



# Polly Farmer Foundation 2023 Alumni Bursary Recipients



Monadelphous



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# Polly Farmer Foundation Bursaries 2023



The Polly Farmer Foundation Bursaries are intended to assist Follow the Dream alumni who are pursuing tertiary courses across Australia and career development. This bursary is available to students who participated in the Foundation's Follow the Dream program and are registered as a PFF alumni member. The bursaries are sponsored by the Foundation's alumni partners BHP, Worley, Monadelphous, Mitsui Iron Ore Development and Rio Tinto. 11 bursaries were awarded this year.

## 2023 Bursary recipients

Student	FTD Programs	University	Course
Alana Dooley	Mt Lawley (Warwick)	ECU	Cert IV in Aboriginal Performance, WAAPA
Claudia Walton - McDermott	Mt Lawley (Perth Modern)	UWA	Doctor of Medicine
Crystal Hobbs	Belmont (Como)	UWA	Doctor of Medicine
Destany Winter	Fremantle	UWA	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)
Duane Smith	Mt Lawley (Churchlands)	ECU	Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
Dylan May	Fremantle	Murdoch	Bachelor of Environmental & Conservation
Kellarah Kitchingman	Cecil Andrews	Murdoch	K-Track Enabling Course
Kirby Hobbs	Belmont (Como)	UWA	Bachelor of Bio-medical Science
Paige Walley	Belmont	UWA	Bachelor of Science (Sport Science)
Portia Claudius	Belmont	Curtin	Bachelor of Science (Geology & Biology)
Shevon McCormack - Edwards	Cecil Andrews	ECU	Cert IV in Aboriginal Performance, WAAPA

## 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS



### Dylan May

Dylan enrolled in the Bachelor of Environmental and Conservation Science at Murdoch University & is majoring in Marine Biology. Dylan is from Fremantle College and says "the impact Follow The Dream had on my education was amplified particularly in Year 11 and 12, as I was in ATAR and struggling to pass English.

During my study periods in year 12, Follow The Dream was able to get me one on one tutoring with an English teacher for every Friday afternoon".



## 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

### **Claudia Walton - McDermott**

Claudia is currently in her second year of a Doctor of Medicine at UWA. She attended Perth Modern School and participated in the Mt Lawley FTD program. She joined FTD in Year 10 and says it provided her with emotional and mental support to get through ATAR and being able to connect with other Aboriginal students was indispensable. Not to mention the opportunities and pathways that opened up for her.

Claudia was a recipient of the Rob Riley Award in Year 12, which is awarded to the highest ATAR Indigenous student.

Claudia will undertake a Rural Clinical Placement next year and hopes to be located in Kununurra or Broome.



### **Alana Dooley**

Alana is studying the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance at ECU. She attended Warwick SHS and participated in the Mt Lawley FTD outreach program. After graduating high school she enrolled in an undergraduate arts / science degree at Curtin University. However, after two years, she decided to have a break and enrolled in her current course at ECU.

The bursary has helped her immerse fully into her new studies and provides her with an interesting perspective and more diverse experiences for life and career ahead. She has plans on returning to Curtin University in the near future, but in the meantime is enjoying the year in performance.



## 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS



### Crystal Hobbs

Crystal is enrolled in a Doctor of Medicine at UWA for 2023. She completed the Bachelor of Bio-Medical Science in Semester 1 last year. After finishing, she worked at the School of Indigenous Studies, UWA assisting with the High School outreach program, where she engaged with many FTD students. Crystal completed her high school at Como Secondary College, which is part of the Belmont FTD program.

During high school Crystal attended camps at UWA and is a great role model to her younger brother and for students in FTD. She has tutored at FTD in Belmont and passes on sound study techniques to students.

Crystal is keen hockey player for Melville City Hockey Club and in 2022 spoke at the launch of their Indigenous playing strip.

### Kellarah Kitchingman

Kellarah is currently at Murdoch University studying in the K-track course. On graduation she aims to enrol in a bachelor course and major in Psychology and Criminology.

During high school she participated in FTD at Cecil Andrews College and says it was most helpful in regards to the availability of tutors who were knowledgeable and polite, and her coordinator (Kiara) was someone she relied on to express any worries or concerns.

Kellarah welcomed and hosted students from her former school on an excursion during semester 1 providing them with an insight into university life.

The bursary will assist with education and career development by ensuring she has security in her life as an independent student.



## 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS



### Paige Walley

Paige is from Derby and boarded in Perth to attend Belmont City College during Year 11 & 12. She was in the Follow the Dream whilst in Derby DHS and continued in the program at Belmont CC. After completing high school she enrolled in a Bachelor of Science, (Sport Science) at the UWA.

Once completed, she aims to enrol in a post graduate course in a Masters of Education.

Her goal is to become a school teacher in her local community and a role model to younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children encouraging and promoting healthy living.

### Duane Smith

After several years of working in schools as an Aboriginal & Islander Education Officer (AIEO), Duane decided to enrol in the Bachelor of Education at Edith Cowan University for 2023. He wants to teach health & physical education in high school.

His time within Follow the Dream was a good experience at school. It helped with studies as well as introducing him to pathways into university and potential career pathways. The program has helped Duane with his career aspiration of becoming a teacher.

After high school, Duane continued to work in FTD and connecting him back to the program was a real highlight, as he was able to help other students in the same way his Program Coordinator (Tina Deegan) had helped him.



## 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

### **Destany Winter**

Destany completed the Aboriginal Orientation course at UWA in 2022 and has now enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts. She aims to major in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences.

Destany was part of Fremantle College FTD before going to UWA. She found the program very beneficial as she struggled with studying before joining FTD.

The bursary funds will go towards a new laptop and assist her with living expenses whilst staying in the residential college. She receives a reduced student income from Abstudy and does not receive any other scholarships.



### **Portia Claudius**

Portia is currently at Curtin University enrolled in a double degree of Applied Geology and Environmental Biology.

Portia commenced in Follow The Dream in Year 7 with C grades and gradually improved to get A grades by Year 10, which gave her the opportunity and confidence of studying ATAR in Year 11 and 12. She is thankful for the opportunities that FTD gave her, including weekly tuition and leadership camps with the program.

Portia now gives back to the FTD program, tutoring at Belmont CC, Kent St SHS and Como SC.

Portia will use the bursary for textbooks and other university expenses. She hopes to get a position at the WA Museum as volunteer in the near future.



# 2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

## Shevon McCormack - Edwards

Shevon was enrolled in FTD at Cecil Andrews College before going to ECU in 2023. She is studying the Cert IV Aboriginal Performance course at WAAPA.

This course has been her dream since she was in Year 7 at CAC. It will train her in acting, dance and voice and cover topics that affect First Nations people. It will embrace her creative side and keep her culturally connected during the year.

Shevon was in FTD from Year 7 and credits the program for her successfully completing high school, where she was awarded Dux of the school.

The bursary will help pay for the fees in the course and travelling to and from her place of residence. Shevon recently attended the 2023 National Indigenous Games in Melbourne, representing ECU.



## Kirby Hobbs

Kirby is in his first year of a Bachelor of Bio-Medical Science, majoring in Integrated Medical Science and Clinical Practices.

He completed Year 12 at Como Secondary College in 2022 and was part of Belmont Follow the Dream since Year 7.

Kirby says FTD helped him stay on track with his ATAR studies and he was able to combine his love of hockey whilst completing Year 12 and gaining entry to UWA. Kirby plays for Melville City Hockey Club in the Men's Premier Division 1 team. He also represented WA in the under 18 Men's team in 2022, as well as the WA Indoor under 18 team.

Kirby was a regular at the IAES (Engineering) camp in high school and will use the bursary for transport costs to university, textbooks, lab coat and a desk top computer.





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