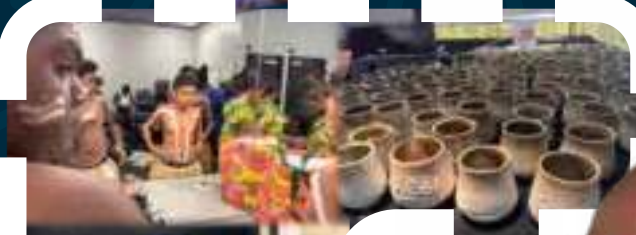
The completion of the Yarning Circle Mural, a testament to our Young People ' artistic endeavors and commitment to preserving Indigenous traditions.

Engagement with the Kunjur Mens Group, with senior boys in attendance and access to Kup Murri, promoting cultural connections.

Acknowledgment by the Cairns Eagles through a scoreboard recognition, reinforcing the importance of our school in the local community.

Cultural workshops that provided Young People with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indigenous traditions.

The year 2023 has been a memorable and culturally enriching journey for our Young People. They not only showcased their talents on numerous stages but also developed meaningful partnerships and engaged in significant cultural initiatives. As we reflect on the year, we celebrate the diversity and heritage that our Young People represent, and we look forward to continued cultural growth in the years to come



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GIRLS HOUSE

CULTURAL PAGE

Cultural Connections

Written by AFL Cape York House - for Girls Leadership Team

The investment in our Cultural Program has had continual profound impacts within the young people's wellbeing as we continue to see its grounding effect in assisting, supporting and providing comfort to/for our young people while away from community and country. This has been seen through the many cultural connection activities our young people have engaged in throughout the year that promote empowerment, strengthening of self-identity, reinforcing connection to culture and country, learning other YP's customs and perspectives and practicing/respecting protocols whilst in the Boarding setting. This directly contributes to a richer experience for our young people and their wellbeing, while living away from home, family and community.

Throughout the year our young people who have been a part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance troupes, respectively have taken part in weekly cultural dance practices. This year our young people have taken part in over thirty dance performances around Cairns, which has been a great opportunity to represent and share their cultures to the broader community. Audience sizes ranged between 40 - 300 people. The confidence, pride and passion displayed by our young people was inspiring.

This year the girls have engaged in many cultural activities including dance practice and performances, camps, education workshops, connecting to country both on land and the sea, participating in language workshops, regular yarning circles, smoking ceremonies of the Girls House and spending time connecting to country as part of connection and positive wellbeing. Uncle Bernard had also successfully engaged a group of Year 7 & 8 young people on Friday afternoons as part of a Cultural Science Education Program. Young people have spent time engaging in hands on and outdoor learning with a focus on First Nations scientific knowledge, skills and traditions. Thank you, Bernard and Aunty Megan.

In 2023, developing partnerships with key agencies has been instrumental in the success and development of AFL Cape York and acknowledge the great relationship we created with the Cairns Airport. Through these relationships we were able to partner with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair as part of the BLAKTIVATION Project. CIAF's Urban Blaktivation activates space through public art integration and AFL Cape York Girls House created lightweight sculptural works which are inspired from our communities; that were displayed throughout the Cairns CBD & Airport.



A unique and powerful opportunity saw Djabugay Nation Cultural Representative Tahalani Hunter unveil the “Welcome” in Ngirrma (Djabugay language) that is above the front doors when walking into the AFLCY House for Girls. The sign reads “Nyurramba gulun-da garra-ymu, birri-m gagay-mu, djawun-da bandjil-barra-la. Nyurramban mundu gurii djanan!”. It translates to “You have come here from near and far to the house belonging to the girls. May your spirit stand well!” Tahalani provided a language workshop as well as highlighting the Cultural Significance of the Country we Live, Learn & Grow on! Thank you to all involved in that unique experience and again thank you Taha.

In Week 8 of Term 4, AFL Cape York Cultural Dance Group inclusive of 30 young people and staff participated in the DanceRites competition down in Sydney. This allowed our young people a once-in a life time opportunity to perform on a national stage to showcase their culture, their communities and themselves. They also were able to learn and watch other communities perform as well. It was a culturally rich, significant and grounding experience to be part of.

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the AFLCYHG Cultural Program. We are grateful for your time, passion, care and support of our young people. We look forward to engaging with you next year and expanding on the program. To our girls keep practicing your culture and languages, be proud and continue make your families and communities proud.



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YEAR 12 GRADUATES AND AWARDS NIGHT

Our Night of Nights

Written by Sean Hunter & Kane Richter
AFL Cape York House – Boarding Managers

The 2023 Awards & Graduation Evening is our NIGHT OF NIGHTS; where we Celebrate, Acknowledge & Reward our Young People's efforts throughout 2023 in; Boarding, Leadership, Sporting, Cultural, Transition & Education.

The Awards Night is the most prestigious date on our Boarding calendar. In 2023, we moved our Awards Night OFFSITE to the Hilton, Cairns – to allow more guests to be in attendance. This year was the biggest attended event, with over 240 guests in attendance.

Boarding is about providing our Boys & Girls the opportunity to experience living away from home, gain quality education, and maintain a healthy living lifestyle – and at our Awards Night we definitely celebrated their year that was (and everything in between).

From everyone at AFL Cape York; congratulations to all of our winners – you should all be extremely proud of your achievements. Not only have you done yourself proud, but you have made your school, your family and your community very proud. You represent a large group of people!

The final part of the night was celebrating our graduates; Edna, Yehusha, Taum, Kai, Ned, Steven & Peterson – CONGRATULATIONS. Thank you for your involvement, commitment and influence within our Program & Environment over the years. You have all matured so much since Day 1 of meeting you. Life will throw challenges at you, but remain positive, seek support from people you trust and

understand learning from a mistake is OK! Good luck in your future endeavours and remember, you will always be apart of the AFL Cape York Family!

As we close on our success for 2023, we look forward to the opportunities of 2024.



On behalf of ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE we would like to thank all of the following who were in attendance:

- OUR STAFF: the Auntie's & Uncles who care for the young people and create endless opportunities in a safe environment
- OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS; who allow our Boys & Girls to access Education away from our communities and help create Adult Pathways
- TO THE BUSINESS & SUPPORTERS of AFL Cape York; who invest, support and care about our Students & Programs
- OUR FAMILIES who support their young people to be who they want to be and do what they want to do.

Both Houses would also like to acknowledge and say thank you for the support of those that could not be in attendance at the event.

Without question, a big acknowledgment needs to be said for our Young People. How they presented themselves at Awards Night was with the upmost humility, pride and glamour.

Being a 'boarder' at AFLCYH's is something BIG and that something that should be recognised and celebrated. A normal day includes anything from:

- consistently working on everyday life skills
- learning and absorbing knowledge in and out of classrooms
- connecting with and displaying culture with and/or around people
- pursuing extra-curricular activities, interests or hobbies
- creating friendship groups that create memories and opportunities for now, tomorrow and the future
- riding a rollercoaster of emotions; weekly, daily and/or even hourly
- leading and displaying leadership that enables others to follow, be guided or feel supported
 - fulfilling rules, routines and responsibilities aimed to allow young people to live, learn and grow
- working with and alongside industry leaders or people to start carving your own pathways and identity
- and simply being a teenage living away from home in a new environment

THE ABOVE is why we hold Awards Nights; to CELEBRATE special achievements across all aspects of our environment. Everyone's journey is unique and everyone shares different levels of success - so to all come together as one, is fitting.



2023 AWARD WINNERS

GIRLS HOUSE

CONTRIBUTION TO LIFE AT THE HOUSE

Jessie-Ella Mosby,

CAREERS & PATHWAYS AWARD

Yehusha Lifu

CULTURAL AWARD

Tottsie Nona-Lifu
& Thelrina Akene

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Natalie Williams

ACADEMIC CONSISTENCY

Nikkayia Bara
& Tameika Pamtoonda

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

Brydie Scholes

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Shinaya Wilson

LYTHALL FAMILY AWARD

Yehusha Lifu

2023 GRADUATES

Edna-Grey Muhamad,
Taum Nona-Lifu & Yehusha Lifu

BOYS HOUSE

CONTRIBUTION TO LIFE AT THE HOUSE

Brian Koko

CAREERS & PATHWAYS AWARD

Walter Satrick

CULTURAL AWARD

Peter Dau
Steven Gilbert-Kean

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Troydan Ross

ACADEMIC CONSISTENCY

Peter Bally
& Jerome Holland

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

Joseph Wallis

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Senior - Walter Satrick
Junior - Walter Elu

LYTHALL FAMILY AWARD

Walter Satrick

2023 GRADUATES

Peterson Naawi, Ned Mosby,
Steven Gilbert-Kean, Kai Koomeeta



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CAPE YORK HOUSE

53

OUR GRADUATES



EDNA-GREY-MUHAMAD



TAUM NONA-LIFU



YEHUSHA LIFU



NED MOSBY



KAI KOOMEETA



STEVEN GILBERT-KEAN

PETERSON NAAWI





GIRLS HOUSE

BUZZ & CUT

FOR SUPPORT

Written by AFL Cape York House - for Girls Leadership Team

Earlier this year, in May, AFL Cape York House - for Girls (AFLCYHG) were shocked and saddened by the sudden news, that one of our bright, positive and bubbly Students was diagnosed with Leukaemia.

Here at AFLCYHG, we are a Home Away From Home and have Family-Like Connection - so the news was heartbreaking. Collectively, our YOUNG PEOPLE & STAFF (and Family of Staff) created a Fundraising Initiative: AFLCYHG Buzz & Cut for Support - in the aim to raise as much money as possible to support the Family during her treatment. We thought the fundraiser would also provide opportunities to connect or link Family members to Brisbane - that still reside or work in the Torres Strait Islands (easing the Logistical & Financial burden).

The young person was Sulcie Tamwoy, a 16YO in Year 11 from the Torres Strait Islands, schooling at Trinity Bay SHS. This Family has a very strong connection with AFL Cape York - over many years. Her Brothers & Sister have previously represented the Crusaders in our Game Development Program, with Sulcie's Older Sister, Latisha graduating from AFLCYHG in 2021.

In May, immediately after her diagnosis, Sulcie was flown directly to Brisbane Children's Hospital where she commenced Chemotherapy & Treatment Support. Since May, Sulcie and Mum (Phyllis), have been residing in Long-Term Accommodation at Ronald McDonald House.

We had 23 COMMITTED Staff, Young People, Family Of and/or AFLCY Connections being a part of 'AFLCYHG Buzz & Cut for Support'. For the Aunties (or Females) - CUT | For the Uncles (or Males) - BUZZ.

The Buzz & Cut Event, raised \$22,000.00 for Sulcie and her Family. The support and generosity for/from this cause was INCREDIBLE. We were able to have Mum (Phyllis), Dad (Edmund) & Sister (Latisha) onsite - and a part of it, made the event EVEN MORE SPECIAL!

To the Event Supporter of; Razorbacks Men's Cuts, Adllins Media & Eagles FC - we can't THANK YOU enough for your unwavering support.

Our purpose for the event was to:

Show our support for Sulcie

To raise as much money as possible for the Sulcie and her Family

For her to know that WE ARE ALL thinking of her

To have our Staff & Students feel empowered by Supporting & Connecting

Create further awareness of Leukemia & Extend these Conversations

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY; for Sulcie to know, despite being in Brisbane - WE ARE HERE FOR HER, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

Since the Buzz & Cut, through other Fundraising Initiatives such as Pizza Nights & Selling of Artwork, we have been able to raise over \$25,000.00 for Sulcie.

As a result of our Fundraising efforts, In August this year, the Eagles FC were awarded the inaugural Community Engagement Award for the Buzz & Cut Fundraiser for Sulcie.



An extremely humbling recognition of what our Broader Family (& Friends) were able to achieve and raise. A Community Engagement Award is something that holds significant value for our FC – it's more than just football!

We aim to create Opportunities, Positive Life Experience, Fun/Enjoyment, Success & Development but also Create Impact not only for our Young People & Staff but the wider Cairns Community. Through the Buzz & Cut; we were able to use the Wider Community to have a positive impact on one of our students, Sulcie. The Award is something that everyone involved in the FC was proud of.

Sulcie is a fighter. A young lady that is determined, positive and committed to her treatment and focusing on recovery. Her resilience is and has been incredible. Her recovery is still long-term, but at every opportunity she remains positive and smiles. Her strength and character is unbelievable.

Through 2023, we have been able to send Staff and Young People (friends) to Brisbane to visit Sulcie. Despite her journey, the smiles we receive proves her strength in character.

Despite the distance, we all at AFLCYHG remain connected; that will be unbroken. At every opportunity we continue to send our love, thoughts, prayers and best wishes.

Facetime, Phone Calls Messages & Tiktoks are what strengthens her connections with the Girls and staff, despite not being around each other.

At times, we have all felt helpless and Sulcie's recovery – but for us knowing she knows we are thinking about her, that's all we need



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EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

Eagles Report

Written by President Jake O'Halloran

2023 was another SUCCESSFUL year for the South 32 Cairns Eagles, we entered 3 teams into the AFL Cairns Juniors Competition with our U17 Youth Boys & U17 Youth Girls making it into the finals and our U17YG winning the Premiership. Some off-field development this year with the top soil added to the ground giving a fantastic improvement ahead of season commencement. As a football club we were able to put in two brand new grandstands at the Eagles Nest, with huge thanks to Jarrad and his team at JM Construction/HPS for this addition to our facility.

Our U13's mixed team had a fantastic year with over 14 boys playing AFL for the first time ever! This is a huge achievement for this team but most importantly these boys, for giving AFL a go. Coached by Jake O'Halloran and Chris Ransom, we were both over the moon at how well these amazing talented young men and women played throughout the year. The team was mostly made up of students who attend AFL Cape York House & AFL Cape York House for Girls. It was very challenging and tough early on, as we were all still trying to learn the basics of the game, but as the games went on, they all improved out of sight. A big win came in Round 9 when the young boys and girls were able to put their best foot forward and beat the Cairns City Lions 7.3 (45) to 3.10 (28). This was great for the team leading into the holidays, with key standouts being Grayson Norman, Thelrina Akene and Callum Liddy. Although they didn't make finals, there was a lot of stand-out players

throughout the year, with Grayson Norman from Lockhart River winning the Club's Best & Fairest and Leading Goal Kicker Awards. Grayson has a very tall, athletic build, and shows amazing AFL talent and passion for the game. Well done on a fantastic year and I look forward to seeing where they go in the future!

Coached by the 'Super Coach' Kane Richter, the Under 17's Boys had a very challenging year but when they got the full team on the park, they were hard to beat. Unfortunately, there were only 4 teams in this competition so these young men found it very difficult to stay motivated as they were basically playing everyone four times throughout the season. We had over 34 boys registered for the season, and as we didn't have an Under 15's team this year, we had a large amount of boys having to play up in the older age group. Throughout the year the boys had a big win against Centrals Trinity Beach Bulldogs, defeating them 5.11 (41) to 4.8 (32) - this was huge for the boys' morale as they knew what they could do if they put their best foot forward. Sadly, it was the Bulldogs who went on to win the 2023 U17B Premiership. A big standout in our U17's Boys was Troydan Ross. Troydan has been an Eagles player for 5 years now and is just starting to hit his mojo. Troydan was awarded the Club's Best and Fairest Award, as well as the Cairns Eagles Leading Goal Kicker Award. Overall, an amazing effort for all of these talented young men; well done on a fantastic year!



WOW! WHAT A YEAR FOR THE UNDER 17 YOUTH GIRLS!

Talk about successful, for some of these girls that played in this Grand Final, this was their 3rd or 4th Premiership with the Cairns Eagles.

In AFL, people dream about playing in a Grand Final, let alone winning, so it's a massive achievement to win 4 out of 5. This year saw the girls finish 4th on the ladder, so coming into the finals they were massive underdogs.

Coached by Shay Warburton, who had the girls absolutely flying leading into the finals campaign, with the girls defeating Cairns City Lions in the Elimination Final. The next challenge was playing North Cairns Tigers who hadn't lost a game all year. The girls just had the toughness and the will to win this game beating them 7.9 (51) to 3.5 (23). Leading into the Grand Final against Cairns Saints, the girls knew if they put their minds to the job they would come out on top. Side note: 6 weeks prior to this game Saints beat the Eagles 66-3 so these girls had revenge on their minds! There were many standouts this year, with one being Yunika Naawi (Captain) being awarded the Cairns Eagles Best and Fairest, and another talented player is a young lady by the name of Nelly Anu who was awarded the Best on Ground in the Grand Final. The final score of the 2023 U17YG Final was Cairns Eagles defeating the Cairns Saints in a nail-biting finish 3.3 (21) to 2.5 (17). Absolute HUGE effort from these young ladies to come from behind to run over the competition and be crowned once again **PREMIERS!**

Most clubs are run by volunteers, and for us this is no different. We have numerous people who put many hours in, performing gameday roles, registrations, canteen, ground maintenance and the list goes on. Eagles FC was awarded the inaugural Community Engagement Award for the Buzz & Cut Fundraiser for Sulcie Tamwoy.

An extremely humbling recognition of what our broader family and friends were able to achieve and raise. Without the support of both AFLCYHG & AFLCYHB and the Eagles FC, the success of the event would not have occurred. A Community Engagement Award is something that holds significant value for our Football Club - it's more than just football! We aim to create opportunities, positive life experience, fun and enjoyment, success and development.

I would like to acknowledge the service, involvement and contributions of our 2023 Year 12 Boys & Girls who played their last games for the Eagles FC: Steven, Yehusha, Edna and Taum.

These young people have been a part of the Eagles FC since 2019, and they leave behind a strong legacy of commitment and involvement. They have ridden the highs and the lows - and achieved success along the way.

South 32 Eagles would like to thank everyone associated with the club in 2023. To all of our sponsors, a huge thank you for enabling us to keep providing opportunities for these young amazing athletes, helping them grow, learn and develop. We can't thank you enough for all the continuous support for our club. And to all our players, volunteers, and officials - well done on a successful, but most importantly, fun season and I look forward to what lies ahead for 2024.

Always - whichwaysameway.



GAME DEVELOPMENT

Game Development Report

Written by Matt Mellahn, Jake O'Halloran & Kieran Sciberras
AFL Cape York Game Development Team

In Term 1, our Game Development team travelled to the Cook Region and visited 7 communities and 8 schools, with 85 participants signed up for the Auskick program.

The highlight of the term was our Crusader Cup in Cooktown involving Hopevale, Bloomfield, Rossville, Cooktown State School, and Endeavour Christian College. All teams put their best foot forward and the day will be remembered as one of the great Crusader Cup events. Hopevale went through the day undefeated and took the Cup back to community, impressing all with their high intensity and unselfish brand of footy.

Term 2 saw us travel to the Weipa region. We visited Weipa State School, St Joseph's Parish, Mapoon State School, and Aurukun State School. We also spent time with the kindergarten and PCYC in Napranum, registering 238 young people for the Auskick program.

A highlight was our inaugural U12 Weipa Junior Development Competition which saw 54 players across 4 teams battle it out at Andoom Oval. It was fantastic to see the skills learned in school used on the field. We selected 3 young people to represent their community and our Crusader team on the Sunshine Coast for the Queensland State Champs in June.

Kilometres travelled - 6,780

Torres Strait Inner Islands

Term 2 focused on program delivery across

three islands and five campuses: Tagai Secondary Thursday Island, Tagai Primary Thursday Island, Tagai State College Horn Island, OLSH Thursday Island, and OLSH KIRRIRI. On top of 5 weeks of in-school and Auskick program delivery, we supported NPA State College to participate in the primary division of the AFLQ Schools Cup in Cairns for the second year.

This year saw the entry of the first ever junior girls team (Years 7-9) comprising students from NPA State College and Tagai State College into the AFLQ Schools Cup competition. We also supported 22 young people from across the Cape York, Torres Strait, and Gulf Savannah regions to participate in the State Schools AFL Championships on the Sunshine Coast as part of the Crusaders Representative Program.

From the Crusaders Program, one Torres Strait student was named a shadow for the QLD team and an Injinoo student was selected for the U12 QLD Blaze team that competed at the National Championships. This term also saw an increase in sponsorship agreements with Bamaga Enterprises Ltd, Torres Shire Council and Torres Strait Youth Recreational Sporting Association, and Hinterland Aviation, meaning no fees for young people or families to attend representative sporting trips.

Term 3 started with driving through the Gulf Savannah region as part of our 'Donation Drive'. The 2000+ km trip allowed us to transport the many donations sent by the good people at AFL Queensland, AFLQ



Diversity, Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast Suns, Sherrin Australia, Cairns Eagles and Tribal Sport to the flood-affected areas of Burketown, Doomadgee, and Gregory. We also ran some in-school clinics while there. These items and time spent were well received by community, with schools and local council helping to direct the items to areas in need. After the drive, our regular school programs kicked into gear and we visited the communities of Lockhart River, Coen, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama. School attendance was on the rise throughout these 5 weeks, and 194 students registered for the Auskick program and received their pack including a new footy.

Term highlights were our carnivals during August and September with a total of 12 communities participating in huge days of footy across the Cape:

Chris Johnson & Angie Nadredre Cup in Bamaga – Teams/regions included high school students from AFLCYHB, AFLCYHG, MSB College, Tagai Campus and Northern Peninsula Area.

Mitchell River Shield in Pormpuraaw (Primary) – Pormpuraaw vs Kowanyama

Coen Community Camp (Primary) – This 2-day camp involved students from Coen, Lockhart River, Hopevale, Bamaga, and Injinoo, with participants taking part in team building and talent pathway education plus the 2023 Central Cape Crusader Cup.

In Term 4 we packed the troopy and drove through the Gulf Savannah region. We visited every school between Mount Garnet and Doomadgee, 9 schools in 4 days, registering 90 new Auskick participants. We finished our in-school programs with a carnival in Croydon which saw Croydon, Georgetown, Mount Garnet, and the Gulf Christian College battle it out in hot conditions in our annual Crusader Cup, the selection process for the Crusader Under 12s team playing on the Sunshine Coast mid-2024.

Yehusha Lifu and Edna Muhamad joined our travels during week 5, after graduating Year 12 with the support of AFL Cape York House for Girls. The girls spoke to the young people of the Gulf about what it means to be a Crusader, opportunities in the boarding space, things they love and miss about home, and their favourite thing about living at AFL Cape York House for Girls. Edna even ran an AFL skills session to complete a TAFE requirement for her Cert III in Coaching. It was amazing to see these two flourish outside of their comfort zones.

This term, programs will be delivered to 14 outer islands campuses across Tagai State College through the Sporting Schools program and external sponsorship from Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association. This term marks the first time that the Game Development team has delivered programs to every campus across NPA & the Torres Strait in a 12-month period. Some of these campuses are only accessible via plane, dinghy, ferry, or helicopter.

Moa Island will host their first AFL Gala Day, an interschool sports day between the two communities of St Pauls & Kubin. Six students from across NPA & Torres Strait have been selected from the NQ Diversity Championships & CJAN Cups to represent the Cape York & Torres Strait Crusaders in Cairns, in the U17 Youth Girls Representative Program. Partnerships with AFLCY House for Girls, Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Association, Community Enterprises QLD and Tagai State College (via Sporting Schools) will see all participants engage in AFL programs at no cost to them.

We would like to thank all the people that have volunteered their time and energy in supporting our Game Development Program. A huge thank you to all community members for their ongoing assistance in helping to run engaging AFL programs throughout the Cape York, Torres Strait, and Gulf Savannah Regions.



STAFF YEAR OF 2023



Anthony Fisher



Anthony Satrick



Barton Elphick



Brad Hill



Hazmin Satrick



Christopher Ransom



Daniel O'Shane



Luke James



Tobias Fatnowna



Allyrah Anton



Jeda Nash



Stephen Yamashita



Allan Takurit



Kane Richter



Gladys Atkins



Otis Gowa



Simon Burgoyne



Phillip Billy



Peter Cushway



Rachel Wilson



Nathaniel Tamwoy



Michael Reisener



Pone Tongia



Ludovic Combe



Kampor David



Joseph Kearney



Joanne Caltabiano



Dylan Burns



Matthew Fatnowna



Brad Campbell

Absent from photos:

Julianne Sabatino, Laura Wells, Bernard Lewis, Fitzroy Greenwool, Jason Peach, Jordenn Evans, Paul Kingsbury



Megan Hooper



Phoebe Mawby Smart



Wanda Pone



Sean Hunter



Chantelle Mcalonan



Leeanne Bond



Shay Warburton



Elli Egan



Angie Bowie



Noella Kris



Sadiar Pitt



Shelby Grant



Eliana Leguizamon



Ruby Leete



Elsja Mosby



Lindsey Crudup



Iada Bowie



Leisa Toombs



Tiarna Ahwang



Melissa Harwood



Luana Healey



Morgan McCulkin



Azaria Gebadi



Hadassah Nicholson



Sodyla Kris



Natalie Roe



Jezalin Robard



Talai Lette



Bernard Singleton



Caitlin Sansom



Joanna Bernier



Rebekah Russell



Sarah Harrold



Sharman Williams

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Absent from photos:

Julianne Sabatino, Laura Wells, Bernard Lewis, Fitzroy Greenwool, Jason Peach, Jordenn Evans, Paul Kingsbury

STAFF YEAR OF 2023



Russell Wolman



Beatrice Douglas



Jason Tom



Tristine Lear



Miya Healey



Matt Mellahn



Jake O'Halloran



Kieran Sciberras



Mandy Carney



Rick Hanlon



Amanda Black



Molly Rose



DANCERITES 2023

Written by Bernard Singleton (Jr)
Cultural Support Office

The culmination of the AFL Cape York Cultural Dance for 2023 saw both our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Dance Groups light up the dance circle at the Sydney Opera House this November.

Both groups placed in the top 8 with the Aboriginal Dancers placing runners up overall.

The young People were extremely proud to showcase their culture and communities and all performances could not be faulted. Being the first competitive event that our Dance groups have been part of, we see this strengthening our cultural programs to help build confidence pride in culture and character for future years to come.

The Dance teams were greeted back home with a guard of honour which ended with a final corroboree in the Cairns Airport terminal for 2023.



ME. EXHIBITION

ME. The Exhibition

Saturday, 11th Nov 2023
at Hilton Cairns

The Exhibition was an exciting initiative - in a way we can celebrate our Boys & Girls in a Unique & Individual way. Each Young Person from AFLCYH's had a SELF-PORTRAIT - that contained meaning ABOUT THEM. The Portraits were spectacular. NO PHOTO WAS THE SAME; BECAUSE NO YOUNG PERSON IS THE SAME.

The Event has over 200 people in attendance from our Young People, Families, Staff, Teachers, Key Partners & Stakeholders as well as members of the Public. The Exhibition was formally opened in a ceremony by 2023 House Captains, Yehusha & Walter, as well as Cultural Dance.

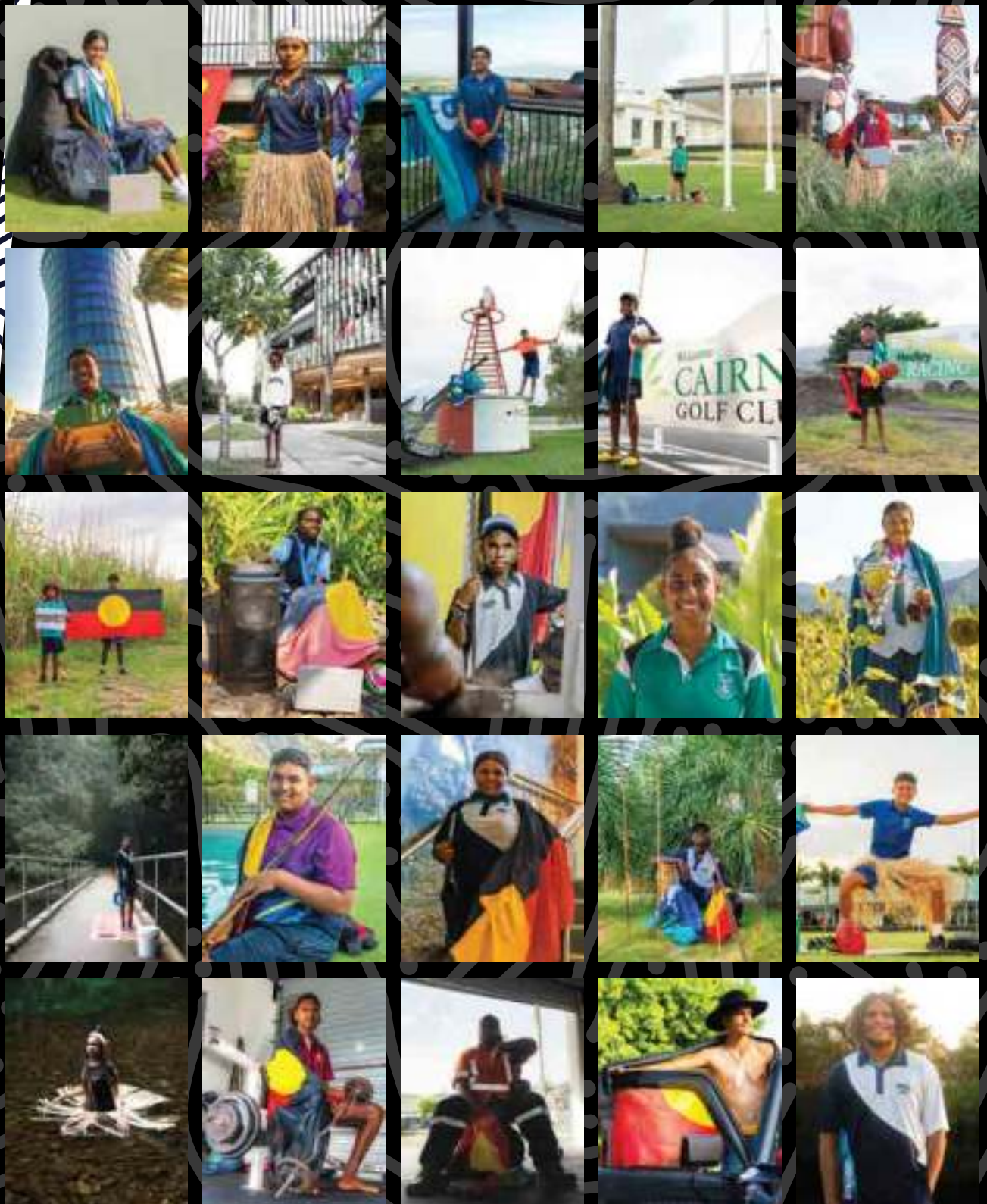
A quote from Yehusha's Opening Speech
"The ME. Exhibition is a way for us Young People to represent ourselves with the things that make us uniquely us."

The sense of PRIDE our Boys & Girls had in viewing their portraits was at times emotional.

A BIG THANK to Amanda Black (Boys Teacher) for the Idea & Vision and then an extension to our Education Teams who were extremely prominent in piecing together the "HOW".

We would also like to acknowledge AFLCY Partners in Adllins Media & Cardzilla - for producing the quality portraits that were displayed was nothing short of Outstanding & Professional.









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BOYS HOUSE STAFF PROFILES

Well ok lets get started with Staff profile interviews for 2022 I mean 2023. Lets have a yarn.

FULL NAME / NICKNAME:

OTIS: Otis Gowa - OJ/OT

DANNY: Daniel O'Shane - Horse, DorDor, Danny James

ALLAN: Ummm do you want full name middle name too? Cos I was gunna throw those in too just for laughs. Sooo Allan Joshua Takurit - Atak, Towa, Joshy, Josh Josh, Towa

OTIS: Josh Addo Carr Takurit (Laughs)

KANE: So whats yours Otis?

OTIS: John Alf

DANNY: Mine is James Francis.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

OTIS: I like to say I am from Ravenshoe, but my family ties are from Bamaga and Saibai.

DANNY: Cairns Island, Bamaga and Erub.

OTIS: Bala Cairns Nor Island.

DANNY: I Cairns Island Bala

OTIS: Bala you Off Bala. When you went to school...

DANNY: You not from Cairns you wouldn't understand.

OTIS: Bala I from on top of hill... I look down on Cairns. What you gonna dooo.

ALLAN: I'm a Townsville Boy, But my family originates from Torres Strait. Mum is from Torres Strait, Murray Island and Dads from PNG.

ROLE @ AFLCYHB:

OTIS: RBS - Provide Safety, get them to and from school.

DANNY: Tutor and RBS (Residential Boarding Supervisor) Support. Be a Positive Role Model.

OTIS: WeeeeIIII YOU gotta turn up to Men's Group to be a positive role model.

ALLAN: RBS - what they said... and be that type of person to yarn to young indigenous men to be better.

YEAR STARTED @ AFLCYHB:

OTIS: Ummm... what year we up to? 2023? 2020

OTIS: Yeah term 3 Covid year.

DANNY: 21 (2021)

ALLAN: 2021 June. 4th June a Saturday I remember it... Cairns Central that shift...

KANE: Did you lose anyone?

ALLAN: I was stressing. I didn't know anyone's names and them small little photos don't look like any of them.

ALL: Laughing

FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR JOB:

OTIS: Ummm Seeing the positive outcome of the boys, and seeing them graduate and leave this place.

DANNY: I enjoy watching the boys succeed. Watching them come in to study, complete their assessments and passing their tests.

ALLAN: (Laughs) Yeah I dunno? I guess just being here with the boys from different cultures, learning from them.

FAVOURITE / FUNNIEST MEMORY OR STORY HERE @ AFLCYHB:

DANNY: I got one... We were doing check ups on young people who were sleeping in. We open the door, me and Aunty went in and they were pretending to sleep. We tried to wake them but they wouldn't get up... so we pretended to close the door, as the door closed, they got up and we said... GOTCHA... (Laughs)

OTIS / ALLAN: Laughs

OTIS: My favourite one was a recent one and Aunty Amanda was talking about subject selection. Everyone was really quiet listening. YP was sitting like this... I said "Hey YP put your feet down" and he (Otis Laughs) he let one rip... and instead of being shame he said Oh man I be Barr...

ALL: Laughing

ALLAN: There are so many but I can't say them

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE, FROM BEING A YOUNG PERSON TO AN ADULT?:

OTIS: Being a dad. My son, keeping him positive, learning Culture and spending time here at AFLCYHB.

ALLAN: Moving away for me. I always thought I would be someone who stayed close to town and family.

DANNY: Being a Dad... Consistency being able to do something until it is finished! Wasn't good at this as a kid.

IF YOU WERE A YOUNG PERSON, WHAT WOULD BE THE HARDEST PART OF BOARDING?:

OTIS: My education. Trying to balance education and sport. I was never good at education but loved sport and was spectacular at it.

DANNY: Being around people all the time. I like my own space. Listening to people run around at night while I was trying to sleep oh that would be difficult.

ALLAN: Being away from family

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE IF YOU WENT BACK TO SCHOOL?:

ALLAN: Listen more at school

OTIS: I wouldn't change anything. Greatest advice was from agriculture teacher: continue to do subjects that you will learn in life. For me that was sport, manual arts, metal work, home economics and agriculture.

DANNY: Seek help. Went to Saint Augustines with good teachers but I would stay in my shell. I was too shy or embarrassed.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE QUOTE FROM A YOUNG PERSON @ AFLCYHB:

DANNY: Rusia Bann - what does he say all the time... "It is what it is"

OTIS: Mine is Jimboy - "Up to Marn"

ALLAN: Sharma David said to me "Don't tell me how to live my life"

ALL: Laughing

Who is the funniest Staff Member - And Why?

OTIS: Kampor

ALLAN: We should all say Peter for laughs... (Laughs) Nah jokes poor fella don't say that.

OTIS: Peter (Laughing)

ALLAN: Laughs

OTIS: Nah I'm going Kampo

DANNY: That's not his name... its Kampor!

OTIS: That is what I said...

DANNY: Nah you said KAMPO... Laughs. My guy is the fella on my left... Allan Josh Takurit...Tawo

ALLAN: Nah honestly for me... its... besides Me NAH JOKES, cant say yourself if you think you're funny there is something wrong with you. Its Chef Paul. He's got real dry jokes, there like dad jokes but really good.

ALL: Laughing

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE AFLCYHB TO A RANDOM PERSON WHAT FIVE WORDS WOULD YOU USE?

OTIS: Unique, Talented, CHASMATIC Is that the word? Charismatic, Fun, and energetic

DANNY: I would say I need a thesaurus... Slack

ALLAN: You really going with that.

ALLAN: Inspiration

DANNY: I would put Inspirational - Kai Koomeeta I am leaving it there... Oh and Hyperactive, Bold Courageous

ALLAN: I'm not good with words... Amazing, lovely, learning awesome and Nungry I don't know if you know but I was trying to spell my name out but couldn't think of N... Wait... Never ending

MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?:

DANNY: Coming in like it is a brand-new day

OTIS: Always a few challenges

ALLAN: Keeping same energy from start to finish

OTIS: Trying to string 4 terms together. Trying to make all terms the same as the next. Consistency.

KANE: I think everyone did that well this year.

OTIS: This year has been the best year.

Thanks guys well there you go this should be your first podcast episode... BANG!



GIRLS HOUSE STAFF PROFILES

FULL NAME:

Chantelle - Chantelle McAlonan

Shay - Shay Warburton

Lindsey - Lindsey Crudup

ROLE:

Chantelle - Student Support Officer

Shay - Senior Residential Boarding Supervisor

Lindsey - Residential Boarding Supervisor

BIRTHDAY MONTH:

Chantelle - October

Shay - August

Lindsey - September (Virgo); Like Beyonce

FAVOURITE COLOUR?

Chantelle - Light Green

Shay - Purple

Lindsey - Orange

FAVOURITE SPORTS TEAM?

Chantelle - Cowboys

Shay - I love all sports

Lindsey - Chicago Bulls

FAVOURITE FOOD?

Chantelle - Sushi and steak

Shay - Lasagne

Lindsey - Lamb Vindaloo

WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

Chantelle - Pop. Doesn't really matter though, I love music so I'll listen to anything, expect heavy metal

Shay - Old School RnB

Lindsey - RNB, Neosoh!, Alternate
- anything really!

FAVOURITE ACTIVITY TO DO IN CAIRNS?

Chantelle - Go swimming in the freshwater creeks or fishing at the reef

Shay - Going out on the Boat

Lindsey - Socialising and waterfall hopping

LIST THREE (3) HOBBIES:

Chantelle - Golf, fishing & baking

Shay - Playing Sports, Spending Time with Family & Listening to Music

Lindsey - Painting, Reading & Scrolling the Internet



USE THREE (3) WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

Chantelle - Determined, thoughtful, quiet

Shay - Passionate, Determined & Supportive

Lindsey - Open-minded, fun-loving & Positive

WHERE ARE YOU FROM/CULTURAL CONNECTIONS?

Chantelle - I'm Irish, Scottish, Greek & French. My family is from Innisfail, but I grew up between Innisfail, Canberra & Cairns.

Shay - Alice Springs, NT. My Family is Ceduna, South Australia (Koktha Country). I grew up in Darwin.

Lindsey - USA; African-American & German Descent

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

Chantelle - I grew up with my Mum & Dad and I have two brothers, my younger brother and my twin brother.

Shay - I am the oldest of 3 and have a big mob of family

Lindsey - Youngest of 3 Sisters, 1 Nephew & Lots of Family Friends

WHY DID YOU WANT TO WORK AT AFLCYHG?

Chantelle - I love working with young people.

Shay - To give opportunity to our mob knowing they can make a difference

Lindsey - To work with young people to positively have an impact

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE, FROM BEING A YOUNG PERSON TO AN ADULT?

Chantelle - Having to make sure I have organised everything myself

Shay - Moving away from home

Lindsey - Moving across the world and creating a new support network

IF YOU WERE A YOUNG PERSON, WHAT WOULD BE THE HARDEST PART OF BOARDING?

Chantelle - Being away from my home and family

Shay - Being away from Family

Lindsey - Waking up early...

WHAT'S THE BEST LIFE ADVICE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN (AND WHO FROM)?

Chantelle - Don't stress about things you can't control, just focus on what you can control- Uncle Chris

Shay - If you set your mind to it, you can achieve anything (Grandfather)

Lindsey - Be authentic, remember who you are and try your best - My Sister

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE IF YOU WENT BACK TO SCHOOL?

Chantelle - Not stress as much

Shay - Not wag and listen in class

Lindsey - Not to take life so seriously, my mistakes made me who I am.

IF AFLCYHG VISITED YOUR HOMETOWN, WHAT CAN WE DO/ WHERE WOULD YOU TAKE US?

Chantelle - Go swimming at ETTY Bay, see the cassowaries & eat fish and chips on the beach.

Shay - Take you to Uluru and the cultural centre to meet the Elders and have Storytime

Lindsey - It's a food tour; Taco Truck, Harold's Chicken & Italian Beef

IF YOU COULD HAVE A SUPER POWER WHAT WOULD IT BE? WHY?

Chantelle - I'd want to fly, cause it would be fun and you could go some many places.

Shay - Superspeed to visit my family

Lindsey - Mind-Control - it seems pretty obvious why.

IF YOU WIN A DREAM HOLIDAY - WHERE, WHY AND WHO WITH?

Chantelle - Japan. I'd go with my family. I love Japan there's so many different things to see and eat, plus visit Disneyland

Shay - Disney Land - it looks so much fun and to be a big kid again with my family.

Lindsey - It's a girls trip for sure and a Euro Summer.



AFLC BUSINESS PROFILES

Blackbird Espresso Business Profile

With Brent Powell - General Manager

WHY DOES YOUR COMPANY SUPPORT AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE BOARDING ENVIRONMENTS?

Rick and the team at AFL Cape York House are a fantastic group of people and it's always enjoyable working alongside people like that.

Most importantly though, the work the foundation does in providing Indigenous youth with the opportunities to achieve success in their chosen pathways in life is culturally and socially significant which is why we are proud to support the foundation.

IN WHAT CAPACITY DOES YOUR COMPANY SUPPORT AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE?

Blackbird Espresso supports AFL Cape York House in a number of different ways. Ranging from providing espresso equipment to both the Boy's and Girl's Houses' ensuring the staff have coffee for the overnight shifts, providing sponsorship for the Eagles Football team, annually participating and donating to the Charity Golf Day and providing the coffee for the High Tea Against Domestic and Family Violence.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS AND THE SERVICE YOU PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Blackbird Espresso has two cafés providing quality coffee to the Cairns community. Blackbird Espresso falls under the parent company Coffee NQ, a coffee and equipment distribution business supplying customers from Thursday Island to Townsville.

WHEN WAS YOUR BUSINESS ESTABLISHED?

Blackbird Espresso was established in 2014 by Troy and Daniela Furner. Starting with the Laneway Café in Oceania Arcade in the city and opening its secondary site along with the Coffee NQ warehouse in its Newell Street location in 2016.

IS THE BUSINESS LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED?

Original owners Troy and Daniela sold the business to the Sunshine Coast Coffee Roastery in 2020, however it is still locally operated by General Manager Brent Powell while employing 20+ local staff.

IF YOU HAD A MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO INSPIRE THEIR FUTURES WHAT WOULD IT BE?

In the end hard work pays off but be sure to enjoy the journey along the way.



Adllins Media Business Profile

With Ange Collins - Director

WHY DOES YOUR COMPANY SUPPORT AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE BOARDING ENVIRONMENTS?

Adllins Media have been proudly supporting the young people of AFLCY and their dedicated staff cohort for approximately 6 years across a wide range of engagements.

During that time, our "why" has become extremely apparent. Our Adllins Media family DNA mirrors many aspects of the team at AFLCY. Passionate individuals here to make a difference in the lives of people within our region. The enthusiasm, efforts, and energy of the AFLCY leadership team is inspirational and from that success derives. We've always been a big supporter of organisations "making a genuine difference", ones in which we're honoured to put our brand beside.

IN WHAT CAPACITY DOES YOUR COMPANY SUPPORT AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE?

We believe in two-way partnerships (where possible) and adding value to our business partners along that journey is important to our organisation. The team at Adllins Media are responsible for the marketing strategy and implementation for AFLCY Boarding Houses (Boys & Girls) to ensure the wider community is aware of the brands existence, and are engaged and supportive of the brand. Our business partnership sees the team deliver anything from public relations to media production through the camera lens, creative design, wholesale connections, website development, event support and in remote community work from time to time. From a media agency perspective, we've been volunteer tutors, event co-ordinators, sponsors of the clubs sporting groups and donated to fund raising activities.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS AND THE SERVICE YOU PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY:

Adllins Media are a full-service media agency employing 16 staff locally at the HQ right here in tropical paradise, Cairns! We offer our clientele marketing solutions across a wide range of products and services including public relations, creative design, website development, digital marketing with social media and Google Ads, television and radio commercials, printed advertisements, media planning and buying - we're basically your one stop shop for a full turnkey solution to marketing!

WHEN WAS YOUR BUSINESS ESTABLISHED?

The company was established on December 23rd, 2016, 8 months after the birth of my daughter Indi. From that we have additionally launched what is now a daily global news source, Connect FNQ, and as they say the rest is history! The team work on both individual projects and an ongoing client base globally, delivering remarkable results for their audiences whether they be local, interstate, national or global. Our business partners connected to the agency are progressive and as an agency our priority is return on investment for our clientele portfolio.

IS THE BUSINESS LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED?

Absolutely! All team members are perfectly positioned on the doorstep to the globe, right here in sunny FNQ!

IF YOU HAD A MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO INSPIRE THEIR FUTURES WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Recently I had the honour of attending the 2023 graduation event for the young people of AFLCY boarding houses. Being present on that evening I was fascinated with the young people's graduation speeches, the challenges that they had overcome and the genuine connections that they had made with the teams and their peers within the boarding homes. My advice from that evening to inspire the futures of these young people would be to remind them that "You don't lose if you get knocked down, you lose if you stay down"

- Muhammad Ali.

The logo for Adllins Media features the word "Adllins" in a large, red, cursive script font. Below it, the word "MEDIA" is written in a smaller, grey, all-caps, sans-serif font.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

We keep getting bigger & better

Written by Rick Hanlon, AFL Cape York General Manager

It's hard to fathom how seemingly quickly the 2023 year has come and gone. It feels like only yesterday we acknowledged our 2022 graduates and award winners.

It has been another very successful year for AFL Cape York Ltd and its programs. The success of what we achieve is a partnership between service providers, volunteers, friends, and families.

Our AFL Cape York Boarding program goes from strength to strength each year. It is important that we keep pursuing ways of doing things better that support our students and staff. Both Kane Richter, (Boys House Manager) and Sean Hunter (Girls House Manager) are continually looking for ways to improve their programs. A key to any successful business is to maintain relevance within the industry you operate. It's no fluke that both our boarding houses have waiting lists of student applications which is a positive reflection of our relationships with our partner communities and families. I feel extremely proud that AFL Cape York Boarding is being considered as the first choice for so many families looking for opportunities regarding their children's placement in boarding.

Our Residential Boarding Supervisors, Well-being and auxiliary teams have been outstanding in providing the care and support around living away from home for all our students. Without their commitment and care, results do not happen, and I can't stress enough how proud I am of the work they do.

Our cultural activities are key part of what we do at AFL Cape York. Bernie Singleton and his band of support staff from both Houses have once again exceeded expectations. From artefact making, cultural camps, on-country excursions and dance groups, the team continue to create cultural engagement opportunities for students. I have had the opportunity to sit in Cultural Support meetings and always the discussion is around what is

best for our young people. A very exciting opportunity for our students is representation at this year's Dance Rights Competition being held at the Sydney Opera House. Up to 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will have the opportunity to show case their own cultures in front of a projected large audience. Good luck team!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our partner schools. Without the support and encouragement for our students the results being seen would be even more difficult. Both Amanda Black (Boys House teacher) and Megan Hooper (Girls House) have been amazing at engaging our schools and providing the individual advocacy and framework for our students to succeed. A new initiative being rolled out has been our grade 7 & 8 students participating in numeracy and literacy through an Indigenous Science lens.

Our partnership with Groote Eylandt and the Anindilyakwa Land Council has continued to develop. Unfortunately, Dylan Burns, the program lead, was badly injured in a vehicle accident and has had time away recuperating.

Thankfully Dylan is recovering and slowly getting back to full strength. Both Natalie Roe and Bernard Wagner who support Dylan in the program have continued to work hand in hand with our Groote Eylandt students and have done a wonderful job maintaining positive outcomes in the program.

Thank you to all our administration teams working across all parts of our business. It is amazing how much our admin teams provide in terms of documentation and support for our programs. The support Jeda Nash (Boys House) and Sodyla Kris (Girls House) give to students, families and staff is incredible and does not go unnoticed at head office or among the directors.

Mandy Carney (Operations Manger) has just completed her first full year with us and has fit in beautifully. Mandy provides excellent

support to all staff and has done an excellent job learning the ropes. A key piece to her role has been working with our finance team First Class Accounts and Sokar Phillpot in ensuring we continue to deliver accountability when it comes to budgets, acquittals and financials.

We have been able to continue our excellent relationships with key funding providers and we thank them for their continued support and trust in AFL Cape York to deliver.

Our Game Development team have achieved some very memorable moments in our program over the course of the past year. Community competitions have been something missing in our activities for the duration of our AFL program. Earlier this year Matt Mellahn (RDC) conducted our first Weipa Community Competition. Participants from Weipa, Napranum, and Old Mapoon Aboriginal Communities competed in the 6-week program. Napranum won the inaugural competition, but more importantly, young people of the region experienced a structured AFL competition.

Another first for our program was Kieran Sciberras (RDC, Torres Strait) visiting every Tagai Campus of the Torres Strait in a calendar year. This has never been achieved before and it is a credit to Scibs for all his hard work in building relationships with key people and organisations in the Torres Strait. A big esso to TSYRSA, TSIRC, TSC and TSRA. The support provided from these organisations has been instrumental in Kieran's success. Our team of Jake, Matt and Kieran go well and truly over and above in their roles and our foundation program could not be in better hands.

Community Engagement is very important to AFL Cape York. Through programs like the Eagles Football Club, Stand Up Against Domestic & Family Violence High Tea, and Cultural Dance Performances, we have an opportunity to showcase our commitment to doing things for the community and ensuring our young people feel a part of the broader Cairns community while living in Cairns. This year's High Tea was a in record attendance with over 230 women of Cairns attending. A big thank you to all the boy students and male staff that made the day extra special for the women by welcoming guests and waiting on tables etc.

In closing, a big wrap to our students of 2023. You have been amazing and deserve your break for Christmas school holidays. You continue to astound me with your desire and commitment in boarding when there are times it would be easier to give up and return home. All the hard work you put in will be worth it in the end that I can assure you. You will see this in celebrating our 2023 graduates. Their efforts in staying at school will give them far more opportunities in life and I look forward to seeing their growth and career decisions as they move forward.

Regards Rick



IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR AFL CAPE YORK LTD AND ITS PROGRAMS. THE SUCCESS OF WHAT WE ACHIEVE IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SERVICE PROVIDERS, VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILIES.

www.aflcy.com.au





AFL CAPE YORK HOUSE FOUNDATION

AFLCY House Foundation

Written by Rick Hanlon,
AFL Cape York General Manager

In 2023 AFL Cape York House Foundation was pleased to continue its mission of supporting young people at AFL Cape York House to participate in cultural, health, and wellbeing opportunities they may not otherwise have access to. This included partnering with other businesses and philanthropic partners to provide a mix of sponsorship and direct funding support.

In September, AFL Cape York and Tagai State College student Mistee Sagigi was selected to participate in the 2023 State Development Carnival on the Sunshine Coast. The carnival saw boys and girls from across Queensland, AFL Papua New Guinea & AFL Nauru compete in the multi-day event. Mistee represented North Queensland and was named among the best players for games against Brisbane North & Sunshine Coast! Supporting our young people to access opportunities like this provides invaluable life experience and personal development.

Our AFL Cape York U17 Girls Crusaders took part in the AFLW Curtain Raiser against AFL Cairns at Cazalys Stadium in October. Our girls played before the Hawthorn Football Club vs. Richmond Football Club Women's Game. The game was played during the 2023 AFLW season Indigenous Round, with local Indigenous communities celebrated as part of the ceremonies surrounding the match. The match was an initiative of the Queensland Government, Cairns Regional Council, and AFL Cairns after Hawthorn declared North Queensland their northern home base earlier this year. It was the first time since 2018 that the Youth Girls Crusader Program played representative football with students travelling to Cairns to take part thanks to support from the Foundation and other partners.

The Foundation was also pleased to be able to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island groups to attend 'DanceRites'. 'DanceRites' is Australia's national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance competition, held at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt in November. Groups from across the nation share their traditional culture and compete for a \$20,000 major prize. The event attracts over 8,000 Sydney-siders and tourists each year. Dance and cultural performance forms a core part of the AFL Cape York House Cultural Program. Events outside our region provide an opportunity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island groups to showcase traditional dance from the remote communities of Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands.

In an extremely proud moment for the Foundation and AFL Cape York House, AFL Cape York House - for Girls 2022 graduate Natahlia Mosby graduated HMAS Cerberus Recruit School in April this year. Testament to her commitment and resilience to achieve her goals, Natahlia left her family and baby daughter to undertake 10 weeks of training thousands of kilometres away from home in Victoria. Given the distance and logistics travelling from remote communities, Natahlia expected to attend her graduation ceremony alone. However, AFL Cape York House for Girls staff had other plans in store. Through support from AFL Cape York House Foundation, they surprised Natahlia on Graduation Day by having Mum (Elma) & daughter (Frances) there to witness her incredible achievement.



In other developments at AFL Cape York House for Girls, our talented Boarding Manager, Sean Hunter, was invited to showcase his book 'Home Away From Home' at the 2023 Cairns Tropical Writers' Festival. Sean was part of a highly acclaimed line-up which included the likes of 2021 Australian of the Year Grace Tame and science guru Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. 'Home Away from Home' aims to give young female Indigenous boarders the knowledge they need to be excited, reassured, and confident about transitioning out of their communities into boarding. Funds raised from the sale of 'Home Away from Home' go to AFL Cape York House Foundation.

To enable the Foundation to continue to provide opportunities for our young people, we also undertook important strategic work in 2023. A key focus for AFL Cape York

House Foundation this year was developing capacity and building the necessary resources to enable us to effectively communicate our mission. This includes developing a bespoke Foundation website which we hope to have live early in 2024. Another key objective was raising awareness and support for programs at AFL Cape York House by developing relationships with like-minded organisations in the community. We were delighted to host members of the Cairns Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Program, Cairns Business Women's Club, Advance Cairns CEO Jacinta Reddan and JCU Chancellor Ngaire Brown to the Houses. We look forward to further opportunities to continue this work in 2024.

For more information about AFL Cape York House Foundation or if you would like to donate, visit www.aflcapeyork.com.au.



AFL CAPE YORK OUR DETAILS

**FOLLOW
AFLCYH**





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AFL Cape York House for Girls

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AFL Cape York House for Boys

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Groote Eylandt Transition Program

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Cairns Eagles Australian Football Club

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