



FOLLOW THE DREAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

January 2026



WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

We'd like to issue a warm welcome to Follow the Dream graduates who have joined the alumni in 2025, and congratulate the winners of our signup competition.

2025 Alumni Signup Winners

Individual winners (\$250 gift voucher)

Makaylah Murrhy-Jones, Grey Farmer,
Kane Osborne, Sazkida Dunn

FTD Program Winners (\$500 gift voucher)

Port Augusta Follow the Dream
Eastern Goldfields Follow the Dream



PFF 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

The Foundation's 2026 alumni scholarships are now open and available to all registered alumni who are studying full time at any Australian TAFE or university. There are several scholarships on offer:

Polly Farmer Foundation General Scholarships

- **Course:** Any TAFE or university
- **Study:** Full time only
- **For:** Assistance with study
- **Number on offer:** Various
- **Value:** Up to \$3,000 AUD each
- **Eligibility:** Follow the Dream alumni (preference will be given to graduates 1 to 5 years out from high school)
- **Closing Date:** Friday 13 March 2026
- **Link to apply:** [APPLY HERE](#)

Polly Farmer Motorola Solutions Engineering and Technology Scholarships

- **Course:** Engineering and Technology only
- **Study:** Full time only
- **For:** Assistance with study
- **Number on offer:** Various
- **Value:** Up to \$10,000 AUD each
- **Eligibility:** Follow the Dream alumni (preference will be given to graduates 1 to 5 years out from high school)
- **Closing Date:** Friday 13 March 2026
- **Link to apply:** [APPLY HERE](#)

Polly Farmer Zenith RBA/Formula RBA Relocation Scholarships

- **Course:** Any TAFE or University
- **Study:** Full time only
- **For:** Assistance with relocation costs or accommodation costs to begin or continue your education
- **Number on offer:** Two
- **Value:** Up to \$3,000 AUD each
- **Eligibility:** Follow the Dream alumni who have relocated from a regional or remote area to undertake study
- **Closing Date:** Friday 13 March 2026
- **Link to apply:** [APPLY HERE](#)

With thanks to the generous support of our 2026 alumni scholarship sponsors



Motorola Solutions
Foundation



Monadelphous

Acknowledgement of Country

The Foundation's head office is located on the lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We acknowledge the Whadjuk ancestors for looking after us and the work we do with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Because we work across Australia, we would also like to acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land and waters across our Country. We pay our deep respects to Elders past, those stewarding us in the present, and the young leaders we connect with every day who are strong in identity and culture. The past is not just the past, it is bound up with us in the present and connects and guides us in our work every day.

2025 POLLY FARMER FOUNDATION ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In 2025 the Foundation awarded 33 scholarships valued at \$114,500 to Follow the Dream alumni undertaking tertiary studies at TAFE or universities across Australia. Scholarship recipients pursued a wide range of disciplines including Engineering, Science, Education, Psychology, Plumbing, Community Services, Commerce, Medicine, Agriculture, Prosthetics and Digital Design. Since the Foundation's scholarships commenced in 2020, over \$600,000 in scholarships have been granted to Follow the Dream alumni thanks to the generous support of our scholarship partners: Motorola Solutions, BHP, Worley, Mitsui Iron Ore Development, Monadelphous, Green Values, Pacific Energy and Jalbi.

Polly Farmer Foundation Motorola Solutions Technology and Engineering Scholarships

- Aaliyah Henwood – Design (Visual Spatial & Games), ECU
- Alexandra Slade – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), UWA
- Archer Key – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), UWA
- Brodie O’Breza – Bachelor of Science, Murdoch
- Daenah Blackley – Pre-Science & Engineering, Curtin
- Mitchell Uren – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Curtin
- Rhys Barrett – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Curtin
- Tyreece Smith – Pre-Science & Engineering, Curtin



Polly Farmer Foundation Alumni General Scholarships

- Amy Gribble – Education (Primary), Curtin
- Aprile Narrier – Aboriginal Orientation Course, Curtin
- Brittney Andrews – Medicine, Uni of Melbourne
- Cayden McDermott – Prosthetics and Orthotics, Uni of Sunshine Coast
- Charlize Manado – Education (Secondary), CQ University
- Claudia Walton-McDermott – Medicine, UWA
- Ethan Bedford-Van Parreren – Certificate III in Plumbing, Gordon TAFE
- Georgia Gribble – Psychology, Criminology & Justice, ECU
- Imogen John – Biological Science, UWA
- Jai Spencer – Sport Science, UWA
- Jasmin Bentink – Environmental Science, UWA
- Jasmine John – Science (Occupational Therapy), Curtin
- Jayda Key – Biomedical Science, ECU
- Keisha Molyneux – Education (Early Childhood), ECU
- Kirana Lockyer – Medicine, UWA
- Kirby Hobbs – Biomedical Science, UWA
- Larnie Williams – Social Work, ECU
- Matilda Harris – Certificate III in Screen & Media (Animation), North Metro TAFE
- Matilda Moore – Biomedical Science, UNISQ
- Matthew Rundle – Biomedical Science, UWA
- Robin Lyndon – Psychology, Curtin
- Shelby Brookes – Certificate III in Community Services, South Metro TAFE
- Taleah Ugle – Science (Anatomy & Human Biology), UWA
- Talia Cook – Commerce, Curtin University
- Teylan Rogers – Agricultural Science, Murdoch University



\$114,500 in scholarships granted to support Follow the Dream alumni



33 individual scholarships granted. 8 x PFF Motorola 25 x PFF General.



Over 50% of scholarships granted to Follow the Dream alumni from regional areas



BANKWEST GIFTED LAPTOPS

Students from the Perth metro area and surrounds attended Bankwest's Perth head office for a special morning tea presentation, where they received their laptops and heard inspiring career pathway stories from a panel of Bankwest staff. In 2025, Bankwest gifted 87 pre-loved laptops to secondary school Follow the Dream students from 22 programs across WA!

Since 2023 Bankwest have gifted over 180 laptops to the Foundation. Access to technology is essential for FTD students, who often face a digital divide that can hinder their learning. This incredible donation helps bridge that gap and empowers students to reach their full potential.

Thank you to Noongar Elder Carol Innes (a member of CBA's Indigenous Advisory Council) for conducting the Welcome to Country, **Sevenoaks Follow the Dream** alumni Nyeemah Gonzales for thanking Bankwest on behalf of the laptop recipients, and Jodene Murphy, Bankwest General Manager Customer, Marketing and Communications for presenting the laptops to students.

Finally, a huge thank you to Heidi Madden from Bankwest for making this possible and to Bryce Langford and the IT team at Bankwest for volunteering their time to clean and refurbish the laptops ready to donate to the FTD students.

"Having this laptop also supported me throughout my first year of my Bachelor of Nursing degree, allowing me to complete lecture work, attend online classes, and study more effectively both at university and at home. Coming from a family that couldn't afford to buy one for me, this support truly meant the world to me."

- Nyeemah Gonzales, Sevenoaks FTD Year 12 recipient in 2024.



BOB HAWKE ABORIGINAL TEACHER UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Geraldton Follow the Dream alumni Charlize Manado has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Bob Hawke Aboriginal Teacher Undergraduate Scholarship!

Charlize, who also received a 2025 Polly Farmer Follow the Dream alumni scholarship, is currently studying a Bachelor of Education at Central Queensland University through Geraldton Universities Centre - GUC. Once a semester Charlize travels from Geraldton to CQU in Queensland to complete her studies.

"My time at Follow the Dream was great. I had terrific tutors who helped me thrive throughout high school. I was lucky to have gone on many camps which gave me more insight into other career paths. Now that I am studying to become a teacher, I would also love to have a full circle moment where I become a tutor for Follow the Dream to help young kids like myself."

— Charlize Manado

Charlize joins Follow the Dream alumni Jessika Coenen (**Bunbury FTD**) who was awarded the 2024 Bob Hawke Aboriginal Teacher Undergraduate scholarship and 2024 masters recipient Jasper John (**Broome FTD**).

Geraldton Follow the Dream is proudly partnered with the Department of Education WA. PFF Partners Onsite Rentals and Bankwest provided funds for Geraldton FTD students to attend the PFF Careers Expo in 2025.



ROB RILEY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR TOP ATAR STUDENT

We're proud to celebrate **Mt Lawley Follow the Dream** graduate from **Duncraig SHS**, Jayda Key's outstanding achievement in being awarded the prestigious Rob Riley Memorial Award for achieving the top Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ATAR score in 2024, announced in early 2025.

Jayda's journey has been strongly supported by her involvement in the Follow the Dream program, which enriched her high-school experience and eased her transition into tertiary study. Through dedicated academic tutoring, she strengthened her performance in her ATAR subjects and built the confidence and skills that helped her thrive.

Her hard work and commitment have truly paid off, and we look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next.

Jayda is currently studying a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Edith Cowan University and received a PFF Scholarship to support her university studies (pictured receiving her award with Innes Deakin from PFF Alumni Sponsor, Mitsui Iron Ore Development).

Brains certainly run in the Key family with Jayda's brother Archer awarded the Rob Riley Memorial Award for the top ATAR score back in 2022.



BROOME 20 YEARS CELEBRATION

The Follow the Dream programs in Broome have marked their 20th anniversary with a special celebration honouring two decades of dedication, achievement and community impact.

The event highlighted the success stories of students past and present, the program's deep value to local families, and the strong partnerships that have helped it thrive. Staff, students and alumni were recognised for their contributions, including former participants who now work within the program at **Broome Senior High School** and **St Mary's College**, giving back to the next generation.

Families, schools and community members came together to reflect on the program's achievements and its bright future. Guests also viewed a commemorative video capturing the stories that show what is possible when young people are supported to pursue their goals.

Broome Follow the Dream continues to grow through its long-standing partnership with Rio Tinto and The Department of Education WA, ensuring more students can access opportunities and pathways for success.



[scan the qr or click here to view event video](#)



CARNARVON 20 YEAR CELEBRATION

Carnarvon Follow the Dream marked a major milestone last year, celebrating 20 years. Students, families, staff, partners and community members came together to recognise the hard work, growth and achievements of participants throughout 2025.

The evening highlighted the program's strong culture of learning, leadership and pride, and the positive impact Follow the Dream continues to have on young people in the region.

Foundation has helped empower generations of students. The program further welcomed Leichhardt as a new partner in 2025, strengthening opportunities for Carnarvon students in 2026 and beyond.

With two decades of success behind it, Carnarvon Follow the Dream looks ahead to an even brighter future. The program is proudly supported by Rio Tinto, The Department of Education WA and Leichhardt.



SEVENOAKS 21 YEAR CELEBRATION

The Polly Farmer Foundation recently marked a major milestone, celebrating 21 years of achievement, cultural pride and community impact at **Sevenoaks Senior College FTD**.

More than 120 guests—including alumni, families, Elders, staff and community partners—came together for an evening of reflection and celebration. The event honoured two decades of student success, leadership and the enduring strength of the Follow the Dream community.

Guests described the night as “*spine-tingling*,” “*powerful*,” and “*unforgettable*.” The 21 Years Strong celebration reaffirmed the program’s ongoing mission: to nurture culture and identity while supporting Aboriginal young people to pursue academic excellence and achieve their aspirations.

A massive thank you goes to Sevenoaks FTD program coordinator Dr Jennet Hansen, whose dedication has helped keep the program strong. Her more than 20 years of service and commitment to Indigenous students has made a profound and lasting impact.

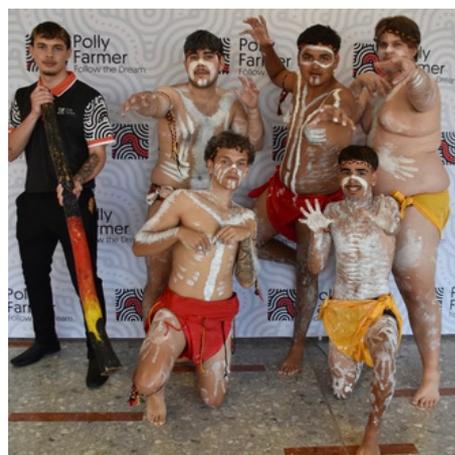
JENNET HANSEN WINS DOE WA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr Jennet Hansen has been recognised with the Department of Education WA 2025 Director General’s Women of Achievement Award for her long-standing commitment to Aboriginal student success.

For 21 years, she has led the **Sevenoaks FTD** program and coordinated its delivery across six additional schools, supporting 80 students in 2025. The program selects motivated Aboriginal students with strong attendance, solid grades and a clear drive to achieve their goals.

Jennet’s leadership continues to open pathways and inspire future success, strengthening opportunities for young people across the region. Her dedication has made a lasting impact on students, families and school communities.



WORLEY MELBOURNE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Our Follow the Dream students from **Perth, Broome, Derby, Muswellbrook** and **Alice Springs** enjoyed an unforgettable week (8–12 December) in Naarm (Melbourne) for the 2025 Worley STEM Innovation Challenge Camp.

Follow the Dream students came together to experience an incredible opportunity to build new friendships and participate in university and industry environments first-hand.

Based at Ormond College (right beside the University of Melbourne) students began the week with cultural connection activities before heading into a packed schedule that included visits to:

- Werribee Open Range Zoo
- Murrup Barak Centre at the University of Melbourne
- Zenith RBA for a showroom tour and lunch
- MCG Sustainability & Sports Museum

The highlight of the week was the Worley Innovation Challenge, where Worley engineers and staff led hands-on STEM workshops focused on real-world problem-solving. Students rotated through activities such as:

- Drone programming with Red Dirt Robotics
- Oil spill environmental engineering
- Flood-prevention design
- Communication in engineering (Lego systems challenge)

These sessions strengthened teamwork, critical thinking and creativity — skills that will serve students well in their future studies and careers.

The day concluded with recognition of students who demonstrated outstanding leadership and collaboration, followed by a memorable evening at Melbourne SkyDeck and a group dinner along Southbank.

Thank you to our partner Worley, and especially to Belinda Campbell and Shirley Hedland, whose ongoing support and mentorship make this camp possible. Their commitment to empowering young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in STEM continues to inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists and innovators.

To our incredible students — your curiosity, courage and enthusiasm shone all week. We are so proud of you.

And a huge thank you to our incredible Follow the Dream alumni — Emily (Alice Springs) and Wendi (St Mary's Broome), both FTD Coordinators, and Skye and Kaylyn who are tutors at Muswellbrook FTD for the enormous effort that goes into making this camp such a success each year.



BRIDGESTONE 'TORQUE TALKS' PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Bridgestone Mining Solutions Australia recently welcomed 16 students from **Geelong FTD program (Northern Bay College and Western Heights College)** to its Melbourne branch for an exciting and interactive Bridgestone 'Torque Talks' Physics Challenge.

Led by mathematician and comedian Simon Pampena alongside Simon Galbraith, Senior Specialist Tyre Services, students explored the science behind mass, force and energy — and how these principles apply to Bridgestone's giant OTR tyres. They also gained a behind-the-scenes look at tyre manufacturing, repair and fitting, and learned about different tyre types, grip patterns and real-world applications.

Thank you to Bridgestone Mining Solutions Branch Manager Paul Bayne and the entire Melbourne team for their outstanding support and hospitality. Their efforts made the day both educational and memorable for all involved.



FORGOTTEN FALLEN ANZACS HONOURED

Students from the **Mt Lawley FTD - Jinjeejerdup Outreach** program proudly took part in the Forgotten Aboriginal ANZAC project, honouring nine Aboriginal soldiers who served Australia but were never formally recognised.

Over two years, students researched each soldier's life, located & met with families, and collaborated with the Honour Avenues Group, Kings Park leaders, historians and the Polly Farmer Foundation to ensure every story was carefully and respectfully restored.

During Reconciliation Week, the men were honoured at a special ceremony with plaques in May Circle, attended by their descendants and special guests including Kim Farmer. It was a powerful moment of truth-telling and remembrance.

These Aboriginal soldiers served their country during a time of discrimination, hardship and attempted cultural erasure. Their courage and sacrifice stand as a testament to extraordinary resilience. While the injustices they faced cannot be undone, this project represents an important step toward recognition and healing. Students were immensely proud to help ensure these men were finally acknowledged for their service, integrity and legacy. *Lest we forget.*

Huge thank you to Sandra Down from **Shenton College** and Tina Deegan from **Mt Lawley SHS** for their leadership and commitment to this project.



2026
Careers Expo -
Wed 5 Aug

FOLLOW THE DREAM CAREERS EXPO



Last year's expo marked another outstanding success, bringing together more than 500 students and over 40 stallholders and activations at Optus Stadium for a day dedicated to inspiration, connection and opportunity. Special guests included Miss NAIDOC and **Governor Stirling FTD** alumni Cherokee Ugle and Divina D'Anna MLA Member for Kimberley.

We extend our thanks to alumni that assisted on the day and our 2025 sponsors and partners whose support made this event possible. Your commitment plays a vital role in empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to dream big and explore meaningful pathways in education, training and employment.

Alumni & Sun Sponsors

BHP Western Australia · Rio Tinto · Monadelphous · Worley · Mitsui Iron Ore Development · Motorola Solutions · Bankwest · Onsite Rentals Group · Zenith Interiors · Bridgestone Mining Solutions Australia · Construction Training Fund

Water & Earth Sponsors

Edith Cowan University (ECU) · WA Department of Health · UWA, Fortescue · North Metropolitan Health Service · St Thomas More Residential College · VenuesWest

Together, these partners help create opportunities that shape futures and strengthen communities. Thank you PFF Alumni for your support as a mentor and for providing guidance to our next FTD students.

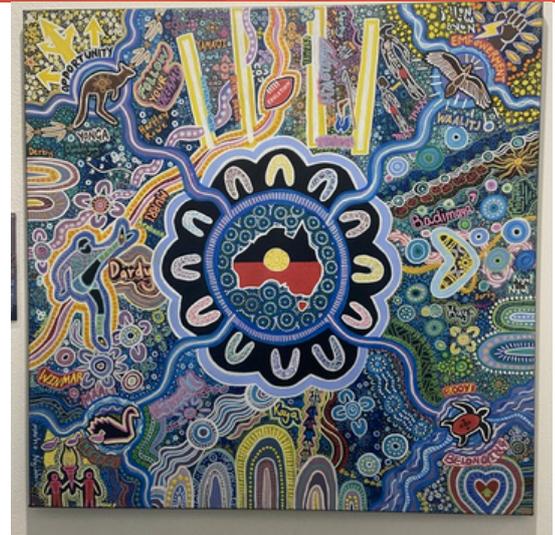


[scan the qr or click here to view event video](#)

All alumni are welcome to attend 2026 PFF Careers Expo at Optus Stadium on Wednesday 5 August 2026.



CAREERS EXPO COMMUNITY ARTWORK



Rebekah Delaney, a Kamilaroi woman born in Western Sydney, has built an inspiring path grounded in resilience, culture and creativity. After moving to Perth at age 12, she joined the Follow the Dream program at **Kelmscott SHS**, which she credits with helping her stay focused and complete high school with her ATAR. She graduated from **Sevenoaks Senior College** in 2019.

In honour of her late sister, Rebekah went on to establish her art business, Murriwa Yinarr — meaning Murri Perth Girl. Her work celebrates identity, community and the strength of Aboriginal women.

This year, we were proud to welcome Rebekah to our Careers Expo, where she created a stunning community canvas for the Polly Farmer Foundation. Her artwork beautifully captures the spirit and purpose of the Foundation:

- Polly Farmer appears on the left, kicking a football labelled “EDUCATION” through bright goalposts — symbolising his greatest achievement, not on the field, but in empowering his people through learning.
- At the centre are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, the heart of the Foundation’s mission.
- Surrounding them are the diverse people who uplift and support students — staff, board members, partners, coordinators and tutors.
- Four pathways extend outward, each connected to a Noongar totem/animal representing the Foundation’s values:
 - Yonga (Kangaroo) – *Opportunity*: Always moving forward, symbolising growth and possibility.
 - Waalitj (Wedge-tailed Eagle) – *Empowerment*: Rising above challenges with strength and vision.
 - Maali (Black Swan) – *Belonging*: Representing identity, community and cultural grounding.
 - Booyi (Turtle) – *Legacy*: Passing knowledge across generations and creating enduring pathways.

Rebekah’s work is a powerful tribute to culture, education and community and a reminder of the impact Follow the Dream can have on young people’s lives. You can check out Bek’s artwork on Instagram [@murriwa.yinarr](https://www.instagram.com/murriwa.yinarr)

THANK YOU REBEKAH!

A huge thank you to Sevenoaks Follow the Dream alumni Rebekah Delaney who has worked with the Foundation to produce this fantastic newsletter.

Rebekah has been in FTD since Year 7 and has tutored for FTD. She currently works as a DeadlySistaGirlz Student Support Officer at Yule Brook College.

2025 PILBARA CHAMPION LEADER SARAH CAMERON

Earlier this year, our incredible West Pilbara Follow the Dream Regional Manager, Sarah Cameron, was honoured as Champion Leader at the 2025 Pilbara for Purpose Pilbara Community Services Excellence Awards. The Awards provide a spotlight on the incredible efforts and results of the many Pilbara based organisations and individuals, which often go unnoticed and unrecognised.

Polly Farmer Foundation board members Kim Farmer and Marty Skiadas were proud to attend the awards gala dinner held in Newman and personally congratulate Sarah on her well-deserved win.

Sarah's journey in the Pilbara has been one of deep connection, cultural respect, and unwavering commitment to young people. From her early days as a teacher to her current leadership of the **Roebourne Follow the Dream** program and West Pilbara Polly Farmer Foundation team, Sarah has always placed community at the heart of her work.

In her acceptance speech, Sarah shared:

"True leadership is about listening, building trust, and always keeping community at the heart of what we do... This award is not just a reflection of my work, it's a reflection of our shared vision for a future where every young person feels seen, supported and empowered."

Sarah's work with hundreds of FTD students across the Pilbara continues to inspire. Her leadership is grounded in cultural integrity, collaboration with Elders and families, and a belief in the transformative power of education. Congratulations, Sarah — your leadership lights the way for so many.



PORT HEDLAND FOLLOW THE DREAM AWARDED BEST COMMUNITY ORGANISATION 2025

Hedland Follow the Dream has been honoured with the 2025 Best Community Organisation Award by the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry at this year's Business Excellence Awards.

This recognition reflects the many years of dedication shown by students, tutors, staff, families and program partners who work together to support each young person's aspirations—from primary school through to secondary education and into further study and meaningful careers. The award highlights the program's strong and sustained impact on educational outcomes for Aboriginal students in the Hedland region.

The Follow the Dream team extends its gratitude to PHCCI for acknowledging the program's contribution to the community and celebrating the achievements of the students who continue to inspire everyone involved.

Congratulations to Hedland FTD PC Jessica Albers on the birth of her first child last year!



[scan the qr or click here to view event video](#)



PFF LEGACY PARTNER INDIGENOUS ALL STARS GAME

This year, we were proud to take part in the 2025 Indigenous All Stars game — an event that continues to honour culture, excellence and the power of community.

We extend our thanks to the students, families and staff who made the day so memorable. A special acknowledgement goes to our students from Carnarvon, many of whom experienced Optus Stadium for the very first time. Their excitement, pride and enthusiasm captured the spirit of the occasion.

We were also thrilled to see Follow the Dream alumni Taleah Ugle join Kim Farmer on the oval boundary for an interview, sharing how the program continues to empower young people to realise their potential and shape their futures.

Our sincere thanks to the AFL for selecting us as the Legacy Partner for this year's game. It was an honour to stand alongside inspiring athletes and role models who demonstrate the transformative impact of sport on young lives.

Congratulations to Jy Simpkin, recipient of the Polly Farmer Medal for best on ground, which was presented by Kim Farmer. Nearly three decades ago, Polly Farmer set out to create opportunities for young Aboriginal people to succeed, just as he did on the football field. Today, the Follow the Dream program continues to carry that vision forward, supporting thousands of students to achieve academic success and pursue their aspirations.

We hope the Indigenous All Stars Round becomes a permanent fixture on the AFL calendar, and we look forward to continuing our involvement in this important celebration of culture, talent and community.



ALUMNI - CALLUM AH CHEE

Congratulations to PFF FTD alumni Callum Ah Chee, who played in the Brisbane Lions' back-to-back premierships and will pull on the 'Black Swan' in the State of Origin game WA v Victoria on Saturday, 14 February at Optus Stadium. Callum has since joined the Adelaide Crows for the 2026 season.

Callum was part of Follow the Dream at **Keimscott SHS**, along with his brothers Jordan and Brendon.



KEDALA DJINANGINY CURTIN UNI 'DAY OF LOOKING'

As part of this year's Follow the Dream Careers Week, more than 300 Follow the Dream students from across Western Australia and beyond gathered at Curtin University for Kedala Djinanginy — the 'Day of Looking'. The event offered an interactive day of exploration, connection and inspiration.

Students visited the Centre for Aboriginal Studies, St Catherine's College and key locations across the Curtin campus, taking part in interactive, hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and broaden their sense of what's possible.

A highlights video captured the energy of the day, featuring reflections from students, program coordinators and tutors. Among the standout comments were:

- “Uni doesn't seem as scary as it did before.”
- “We're not in this alone - we're in this together.”
- “Students now have this incredible sense of confidence and purpose.”

Kedala Djinanginy was more than a campus tour — it was an experience that helped students feel their future pathways. Many left with new friendships, fresh aspirations and a strengthened sense of pride and direction.

A huge thank you to Follow the Dream program coordinators Kiara Morrison and Joe Manning for leading the event, alongside Brendon DeGois, Luke Webster and Abdullah Haji-Ahmad from Curtin University. An outstanding effort from everyone involved!



**scan the qr or click here to view
event video**

UNI CONTACTS

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Curtin University

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University of western australia

Indigenous Support:

Bilya Marlee

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CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 12 ATAR REVISION STUDENTS

Broome Senior High School's Class of 2025 had many shining stars, and one of the brightest was Llewey Sloan! A proud Follow the Dream student, Llewey's journey is a true example of hard work and determination.

Llewey's awards included: Follow the Dream Top ATAR Student, Runner-Up Dux of the School, UWA Connect Award and Top Student in Human Biology, Economics, and Politics & Law.

Llewey is enrolled in Law at UWA. His dream is to make a real impact in the legal field.

Mt Lawley Outreach FTD (Jinjeejerdup program) are incredibly proud to celebrate Shenton College Year 12 students Maddi Tyler, Audrey Coleman, Tiana Alger and Shianne Corbett as the very first cohort to complete Follow the Dream from Year 7!

Shianne, a gifted artist, designed the mural featured in the photo to the right, and Maddi, Audrey and Tiana all completed ATAR pathways, each earning scores above 91. They join other standout students from the Jinjeejerdup program, including:

- Sienna McLaren (**Churchlands SHS**) – 97.15
- Darcy DeGois-Bullen (**Mt Lawley SHS**) – 93.6
- Delilah Road (**Mt Lawley SHS**) – 88

Their future pathways are just as exciting — spanning environmental science, physics, teaching, English and Politics, Conservation, and Medicine.

A special shout-out to Darcy (pictured right) who has joined PFF as a FTD Alumni Officer while he studies a Bachelor of Science (Frontier Physics) at UWA.



MUSWELLBROOK ALUMNI AWARDED KIM JACKSON SCHOLARSHIP

We are delighted to recognise the outstanding achievement of Phoebe Raisbeck from **Muswellbrook Follow the Dream**, who has been awarded the prestigious Kim Jackson Scholarship to study Engineering at The Australian National University (ANU) in 2026.

Phoebe is one of just six Year 12 students nationwide to receive this highly competitive scholarship — a testament to her passion for engineering, her commitment to learning and her exceptional academic performance.

Her dedication and determination have truly shone through, and we look forward to seeing all she will accomplish as she begins her studies at ANU.

Muswellbrook Follow the Dream proudly partners with BHP, Bengalla Mining and the Sara Halvedene Foundation to support students like Phoebe in pursuing their aspirations and shaping bright futures.



FOLLOW THE DREAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WA PC CONFERENCE

Follow the Dream coordinators from across WA gathered at Kings Park Education Centre for the annual FTD Conference. The theme was on “Walking Together: Culture, Careers and Connection”.

Key speakers included Professor Braden Hill, Deputy Vice Chancellor at ECU, and Donna Bridge, Director of Aboriginal Teaching and Learning at the Department of Education WA. Alumni presented findings from the FTD Student Voice Forum, and shared their experiences of being in the FTD program.

The program featured additional presentations from Robert Taylor (WAITOC) and Janine Davidson (Apprenticeship Support Australia). Alumni Cherokee Ugle served as MC, with a Welcome to Country delivered by Denice Kickett. The event brought coordinators together to share ideas, celebrate achievements and continue building strong pathways for FTD students.



POLLY FARMER EXHIBITION AT GEELONG

The Geelong Sports Museum honoured Graham “Polly” Farmer with an exhibition showcasing the ruck pioneer who reshaped Australian football.

POLLY: The Legend of Graham Polly Farmer - highlights his game-changing handballing, his move from WA to help Geelong win the 1963 Premiership, and his lasting community impact through the Polly Farmer Foundation.



KIM FARMER INDUCTED INTO THE WA WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME

PFF Board Member, daughter of Polly Farmer, and Children’s Court Magistrate, Kim Farmer, has been inducted into the WA Women’s Hall of Fame, recognising her outstanding contribution to the legal profession. Her distinguished career spans roles as a Barrister and Solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Service and work as a Sole Legal Practitioner.

In 2024, Kim reached a major milestone with her appointment as a Magistrate of the Children’s Court, further cementing her reputation as a respected leader in Western Australia’s justice system.



STUDENT VOICES LEADING THE WAY

In early September, **Mt Lawley FTD - Jinjeejerdup Outreach** students and alumni had the opportunity to meet with Jay Peckitt, Director General of Education WA, to share key reflections on their educational journeys.

This important meeting followed their involvement in Gnalla Kaartdijin, Gnalla Bidee (Our Knowledge, Our Path) — a student leadership forum held during the July school holidays. There, students connected with ECU pre-service teachers, offering lived insights, personal stories and practical advice about what truly matters in education from their school experiences.

Their reflections were distilled into seven key themes:

- Leadership and Representation
- Learning on Country and Cultural Connection
- Year 7 Induction and Identity Awareness
- Aboriginal Curriculum Integration
- Mental Health and Safe Spaces
- Ongoing Forums and Peer Connection
- Pastoral Care and School Events



These young leaders are helping shape the future of education — advocating for meaningful change and championing greater opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. There is strong hope that Gnalla Kaartdijin, Gnalla Bidee will become an annual event, ensuring student voices continue to guide real change and create leadership aspirations throughout their education journeys.

MAALI BAKING ACADEMY VISITS THE POLLY FARMER HOUSE

A huge thank you to the Maali Baking Academy FTD students from **Swan View SHS**, who recently prepared an outstanding morning tea for guests at Polly Farmer House. Using ingredients from the program's Bushtucker Garden, the students delivered beautifully presented dishes — with the Lemon Myrtle Iced Tea a clear favourite!

FTD students also had the chance to meet Board Members Kim Farmer and Mandy Gadsdon, and Kezia Jacobs-Smith from new PFF partner the Noongar Charitable Trust.

Special thanks to Swan View Program Coordinator Gaynor Manning and Head Chef Ruby Walkden for guiding the students and making the event a success.

The Maali Baking Academy continues to build students' confidence, cultural pride and real-world skills that can lead to exciting career pathways.



ALUMNI - TALEAH UGLE

The Foundation is proud to celebrate Taleah Ugle (**Albany FTD**), who has been awarded the 2025 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year at the Premier's Science Awards.

Taleah has demonstrated outstanding commitment to her studies, her community and her passion for improving Aboriginal health outcomes. After completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Western Australia, she is now preparing to begin postgraduate Medicine — a major step toward her long-held goal of becoming a doctor.

Beyond her academic achievements, Taleah has taken on significant leadership roles, including serving as Women's Officer for the UWA Student Guild and Co-Chair of the Referendum Working Group. She also contributes to important health research as an Aboriginal Research Assistant at the Kids Research Institute Australia, working on projects focused on healthy skin and rheumatic fever prevention.

Taleah's journey demonstrates resilience, determination and the impact of culturally grounded programs like Follow the Dream. Her success highlights the talent and leadership emerging from young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples — and the bright futures they are shaping for their communities.



"I think everybody deserves to have equitable health outcomes... looking at that from the perspective of a 17-year-old, I decided I wanted to be a doctor." -Taleah

ALUMNI - ISAIAH MCKENNA

Isaiah McKenna's (**St. Mary's College FTD**) journey since leaving high school has been defined by determination, leadership and a deep commitment to justice and community.

After moving to Perth in 2021 to pursue university studies, Isaiah channelled her passions for education, advocacy and mental health into several influential roles. She has served as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Mercedes College and as the Director of Equity and Wellbeing on the Curtin Student Law Society, championing culturally safe and inclusive spaces for students.

Now in her final year of law school at Curtin University, Isaiah works at commercial law firm Clayton Utz, gaining experience across Mergers and Acquisitions and, more recently, ESG and Projects.

Isaiah spent two weeks shadowing Magistrate Kim Farmer at the Children's Court of Western Australia. During her placement, she observed court proceedings across multiple jurisdictions and produced a research paper examining the outcomes of former therapeutic court participants, offering recommendations to better support 12 to 13 year old young people.

Isaiah hopes to combine her legal training with her passion for community empowerment — strengthening legal literacy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, supporting self-determined outcomes, and increasing First Nations representation across the legal profession.

Her journey is a powerful example of what can be achieved when talent, purpose and opportunity come together.



ALUMNI - KHAN JOHN

Khan John's (**Broome FTD**) journey has been a rewarding blend of professional ambition and personal milestones.

In 2023, Khan completed his double degree in Engineering (Honours) and Management at Curtin University. After graduating, he was accepted into the Woodside Energy Graduate Program as a Production Engineer.

During his studies, Khan founded a startup called NOA Tech, which he launched in 2022. Based in Perth, NOA Tech is dedicated to redefining communications through state-of-the-art technology. It provides critical solutions—ranging from remote monitoring for the oil and gas industry to high-speed Starlink integrations—designed to bridge geographical barriers. Its mission is to empower remote communities and local mob by providing the tools and training necessary for seamless connectivity, regardless of location. Check out Khan's company at <https://noatech.com.au>

Khan recently completed the 2025 Perth Running Festival marathon, a feat that demanded immense discipline and mental resilience. He now aims to run the Melbourne Marathon in 2026.



Khan finds his greatest joy in being a father to his two daughters; they are the driving force behind his determination to keep pushing boundaries and creating new possibilities.

ALUMNI - WILLIAM PEUCKER

Congratulations to William Peucker (**Esperance FTD**), who has completed his Bachelor of Design (Graphic Design) at Curtin University.

William recently launched his own graphic design studio, First Story Designs. His new business is built on a strong foundation of culture, identity and storytelling, offering culturally grounded design that supports organisations to engage with Indigenous stories in a respectful and authentic way.

William is already gaining attention having created the event logo and a stunning artwork for the recent Madalah Ball.

As William grows First Story Designs, he is eager to build professional connections and welcomes any introductions or advice. Check out his website firststorydesigns.com.au

His journey reflects the spirit of Follow the Dream—empowering young Aboriginal people to pursue their aspirations and create meaningful pathways for the future.

William welcomes any business enquiries, and he can be contacted at firststorydesigns@gmail.com.



ALUMNI - CHEROKE UGLE

The Foundation proudly congratulates Cherokee Ugle (**Governor Stirling FTD**), on being named Miss NAIDOC 2025.

Cherokee's journey to this achievement has been shaped by significant personal challenges. She found strength and stability through the Follow the Dream program, which provided academic support, mentorship and a strong sense of cultural identity. She went on to graduate Year 12 in 2021 — the first in her family to do so.

In 2022, Cherokee completed a bridging course at the University of Western Australia before joining the Polly Farmer Foundation as an Administration Officer. She went on to secure a role with Worley in early 2024, where she supports the company's RAP Working Group and contributes to the delivery of its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. The position has allowed her to continue developing her professional skills and leadership.

Motivated by her lived experience, Cherokee entered Miss NAIDOC 2025 to advocate for children in care, mental health awareness, domestic violence prevention and anti-racism. She hopes her journey will encourage young people to recognise that adversity can be transformed into strength, and that everyone has the ability to create positive change within their families and communities.



ALUMNI - REBEKAH SMITH

Rebekah Smith (**Kelmscott FTD**), is making her mark in both the education sector and the world of small business. She currently works at Murdoch University's Kulbardi Centre as the Engagement in School Relations Coordinator, where she supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and strengthens connections with schools across the region through the Centre's *Deadly Dreaming* program.

Rebekah is passionate about helping FTD students see university as an exciting and achievable pathway, and she continues to support them throughout their studies to ensure they feel confident, connected and capable of succeeding. For more information on the Deadly Dreaming program check out this link > <https://www.murdoch.edu.au/news/articles/the-high-school-program-the-whole-sector-should-follow>

In her spare time, Rebekah also runs her own makeup business, showcasing her creativity and entrepreneurial drive. Balancing community-focused work with a thriving side business, she continues to embody the determination and leadership nurtured during her time in Follow the Dream.

Rebekah's journey is a powerful example of the diverse pathways our alumni pursue—and the impact they continue to make in their communities.

Check out Rebekah's business on Instagram or Facebook [@glambybekah](#)



Photo credit: Murdoch University



WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

This year, PFF alumni joined thousands of Indigenous educators, leaders and young people from around the globe at the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE) — the world's largest gathering dedicated to Indigenous knowledge, culture and educational futures.

Held every three years and most recently hosted in Aotearoa (New Zealand), WIPCE brings together diverse Indigenous nations to share ideas, celebrate culture and strengthen pathways for future generations. The 2025 conference placed a strong emphasis on Youth, recognising the voices and aspirations of emerging Indigenous scholars.

Among those representing Australia were FTD alumni Kathleen and Marleigh, whose abstract was selected from thousands of submissions worldwide. Their presentation, "Dream Big with Purpose: Inspiring Pathways of Self-Determination for Indigenous Australian Youth," highlighted the transformative impact of the Follow the Dream program and the legacy of Polly Farmer's vision. Both now Curtin University graduates, they spoke about how culturally grounded, Indigenous-led programs empower young people to pursue higher education and shape their own futures — aligning strongly with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Kath reflected on the experience: "As a FTD alumni from Tom Price and now a university graduate, speaking at a conference of this scale was incredible. Being among global Indigenous leaders and sharing our story is something I'll never forget. I'm so grateful to the PFF for a program we're proud to represent."

PFF wish Marleigh all the best in her new position at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in Darwin, NT.

FOLLOW THE DREAM NAIDOC WORKSHOP

During NAIDOC Week 2025, the Polly Farmer Foundation shared an inspiring video capturing reflections from their Follow the Dream NAIDOC workshop held at Polly Farmer House, shaped by the theme: The Next Generation – Strength, Vision & Legacy.

Senior Follow the Dream students from **Fremantle College, Hampton SHS, Morley SHS, Kiara College, Mt Lawley SHS, Ballajura Community College and Bob Hawke College** came together for a day of reflection, connection and cultural learning. The workshop was facilitated by Simon Thompson and alumni Zac Graham (**Tom Price FTD**), with cultural guidance from Noongar Elder Denice Kickett.

Throughout the day, students honoured the legacy of Elders, celebrated community strength and explored how young leaders can continue carrying the torch forward with confidence and purpose.

The Foundation extends its thanks to all partners, alumni and students and Follow the Dream communities who joined in celebrating NAIDOC Week and supporting the next generation of changemakers.



[scan the qr or click here to view event video](#)



THANKS TO ALUMNI 2025



POLLY HOUSE VISITS 2025



WELCOME NEW PFF PROGRAM MANAGER JEROMY HARVEY

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Jeromy Harvey who will be taking over as Program Manager while Ray Garrett is on 12 months leave.

Jeromy, from Kununurra, has more than 20 years experience across Aboriginal education, community partnerships, and large-scale program leadership. His career spans schools, universities, community organisations, and major industry partners across the Pilbara.

Jeromy's connection to the Foundation runs deep. He has been a long-time contributor to the Karratha Primary and Secondary Follow the Dream programs—including developing STEM activities for Karratha—and is also a proud parent of children who have participated in Follow the Dream.



We are thrilled to welcome Jeromy to the team and look forward to the leadership, experience, and passion he will bring to the role.

KEY 2026 DATES

Alumni Scholarships

Who: FTD alumni enrolled in tertiary studies
Applications Open: Fri 23 Jan 2026
Applications Close: Fri 13 Mar 2026
Presentation of Certificates: Fri 12 Jun 2026
Impact Reports Due: Fri 11 Dec 2026
More info: alumni@pff.com.au

FTD Careers Expo

Expo Date: 10am to 1pm, Wed 5 Aug 2026
Location: Optus Stadium
Purpose: Connect with organisations offering education, training and career pathway opportunities for Follow the Dream students and alumni
More info: lisa.durston@pff.com.au



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