

# ganbina focus

DECEMBER 2020



## 2020 YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Recognising our young people for their achievements at the end of the year is always a highlight of the Ganbina calendar. But this year, given the unprecedented challenges of 2020, it held more significance than ever.

In November, families, friends and community partners gathered online to celebrate achievements and successes at home via a unique Virtual Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony. They were joined by Ganbina staff, management, board members, philanthropic funding partners and individual donors. Local Yorta Yorta Elder, Dieta (Aunty) Merle Miller, gave a wonderful, heartfelt Welcome to Country and CEO, Anthony Cavanagh, officially opened the evening. The event was hosted by our Year 11 Leadership Program participants Clarissa Atkinson, Tyarra Bamblett, Chrystal Chapman, Nerrissa Leitch, Sebastian Peachey, Olivia Saron, and Talia and Tamioka Trimboli. It included special congratulatory messages from Suzanna Sheed MP and Ganbina's founding CEO, Adrian Appo OAM; and stirring performances by the Damanmu Bangerang Dancers and singer Lillie Walker, a Year 9 participant.

Congratulations to all our Award winners and to the whole Ganbina community.  
Your resilience, courage and determination to triumph over tough times has inspired us all this year.

**Pictured: Education Award winners**

**Top row, Year 7, from left: Khyara Austen, Mya Falla, Simran Singh, Riva Zerbato.**

**Middle row, Year 8, from left: Shontae Cameron, Jordan Chapman, Jacklyn Crowhurst, Ella Morgan.**

**Bottom row, Year 9: Muna Brown and Hariyett Peters.**

## EDUCATION AWARDS



Year 10, top row, from left:  
*Kaitlyn Crowhurst*  
*Rae-Nee Roberts*  
*Jake Zerbato*



Year 11, middle row, from left:  
*Chrystal Chapman*  
*Nerrissa Leitch*  
*Talia Trimboli*  
*Tamieka Trimboli*



Year 12, bottom row, from left:  
*Diesel Cipriani*  
*Shaelyn Crowhurst*  
*Sam Morgan*

### NERRISSA LEITCH



**Nerrissa is in Year 11 at the Greater Shepparton Secondary College. In 2020, she won the Mark Jennings whole school English Award, the whole school Koori Leadership Award, and received the three year statewide Marrung Scholarship.**

Nerrissa is a member of Ganbina's three year Leadership Program. She volunteers at the Rumbalara Homework Club and with Elders in the community; and works at Kmart. She is the Vice Captain of the Netball Rumbalara FNC, Captain of the Mooroopna Youth Girls Football Team; and plays basketball with the Black Eagles.

Nerrissa wants to go to university to study education and Aboriginal Studies.

## ADRIAN APPO YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER



**Seventeen year old Rae-Nee Roberts was recognised for her achievements in education, employment, leadership and volunteering.**

Rae-Nee is a student at Greater Shepparton Secondary College. In addition to her studies, Rae-Nee has attended the Alpine School of Leadership and is a participant in Ganbina's three year Youth Leadership Program. She is an active member of her Junior School Council, participates in the local Army Cadets and works part-time at McDonald's. When she leaves school, Rae-Nee wants to study to become a nurse.

"I encourage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to strive for the best and to give everything a go," said Rae-Nee. "Stepping outside your comfort zone and experiencing new things is the key to success."

Adrian Appo OAM congratulated Rae-Nee and said that the unprecedented challenges of 2020 made her achievements, and her Award, all the more special.

## TRAINING AWARDS *(Certificate III & higher)*



**Clockwise:**  
Maddisyn Cooper  
Kearla Dooly  
Erin Hooker-Berghan  
Jarrara Atkinson



**Twenty-two year old Jarrara completed the third year of his Bachelor of Arts and Law degree at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne in 2020, where he is actively involved with the Jim-baa-yer Higher Education Unit.**

Jarrara is a volunteer with the Fitzroy Legal Service which provides legal support to the public and he works part-time as a bartender at Crown Casino. In his spare time, he is a keen footy player.

After graduating, Jarrara plans to gain experience with a law firm in Melbourne and then return to Shepparton to help bridge the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community.

## EMPLOYMENT AWARDS



**Clockwise:**  
Klarindah Hudson  
Clarissa Marsden  
Jerome Sorgel  
Shelby O'Brien



**Shelby is a Housing Services Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services. Her manager says that Shelby is skilled, professional, and compassionate in her day to day work, and that she is a much valued member of the Housing Advice & Assistance Team.**

Shelby would like to develop her future career in the community services sector, and she has taken on additional training to further develop her skills and her knowledge. She is also an active member of the Aboriginal Support Network, a support and development group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals.

She achieved two significant personal milestones last year of buying her own house at the age of 21, and becoming the proud owner of a new car. In her spare time, Shelby enjoys renovating her house and helping out with a friend's gardening business.

## On the radar

18 January	Ganbina office opens
1 February	Primary School Scholarships – Applications open
15 February	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program – Applications open
16 February	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program - Information Night
26 February	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program – Applications close
26 February	Primary School Scholarships – Applications close
5 March	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program – Induction
6 March	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program – Team Building
9 March	Year 12 Youth Leadership Program - Goal Setting
15 March	Year 10 Youth Leadership Program – Kicking Goals
22 March	Year 11 Youth Leadership Program – Goal Setting
29 March	Year 10–12 Youth Leadership Program – Travel Prep