



# 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 780 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.

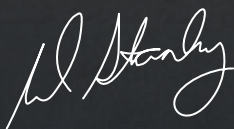
Our hearts burst with pride as these children get the opportunity to excel at their studies in Australia's leading boarding schools, become prefects, student leaders, and captains of their sporting teams. We cheer when they score a part in the school play, or perform in a band, or give a speech at assembly. 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 now have over 530 alumni who form a unique network of Indigenous leaders - educated in some of Australia's best schools and universities, confident in both cultures, ambitious, united and positively looking forward. They are making so many positive contributions it is literally hard to keep up with them.

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 story

In 1979, a young Aboriginal boy growing up in rural Queensland was awarded a scholarship to attend Toowoomba Grammar School. Waverley Stanley went on to become the first Indigenous student to complete Year 12 and to be appointed school Prefect in the school's 100+ year history.

More than 20 years later, Waverley and his wife Llew Mullins, backed by a group of like-minded and generous supporters, established Yalari to give young Indigenous students from remote and regional areas that same opportunity.

Named in honour of the Year 7 teacher who helped to organise Waverley's scholarship, Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarships are awarded annually to close to 60 children from across Australia who are about to start their secondary schooling. The scholarships cover full boarding and tuition costs to attend some of Australia's leading boarding schools right through to Year 12 and are funded by corporate sponsors, individuals, trusts and foundations and government programs.

Supporting our students is crucial to ensure they make the most of the time at their schools, so our scholarships are complemented by a holistic network of educational, pastoral, personal and cultural support.

Our network of Student Support Officers (SSOs) build strong connections with our students and play a crucial role in supporting students and helping to foster a strong sense of community. Working with parents, guardians and school staff, our SSOs provide an extra layer of support for students in terms of their wellbeing and academics. Backed by our Student Support team, our students receive personalised support to maintain positive wellbeing and ensure they are able to succeed academically. 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.

As Yalari has matured and the number of Yalari scholars grows, we have expanded our focus to provide greater support to the ever-expanding alumni cohort. The unique journey our alumni share helps to build strong connections within the group, which Yalari actively works to maintain and strengthen after graduation. Programs and initiatives designed to support alumni with their personal and professional development as they head into further education and employment help empower our alumni as they become leaders in their communities and workplaces.

Our alumni represent a powerful voice of connected, highly educated Indigenous leaders, driving change in Australia.



# 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, aunts, 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.

**248**

Current students

**536**

Alumni

**58**

New students in 2024

**93%**

Average annual retention rate

**19**

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.



**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.



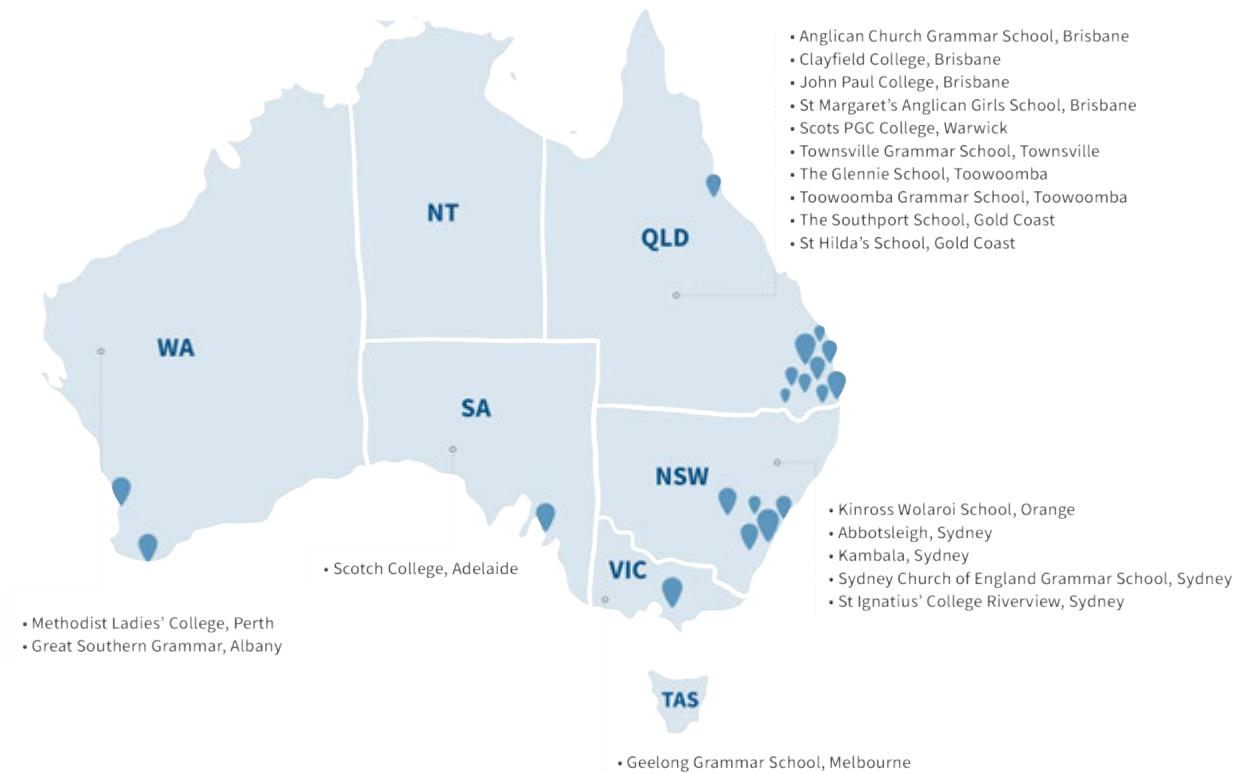
## Looking to the future

In 2024, Yalari continues to go from strength to strength, with 248 scholarship students enrolled in their secondary education at 19 partner schools across Australia.

With 536 alumni, sustainability is now a key pillar of Yalari’s business strategy to ensure the gift of education will be available to future generations.

# Our partner schools

At Yalari, we believe it takes a whole community to educate a child. We therefore value the partnership we have with 20 of Australia's leading boarding schools. This collaboration ensures our students are well supported to access an outstanding education and make the most of every opportunity this presents. We thank our partner schools for continuing to work with us.





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“The partnership Abbotsleigh has shared with Yalari over the last 14 years has become an integral part of who we are as a school. We are so fortunate to currently have 14 First Nations students who are Yalari Scholars at Abbotsleigh.

We believe that the reciprocity of the Yalari program is what is so special and enriches our whole school community.

We work in partnership with our girls and their families developing an understanding of, and respect for culture by their non-Indigenous peers and staff, which in turn supports both their sense of pride and belonging and it is this that makes for the rich tapestry that is Abbotsleigh.

We believe that partnering with Yalari is an important part of the steps toward a future of educational inclusion and reconciliation.”

**Victoria Rennie, Head of Senior School  
Abbotsleigh**



“Toowoomba Grammar School is proud to continue our strong and lasting relationship with Yalari. Having been one of the foundation partner schools for Yalari since 2005, and the place of schooling of Yalari Founding Director, Waverley Stanley AM, Toowoomba Grammar School is dedicated to continued growth and support of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Our Yalari students offer so much in return for this support, and we are committed to creating a learning environment that allows all students to learn and develop good character, that in turn sets them up for success in life. We are extremely grateful for the support and guidance provided by Yalari support staff to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and are excited to continue working together in partnership with Yalari to educate and create generational change.”

**Dr John C Kinniburgh, Headmaster,  
Toowoomba Grammar School**



“Our commitment is as much to Yalari as an organisation as it is to the individual young people who come into our care. I am conscious that for any teacher, in any classroom, their work is only possible by the trust and the quality of relationships that are built with their students individually and collectively, and that principle extends to all that we do in schools.

Our ability to support and nurture our Indigenous students is grounded by our relationship with Yalari, and our capacity to have a shared vision for what we can all achieve, is something that we celebrate at Scotch.”

**Trent Driver, Principal  
Scotch College Adelaide**

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# Our Program

## Yalari Ready

Every year, over a hundred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children apply for a Yalari scholarship, with approximately 60 eventually enrolling in Year 7 at partner boarding schools across Australia.

Despite their leadership roles and exemplary attendance, some applicants from very remote communities fall behind in literacy and numeracy, making them ineligible for a scholarship.

To address this, we introduced the Yalari Ready Program in 2024, aiming to bridge the educational gap through a year of intensive numeracy and literacy training at John Paul College, Brisbane.

This program, supplemented by a culturally supportive living environment, seeks to prepare them academically for their secondary education, instilling confidence and hope.

## Student Support

Yalari's scholarships are complemented by an extensive program including 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 focuses on each student's progress and provides additional help with their studies.

Annual camps, workshops and cultural activities create strong connections and friendships between students in year level cohorts and across the entire Yalari mob.



# Pathways & Alumni

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.

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.

To facilitate this, our Pathways Program focuses on four key areas:

## Post-School Support

Working one-on-one with students and their families, our team facilitates career guidance, assisting with entry to university and internships and employment with a wide range of supportive organisations and businesses. Pathways scholarships are also available to students undertaking tertiary studies.

## Personal Growth

Yalari also provides a range of support programs to ensure health and well-being and skills necessary for success in life. These include financial literacy, health and mental well-being and cultural connection.

## Leadership & Professional Development

As a part of our vision to empower Indigenous leaders, we have created a number of leadership programs as well as partnering with recognised institutions such as the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, the Australian Defence Force and leading universities.

## Connection & Contribution

Yalari alumni have the opportunity to strengthen their bonds and contribute to Yalari's ongoing impact through the Alumni Advisory Board, mentoring, reunions, events and involvement in fundraising and supporter engagement.



# 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



# Ways to support

## 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**  
per year for  
a three-year  
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.

## Volunteering

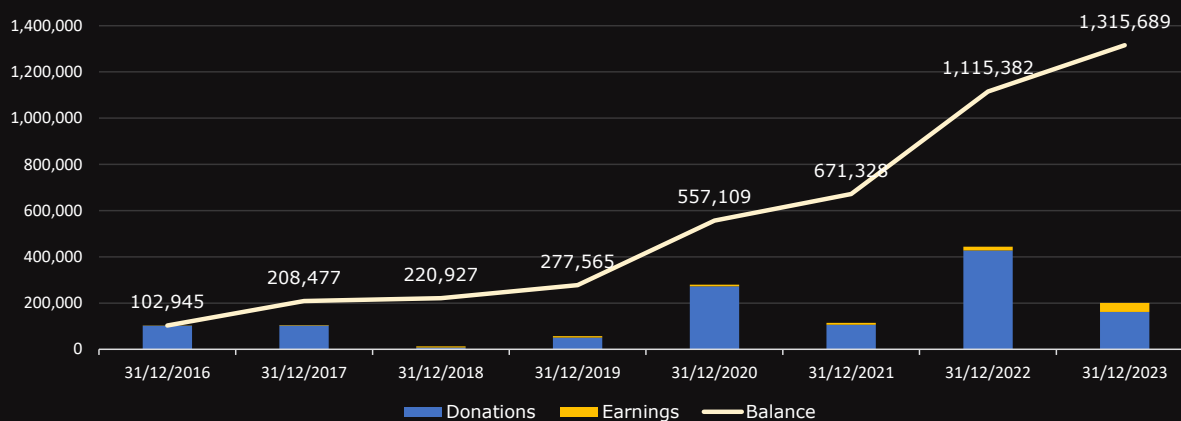
Yalari is supported by a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers who are committed to helping our children be the best that they can be. We continue to work to ensure that both Yalari and our volunteers mutually benefit from the experience.



# Yalari Foundation

The Yalari Foundation was established to ensure Yalari's long-term sustainability by providing a perpetual source of funding to support Yalari's purposes. The Foundation is home to The Mary Boydell Endowment Fund and continues to grow through a combination of generous contributions and a solid investment strategy with funds management and advisory provided by JBWere.

We welcome individual, corporate and philanthropic contributions to partner with Yalari to establish a corpus of funds that will enable Yalari to function in perpetuity through a sustainable financial framework.





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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**.

Follow our social channels:



Yalari



Yalarimob



Yalari

## Artists

The artwork featured in this booklet was supplied by Yalari staff and Alumni; Urshula Clark-Jacky of the Dunghutti Nation, Naomi Buchanan of the Wadja Wadja Tribe, and Summer Lowe of the Gudanji Tribe.

