



FOLLOW THE DREAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

December 2023

RECAP OF 2023

As the year draws to a close, the Polly Farmer Foundation reflects on the milestones and accomplishments over 2023. This year, the Polly Farmer Foundation has continued to support Alumni with scholarships, bursaries, and employment opportunities through our Alumni partners Monadelphous, Worley, Mitsui Iron Ore Development, BHP, Rio Tinto, and Motorola Solutions Foundation.



POLLY FARMER FOLLOW THE DREAM EXPANDS TO GEELONG

The Foundation is excited to be expanding Follow the Dream to Geelong, Victoria. This is very symbolic with Polly playing for the Geelong Football Club. We are excited to welcome Geelong Follow the Dream students and look forward to celebrating this next step for the Foundation.

WE HAVE MOVED TO A NEW HOME!

The Perth head office of PFF has relocated! Our new office is a beautifully restored house at 29 West Parade in Perth. If you are in the area drop by, we can't wait for you all to see the new "Polly House" in 2024!



**Polly
Farmer**
Follow the Dream



WE HAVE MOVED

our new office address is 29 West Parade, Perth WA 6000

PFF REGISTERED AS A CATSI ORGANISATION AND NEW RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN FOR 2024

THE POLLY FARMER FOUNDATION IS NOW OFFICIALLY UNDER A RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN



The Foundation is now officially under a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Actions as outlined in the plan have already begun, and as a part of the first step, Danny Ford conducted a cultural awareness workshop for the PFF staff. This workshop was long overdue, and we are honoured to have Danny Ford come in and run our first session.



FOUNDATION NOW AN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION WITH SUCCESSFUL CATSI REGISTRATION

The Foundation is now registered as a corporation under the Corporations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (CATSI) Act 2006. Our new official name is The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation Aboriginal Corporation and our Indigenous Corporation Number is 9923. Our trading name remains the Polly Farmer Foundation and we are still registered with the ACNC as a not for profit entity.

Being a registered CATSI organisation has been a goal of the Foundation and better aligns with our vision and long term objective to be an Aboriginal led organisation. We are thrilled to welcome four new board members in 2023 with six of our seven current Board members identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

2023 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JEREMY ABBOTT



Jeremy has over 15 years of corporate experience in various Western Australia and Victoria sectors. He is an Indigenous entrepreneur and holds the majority ownership and directorship of Zenith RBA, a Supply Nation-certified commercial interiors company in Victoria. He was nominated as a board member of the Foundation in May 2023.

JOSEPH BIN OMAR



Joseph is a proud Bard and Nimanburr man from Broome and Polly Farmer Follow the Dream alumni. He is well known to the Foundation as a former bursary recipient, guest speaker, and panellist at alumni events. He was nominated as a board member in May 2023.

MARTY SKIADAS



Marty has over 28 years of experience as an electrical engineer in various industries, including high-voltage utilities, mining, and rail. He firmly believes education is critical to solving social problems. He is a descendant of the Worrorra people, which drives him to mentor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He was nominated as a Board member in May 2023.

PAULINE WHITE



Pauline was nominated as a Board member in May 2023. She has a wealth of expertise as a former WA Department of Education high school principal and current Board Chair of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

<https://pff.com.au/our-story/meet-our-board/>

2023 ALUMNI BURSARIES

POLLY FARMER FOUNDATION BURSARY PARTNERS



The PFF would like to congratulate this year's bursary recipients once again. In total eleven bursaries were awarded to alumni pursuing a range of degrees at universities across WA. Recipients were celebrated at a special morning tea held with alumni funding partners in July this year. If you are studying at university next year, look out for our invitation to apply for bursaries in early 2024.

2023 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

Curtin University

- Portia Claudius, Belmont

Edith Cowan University

- Alana Dooley, Mt Lawley (Warwick)
- Duane Smith, Mt Lawley
- Shevon McCormack - Edwards, Cecil Andrews

Murdoch University

- Dylan May, Fremantle
- Kellarah Kitchingman, Cecil Andrews

The University of Western Australia

- Claudia Walton- McDermott, Mt Lawley (Perth Modern)
- Crystal Hobbs, Belmont (Como)
- Destany Winter, Fremantle
- Kirby Hobbs, Belmont (Como)
- Paige Walley, Belmont



<https://pff.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PFF-Bursaries-2023-Booklet.pdf>

2023 MOTOROLA STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**

Curtin University

- Brodie O'Breza, Manjimup
- James Brahim, Kalgoorlie

Charles Sturt University

- Angus Williams, Muswellbrook

Melbourne University

- Brittney Andrews, Mt Lawley

The University of Western Australia

- Kirana Lockyer, Broome
- Taleah Ugle, Albany
- Regan Gittins, Governor Stirling
- Amos Smith, Albany
- Archer Key, Duncraig

In 2023 we were again pleased to be able to offer STEM scholarships valued at \$10,000 each thanks to our partnership with Motorola Solutions Foundation.

The STEM scholarships are offered to Polly Farmer Follow the Dream graduates studying engineering, technology, or related STEM subjects at universities throughout Australia.



Image of: Scholarship recipients receiving their certificates at Motorola's Barrett Communications showroom in WA.



<https://pff.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/PFF-Bursaries-2023-Booklet.pdf>

BANK WEST GIFT REPURPOSED LAPTOPS



BANKWEST

"We would like to show our greatest appreciation for providing us with Bankwest repurposed laptops. We appreciate that you have been actively attempting to improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and we are indebted to you for your generosity."

Sevenoaks Follow the Dream students, Shane Cole and Aprile Narrier, expressed gratitude to Bankwest on behalf of all Polly Farmer Follow the Dream grantees.

Bankwest has gifted repurposed Microsoft Surface Book laptops to Polly Farmer Follow the Dream students at various WA schools. The laptops were presented to students during a morning tea at Bankwest's Perth head office, where several employees also shared their diverse career paths and job satisfaction.

Huge thank you to Heidi Madden from Bankwest, who has a long relationship with Polly Farmer Follow the Dream, for organising the donation of the laptops and morning tea presentation.



"Personal computers have become the most empowering tool ever created. They're tools of communication, they're tools of creativity, and they can be shaped by their user." - Bill Gates

SPOTLIGHT ON ALICE SPRINGS POLLY FARMER PROGRAMS



ALICE SPRINGS VISIT

Did you know the Foundation have three Follow the Dream programs in Alice Springs at St Philip's College, Centralian Middle School, and Centralian Senior College and also run two Learning Clubs!

The programs are supported by NIAA and the Mazda Foundation.

Alice Springs programs have a strong STEM focus and this year were treated to a visit by PFF STEM expert Anna Ritzema who hosted 60 kids to explore electrical circuits through activities like Ozobots, Makey Makey, Squishy Circuits, PhET simulations, basic circuits, conductive tape-lit greeting cards, and iPad short films.



**Polly
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Follow the Dream



ALUMNI GIVING BACK TO THE FOUNDATION



ALUMNI AND FOLLOW THE DREAM CAREERS BREAKFAST - RAC ARENA

Over 150 students from 25 Western Australia high schools attended the Foundation's inaugural careers breakfast on August 1st at RAC Arena.

Alumni Jake Louthean and Foundation program manager Simon Thompson entertained attendees, while Kim Farmer thanked everyone and encouraged students to study hard and pursue their dreams.

The day began with Tahlia-Rae Willcocks and Howie Eades from Mt Lawley Outreach Follow the Dream delivering a wonderful Acknowledgment of Country.

Students participated in a rotation system, meeting representatives from various companies, enjoyed breakfast, played games, and won prizes.

Students were able to register for Bankwest's pre-loved laptop donation programme, and following the Polly Farmer careers breakfast, they attended the SkillsWest Careers Expo to explore potential career paths.



We express our gratitude to our careers breakfast partners, including Rio Tinto, Woodside Energy, BHP Western Australia, Worley, Motorola Solutions, Monadelphous Careers, and RAC Arena.



Monadelphous



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION

RioTinto

ALUMNI GIVING BACK AT FOLLOW THE DREAM PROGRAMS

WORLEY INNOVATION CHALLENGE BROOME

FTD students from various Broome schools participated in the annual Worley two-day Innovation Challenge at the end of the term.

Worley conducted five STEM-related exercises where students worked in teams, fostering critical thinking.

The camp's success is attributed to the contributions of Foundation's Simon, Nathan, Rose, Allee, and Lydon and Worley staff including Belinda and Shirley,

Collaborating with peers from other schools sparked students' passion for STEM.

Nadine Foley's Culture Weave and a guided beach tour of Broome with Narlijia Experiences were also available so visitors could learn about the region's rich history.



Special mentions to the following alumni: In a partnership with Worley, the Polly Farmer Foundation honours alumni who worked as camp supervisors Jasper John, Bree Yarran, and Jake Louthean, as well as Marlie Albert, who created the stunning artwork for the Worley corporate shirts.



MARK THE CALENDAR

We have already started planning for our 2024 bursaries, STEM scholarships and events.

- **15 January:** applications open for Monadelphous FREE training held at their Bibra Lake training facility. For an application form or more information email alumni@pff.com.au
- **15 January:** Applications open for Polly Farmer Follow the Dream alumni 2024 Bursaries up to \$3,000 and Motorola STEM Scholarships valued at \$10,000. If you are studying at university in 2024 contact Ray ray.garrett@pff.com.au for an application form.
- **8 March:** Applications close for both bursaries and STEM scholarships. Please note you must be a registered Polly Farmer Follow the Dream alumni to apply for a bursary or scholarship.
- **25 July:** Polly Farmer Follow the Dream careers breakfast at RAC Arena. This is a great opportunity to meet current Follow the Dream senior students plus recent graduates, as well as key staff from big employers such as Rio Tinto, BHP, Worley, Woodside and Motorola.



THANK YOU SERENA

A huge thank you to Kent St Follow the Dream alumni Serena-May Ware Brown who has worked with the Foundation during November and December and pulled together this fantastic newsletter. We wish Serena all the best as she graduates from a Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Knowledge, History and Heritage) and pursues her career.



ALUMNI FOCUS: CLINTON WALKER - SIR DAVID BRAND AWARD



Congratulations to Karratha (Gumala Mirnuwarni) Polly Farmer Follow the Dream alumni Clinton Walker from Ngurrangga Tours on this fantastic achievement! Winner of the Sir David Brand Award for Excellence in Tourism and a gold award in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences category at the WA State Tourism Awards.

"I found a new part of myself out there on the streets of New York, and this is only the beginning. The finish line is only the beginning." - Arthur Tiga Pitt

The PFF would like to congratulate Arthur Tiga Pitt for completing the New York Marathon as part of IMP on November 6th. His journey through this achievement has been inspiring to many. His motivation for doing this marathon was to set an example for his siblings and show that we are not defined by our past and that what we experience doesn't define who we are and only makes us stronger. Arthur joins Bree Yarran, Hampton Follow the Dream alumni, who completed the IMP New York marathon in 2022.

ALUMNI FOCUS: ARTHUR TIGA PITT - NEW YORK CITY MARATHON



ALUMNI FOCUS: BOBBI LOCKYER HOMEWARES LAUNCH



Image from: Woolworths Bobbi Lockyer

The PFF is proud of Bobbi Lockyer, a Hedland Follow the Dream alumna who launched her own homewares range with Woolworths earlier this year. Bobbi's artwork also featured on the 2023 NAIDOC poster "For our Elders"

Loving our new Bobbi Lockyer homewares range mugs at the PFF office!



The PFF requested the help of several alumni to paint footballs as gifts for long serving board members and staff.

Shannon Walding painted two beautiful footballs for Emily Ulrich who celebrated 10 years with Hedland STEM and David Cusack who left the Board this year.

Rhianna Couzens painted two fantastic footballs for Jodie Patching who sadly left this year after over 10 years with Martu Early Learning Centre and Jennet Hansen who celebrated 20 years with Sevenoaks Follow the Dream.

Jasmyn Ihanimo, who graduated this year from Sevenoaks, painted two amazing footballs for long standing Board members Robert French and Ron Edwards who resigned earlier this year.

Rhianna (pictured right) has painted thirteen pairs of boots for the leadership team of the Hawthorn AFL club and the West Coast Eagles AFLW team this year. The PFF congratulates her on her artistic journey and wishes her all the best for her future career as an artist.



Rhianna Couzens. Image from: The West Australian - Boots and all

ALUMNI FOCUS: JAKE LOUTHEAN - HIS JOURNEY WITH THE FOUNDATION



"That's what is unique about the Polly Farmer Foundation and Follow the Dream - the connection is forever. Not only did the Foundation help me achieve many of my academic goals, but it stayed in contact with me and offered me many more opportunities as I moved out of secondary education."

Reflecting on my 12 years since graduating high school, I am amazed to realize that I have now been out of school for as long as I was in school. However, what truly inspires me is the consistent support that The Polly Farmer Foundation provided me throughout my post-secondary journey. Their unwavering dedication has been a driving force in my success.

This year, I hosted the Polly Farmer Foundation Careers breakfast at RAC Arena, where I shared my story with students and stakeholders. This experience led me to connect with the staff at Fremantle College, where I began working as an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer. Through this role, I had the privilege of collaborating with Polly Farmer again and attending the Worley Challenge in Broome. This event allowed students to connect with Worley staff and learn about various post-school pathways. I am grateful for these experiences and the chance to inspire and empower students to pursue their dreams.

I have found the work I've done with PFF to be the most rewarding and impactful. One program that had a significant impact on my journey was the Albany Follow the Dream program. Through this program, I had the opportunity to work with students in the same position as I did in high school. This experience helped me decide to work towards improving policies that affect First Nations peoples in Australia. My connection with the Polly Farmer Foundation didn't end there, though.

ALUMNI PRIZE WINNERS!

To the Follow the Dream graduates who have signed up this year welcome and congratulations to those who won a \$250 gift card!

Drum roll... and the winners are*:

- \$250 Visa Gift Voucher | Damion O'Rourke (Hampton Senior High School)
- \$250 Visa Gift Voucher | Mikaylah Sloan (Broome Senior High School)
- \$250 Visa Gift Voucher | Kayla Corbette Mippy (Champion Bay High School)
- \$250 Visa Gift Voucher | Molly West (Northam Senior High School) *pictured below*
- \$500 Woolies Voucher | Newton Moore Follow the Dream
- \$500 Woolies Voucher | Geraldton Follow the Dream

If you know someone who has not signed they can join via our website <https://pff.com.au/get-involved/alumni-network/>



Alumni partner Monadelphous has provided FREE worksite training courses for Follow the Dream alumni and students (who are over 18 years of age). The courses are generally run over one day, with participants issuing an official attainment statement once completed. Completing these courses is a great way to enter the resources industry or grow your skills to further your career.

FREE TRAINING

Courses which are offered are:

- Work safety at heights
- Enter and work in confined spaces
- Gas test atmospheres
- Confined small emergencies in a facility
- Telehandler
- Other high risk licensing courses

To apply for Monadelphous FREE training email alumni@pff.com.au

ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE FOUNDATION THROUGH THE YEARS

RON AND ROBERT FAREWELL



The Foundation farewelled long-standing board members Ron Edwards and Robert French this year, presenting them with beautifully painted footballs by Sevenoaks Follow the Dream student Jasmyn Ihanimo (and now 2023 alumni). Ron played a central role in establishing the Foundation in 1994 and has been a valued board member throughout the Foundation's 25-year history.

Robert joined the board in early 2017 and served as chair from 2018 to 2022, providing valuable leadership through a time of rapid growth. We thank both men for their valued contribution and know they will be quietly advocating for the Foundation from the sidelines.

DEBBIE AND JENNET 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Debbie Douglas



Jennet Hansen

Jennet Hansen and Debbie Douglas are two of the long-term members of the PFF that we would like to honour for their work within the Foundation.



*Football art by
Tatiana Kitchener
(Yellow Ball) and
Rhianna Couzens
(Red Ball)*

Since 2005, Debbie has coordinated Follow the Dream and outreach programs. Among the many places and schools she has worked at are Newman, Muswellbrook, and Tom Price. Her almost 20 years of service and dedication to the FTD programs are much appreciated. She has been gifted a football painted by talented Belmont Follow the Dream year 10 student, Tatiana Kitchener. We extend our warmest wishes to Debbie for the future as she steps aside from her role this year to retire.

This year will be Jennet Hansen's 20th with Sevenoaks as the program coordinator for Follow the Dream. To recognise and celebrate this milestone Jennet has been presented a beautiful football painted by alumni, Rhianna Couzens. PFF extends its most profound gratitude to Jennet for her work over the past two decades.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU IN 2024!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

BHP

RioTinto



**MITSUI IRON ORE
DEVELOPMENT PTY. LTD.**



Monadelphous

MERRY
Christmas

We would like to thank our sponsors and partners for providing opportunities, pathways, and experiences that enable our students and alumni to pursue their aspirations.

Best wishes also to program coordinators and staff members listed below who are leaving. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and dedication to the Foundation.

Emily Ulrich - Program Coordinator for Hedland STEM.

Jodie Patching - Program Coordinator for Marty Education.

Debbie Douglas - Program Coordinator for Newman, Muswellbrook, and Tom Price FTD

Sophie Smith - Senior Tutor, Groote Eylandt

Brett Marshall - Program Coordinator for Wickham STEM

Vicky Li - Program Coordinator for Cassia Learning Club

Blim Dolan - Program Coordinator for Gillen Braitling Learning Club

Scott Ross - Program Coordinator Karratha STEM

Ewen Lawrie - Program Coordinator Governor Stirling Follow the Dream

Cayley Nowell - Social Media Coordinator Groote Eylandt

Sarah Nowers - Program Coordinator South Hedland/Baler Learning Clubs

The Foundation would also like to acknowledge the staff going on extended leave in 2024:

Tina Deegan and **Mimi Fong**. Plus **John Cooper** from Centralian Senior College (Alice Springs) who is stepping down as program coordinator but will continue on as a tutor.

The Foundation hopes that you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. We are looking forward to see what dreams you pursue in the coming year of 2024.



**Polly
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Follow the Dream

Contact

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