

# A Partnership Opportunity



# Acknowledgement of Country

Yalari acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of this land. We recognise their culture, history, diversity and deep connection to land, waters and territorial seas of Australia.

We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, and acknowledge the Yalari office is on Kombumerri country within the lands of the Yugambah language group of the wider area. We also acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work Australia-wide, and recognise their culture, heritage and beliefs.

## Vision

**Yalari's vision is to be one of Australia's great enduring educational and leadership foundations empowering Indigenous people from regional and remote Australia.**

## Purpose

To create equitable opportunities and outcomes for successive generations of Indigenous children.

To develop leading programs educating and supporting Yalari's students and alumni, individually and collectively, as qualified, contributing, culturally connected and influential Australians.

To honour all Australians by sharing Indigenous cultures through stories, healing, laughter and truth.

## Our CORRIE Values

• Compassion • Openness • Respect • Resilience • Inclusiveness • Excellence



# A message from our Founder

Since 2005, we have been humbled and privileged to find ourselves in a position to be offering life-changing opportunities for more than 720 Indigenous children living in regional and remote communities.

The Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship is one of those sliding-door moments in a young person's life, when their horizons stretch and open them up to people, places, opportunities and experiences that will fundamentally change what their future holds.

I know this to be true, as I had the same experience in 1980 when I began my boarding school education at Toowoomba Grammar School.

Our hearts burst with pride as these children get the opportunity to excel at their studies in Australia's leading boarding schools, become prefects, student leaders, and captains of their sporting teams. We cheer when they score a part in the school play, or perform in a band, or give a speech at assembly. And we've held their hands and been there to listen when they've struggled with challenging classes, loneliness and homesickness.

But what makes our spirits soar is to see them take all of these life experiences and rewrite their future.

The education our Yalari supporters financially contribute to allows these young children to dream bigger dreams – to want more, be more and do more; not only for themselves but for their families, their friends, their communities, and Australia as a united and equitable country.

We invite you to partner with us in changing the narrative to Indigenous excellence and what we can achieve as a country, when all Australians have the same opportunities.



WAVERLEY STANLEY AM  
Founding Director



# The Yalari way



## Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship

Mrs Rosemary Bishop was a primary school teacher at Murgon State School who was instrumental in securing a Toowoomba Grammar School scholarship for Yalari's Founding Director Waverley Stanley AM back in 1979. The Yalari scholarships are named in her honour and are awarded annually to over 50 children from across Australia who are about to start their secondary schooling.

The Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarships cover full boarding and tuition costs to attend one of Australia's leading boarding schools from Year 7 through to Year 12. In addition to gaining a high-quality academic education, Yalari scholars are also exposed to extracurricular sporting, vocational and life experiences that they might otherwise never encounter.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking a chance on me back in 2013.

I have just graduated with a Bachelor of Science and am now studying a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Queensland.

I promise to give back to the Aboriginal community and wanted to let you know the impact you are making.”

Kealey Griffiths, Class of 2018  
(St Margaret's Anglican Girls School)

# It takes a whole community to educate a child

Each year, Yalari Founders Waverley, Llew and the Yalari team travel to regional and remote communities across Australia to meet promising Year 6 students who would benefit from the wider opportunities that a leading boarding school education could offer.

Over the years, they have sat at hundreds of kitchen tables, in lounge rooms and on back verandahs, talking to mothers, fathers, aunties, uncles, grandparents and bright-eyed eleven and twelve year old children to make sure the whole family knows what a Yalari scholarship means and what it will take to see it through.

The commitment of those family members is crucial to Yalari's holistic approach, because Yalari is not just providing a quality education. We liaise with the family, the school, tutors and Indigenous communities to make sure our scholarship recipients grow as happy, healthy, well-rounded young people who are being given the opportunity to become the future leaders and change-makers of their communities and Australia.

**249**  
current  
students

**480**  
alumni

**57**  
new  
students  
in 2023

**95%**  
Average  
annual  
retention  
rate

**20**  
partner  
schools

# The Yalari journey

**2005**



Yalari was established on 13 April 2005 by Waverley Stanley, his wife Llew Mullins and a group of like-minded and generous supporters.

Start-up funding was provided by the Australian Venture Capital Association and the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations.

**2006 –  
2010**

## Starting from scratch



The first children awarded with the Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarships started at Toowoomba Grammar School and The Glennie School in 2006.

Within 5 years, Yalari was offering new scholarships to more than 40 students a year who were attending leading boarding schools across Australia.

From the outset, Waverley and Llew realised that these children needed a strong network of support – both from adults and from other Yalari children. They introduced a series of annual camps, designed to prepare children for boarding school and to help them connect with their culture, heritage and to one another.

By 2007, Yalari was attracting donations in excess of \$1 million per year, led by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation as their first major sponsor. Then Governor-General, Dame Quentin Bryce AC agreed to serve as Patron and Waverley won the Ernst and Young Queensland Australian of the Year Award, Social Enterprise.

In 2010, the Federal Government asks Yalari to take over the administration and delivery of part of their Indigenous Youth Leadership Program, adding 66 transition students and a further 9 schools to the Yalari network.

Our first 17 students graduate Year 12.

**2011 –  
2015**

## From the highs to heartache

The organisation continues its strong growth, with 23 employees, an Australian-wide network of more than 200 volunteers and a total of 64 national sponsors.

Yalari is supporting more than 180 students at 31 boarding schools. They hold the inaugural Commemorative Walk to Cherbourg in 2011.

The following year, the Yalari team is devastated when fire destroys their Gold Coast headquarters.

The community rallies to get the organisation back on its feet, with donated office space at the Gold Coast Titans HQ until Yalari moves into its new offices in 2014.

By our 10th birthday, 137 Yalari graduates are studying at universities, working or undertaking further training.



**2016 –  
2020**

## Recognition and resilience

As the year ends in 2016, Yalari alumni are on the verge of outnumbering scholarship students.

The Yalari success story gains a wider audience when it is featured on Australian Story and, in 2019, Waverley is made a Member of the Order of Australia for “significant service to the Indigenous community through support for education”.

The Mary Boydell Endowment Fund is launched with the aim of building an ongoing, self-sustaining source of funding.

The following year, the global pandemic and lockdowns affect every one of Yalari’s 210 students and our gala dinners grind to a halt.

Once again, Yalari’s extended family comes through, raising close to \$1 million in a one-off, 12-hour Yalari Giving Day.



## Looking to the future

In 2023, Yalari continues to go from strength to strength, with 249 scholarship students enrolled in their secondary education at 20 partner schools across Australia.

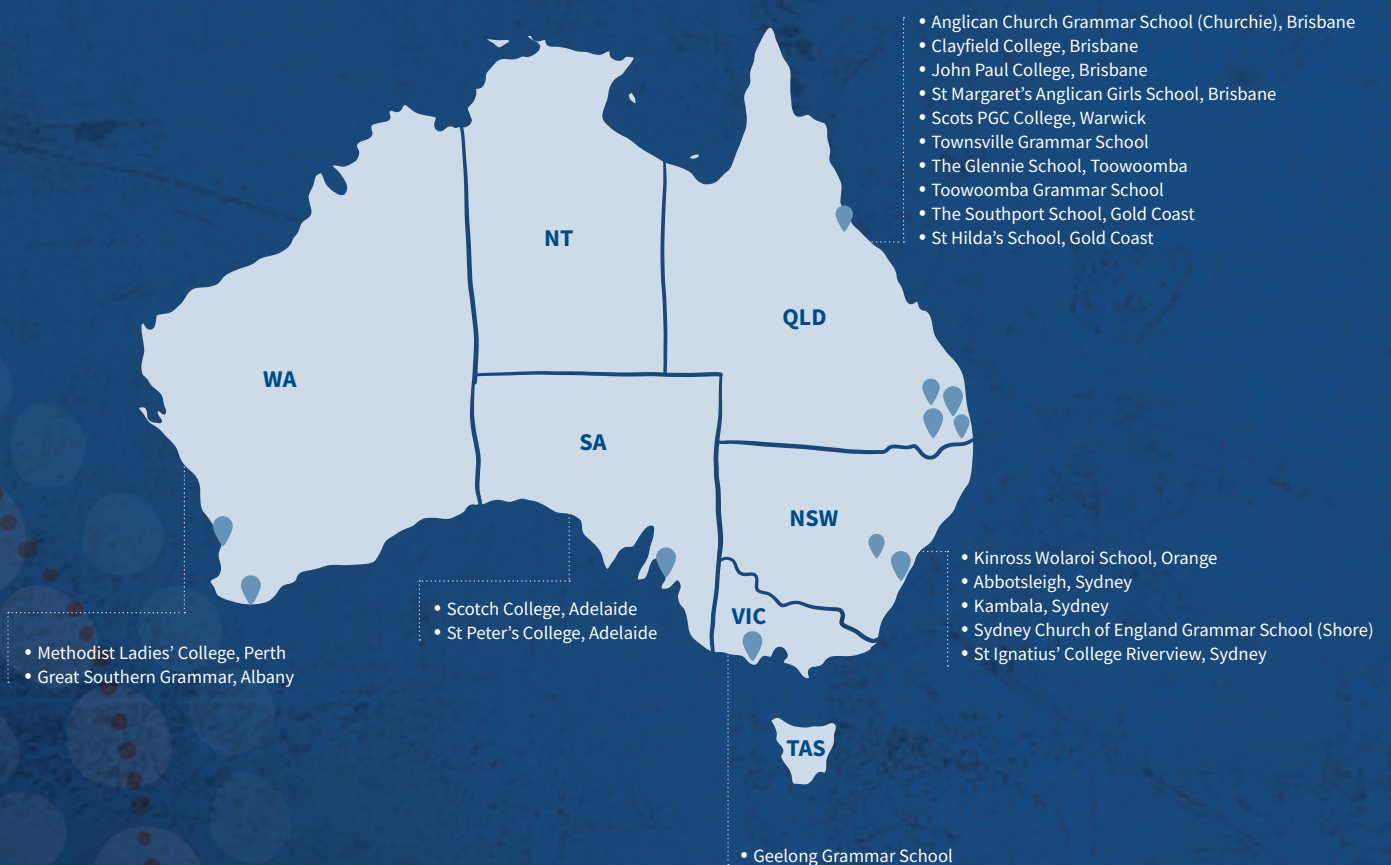
With 480 alumni, sustainability is now a key pillar of Yalari’s business strategy to ensure the gift of education will be available to future generations.

# Partner Schools

Yalari partners with 20 of Australia's leading boarding schools who offer our students not just an outstanding education, but a world of extracurricular opportunities and life-changing experiences.

Each school has been carefully chosen to ensure they align with Yalari's vision, values and philosophy, and with the knowledge that they will provide a caring, supportive and culturally safe environment for our students.

Additional support comes from the wider school community and Yalari's Student Support Officers who are located across the nation and work with students, families and schools to make sure our Yalari scholars are enjoying and thriving with their boarding school experience.



“

SCOTS PGC is proud to partner with Yalari and our Indigenous families. Our relationships have developed a greater understanding of ourselves and of each other, regardless of our backgrounds. This has helped create a community of great depth whilst ensuring we continue along a journey of recognition and pride in the history and ancestry of our Indigenous students and its significant relevance to all cultures and our society today and into the future.

We as a school are better for the legacy our Indigenous students continue to build at SCOTS PGC and, I believe, they too benefit from the legacy an education in and outside of the classroom at SCOTS PGC provides. Strong partnerships, deep community, greater learning, and healing with meaning for all.

Kyle Thompson,  
Principal, SCOTS PGC College

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## Student Development Program

What makes Yalari unique is that our boarding school scholarships are complemented by educational, pastoral, personal and cultural support.

We have a passionate team of Student Support Officers based around Australia, working directly with our students at their schools.

Our team also work with parents and guardians, school staff and community services to support our students' mental health and wellbeing.

Our Academic Support Program focuses on each student's progress and providing additional help with their studies.

Most importantly, we understand the value of students supporting students through the connections and friendships they make at our annual camps, workshops and cultural activities.



## Pathways & Alumni Program

Our Pathways Program begins in Year 10, preparing students for life after secondary school and supporting them as they transition to higher education, vocational training and employment.

In addition to working one-on-one with students and their families, our dedicated Pathways team facilitates career guidance, assistance accessing tertiary scholarships, internships and employment with a wide range of supportive organisations and businesses.

After graduation, our alumni continue to be powerfully connected to each other and the Yalari community. With access to programs to support leadership, professional and personal growth, our alumni are empowered to grow and develop as both leaders and professionals in community, business and Australia.

“Our vision is to walk  
alongside our alumni,  
developing them as leaders  
as they change perceptions,  
change outcomes  
and change the narrative  
in this country.”

Waverley Stanley AM  
Founding Director, Yalari



# An invitation to partner with Yalari

Yalari is built on partnerships: partnerships with our students, their families and communities; partnerships with our schools; and, alongside everything we do, partnerships with our sponsors and supporters.

Regardless of race, colour or creed, when children have the opportunities offered by a good education and the support of people who believe in them, they can achieve extraordinary things.

For Indigenous children from regional and remote communities, being afforded a quality education and the world of opportunities available at one of Australia's leading boarding schools is life-changing.

For almost 20 years, we have seen the effect a Yalari scholarship has, not just on our students, but on their families and communities. We're also seeing how it impacts Australia, as our alumni become leaders in their workplaces, committed contributors to society, and as dedicated parents.

If you want to change the outcome for future generations of Indigenous Australians, we invite you to partner with us.

“We want reconciliation to be a verb, not a noun.

Making education accessible is reconciliation in action.

That is what we value so much about our partnership with Yalari.”

Meegan Sullivan  
Chief Executive Officer, RPS



# Sponsorship opportunities

## Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship

Supporting a Yalari student through their secondary schooling at one of Australia's leading boarding schools.

**\$20,000**  
per year for  
a six-year  
commitment

## Student Support & Development Camps

Our annual camps are crucial to Yalari's holistic approach, giving students the opportunity to connect with one another, Yalari alumni, adult role models and with the many Indigenous cultures of Australia.

**\$15,000**  
and above  
commitment

## Pathways Scholarship

Awarded annually to students starting university or post high school studies.

This scholarship helps to fund their living expenses.

**\$10,000**  
commitment

## Gala Dinners

Each year, Yalari hosts a number of gala dinners in capital cities across Australia. These special events celebrate the achievements of our amazing students and the shared dedication of all those who are providing life-changing opportunities for Indigenous children around Australia.

## A Gift in Your Will

Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful way to ensure your legacy will continue to make a difference for generations to come.

## Donations

We welcome donations, large and small, to assist us to deliver the Yalari program. All donations are tax deductible.

## Workplace Giving

Make a difference every day. Speak to your employer about making a regular pre-tax donation through your weekly, fortnightly or monthly pay. It doesn't take much – in fact, you probably won't even notice the difference to your pay – but those small, regular amounts add up to the life-changing gift of education for Indigenous children.

## Fundraising Events

Consider naming Yalari as the beneficiary of your next not-for-profit event or create a unique school, workplace or community event, specifically for Yalari.



## Yalari Foundation

The Yalari Foundation was established to ensure Yalari's long-term sustainability – enabling and empowering us to continue our work of educating Indigenous children for generations to come.

The Yalari Foundation is home to the Mary Boydell Endowment Fund, Yalari's general endowment fund, named in honour of the late Mary Boydell. Mary was the dedicated and passionate chair of the Yalari board from 2014 to 2017 and her unwavering commitment helped lay the foundation for Yalari's enduring success.

Your gift to the Yalari Foundation – by making a donation, endowing a scholarship, or including a gift to Yalari in your will – will leave a lasting legacy for the future of Yalari and our shared belief in what we can achieve together.

## Volunteering

Yalari is supported by a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers who are committed to helping our children be the best that they can be.

We continue to work to ensure that both Yalari and our volunteers mutually benefit from the experience.





“

I am proud of the fact that I kept my promise to Waverley, Llew and myself (who was once a worried girl who had no idea what she was in for) – to stick it out and graduate on Yalari.

Yalari has completely changed my life. Nothing could measure up to the opportunities I've had. I've said it before and I know I'll say it many more times, but to you and to every other person who enabled myself and other Yalari students to surpass what was once thought to be the ceiling of their potential — I am forever grateful and indebted to you.

Whenever I doubted or questioned what it was all for, I thought about the effort and time that goes into getting me to a private school, and that was enough to keep me going.

So, thank you so incredibly much.

Holly Coffison, Class of 2022 (St Hilda's School)

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## Contact us

For more information, please contact  
the philanthropy office team on  
**07 5665 8688 or [info@yalari.org](mailto:info@yalari.org).**

Follow our social channels:



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## Student Artists

The artwork featured in this booklet was supplied  
for use by Yalari students Naomi Buchanan of  
the Wadja Wadja Tribe, and Summer Lowe of the  
Gudanji Tribe.

