

PROOF POSITIVE: GANBINA'S MODEL IS DRIVING REAL CHANGE

Real, lasting change doesn't happen overnight. It grows from the ground up – one young person, one family, one community at a time.

Ganbina's approach proves that when young people are supported to thrive, they not only change their own futures, they inspire others to follow. We're not about short-term fixes – we invest deeply in young people to help them build better futures for all.

Nearly 400 children and young people are currently registered with Ganbina in the Shepparton region of Victoria, where we support them one-on-one to stay at school, take up training or tertiary study, and move into meaningful employment.

A further 400+ young people are supported through our Expansion Program, which shares the Ganbina model and our learnings with communities across Australia.

As our impact grows, so too does our reach – empowering more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to realise their potential and create lasting, generational change.

It's a future where opportunity isn't the exception but the norm – and every young person has the chance to thrive and lead.

Pictured above: Lena-Jean Charles-Loffell, Spaces & Communications, Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie, Weethunga Health Network & Ganbina board member & alumna.



GET INVOLVED MAKE AN IMPACT

Help create meaningful
generational change

You can help by:

- Funding our programs.
- Hosting or mentoring our young leaders.
- Providing space for workshops or events.
- Opening doors through your networks.

To find out more, please contact:
Anthony Cavanagh, CEO – 0428 217 332

Together, we can build a brighter future.



Partner Update

GANBINA MAY 2025

CHANGING THE FUTURE, ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
young people to lead lasting change



***"I'm passionate about
creating pathways for
meaningful employment
for the Indigenous
community."***

*Jarrara Atkinson, Associate to His Honour
Judge Johns, County Court of Victoria
& Ganbina alumnus.*

In Australia today, 42 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 15–24 are not engaged in education, training or employment.

Ganbina's long-term, generational approach is changing that – and the results are clear.

Our first generation of Ganbina students are now adults who are forging meaningful careers, supporting their families, and leading in their communities. They're not just achieving personal success – they're acting as Agents of Change, setting powerful examples for future generations to achieve true social and economic equality.

To keep building this momentum, we've launched the Ganbina Alumni Program – a new network to connect past participants, celebrate their achievements, and support them to continue leading transformational change.

Our alumni are living proof that investing in young people delivers real, measurable progress – progress that strengthens with every generation. We hope you enjoy reading a small selection of their inspirational stories in this edition of Partner Update.

Thank you for standing with Ganbina. Your support is helping to create a future where every young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person can thrive – and lead lasting change.



GANBINA ALUMNI



ASHLEIGH ATKINSON

Ashleigh, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, is now leading the way in family violence support as the Aboriginal Practice Leader at the Broadmeadows Orange Door, a Melbourne based domestic violence support service.

In this senior role with the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency (VACCA), she consults on every Aboriginal case that comes through the hub, drawing on her lived experience, cultural knowledge, and years of frontline work.

Ashleigh's path began in Shepparton, where she joined Ganbina in Year 7. "Ganbina helped me and all my siblings - there are nine of us. They supported us with things we couldn't afford and gave us opportunities we wouldn't have had otherwise," she said. From helping her get her driver's licence to sparking a love of leadership through the Ganbina Leadership Program, the impact was lasting. "They pushed us to do different things and to believe in ourselves."

Now 33 years old and a mum of two, Ashleigh brings cultural insight and compassion to every case.

"I don't have all the answers, but I know how to navigate it and I lead from a place of understanding."



BRAYDON BUX

Braydon has served in the Royal Australian Navy for six years, including a regional deployment to Vietnam, Singapore, South Korea and Japan. After building his career in Maritime Logistics Supply Chain, he's now taken on a new challenge as a Military Recruiter for the Defence Force across all three services.

Braydon joined the ADF wanting a job he could be proud of. "It's the best decision I ever made - there are so many opportunities here," he said. He credits Ganbina with helping him get there, supporting him through high school with mentoring, tutoring, and real-world assistance with practical things like interview preparation and resume writing.

"Because of my own experience with Ganbina, I've got so much respect for them and what they do. I had some very good mentors there who supported me one on one when I needed it most."

Thirty year old Braydon bought his first investment property in Shepparton two years ago, and he's now working towards owning a second one.

"I've had to learn everything myself - no one in my family's ever bought a house. But I'm doing it because I want to set myself up for my future, be secure and be happy with my partner and hopefully a family later on."



GANBINA ALUMNI



BONNIE JOACHIM

Thirty year old Bonnie Joachim is a proud Yorta Yorta Ranger with Parks Victoria working at the Barmah National Park on cultural education and environmental projects, from turtle tracking to women's workshops to children's education programs.

Bonnie joined Ganbina in Year 7 at Shepparton High School and never looked back.

"The Leadership Program was great - just to be able to travel and meet people, see what's out there, what jobs we could potentially get, learn some life skills and build up confidence. My sister is doing it now and she loves it so much," she said.

Ganbina also helped Bonnie get her driving licence, provided tutoring in Year 12 and supported her with uniforms and books. "There are nine of us in my family - seven of us did Ganbina. That support meant a lot."

Bonnie has built a fulfilling life for herself outside of work - she and her husband saved up, bought a house in Shepparton, and are proudly raising their young daughter.

"Life feels very good right now. Ganbina helped me get here and now I get to give back."



TYSON MARSDEN

At 32, Tyson Marsden is running his own roofing business - Marzo Roofing - and subcontracting to major companies across Shepparton. He's built a strong reputation in all types of new metal roofing work as well as maintenance work.

Tyson's journey with Ganbina started when he was in Year 7 at Shepparton High School. He says it was a game changer.

"Ganbina helped me all through school - I graduated Year 12, and they also helped me get job ready too with so many practical things like my resume, tax file number, interview preparation, and driving licence - even how to communicate better. They were there for me every step of the way."

After a mature-age apprenticeship and getting some hands-on experience, Tyson made the leap to launch his business. "I just thought to myself, I'm still young, there's nothing stopping me starting my own business." Now, with a busy schedule and three kids also enrolled in Ganbina, he's feeling optimistic.

"I love what I do - every day's different, and I'm out in the fresh air and sunshine. My goal is simple: I just want my kids to be happy. That's success."

