

# Focus

# update



## Dear Ganbina participants and families,

We are almost at the end of another school year. I want to send a huge congratulations to all of our participants who pursued or achieved their goals in education, employment or training this year.

In particular, I want to congratulate our participants who graduated Year 12 and all of the Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards winners.

The Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards celebrated its twentieth awards night on 15 November. This is an annual celebration and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people's achievements in education, employment and training.

Our Youth Leadership participants hosted an outstanding event, with over 250 attendees. The Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards stand as the largest awards night in the Goulburn Valley, dedicated to recognising the exceptional achievements of our local young people.

You can read more about the night, as well as our talented 2024 winners further below in this newsletter.

Outside of the awards night, we are beginning to wrap up the remainder of our program for the 2024 school year.

### Key Dates Ganbina's Head Office

- **Christmas closure** Monday, 23 December 2024
- **Reopen 20 January 2024.** Late January registrations for Jobs4U2 and all of Ganbina's services will be available to eligible participants again. Participants will be able to register digitally for the first time!

On behalf of myself and the entire Ganbina team, we wish you a joyful end to 2024 and a festive season filled with happiness. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025!

Kind Regards,

Jean

Jean Miller-Fowler  
General Manager  
Ganbina



*Top story*



## **Ganbina's Youth Achievement Awards 20th Anniversary Night - Celebrating Shepparton's largest Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education, Employment & Training Awards**

More than 250 people came together to celebrate the Goulburn Valley's largest awards' night specifically recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement in education, employment and training at Riverlinks Eastbank.

Ganbina celebrated its twentieth Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards night with 255 guests, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families, community Elders, philanthropists and business leaders.

The awards' night was a celebration of not only Indigenous excellence in education, training and employment, but also a celebration of the culture of the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang people, the Traditional Custodians of the Goulburn Valley.

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*Ganbina focus*



## Meet Adrian Appo OAM Youth of the Year Award Winner Charlie Payne

Every year one Ganbina Youth Achievement Award recipient is awarded the Adrian Appo OAM Youth of the Year Award for overall highest scoring youth. This is in honour of Ganbina's founding CEO Adrian Appo OAM and acknowledges his legacy and contribution to Ganbina.

This award is announced at the Ganbina Youth Achievement Awards' dinner, so is a surprise to the recipient and the award's night dinner attendees.

This year Charlie Payne took home the Youth of the Year award, as well as an Education Award (Year 11). Ms Payne is a Worimi woman and is in Year 11 at Numurkah Secondary College. She has won multiple academic awards and is vice house captain for sports. She has also undergone placement training through TAFE this year, where she volunteered at Numurkah Hospital's aged care ward and is a participant in Ganbina's Youth Leadership Program. She aspires to become a medic in the Australian Defence Force when she finishes Year 12.

Below is a quick Q&A with Charlie about the awards she has won this year.

**Q. Why did you apply for a Ganbina Youth Achievement Award?**

I applied because I had a lot to share about my achievements this year, and I think it's a good opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to be praised for what we've worked hard to get.

**Q. What does winning this award mean to you?**

It means I get to be recognised for my hard work and it makes me feel proud of all my achievements, and seeing that hard work really pays off.

**Q. In your opinion, what do these awards mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the Goulburn Valley?**

It works as an incentive for kids to stay in school, work hard and know that their culture doesn't stop them from achieving things.

**Q. What does winning the Adrian Appo OAM Youth of the Year award mean to you?**

It was a great surprise! It really shows the hard work I've put in has paid off, and if I work hard it will pay off. I feel really proud of myself.

## **Q&A with Ganbina Youth Achievement Education Award Winner – Lincoln Atkinson**



Lincoln is a Yorta Yorta man and a Year 12 student at Greater Shepparton Secondary College. This year he is a recipient of a Ganbina Youth Achievement Education (Year 12) award.

Lincoln is finishing his schooling on a high note with consistently excellent results across all his subjects. He has achieved particularly outstanding marks in his SACs for Psychology, Media and English, and was also one of the top performers in Chemistry and Math Methods.

Outside of academics, Lincoln is an accomplished guitarist and manages the social media for his band, Rosedrive, with which he has found success performing at various local venues. Lincoln has also worked at McDonald's for the past three years, balancing his job with his studies after school. Lincoln's future aspirations are to work in the filmmaking industry.

Below is a quick Q&A with Lincoln about the award he has won this year.

**Q. Why did you apply for a Ganbina Youth Achievement Award?**

I thought it would be good to be recognised for my academic achievements, especially in my last year of high school and I think it's good to embrace and encourage Indigenous success in the local community.

**Q. What does winning this award mean to you?**

It's very encouraging, it gives me optimism and motivation for the future. It makes me feel proud of what I've done this year and what other students in the area have done as well, I think it's also good to be recognised for doing well in school.

**Q. In your opinion, what do these awards mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the Goulburn Valley?**

It shows them you can achieve and pursue your goals in education. I think it shows that working hard at school is very rewarding. It also shows that there's no limitations or barriers on what you should or should not do. As long as you work hard, you'll get rewarded and it'll be worthwhile. It's achievable and rewarding.

## **Q&A with Ganbina Youth Achievement Training Award Winner – Kady-Anne Paton**



Kady is a Wiradjuri woman who is currently studying a Bachelor of Dental Science at La Trobe University in Bendigo, where she is also a student ambassador and a member of the Bendigo Oral Health and Dentistry Society.

Kady was awarded the You thrive (YOU THRIVE) Scholarship to support her studies over the next three years. Her course coordinator and lecturer noted that she has achieved solid results in both theoretical and practical aspects of the program, successfully passing all her practical assessments in her foundation year. Additionally, Kady is a passionate advocate for her Indigenous community and actively shares her knowledge with her peers in class.

Kady's aspiration is to complete her bachelors and gain employment as a qualified dentist.

Below is a quick Q&A with Kady about the award she has won this year.

**Q. Why did you apply for a Ganbina Youth Achievement Award?**

I applied because I applied for an award last year and won. It was good because I felt like I was being recognised, both culturally and for my academic achievements. There's also a bit of family pride in it for my parents. My dad loves that I've won an award, he loves to brag about it so I also do it for him.

**Q. What does winning this award mean to you?**

Winning an award is mainly about recognition because I feel that people accomplish a lot in their education and training, but no one really gets recognised for it. People feel stagnant and like they're not doing much when they are, so these awards are like a recognition for all that we've accomplished.

**Q. In your opinion, what do these awards mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the Goulburn Valley?**

I think it's good to recognise us because not everyone can identify someone who's Aboriginal just by appearance. So I think it's good to take a step back and recognise that although everyone is from different mob and different regions, we all come together as one nationality. Even those who aren't Aboriginal, not everyone realises what everyone's real back story is.

It's good that others can see that we are achieving stuff in education training and employment, because there is still a negative stereotype even in this generation, so I think it's good to combat that as well."

*On the radar*

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**15-18 Dec** Youth Leadership Program Camp Jungai

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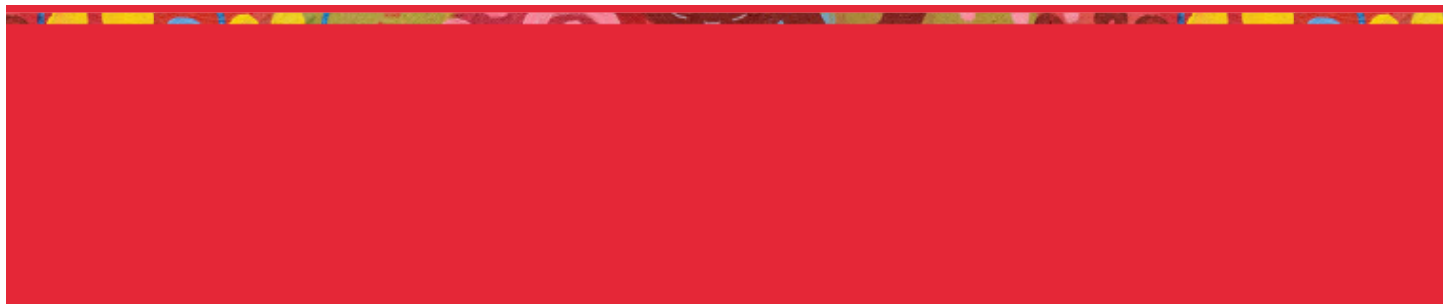
**23 Dec** Ganbina Head Office closes

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**20 Jan** Ganbina Head Office opens for 2025

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*Digital registrations open for 2025*



Artwork: Anganya by Chloe Jones

Ganbina acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, learn and work upon. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their respective communities.



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