



YOUTH LINK NEWS

YOUTH LINK KURANDA: A SNAPSHOT OF IMPACT

Each April provides Youth Link with the opportunity to step back, reflect, and assess our impact within the Kuranda community as our annual reporting period begins.

Currently funded for just three afternoons per week, Youth Link continues to demonstrate the impact of a relationship-driven model. Despite limited resourcing, the space remains consistently engaged, highlighting demand for accessible youth spaces and the strength of grassroots, community-led approaches.

Over an eleven-month period, Youth Link recorded 2,377 youth engagements, averaging 21 young people each afternoon, with numbers often exceeding this on busier days. A key feature of Youth Link's impact is who the space reaches: 98% of participants identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, reflecting a deep connection to community. Engagement is strongest among older young people, with 64% aged 14 and over, and 68% identifying as male - a cohort often underrepresented in traditional support services.

Programming remains diverse and responsive, offering multiple entry points for engagement. We had over 1,200 music engagements, 1000 sport activities and 500 art engagements, alongside cooking and informal education and wellbeing sessions. Youth Link also provided over 4000 meals to young people and their families, with food remaining a central pillar of the service - it wouldn't be Youth Link without a big feed!

Youth Link continues to hold our philosophy of "come as you are". Guided by the young people who walk through the door, the space responds to their needs and energy in real time. This creates conditions for organic conversations around complex topics that many young people may otherwise not feel comfortable speaking about. This approach supports early intervention principles in ways that are safe and accessible. These outcomes demonstrate that impactful, community-responsive work does not require large-scale funding or rigid service models, but consistency, trust, and a commitment to meeting young people where they are.



Creative programming continues through our partnership with Desert Pea Media (supported by Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation) and The Crossroads Project (funded by the QLD Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support). The first songwriting and music video project has been a standout success, with young people writing and recording an original track now in production. A second project followed during the school holidays, with participants completing the songwriting and recording process, and filming set to take place in the coming weeks.

Weekly Creative Development Lab sessions now run on Wednesdays from the Youth Link space, offering consistent opportunities for young people to develop skills across music, media, and the arts while strengthening connection to mentors and creative pathways. All roads lead to a Showcase Event during NAIDOC celebrations at the Amphitheatre on July 11th.

During the recent school holidays, a group of young people visited Kuranda Koala Gardens - a big thank you to the team for hosting us! It was a highlight for the group and a great example of the value of local partnerships. Wishing all young people a strong start as they head back for another school term.



Photos supplied Youth Link



CROSS COUNTRY AT KDSC

Kuranda District State College wrapped up Term 1 in true community spirit with our annual Cross Country event. It was a wonderful day that showcased determination, perseverance, and school pride, with students giving their best effort across all age groups. We proudly applaud the commitment and encouragement shown by our staff and the fantastic support from parents and families throughout the event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a positive and memorable way to finish the term.



NGOONBI NEWS



Ngoonbi Community Services
Indigenous Corporation
Established 1975
as a Housing Co-operative

2/40 Coondoo Street, Kuranda.

Office hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Phone Contact: 40937177

HELPING TO BUILD YOUTH & FAMILY

The April school holiday program was well attended and an enjoyable experience for youth and families. Ngoonbi delivered two weeks of fun, engaging and meaningful activities for young people in the Kuranda community.

Throughout the holiday period, local youth took part in a range of Ngoonbi activities designed to encourage social connection, physical activity, and to reinforce positive and healthy choices. Activities included excursions to popular destinations such as Yorkeys Knob and Kewarra Beach, Lake Eacham, Smithfield Cairns Wake Park, Kuranda Aquatic Centre and the Cairns Esplanade. Ngoonbi teamed up with the Mareeba PCYC to deliver a family fun day at Nyuwarri Park (Centenary Park) which was enjoyed by all.

Two visits to the Cairns Esplanade also allowed local young people to link up with John Moriarty Football and other services to celebrate Youth Week 'Futures of Gimuy (Cairns)', providing opportunities to connect with peers outside their immediate community. These experiences supported young people to develop new friendships, build confidence and strengthen social skills in positive, supported and drug free environments.

Activities across the two weeks included soccer, EDOR Traditional Indigenous Games, a Colour Run, swimming, and a variety of multi-sport activities. Feedback received from participants, parent/carers and families was very positive, highlighting the value of providing safe, inclusive, and enjoyable school holiday programs and experiences for local Kuranda youth.

NGOONBI PROGRAMS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Since the 1980s, Ngoonbi has continued to deliver Aged Care Services and has increased aged care services to service four sites across the districts of Kuranda, Mareeba, Atherton and Mt Garnet. The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) is eligible to clients over 65 years and over 50 years for First Nations clients. CHSP Services include Domestic Assistance, Social Support, Transport, Yard Maintenance, Respite and Personal Care. Clients require an Aged Care Referral Code to access services by calling My Aged Care on 1800 200 422.

For further information, community members are encouraged to contact **Ngoonbi Kuranda CHSP office on 4093 7298.**

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

in conjunction with Beacon Strategies will be held on 2-3 June in the upstairs section of the Kuranda Library. Community members interested in attending can contact the Ngoonbi office to register.

BIBI YUNGAN (TRAIN UP A CHILD) GREAT START TO GREAT LEARNING

program operates **weekly Tuesday Playgroup from 10.00am to 12.00pm** at the Kuranda Neighbourhood Centre or in the park, weather permitting. Bama families with children from 0-5 years are encouraged to attend. The program focuses on early learning and supporting children to get the best possible start in life. For further information, contact **Bibi Yungan staff on 4093 7177.**



Family Fun Day stalls. Photo PCYC Mareeba