

Ningana Trust Annual Report 2023-2024

Chair's Welcome

I am pleased and proud to share the Ningana Trust Annual Report for FY24. We have had a successful year of supporting and funding organisations. By distributing \$100,000, we have approved eleven grants of which nine were new to the Trust. It is very satisfying to know we can reach out to many small organisations and make a difference.

During our meeting in April the Trustees and Advisors enjoyed a Teams meeting with Fred Pascoe, Chair of Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT), to learn of the thriving bakery business in the Normanton Foodworks. GREAT is a large social enterprise with a focus on economic development and serves the First Nations people of the Lower Gulf area. You can read more about GREAT in this year's Annual Report Spotlight.



Ningana Trust enjoys site visits to follow how the funds are administered and appreciated. This year we had the opportunity to visit organisations such as Stationary Aid at Albany Creek. I was astounded by what can be achieved in such a small space by a group of committed volunteers. We also visited YET, Youth Enterprise Trust, at Tamborine on a rural property. It is an organisation supporting disadvantaged students to engage in their education in a natural environment.

In FY24, we continued to support two organisations: Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF) and Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland (ICPA Qld). The Tiwi Island music program delivered by ACMF is thriving and continues to be successful. We had the pleasure of meeting ICPA delegates in Brisbane and attending the 2024 ICPA Conference in Townsville. After I was able to listen to the President's report, Katie Norman attended the full conference over two days. The Ningana Trust supports ICPA's State Council to attend delegations in Brisbane to meet with a variety of stakeholders to advocate for equity in education for rural children.

I sincerely thank Katie Norman, Senior Program Manager, and Faris Cosic, Company Secretary, for their dedication and assistance in delivering the essential programs that enabled Ningana Trust to support many impressive organisations this year.

Gina Fairfax AC
Chair

HIGHLIGHTS



\$100,000
distributed
in FY24



10 Qld
organisations
supported



1 NT
organisation
supported



11
approvals



9
new
organisations



\$9,000
average grant
size



2
arts
initiatives



4
education
initiatives



5
community
initiatives

SPOTLIGHT:

[Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust](#)



The Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT) exists to foster the economic empowerment of First Nations communities in the Lower Gulf region, distributing funds received from mining royalties to support charitable activities and economic development. GREAT is part owner of the [Normanton Foodworks](#), alongside local Indigenous Corporation [Bynoe Community Advancement Cooperation Society](#) (BCACS) and intends to support the local community to accept full ownership over the next ten years.

The Foodworks opened in November 2022 and services a population of around 1,300 people. In an area where local people were once paying \$17 a kilogram for tomatoes, the supermarket is celebrated for significantly reducing the price of fresh produce. Not only focused on meeting the basic needs of the community, the Foodworks also aims to break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage via employment and economic empowerment.

After exceeding sales targets in the first year, work is underway to add a bakery and café to the Foodworks site, providing fresh bread, coffee, and takeaway food for Lower Gulf residents and the surrounding communities. It will also benefit the many travellers who pass through the town annually. Given food security is a key concern, especially during the wet season, having the capacity to make bread will improve the community's access to quality food all year round. Ningana Trust funding contributed toward building and operating the bakery and café and a hire-to-purchase agreement for a coffee machine and electric rapid cook oven. The bakery and café provide employment for 10 local workers, nine of whom are First Nations.

GRANTS AWARDED: 2023-2024

GULF REGIONAL ECONOMIC ABORIGINAL TRUST

Normanton Foodworks Bakery and Café - \$15,000

The Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT) exists to foster the economic empowerment of First Nations communities in the Lower Gulf region. GREAT is part owner (with the Bynoe community Advancement Cooperation Society) of the Normanton Foodworks and intends to support the local community to accept full ownership of this asset over the next ten years. This partnership will both meet the basic needs of the community and break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage via employment. Work is underway to add a bakery and café to the Foodworks site.



NGUKUTHATI CHILDREN AND FAMILY CENTRE



Ngukuthati Bush Tucker Garden - \$12,000

Ngukuthati is helping build happy, healthy families in Mount Isa through early childhood education and family support services. The Ngukuthati Bush Tucker Garden initiative will introduce children to Indigenous knowledge, native plants, and healthy eating habits. This will occur via hands on learning experiences that nurture the health and wellbeing of children and the natural landscape through the creation of an immersive cultural and educational environment for families.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND

State Council Delegations and Educational Advocacy for Rural and Remote Queensland - \$10,000 (\$30,000 over 3 years)

With 45 branches in Queensland, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) Qld strives for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Queensland. ICPA Qld's policies are formed through motions brought to the state conference each year by branches from across the state ensuring extensive representation. Ningana Trust funding enables State Council Members to participate in delegations with state government and peak body representatives, and advocate for rural and remote students' educational needs.



GRANTS AWARDED: 2023-2024

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Central Highlands Festival of Bands - \$10,000



The Central Highlands Music Festival delivers ongoing performance and workshop experiences, along with its annual Festival of the Bands gala event in Emerald. The Festival's primary focus is providing education-based band experiences to develop and maintain the musical capacity of wind band, stage band, and choral singers in the Emerald region. Ningana Trust funding supported the purchase of photography equipment to be used for record keeping purposes now and in the future.

FARESHARE

Food Relief for Wujal Wujal - \$10,000

Each year FareShare transforms rescued, donated, and farm-grown food into millions of healthy meals that are then distributed to disadvantaged Australians. In response to the devastating impacts of Cyclone Jasper on the Wujal Wujal community in Far North Queensland, FareShare is coordinating food relief efforts. This project will provide approximately 24,000 meals, in addition to developing stronger partnerships for future recovery responses.



MICAH PROJECTS

Young Mothers for Young Women - \$10,000



Micah Projects provides a range of tailored, integrated support, and advocacy services in the hope of creating a safe, equitable and inclusive community. Its Young Mothers for Young Women program supports young pregnant women and new mothers to improve their health and wellbeing and that of their children. Micah is expanding its service offering to support mothers in Redcliffe. Ningana Trust funding will provide resources for playgroups and other child-focused activities to support engagement and ensure the new premise is child-friendly.

STATIONERY AID

Establishment of a Volunteer Management Program - \$10,000

Stationery Aid collects and distributes sustainable school resources for children and families experiencing financial distress. It has a working relationship with many school chaplains who are often aware of families in need. Throughout the year, Stationery Aid collects, sorts, cleans, renews, and repurposes surplus and used school education resources across South East Queensland and Mackay using a partnership model with schools and community groups.



GRANTS AWARDED: 2023-2024

OHANA COLLEGE



Cultural Connections Mural Project - \$8,000

Ohana College is a special assistance school catering for a diverse range of learning, emotional, psychological, and physical needs. The school offers co-educational secondary schooling in a safe, inclusive, and future-focused environment. It uses a variety of strategies, including project-based learning, adventure-based learning and a focus on arts and life skills to promote continuous engagement and learning. The mural project for Ohana's new campus involves three local First Nations communities, supporting students to design and create art as both a learning experience for students and a recognition of the local Traditional Owners of Meadowbrook.

MOTHERLAND AUSTRALIA

Motherland Goondiwindi Event - \$5,000

Motherland Australia supports rural mothers from across Australia to connect via shared stories in its podcast and an accessible online mother's group. Motherland Australia's Mother's Day Fundraiser, held in Goondiwindi in May, celebrates and connects rural mothers from across the region. The event reduces social isolation for local women and raises vital funds for Motherland. Ningana Trust's funding supported Motherland to engage country singer and songwriter Rachael Witchurch as a guest speaker and 2024 program highlight.



AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS



Common Threads Summit 2024 - \$5,000

In May, Australian Progress delivered its second Common Threads Summit for First Nations changemakers. 200 Indigenous community organisers and changemakers from across Australia gathered in Cairns to connect, yarn, share, learn and plan for transformative change. Ningana Trust supported Queensland First Nations leaders to attend with summit scholarships.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S MUSIC FOUNDATION

Tiwi Island Music Program - \$5,000

The Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF) provides weekly music education classes and instruments to disadvantaged children and youth at risk throughout Australia. Programs such as these are proven to improve educational and behavioural outcomes for children and their school community. In November 2021, Ningana Trust approved a grant of \$30,000 for the purchase of instruments and a music program at Pularumpi School in the Tiwi Islands. The ACMF will continue to deliver this program in 2024/25.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2023-2024

Ningana Trust enjoys opportunities to learn from and listen to the communities we support. Four community engagement activities occurred in FY24, through which Trustees, Advisors, and Staff were able to directly connect with the work funded in either FY23 or FY24.



Youth Enterprise Trust: October 2023

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisors Sarah O'Brien, Lucy Coulson, and Fiona Poschelk, and staff met with YET CEO, staff and students onsite at the YET farm in Tamborine.

ICPA Qld conference: June 2024

Ningana Trustees Gina Fairfax AC and Tim Fairfax AC, Advisor Sarah O'Brien, and staff attended part of the 2024 conference in Townsville to hear directly from rural Queensland families.



Stationery Aid: June 2024

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisor Lucy Coulson and staff visited Stationery Aid's warehouse in Brisbane and had an opportunity to meet the dedicated team of volunteers.

NINGANA TRUST BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF



Prue Pateras, Sarah O'Brien, Gina Fairfax AC, Tim Fairfax AC, Lucy Coulson, and Fiona Poschelk

Trustees:

Gina Fairfax AC (Chair)
Tim Fairfax AC

Advisors:

Sarah O'Brien
Lucy Coulson
Fiona Poschelk
Prue Pateras

Secretary:

Faris Cosic

Senior Program Manager:

Katie Norman

 **\$2.176M**
distributed since inception

 **\$2,456,780**
total corpus

 **73**
orgs supported since 2002

Click on the map to see where Ningana Trust funded in 2023-24

