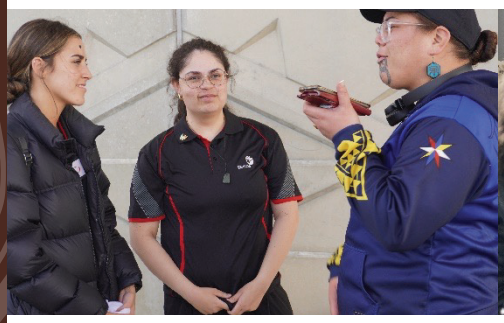
# Focus October Edition

ganbina

**Achievement** This edition of Focus shines a spotlight on the inspiring achievements of Ganbina participants. Through leadership, education, sport and personal development, our young people continue to demonstrate resilience, dedication and excellence.

## In this edition of Focus, we highlight the recent Unique experience trip to New Zealand.







## Ganbina 2026 Youth Achievement Awards

***Reminder,*** we are excited to promote the **2026 Awards Night, on the 13 November.**

This important event will recognise and announce achievement, growth, and the ongoing commitment of young people across our programs.

# Drivers Program

**Drivers Program continues to achieve positive outcomes, with 3 participants successfully reaching key milestones.**

The journey has provided many valuable lessons along the way, strengthening participants' confidence, practical driving skills and understanding of road safety. The Cool Heads session further supported participants to make informed, responsible decisions as they prepare to drive independently.



> **"By helping with the fees involved with getting my Ps. I can't overstate how helpful not only Ganbina but also my instructor has been in getting my Ps, the freedom of being able to drive by myself has helped me, my family and my workplace as I can go places and do things by myself. Thank you Ganbina as a whole."**

# Youth Leadership Program



**Our youth leadership group have had a wonderful time with all the Unique Experiences with the most recent trip to New Zealand.**

### Unique Experience 3 – New Zealand

The 2026 New Zealand Unique Experience successfully delivered a meaningful and impactful leadership and cultural learning opportunity for participants. Participants demonstrated growth in confidence, communication, resilience, and leadership capability by actively engaging in cultural activities, sharing experiences, participating in interviews and discussions, and building relationships with people from different communities. The program not only broadened participants' perspectives but also inspired many to further explore their own cultural identity and history. Overall, the New Zealand Unique Experience successfully achieved the objectives of the Youth Leadership Program, creating lasting memories, meaningful connections, and valuable learning experiences that will continue to influence participants as emerging leaders within their families, schools, and communities.

> **"One thing I have learnt in New Zealand is that community and family is so important."**

This unique experience gave participants the opportunity to connect directly with Māori Elders, cultural educators, community leaders, and young people their own age helped strengthen their understanding of culture, identity, and leadership. Through cultural exchange dinners, shared meals, storytelling, performances, and discussions, participants gained a deeper appreciation of Māori culture while building confidence in their own cultural identity. The experience included visits to significant cultural and historical sites, including the Waitākere Ranges, Piha Black Sand Beach, Manea Footprints of Kupe, Footprints of Waipoua, Tāne Mahuta, and the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.








> **"The most important thing I learned about myself throughout this trip is to be proud of my culture and to learn about my history."**

# Spotlight on success

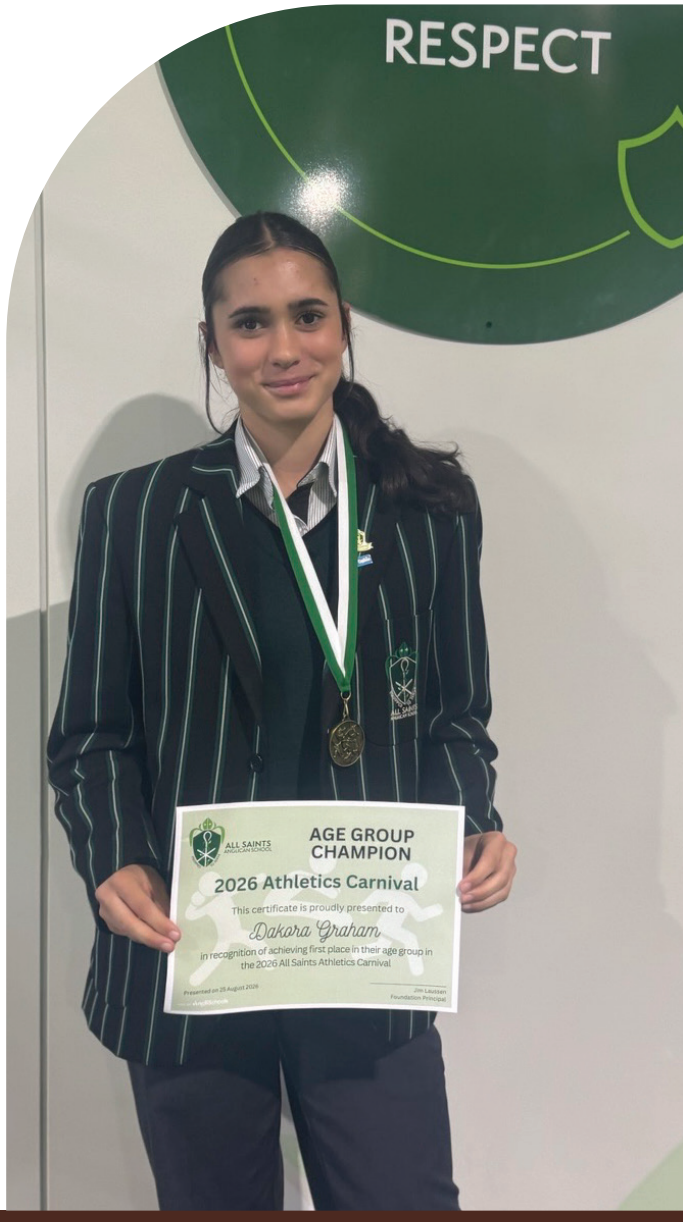
## Dakora and Munarra Graham

**At Ganbina, we are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of scholarship and education program participants, Dakora and Munarra Graham, two remarkable siblings whose dedication, talent and determination continue to inspire both on and off the sporting field.**

**Dakora Graham**, a participant in the **Ganbina Education Program**, has enjoyed an outstanding year across multiple sports. At her school Athletics Carnival, Dakora dominated the competition, claiming **1st place in the 100m, 1500m, High Jump and Shot Put**, while also securing **2nd place in Javelin, Long Jump and Triple Jump**. Her exceptional performances earned her the prestigious title of **Age Group Champion**.

**Munarra Graham**, a recipient of the **Ganbina Scholarship Program**, also impressed with podium finishes, placing **3rd in the 1500m, High Jump and Triple Jump**, demonstrating her own commitment to excellence and athletic achievement.

Many of the photos featured capture the siblings competing at the **Victorian Indigenous Tennis Carnival**, where Dakora's outstanding talent led to her selection to represent **Team Victoria at the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival in Darwin**, including the opportunity to meet tennis legend **Ash Barty**.




**We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of scholarship and education program participants.**

exceptional performances

# Their sporting success extends well beyond athletics and tennis







- Dakora won **Silver** at the Junior Country Championships Hockey competition.
- Dakora was selected for the Junior State Championships Hockey team, winning **Silver** and being appointed **Vice Captain**.
- Munarra was selected for both the Junior Country Championships and Junior State Championships Hockey teams.
- Dakora progressed through the State Championships pathway to earn selection into an elite Academy program and is now ranked among approximately the **Top 50 Under-14 female hockey players in Victoria**.
- Both siblings play tennis for **Kialla Park Old Students Tennis Club** and recently trialled for the inaugural **Goulburn Academy**.
- Both athletes were selected to compete at Shield level for **Essendon Hockey Club**.
- Dakora has also competed across Women's Pennant A, D and E grades and recently made her debut in a **Premier League Reserves** match.
- She also plays senior women's hockey for **Mooroopna Hockey Club**.
- Every team both sisters have represented this season has qualified for finals.

Dakora's sporting journey continues to reach new heights. She has recently been selected to represent Australia at the **International Gryphon Youth Cup in Perth** this November, while balancing elite hockey commitments, academy training and representative competitions across the state.

Behind every achievement is a significant family commitment. The extensive travel required to support elite-level participation often means regular weekend trips to Melbourne, with accommodation and fuel costs presenting ongoing challenges. Despite these barriers, the Graham family remain committed to ensuring Dakora and Munarra can pursue opportunities that many young athletes only dream about.

As valued members of the Ganbina family, Dakora and Munarra exemplify the power of determination, family support and opportunity. Their achievements are a testament to what is possible when talented young Aboriginal students are given the support they need to thrive.

**Ganbina extends its congratulations to Dakora and Munarra and looks forward to celebrating many more milestones as their sporting journeys continue to unfold.**



# On the radar

## October

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday 5th | Term 4 commences<br>**Dates may differ for independent and Catholic schools* |
| Friday 16th | Youth Achievement Awards<br>*Applications Close* |
| Thursday 22nd - 23rd | Youth Achievement Awards<br>*Winners Notified* |
| Tuesday 27th - 28th | Youth Achievement Awards<br>*Photos* |

## November

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|---|---|
| Friday 13th | Youth Achievement Awards<br>*Dinner Presentation* |

## December

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday 18th | Term 4 concludes<br>**Dates may differ for independent and Catholic schools* |
| Wednesday 23rd | Ganbina Head Office<br>*(Shapparton) closes* |

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