

ALUMNI

Network Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022



2022 year in review

As the year is coming to an end, there have been many milestones that the Polly Farmer Foundation can reflect on. None more so than celebrating the 25th anniversary of Follow the Dream program. Two events were held, one in Karratha during July and the big one at Frasers Kings Park (Kaarta Gar-up) in October.

In 2022, PFF awarded bursaries and scholarships to alumni who were studying further education. Twenty four alumni were recipients.

A big thank you to our alumni sponsors BHP, Worley, Monadelphous, Rio Tinto and Mitsui Iron Ore Development who contributed to the 25th anniversary and alumni initiatives during the year. Motorola Solutions Foundation were also instrumental in providing scholarships for alumni studying STEM related university courses.



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Polly Farmer Foundation 25th anniversary events

In October, the Polly Farmer Foundation celebrated its 25th Anniversary. It was held in the beautiful Frasers Restaurant in Kings Park overlooking the river and the city.

Alumni Clinton Walker (Karratha) and Marleigh Zada (Port Augusta / Mt Lawley) hosted the night with Denice Kickett delivering a Welcome to Country. She is a parent of a former FTD alumni and spoke how the program helped her son Derek jnr.

The evening was a success with everyone sharing yarns whilst enjoying food and drinks, and hearing about Polly Farmer's vision and how far the foundation has come this far. The contributions and pathways for our future generations and leaders was on show during the evening including a panel of alumni.

Special guests Ernie Dingo (patron and AM), Bill Dempsey (MBE) and Cole Baxter (Polly's grandson) were there to celebrate the anniversary. Bill's grand daughter Cassandra (Cecil Andrews FTD) was a panelist, as well as Joey Bin Omar (Broome FTD) during the night. Several door prizes were on offer with Crystal Hobbs and Portia Claudius winning some specially painted footballs by Jasmine Ihanimo (FTD student). RAC Arena who have hosted the annual event in previous years also provided door prizes for alumni.

Guests were entertained by David Clarke (Hedland FTD), aka Mr Widdy, whilst music from DJ's 2Lubbly kept the music playing between speeches.

In July, PFF also celebrated 25 years of the first Follow the Dream program in Karratha known locally as Gumala Mirnuwarni Education Project. This was the beginning of Follow The Dream, as we know it now. Clinton Walker hosted the evening, sharing many stories and experiences of being a student in the inaugural program. In a fitting tribute to the 25th anniversary, PFF have set up a new stand alone program in Karratha this year at St Luke's College, with 25 students enrolled. FTD continues to operate out of Karratha SHS with 30 students in the program during 2022.

*Clinton Walker with Brad Snell & Fred Chaney.
Brad was the Program Coordinator in the early
years at Karratha.*



**Polly
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New CEO at PFF

The foundation would like to welcome Mark Wirtz as the new Chief Executive Officer to the Polly Farmer Foundation. Mark commenced on 28 November, having previously worked in industry and as a school principal for the WA Department of Education.

The PFF board and staff are excited to have Mark join the team, he comes with a wealth of experience and we look forward to his leadership.

Mark with two students from Newton Moore SHS FTD program showing their STEM project in 2020.



Congratulations to our partners

PFF would like to congratulate two of our partners on special milestones in 2022.

Monadelphous celebrated 50 years in business and RAC Arena 10 years of holding events at the arena. Both have been great supporters of the foundation in the past few years and we look forward to their continued support .



Monadelphous



New employees at PFF

Several new faces have arrived at the Polly Farmer Foundation during 2022. Two are PFF alumni and one is a former Program Coordinator.

Cherokee Ugle and Connor Pike provide valuable insight as former FTD students and help with activities PFF offer programs. Apart from their daily work in head office, they have assisted Innovation Challenges coordinated by PFF.

PFF also welcomed **David Wilkinson, Program Manager** in October. He is the former FTD program coordinator at St Mary's College in Broome.



Connor Pike - HR Coordinator

Connor works as the Human Resources Coordinator at PFF head office. After completing his business traineeship in the mining industry, he continued for several years gaining valuable experience in human resources area before taking up the role at PFF in May this year.

Connor is an alumni from Kiara College.



Cherokee Ugle - Administration Services Officer

Cherokee works as the Administration Services Officer at PFF head office. She recently joined the Foundation after completing the Aboriginal Orientation Course at the University of WA.

Cherokee was a Follow the Dream student at Governor Stirling SHS, graduating in 2021. She represented UWA at the National Indigenous games in Brisbane and consequently selected for Uni Games in Perth during October.



2022 Alumni Bursaries

Our alumni partners contribute funds towards PFF bursaries for alumni who continue their studies post high school. In 2022, PFF awarded 12 bursaries and more bursaries will be available in 2023. Alumni must be registered on the PFF Alumni network to be eligible. PFF partners have many employment opportunities such as cadetships, traineeships and apprenticeships. For more information contact PFF.

PFF Bursary partners

- BHP
- Mitsui Iron Ore Development
- Monadelphous
- Rio Tinto
- Worley



2022 PFF Bursary Recipients

Curtin University

- Isaiah McKenna, St Marys College (Bme)
- Sarayah McDonald, Geraldton SHS

Edith Cowan University

- Jayda Corunna, Mt Lawley SHS

Geraldton University Centre

- Talia Cook, Geraldton SHS

Pilbara TAFE

- Talisa Stratton, Carnarvon SHS

McCook College USA

- Paige Smith, Swan View SHS

University of WA

- Alexis Young, John Tonkin College (Mandurah)
- Caitlyn Hamaguchi, St Mary's College (Broome)
- Cherokee Ugle, Governor Stirling SHS
- Destany Winter, Fremantle College
- Kahlie Lockyer, Hedland SHS
- Lilly Brown, Mt Lawley SHS

Below: 2022 Bursary recipients and alumni partners at the Certificate presentation.



2022 Motorola Scholarships

The Motorola Solutions Foundation (USA) provided STEM scholarships for PFF alumni in 2022. These scholarships are valued at \$10,000 and will be available again for the 2023 academic year.

2022 Scholarship Recipients



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

Curtin University

- Brodie O'Breza, Manjimup SHS
- Khan John, Broome SHS
- Jai Spencer, Esperance SHS
- Ronald Malicevic, Carnarvon CC
- Tom Callow, Esperance SHS
- Will Peucker, Esperance SHS

University of Melbourne

- Tyrina Garstone, Broome SHS
- Brittney Andrews, Mt Lawley SHS

University of WA

- Kirana Lockyer, Broome SHS
- Taleah Ugle, Albany SHS
- Regan Gittins, Governor Stirling SHS
- Amos Smith, Albany SHS



Above: Motorola Scholarship recipients Kirana Lockyer (Broome) and Tom Callow with Elise Mann from Motorola Solutions Australia.

Below: Scholarship recipients at Motorola's Perth office.



Alumni at universities

PFF congratulate Bri Yarran (Hampton) for competing in the New York marathon, as part of the IMP. She is an inspiration to many and is currently studying Law at UWA.

Mt Lawley alumni Shania Cuthbert, Phil Famer and Duane Smith have been fantastic role models at Mt Lawley FTD since leaving high school. Shania will finish her Teaching degree in Sem 1 next year whilst Phil and Duane will commence a teaching degree at ECU next year. Both are AIEO's and mentors in FTD and join at least another 12 alumni studying teaching.

The National Indigenous Games were held in Brisbane this year. Curtin Uni and UWA attended with the majority of teams made up of PFF alumni. Curtin was captained by Marleigh Zada and Will Peucker (Esperance), whilst Louise Mason Constanzo (Albany) and Kirana Lockyer (Broome) led the UWA team.



Alumni giving back at FTD programs

Bunbury FTD - Cultural and Careers Day

In November, Bunbury SHS hosted a Cultural and Careers Day for FTD students across the south west. The event showcased many companies and career opportunities in the south west. Asharie Bradshaw, program coordinator at BSHS was pleased with the day and is looking forward to running a similar event next year. A workshop run by alumni Teresa Moore (Karratha FTD) was well received and Dakota Baker (Kiara College FTD) attended with Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Thanks to Monadelphous and Holcim for sponsoring the day.



Dianella College - Koolanga Bidi

During NAIDOC week Dianella College held several workshops for their FTD students. Two alumni Jake Louthean and Will Peucker visited the college to run workshops for the boys. These were based on goal setting and role models who inspire them. It was a great workshop with a game of basketball to finish off the day.



Bridgestone Innovation Challenge Port Augusta

During November, an Innovation Challenge was run at Port Augusta Follow the Dream by PFF alumni and former student Marleigh Zada with Cherry Ugle (Governor Stirling) assisting. The challenge was sponsored by our partner Bridgestone and was one of many challenges they supported in 2022.

The challenge involved hands-on activities for the students to learn about tyre waste, environmental factors and brainstorming ideas for alternative solutions.

This challenge brings industry and education together to inspire our future leaders. Below, Marleigh and Cherokee with Port Augusta FTD students.



Bridgestone Mining Solutions Australia



Worley Innovation Challenge Broome

Follow the Dream students from Broome SHS, St Mary's College (Broome), Derby DHS and Governor Stirling SHS came together for an Innovation Challenge held in Broome at the University of Notre Dame. The challenge was sponsored by our alumni partner Worley, connecting education and industry that allowed students to create ideas to take on real world issues of hydrogen-net zero goals in today's society.

During the visit students from Governor Stirling FTD and staff from PFF and Worley met PFF alumni whilst in Broome. PFF alumni and artist Marlie Albert designed the Worley polo shirts, which the students wore during the challenge.

Big thanks to Worley for providing opportunities for FTD students to learn about their industry, sustainability and the environment.



Coral Bay FTD Camp Exmouth

In November around 60 FTD students attended a camp held in Coral Bay, Exmouth. Students from Broome, Carnarvon, Champion Bay, Hedland, Karratha, Mt Lawley, Northam and Sevenoaks attended. Joining the students were alumni, who provided mentoring and supervision during the week. This included Mt Lawley Alumni Shania Cuthbert, Duane Smith and Phil Farmer who have been involved in the FTD program since leaving school and aim to become teachers in the near future. They are great role models. Alumni Ronald Malicevic, a recipient of a PFF - Motorola STEM scholarship also attended, sharing his experiences of his first year at university.



Kalgoorlie FTD morning tea

The Kalgoorlie FTD students (EGC, KBC & JPC) were in Perth recently to meet with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacque McGowan-Jones. The visit was for students to present their research findings as part of the Young Aboriginal Researchers in Community (YARiC) project group. The research involved the students learning about and discussing topics relating to girl's wellbeing, including conducting surveys to create a booklet for future reference.

Whilst in Perth they visited the PFF head office where they met alumni Connor and Cherokee. Accompanying the students was Paige McGregor, PFF alumni from Geraldton, now working at John Paul College as an ATA and assisting in FTD.



Motorola STEM Scholarships 2023



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Alumni

The Motorola Solutions Foundation in partnership with PFF are offering STEM scholarships for Indigenous students who were in Follow the Dream and in the PFF Alumni network. Eligible alumni must be studying engineering or technology related disciplines at universities in Australia.

Application Status: Now open for 2023

University Course: STEM - Engineering / Technology

Study Mode: Full Time

For: Assistance with study

Number on offer: Various

Duration: 1 Year

Value: \$10,000.00 AUD each

Application closing date Friday 24 February 2023

To be considered for this scholarship you must be registered as a PFF Alumni before applying. Former FTD students can register as an Alumni at pff.com.au/get-involved/alumni-network

For further information and Terms & Conditions, please contact the Polly Farmer Foundation Alumni and Program Manager on (08) 9443 7260 or email alumni@pff.com.au



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**



Alumni Sign Up Prize Winners

The PFF alumni network is steadily increasing numbers of former FTD students and for Year 12's who are finishing school. PFF offered gift vouchers for the first five year 12 students to sign up.

Overall, 80 alumni signed up in 2022 and we hope more will sign in coming months. Alumni will receive news about FTD programs, employment opportunities, bursaries and scholarships if enrolling in tertiary education. This years gift voucher winners were;

Mia Louthean — Fremantle FTD
Myah Loo — Fremantle FTD
Kyeria Beatie — Belmont FTD
Jonathon Prouse — Belmont FTD
Danielle Treasure — Bunbury FTD

Mia and Myah (below left) are looking to enrol in further study, Danielle wants to study a Bachelor of Science, whilst Kyeria (below right) and Jonathon have apprenticeships.



AHCWA 2023 Youth Conference

The WA Aboriginal Youth Conference – **“Our Future, Our Way”** - is an one-day event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to learn, speak up and discuss important issues in our Communities and how to move forward.

The Conference will be held on Monday 27 March 2023 at The Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. The event is exclusively for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth aged 16 to 29 years. There is no cost to attend, however you must register for the event.

Financial assistance is available to enable young people from regional and remote areas to travel to the Conference.

Enquiries Ph: 92271631 [Click here to register now](#)





Merry Christmas and see you in 2023

Special thanks to our sponsors and partners who provide experiences, pathways and opportunities for students and alumni from Follow the Dream to pursue.

The Foundation is looking forward to 2023 and expanding our alumni network. Please encourage former FTD students to sign up.

<https://pff.com.au/get-involved/alumni-network/>

Our partners are keen to engage with alumni and offer many opportunities through employment, whether it's an apprenticeship, traineeship or cadetship they are here to help.

[Monadelphous careers](#)

[Rio Tinto cadetships](#)

[BHP Internship \(opens Feb 2023\)](#)

[Worley careers](#)

[Mitsui careers](#)



RioTinto



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1972-2022



Worley
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BHP

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