



Pictured above, left: Future Leader Award winner Molly West and community Spirit Award winner Tiarnee Lester at the Boorloo gala awards. Pictured above, centre: Networking on the harbour at the Warrane gala.

The house was packed at the Warrane gala awards night.

celebrate blak excellence



Songwoman Baringa Barambah Meeanjinu delivers the Meanjin Welcome to Country.



MCs Ann-Maree Long and Matty Mills at the Meanjin awards nights.



CareerTrackers CEO Taryn Marks.



Ngairi Pakai speaking.

Meanjin gala

The Meanjin gala was held in the Brisbane City Hall ballroom. CareerTrackers director and Gomeri woman Carrie Sailor said that in her time at the CareerTrackers program "I have seen and heard the incredible stories and true impact that the students of this program make. I have seen the full ecosystem it takes to support our students, make the journey from high school and university through to becoming CareerTrackers alumni, joining a proud cohort now in its thousands within the program that is now 14 years old".

She then addressed the crowd, and said "when I look around the room at your faces I am beyond proud... this is the generation that will lead my children to a better future."

"I am thankful that my job is to support this community to do great things. And I feel empowered because the strength of our ancestors and this very community in this room keeps me focused and keeps that fire in my belly alight."

Student keynote speaker Indi McKeown.



Warrane

In the picturesque location of Doltone House on Sydney Harbour, more than 600 people enjoyed seafood and drinks before attending the awards ceremony. The awards were co-hosted by NITV's Matty Mills and Badjala woman CareerTrackers' Ann-Maree Long. Ann-Maree's mother Badjala woman Auntie Barb Pershouse also attended and had woven earrings and baskets for the winners. The night finished with a video by Yuin man Jordan Mlotkowski profiling the CareerTrackers interns at SBS, including another talented weaver and a gala keynote speaker, proud Wiradjuri and Maori woman Ngairi Pakai.



Ann-Maree Long and her mum, Auntie Barb Pershouse.

Boorloo

The inspiration of strong mums were a feature in many of the winner's acceptance speeches in Perth. Yamitji man Cobain Lawrance was keynote speaker and thanked his mum in the audience.

Noongar Elder Dr Roma Yibiyung Winmar, a passionate advocate for education, delivered the Welcome to Country and spoke about the importance of education in her life and her role as Elder in Residence at Edith Cowan University.



CEO's award winner Lori Wilkinson.



Student keynote speaker Cobain Lawrance and Dr Roma Yibiyung Winmar.



MCs Sharlene Baloch and IJ McKenna of the Sovereign Podcast.



Gold Diary award winners at the Careertrackers gala awards in Naarm.



Meanjin awards MCs Ann-Maree Long and Matty Mills.

CareerTrackers awards

THE annual gala awards of CareerTrackers took place across six locations this year.

Held in Naarm (Melbourne), Meanjin (Brisbane), Warrane (Sydney), Tardanya (Adelaide) and Boorloo (Perth), the awards celebrated the hard work, educational and workplace achievements of First Nations university students.

CareerTrackers is an internship program that supports First Nations university students and links them with employers in paid internships.

This year's theme, The Future is First Nations, rang true with over 42 awards given to students. Keynote addresses at the gala from students and alumni inspired audiences with stories of resilience and achievement.

CareerTrackers chief executive and Wotjobaluk woman Taryn Marks travelled around the country to hear the stories and feedback from those in the CareerTrackers community.

Ms Marks said "from Meanjin to

Boorloo we express our thanks and gratitude to the Elders for welcoming the CareerTrackers community to their Country and joining in the celebration".

As well as students, interns and their family members, alumni of the program attended, many of whom have gone on to have leadership roles in some of Australia's top corporate companies.

CareerTrackers corporate partners were also honoured with BUPA winning the Partnering for Excellence Award.

Naarm Gala Awards MC Cameron James said "CareerTrackers gave me the opportunity to learn from those within corporate Australia and prepared me for the challenges of running my business Blufire, as well as getting up in front of a large group of people".

Mr James said the gala with Mob "is always special and it gives me goosebumps when I think about it".

This year, a new award for the High School Program, the Future Leaders Awards, was won by up-and-coming CareerTrackers talent Molly West and Alex Lara.



Naarm gala crowd shot.

Naarm gala awards night

Held at the Melbourne Convention Centre with more than 300 attendees, the crowd in Naarm enjoyed a night of networking, posing for glamorous pictures and eating delicious food.

To set the gala off with a bang, an MC team of Dani Gower and Cameron James gave a polished and entertaining double act.

Then an Intern of the Year speech was delivered by an emotional employer and a whole stage full of Gold Diary winners (given to all students with a distinction average throughout the year).

Pictured below: MCs Cameron James and Dani Gower.



Award winner Tallula Harradine-Hodge and CareerTrackers CEO Taryn Marks.

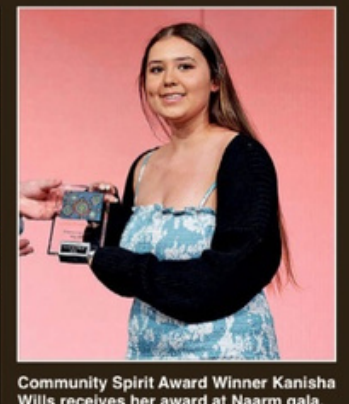


Nathan May entertains the crowd at the Tardanya gala awards night before setting off on his European tour 'Yawuru and Marridjabin clans'.

Tardanya

In Adelaide, CareerTrackers alumni Malachi Murljajic took on the MCing task. Using inspiration from his own time as a

CareerTrackers intern and his own life and family, he entertained the crowd at Tardanya's National Wine Centre. The crowd were lucky to catch Nathan May playing guitar before heading off on his European tour. Pictured left: Proud Kunja Man and CareerTrackers alumni Malachi Murljajic gives an address at the Tardanya awards.



Community Spirit Award Winner Kanisha Wills receives her award at Naarm gala.