

Our participants are proving that leadership isn't about titles, it's about taking action, embracing culture, and inspiring others right where they stand.



ganbina

Together, we're building strong futures, one leader at a time.

Celebrating Excellence and Community

The Ganbina Awards Night is one of the most important events in our calendar. On 14 November, we came together to honour the achievements of our children and young people and the incredible support of families, schools, and partners who make these journeys possible. This night was more than an awards ceremony, it was a celebration of resilience, cultural pride, and the power of opportunity. Watching our youth step forward with confidence and share their stories reminds us why Ganbina exists: **to create pathways for success and empower the next generation.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Your commitment ensures that our young people continue to thrive and lead with strength



Season's Greetings

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our participants, families, partners, and team for making this year one of growth, achievement, and connection. The Ganbina Awards Night reminded us of the incredible potential in our young people and the strength of our community when we work together.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a safe, happy New Year. We look forward to continuing our journey in 2026, creating opportunities, building strong futures, and empowering the next generation.

Anthony Cavanagh, CEO

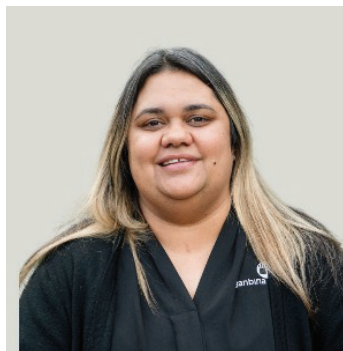
Season's Greetings from the Head Office Team

As 2025 draws to a close, we want to take a moment to thank each of you for your dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the year. Together, we've achieved incredible milestones and continued to make a positive impact in our communities.

This festive season is a time to reflect, recharge, and celebrate with loved ones. We hope your holidays are filled with joy, peace, and laughter.

From all of us at Head Office, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to working with you in 2026 as we continue building a brighter future together.

Stay safe, enjoy the celebrations, and see you in the new year!



Showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievement



2025 Youth Achievement Awards Night

On Friday, 14 November, Ganbina proudly hosted the Youth Achievement Awards Night at Eastbank Shepparton, our biggest event of the year! With over 203 guests in attendance, the evening was a vibrant celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth achievements and leadership.

The night began with a traditional Yorta Yorta welcome by Aunty Merle Miller and a stunning performance from the Kalithaban Dance Group, setting the tone for an inspiring evening. Our Year 11 Youth Leadership participants not only MC'd the event but also graduated from the 2025 Leadership Program, showcasing the strength and confidence of our future leaders.

Paulleen Markwort, Executive General Manager, officially opened the event, setting the tone for an inspiring evening. We were privileged to hear from Shelley Cable, Head of First Nations Strategy at ANZ Bank, and Ganbina CEO Anthony Cavanagh, who both shared powerful messages of encouragement and vision for the future.

Certificates and awards were presented by Ganbina board members Fallon Wanganeen and Kevin Moore, recognising 33 award winners and 8 Youth Leadership graduates.

This night reaffirmed what we stand for: **empowering young people, celebrating culture, and building pathways for future leaders**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success from our partners and staff to the incredible young people who inspire us every day.



Showcasing the strength and
confidence of our future leaders

Adrian Appo OAM Youth of the Year – Winner

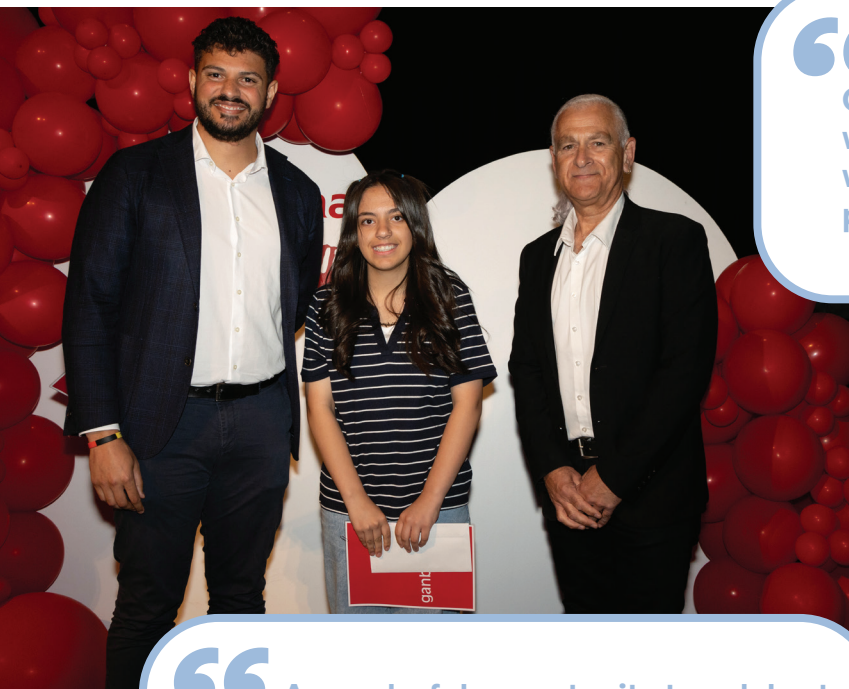
Mya Falla, a Year 12 student at Goulburn Valley Grammar School, has been recognised for her outstanding academic achievement, cultural leadership, and creativity. She has consistently demonstrated strong work habits and achieved excellent results, particularly in Art Creative Practice.

A proud leader within her school community, Mya has organised the annual Yakapna Assembly, spoken at Sorry Day commemorations, and represented her house at major sporting events. Beyond the classroom, she works as a Leisure Officer with Greater Shepparton City Council and as an Art Centre Assistant at Kaiela Arts, where she has sold multiple artworks and facilitated creative workshops. She also represented her school in ICCES sports and actively participates in cultural and community events.

Looking ahead, Mya plans to take a gap year before pursuing a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University, continuing her journey as a role model and leader.



“ Being at the Ganbina Awards Night was a real reminder of why investing in young people matters. ”



“ A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the success of the Ganbina program and the achievements of our young people. ”



“ The young mob rising through Ganbina's programs carry powerful dreams and inspiring purpose, it is so exciting to spend time with the future leaders of First Nations peoples. ”



Celebrating Our First Hansen Little Foundation Scholarship Recipients

On 20 November 2025, Ganbina proudly hosted a special dinner at the Terminus Hotel in Shepparton to honour 15 outstanding young people, the inaugural recipients of the Hansen Little Foundation Scholarships.

This partnership between Ganbina and the Hansen Little Foundation reflects a shared commitment to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth through education and training. The scholarships support participants undertaking qualifications from Certificate III to Advanced Diploma, helping them achieve their career aspirations.

The evening was hosted by Paulleen Markwort, Executive general Manager and Tracy Bevan, Manager Expansion. Guests enjoyed a warm celebration of resilience, dedication, and future success.

We extend our deepest thanks to Paul Little AO, Jane Hansen AO, and Vedran Drakulic OAM for their vision and support. This milestone marks the beginning of an exciting journey, next year, the awards will be part of Ganbina's Annual Awards event.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners!



“ It was amazing to see the achievements of all the youth, their inspirations and future goals. Knowing there is children out there trying to make themselves, community and environment better. Also, that they are given an opportunity that their hard work has not been unrecognised and seen by their peers. I think awards like this make them work harder to achieve their goals and give them confidence when they might feel it getting all too hard and help them continue. Very impressed with all the winners.

”



“ Our community appreciates your contributions in uplifting our young people. ”

“ Thank you for everything, I feel incredibly grateful to have received this award. A big thank you to Ganbina, Paul Little and Jane Hansen. ”

“ I wanted to say thank you for considering me for this scholarship, it has helped me buy equipment for class and thus maintain my grades. ”

“ The night was really well presented; I appreciated the Hansen Little scholarship for receiving this opportunity to benefit my further education. ”

“ I'm grateful for the opportunities this scholarship has given me. ”

“ I am extremely thankful for the opportunities this scholarship has provided, and this award night has been very fulfilling. If I am able to apart of the opportunity next year I will very much love to meet you or your representative. ”

“ I wanted to say thank you for considering me for this scholarship, it has helped me buy equipment for class and thus maintain my grades. ”

“ Thank you for all your support, you are very much appreciated. ”

meet our team member

Abigail Madikhula

Education Program Project Officer

Focusing on education support for young people across the secondary years, Abigail works to ensure smooth transitions from school to meaningful employment. Through tailored guidance and strong partnerships, she helps students build confidence, explore career pathways, and prepare for life beyond the classroom.

Abigail's working week is **Monday - Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm**

Contact her on **0438 217 336** or email abigail@ganbina.com.au



On the radar

December 2025

Monday 15th - 17th	Youth Leadership Program <i>Camp Jungai</i>
Thursday 18th	Term 4 Ends
Tuesday 23rd	Ganbina Head Office (<i>Shapparton</i>) closes

January 2026

Monday 19th	Ganbina Head Office (<i>Shapparton</i>) open
Tuesday 27th	Term 1 starts
Wednesday 28th	Youth Leadership Program <i>Applications open</i>

February 2026

Friday 13th	Youth Leadership Program <i>Applications close</i>
Wednesday 18th	Youth Leadership Program <i>Announcements</i>
Sunday 22nd	Youth Leadership Program <i>Induction and Cultural Day</i>

Ganbina Re-registration for 2026 is **NOW OPEN!**

Are you ready to take the next step toward your future?

Ganbina's programs help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people succeed in education, training, and employment and we'd love for you to be part of it!

If you were registered for Ganbina's Program in 2025, please re-register now!

Register today to secure your spot for 2026.

Register here

Don't wait spaces are limited! Let's make 2026 your year to shine.

For more info, [contact us now!](#)

New Participants for 2026 will be able to Register in the New Year!

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