

KORIN GAMADJI INSTITUTE

DREAM BIG

REPORT
2022





Acknowledgement

The Korin Gamadji Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work and play. We show respect through considered and purposeful actions. We are grateful for the generosity of our communities in entrusting us to nurture and empower their young ones.

Korin Gamadji means 'grow and emerge' in Woiwurrung language. This name was gifted to us by Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy-Wandin, who plays an important role in the work of the KGI.



Message from the KGI Director

I am proud to present the first Korin Gamadji Institute (KGI) 'Dream Big' report.

Youth voice has always been central to the work of the KGI. Since it was established in 2012, the vision for the KGI has always been to provide a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to chase big dreams.

With the support of the Richmond Football Club and our sponsors, our vision has not wavered, and we are proud to say we have welcomed over 3000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people through our suite of programs and events.

Through this experience, we are privileged to know and understand what is important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. This knowledge guides our programming and ensures our work remains culturally responsive and relevant. This is what we want for all organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

Over the past two years, we have worked with Aboriginal researchers to develop an evaluation framework that captures and interprets the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, identifying both short and long-term priorities in the areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth leadership, culture, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Through sharing this data, the KGI will invite other stakeholders to 'Dream Big' and create culturally responsive and relevant programming that meets the needs of our young people.

I look forward to working together in the future.

Aaron Clark



Introduction

Since 2011, the KGI has provided a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to chase big dreams to grow and emerge.

Through the provision of responsive and immersive education programs that promote cultural strength, leadership and social and emotional wellbeing, the KGI is actively shaping the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

The success of the KGI lays in its commitment to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to speak, and to be heard. This is made possible by working directly with youth, and by harnessing the power of sport to create safe spaces for young people to work, study and live.

In 2021, the KGI recognised the need to speak about their work in a culturally appropriate way. Drawing on the expertise of an Indigenous researcher, the KGI created a Theory of Change framework that harnessed Indigenous youth voice as an agent of change.

This report is the summation of this work. It contains the thoughts, opinions and dreams of over 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who interacted with the KGI team in 2022.

The data comes from seven programs, encompassing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 13-25:

- REAL schools' programs
- REAL years 7-8
- REAL years 9-10
- REAL years 11-12
- KGI advanced leadership program
- Elite sports program
- REAL Healthy

The aim of this report is to give voice to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by articulating their priorities, both short- and long-term.





2022 Programs

01.

REAL (13-17years)

Richmond emerging
Aboriginal leadership programs

28 school-based programs
5 regional programs (years 7&8)
Tiddas cultural camp (years 9&10)
Young Fellas cultural camp (Years 9&10)
Intensive leadership retreat (Years 11&12)

03.

Advanced leadership (18-25yrs)

Intensive leadership coaching

20 young adult leaders
12-month program of learning
Mental health first aid training
Wellbeing retreat (Tasmania)

02.

Elite sports (15-18yrs)

High performance sport leadership

5 intensive training clinics
AFL match day experience
Strength and conditioning training
High performance SEWB training

04.

REAL Healthy (13-25yrs)

Richmond emerging
Aboriginal leadership health initiative

AFL program ambassadors
Social media digital health campaign
Health and wellbeing expo (100 students)
100 gym memberships
12-week health challenge
Mental health first aid training
Sponsorship for elite athletes/teams





REAL program (years 7&8)
Albury/Wodonga



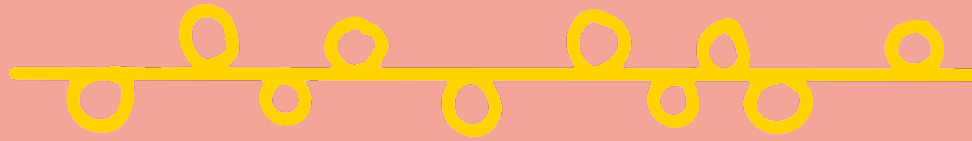
REAL program (years 7&8)
Melbourne



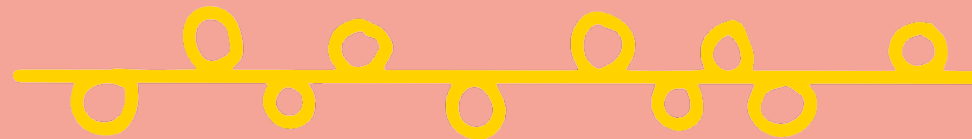
Tiddas (years 9&10)
Cultural camp - Melbourne



Young fellas (years 9&10)
Cultural camp - Albury



“To have Aboriginal role models in the space, yarning about leadership, culture, and social and emotional wellbeing, in the context of learning new things, getting outside of comfort zones and having fun, was invaluable.”



Teacher feedback, REAL Schools program

Bri Apma Hayes

Arrernte (she/her)

Advanced leadership program

Bri Pengarte Apma Hayes (she/her) is a proud Arrernte woman currently living and creating on Waddawurrung Country. Bri has completed a number of REAL Programs and is currently engaged in the Advanced Leadership Program.

She works in her community as a Koorie Education Support Worker, helping primary students connect with community, culture and identity. She is also an executive member of the Koorie Youth Council, and is passionate about representing the voices of young people. Bri is also passionate about education and art, and uses her artwork to tell the stories and knowledge passed down to her from her family.

Bri started painting at 15 years, after watching and learning from her father. In 2022 Bri designed the Melbourne Vixens' 2022 First Nations dress; a proud moment in her career. Bri expressed that having a dedicated round for celebrating First Nations culture is important because it promotes the creation of safe spaces for all people to share their culture and identity in sport.

"I think sport is such a great way to start these conversations to be able to have a First Nations Round really shows any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander teammates you might have that you have their back and you're willing and open to learn about their culture."

Bri shares her art through her social media channels @ntulye.art.



Tom Hughes

Torres Strait Islander (he/him)

REAL program – Youth Parliament

The Korin Gamadji Institute has a long association with the Victorian Youth Parliament, coaching the only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth parliament team.

In 2022 youth parliament returned to chambers. The KGI was represented in by Tom Hughes (he/him) and Aaron Coelho-Irani (he/him). Under the expert mentorship of KGI staff member and Victorian Youth Congress member Jessica Bennett (she/her) the team drafted, and successfully passed, a Free Public Transport for Concession Card Holders Bill.

The Bill outlined an Act for the provision of free public transport for all concession cardholders in Victoria. Created to relieve the stress of concession cardholders, the Bill ensures that all Victorian concession cardholders are non-discriminately empowered to commute when needed.

“I participated mainly because I have a love for politics and policymaking, and I also wanted to make a positive change for my community through policymaking.”



Nacinta Tuuholoaki

Barkindji, Ngiyampaa, Tongan (she/her)

REAL Healthy athlete sponsorship

I started jiu-jitsu when I was 10 years old. My dad is a black belt, and my mum is a brown belt, both having very successful international and national jiu-jitsu careers.

I first began to dream of creating my own path in jiu-jitsu and going international when I was 13. I began to take my training more seriously and raised my aspirations to become the best I could be, and to inspire others through my story and journey.

I know the challenges and experiences that face young women from multicultural, Aboriginal and Pasifika backgrounds. I wanted to help other girls go after their dreams and be their best selves, as they want it to be, not their circumstances or other peoples' opinions. I also wanted to share a healthy lifestyle because I know the health challenges facing my community.

In May of this year, I travelled to Los Angeles to compete in the 2022 IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu World Championships. This was my first international competition. I was joined by my teammate Bodey, and my coaches (including my dad). It was an amazing experience, and I am now a two-time bronze world medallist in jiu-jitsu.

Next year, my goal is to compete in three international competitions, complete Year 11, and continue to work towards becoming a black belt world champion.

I want to thank my parents for showing me what it means to have the courage to dream big and work hard. I want to thank my family, grandparents, coaches (Luke and Dad), my teammates and community. I would also like to thank the Korin Gamadji Institute and the Dream Big sports scholarship for believing in me and supporting me to get to the US.



Alex Bennett

Ngunnawal (he/him)

Advanced leadership program

A highlight of the KGI Advanced Leadership program is a four-day wellbeing retreat in Lutruwita (Tasmania). The Wukalina Walk experience incorporates the three pillars of the KGI: culture, leadership, and social and emotional wellbeing. Here is a reflection from Alex Bennett, one of our 2022 leaders.

Prior to going to Tasmania, I had undertaken research into what a leader is and what leadership looks like. This research left us with a standard black and white understanding that a leader is at the forefront, always the one doing the talking.

Going on the Wukalina Walk challenged these concepts in that I discovered that leaders come in many forms and that we have a responsibility to contribute to the culture and knowledge of our time. Being able to contribute in these ways means we must find what is unique about ourselves and cultivate it.

Upon reflection the Wukalina Walk allowed me to enhance my understanding of my culture and the importance of preserving thousands of years of knowledge.

It has also highlighted the responsibility of us young mob in that we must utilise our opportunities and lead in any way that we can. Overall, the journey challenged me to think broader about my culture but also who I am and the how I can effect change in my life.



THE KGI TEAM



Aaron Clark (he/him)
Tjap Whurrung – Gunditjmara
DIRECTOR



Luke Murrery (he/him)
Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



Justin Trounson (he/him)
Dharug
PSYCHOLOGIST



Brady Cooper (he/him)
Yorta Yorta
PROGRAM LEAD



Samantha Bice (she/her)
Wonnarua
PROGRAM LEAD



Jessica Bennett (she/her)
Ngunnawal
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Joel Garner (he/him)
Mara
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Appendix 1 – REAL program data

REAL Years 7 & 8 programs

Location	Participants
Mildura	11
Echuca	12
Albury/Wodonga	5
Melbourne	40

Figure 1 – KGI program locations



REAL school programs 2022

School	Location	Participants
St Augustine's College	Kyabram	36
Kyabram College	Kyabram	40
Greater Shepparton Secondary	Shepparton	277
Notre Dame College	Shepparton	64
Goulburn Valley Grammar School	Shepparton	9
St Joseph's College	Echuca	25
Bacchus Marsh College	Bacchus Marsh	0
Elisabeth Murdoch College	Langwarrin	29
Newcomb Secondary College	Geelong	26
Iona College	Geelong	6
St Ignatius College	Drysdale	6
The Pavilion School	Preston	24
St Patrick's College	Ballarat	13
Clonard College	Geelong	9
Catholic College Wodonga	Wodonga	14
Melbourne Girls Grammar School	Melbourne	40
Sacred Heart College	Geelong	2
Swan Hill Clontarf Program	Swan Hill	5
Mildura Clontarf Program	Mildura	5
Bairnsdale Clontarf Program	Bairnsdale	5
Brighton Grammar School	Brighton	6
Firbank Grammar School	Sandringham	3
Star of the Sea College	Brighton	3
Irymple Secondary College	Irymple	8
Chaffey Secondary College	Mildura	11
Red Cliffs Secondary College	Red Cliffs	15
Albury High School	Albury	21



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