

Ningana Trust Annual Report 2024-2025

Chair's Welcome

With a common thread as Chair over the years, I find an annual report is an opportunity to reflect on what we do, why we do it, and the support we can give to organisations. We are a Charitable Trust, and our annual distribution was \$100,000 in FY2025.

This year the Trust funded ten organisations with an average grant size of \$10,000. All funding was distributed in Queensland, with seven organisations focused on regional or remote areas.



We had ten site visits in FY2025, which is always a highlight to meet and see the organisations firsthand and witness how they are allocating the funds.

Two Ningana Trust leaders, ICPA Qld President, Wendy Henning and Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council CEO, Kevin Bell, both participated in the TFFF Executive Leadership Program in March 2025. I do congratulate them both on extending their growth and attending the program.

In June we visited Hymba Yumba, an independent school founded in 2011 at Springfield. The school was built upon the traditions of Indigenous culture, spirituality, and identity. We were proudly shown around the school and joined in a music lesson using the instruments that Ningana Trust had funded. A few weeks later a few of the students were involved in an Out of the Box Festival performance of *Gurriel Storm Bird* at QPAC. Hymba Yumba strives to ensure jarjum (child/ren) are equipped with the tools they need to find their identity and place in the wider community so they can walk tall in both worlds.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustee and husband Tim Fairfax, and our four daughters as Advisors, Sarah O'Brien, Lucy Coulson, Fiona Poschelk, and Prue Pateras for their interest and involvement.

Katie Norman, the Senior Program Manager, is exceptional with helping to source the worthy organisations that we can support, and I thank her most sincerely for her hard work and dedication with helping to realise our goal. Jenny Wheatley is Secretary, and she is a constant support with health checks and guidance.

Gina Fairfax AC
Chair

HIGHLIGHTS



\$100,000
distributed
in FY25



3 metro
organisations
supported



7 regional
organisations
supported



10
approvals



8
new
organisations



\$10,000
average grant
size



2
arts
initiatives



4
education
initiatives



4
community
initiatives

SPOTLIGHT:

Hymba Yumba Community Hub Foundation



Hymba Yumba Community Hub Foundation exists to support Hymba Yumba Independent School in Springfield, Queensland. In the Bidjara language group, Hymba means the development of skills in listening, reflecting, evaluating and planning, and Yumba is building and support for learning, a name gifted by founder Uncle Albert Holt. Hymba Yumba is committed to bi-cultural education and giving their jarjum (child/ren) every opportunity to succeed.

Hymba Yumba recently undertook significant infrastructure upgrades to its campus, including an arts building with a climate-controlled space dedicated to the safe storage of cultural instruments. With support from Ningana Trust, Hymba Yumba undertook a project engaging South-East Queensland and Torres Strait Islander Elders and cultural experts in the harvesting and preparation of natural materials to create cultural instruments, in a community effort to preserve and revitalise traditions.

“Ensuring traditional music is carried through generations is vital for preserving First Nations culture and maintaining strong community connections. Music...embodies stories, values, and spiritual beliefs passed down over 3,000 generations...when jarjum are taught these musical traditions, they are...participating in the continuity of their cultural practices.” – Hymba Yumba

Jarjum are being taught the cultural significance, crafting processes, and traditional playing methods for instruments including Kulaps, Warups, a Stand-up and Sit-down Lumut, and Clapsticks. The development of these instruments with the wider community has enabled the school to provide a hands-on learning experience that strengthens cultural identity, community connection, and musical and dance skills. Ningana Trust staff recently visited Hymba Yumba, touring the new arts building and observing jarjum engaged in music lessons with the new instruments. Staff also interacted with students from Hymba Yumba at Out of the Box Festival, where they worked in collaboration with the Festival and author Trevor ‘Bumi’ Fourmile to create and perform in an adaptation of his book *Gurriel Storm Bird*.

GRANTS AWARDED: 2024-2025

PARENT TV

Regional Community Screenings of *Seen* - \$15,000

Parent TV is a platform for on demand video resources that support parents, childcare centre professionals, and organisations that contribute to the education, care and wellbeing of children. Parent TV has developed a feature-length documentary *Seen* that explores science behind the impact of parental healing on child brain development. Ningana Trust funding will support up to three regional screenings of *Seen*.



BRIDGES HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE



First Nations Engagement Framework - \$10,000

Based in Bundaberg, Bridges delivers evidence- and community-based mental health and drug and alcohol services to improve health, social, and economic outcomes. Bridges is investing in preventative initiatives, which will be conducted in the former Bundaberg Fire Station that Bridges is renovating into a hub for creative wellbeing – Precinct 58. Ningana Trust funding will assist Bridges to develop a First Nations Engagement Framework to guide inclusivity in decision making and self-determined programming at Precinct 58 and their leased site at the Wintergarden Forum.

HYMBA YUMBA COMMUNITY HUB FOUNDATION

Cultural Musical Instruments - \$10,000

Hymba Yumba, meaning “*listening and learning place*” in Bidjara language, is an Independent School located in Springfield, Qld. Ningana Trust funding enabled the harvesting and preparation of natural materials to create cultural instruments, and then teaching jarjum (child/ren) how to play and respect these instruments.



KOWANYAMA ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL



Youth Strategy Development - \$10,000

Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire lies on the western coast of Cape York, and with a population over 1,000 is one of the largest communities on the peninsula. Kowanyama means “*place of many waters*” in Yir Yoront language. Almost 90% of residents are Aboriginal, and almost half of the population are under 24 years of age. Ningana Trust funding will support the Council to develop a Youth Strategy and create a Youth Leaders Council to shape its priorities over the coming years.

GRANTS AWARDED: 2024-2025

LACHLANN CARTER

FNQ Creative Learning Initiative - Feasibility Study - \$10,000

Lachlann Carter is an author, educator, and Co-Founder and former CEO of 100 Story Building, a Melbourne charity dedicated to supporting children to develop creativity and literacy skills. Lachlann now lives in Cairns and is working with children, schools, and communities on creative learning projects. Ningana Trust funding will enable Lachlann to investigate the feasibility of and early-stage ideas for a creative learning initiative in Cairns.



OUT OF THE BOX FESTIVAL



Care for a Class - \$10,000

QPAC's Out of the Box Festival, designed for children 8 years and under and welcomes schools and families alike. The Festival is an investment in early childhood arts education, providing children with cultural and artistic experiences, with the intention to spark creativity, curiosity, and a lifelong connection to the arts. Ningana Trust funds will support 'Care for a Class', providing transport and ticket subsidies and in-school engagement to ensure that children from diverse backgrounds are able to attend.

UNDERCOVER ARTIST FESTIVAL

Participation of First Nations Artists with Disability - \$10,000

Undercover Artist Festival is an initiative of Access Arts, presenting a showcase of outstanding performances from d/Deaf and disabled artists as one of Australia's premier biennial disability-led arts festivals. Accessible to all artists and audiences, the Festival features theatre, dance, music and cabaret performances, works-in-progress, installation art, stand-up comedy, workshops, and forums. Ningana Trust funding will support the participation of First Nations persons with a disability, such as the Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG), in the Festival.



GRANTS AWARDED: 2024-2025

SHE GIVES

Queensland Campaign - \$10,000

She Gives is a storytelling campaign delivered by Noble Ambition that seeks to highlight women's giving at any scale to accelerate positive social change. She Gives aims to catalyse more women to start giving, those already giving to give more, and to ensure more resources are available for social and environmental causes. Ningana Trust funding will provide She Gives an opportunity to focus on Queensland's leadership in women's giving and to celebrate the many extraordinary examples of how philanthropic contributions have led to improving the lives of Queenslanders.



SENTIS EDUCATION

Mount Isa Future Leaders Program - \$5,000



Mount Isa Education Precinct has introduced a Future Leaders Program to improve teacher retention and education outcomes. With limited access to quality professional development programs, the Precinct has sought out opportunities for local schools that will address both retention and recruitment challenges. Delivery partner Sentis Education will provide a professional development package focused on leadership and coaching skills. Ningana Trust funds will be directed towards ongoing coaching over a three-month period for 12-20 identified future leaders.

ONGOING: 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 Qld (ICPAQ) strives for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Queensland. ICPAQ'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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2024-2025

Ningana Trust enjoys opportunities to learn from and listen to the communities we support. Ten community engagement activities occurred in FY2025, through which Trustees, Advisors, and Staff were able to directly connect with the work funded in FY2024 and FY2025.



Ohana College: July 2024

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisor Sarah O'Brien, and staff Neal Harvey, Katie Norman, and Sahala Stone met with Ohana CEO, Principal, artist Stevie O'Chin, staff and students at the College.

FareShare: September 2024

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisor Lucy Coulson, Former Secretary Faris Cosic, and staff Neal Harvey, Katie Norman, and Sahala Stone met with FareShare staff for a tour of the FareShare kitchens.



Youth Enterprise Trust: January 2025

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC and staff member Katie Norman attended the launch of Youth Enterprise Trust's Flexi-School Program and its partnership with Emu Gully.

Parent TV: February 2025

Ningana Advisor Sarah O'Brien and staff Katie Norman attended the premiere screening of *Seen* in Brisbane.

Ngukuthati Children and Family Centre: May 2025

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Trustee Tim Fairfax AC, Advisor Sarah O'Brien, and staff Neal Harvey and Katie Norman visited Ngukuthati Children and Family Centre to view the Bush Tucker Garden.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2024-2025

Sentis Education: May 2025

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Trustee Tim Fairfax AC, Advisor Sarah O'Brien, and staff Neal Harvey and Katie Norman met with representatives from the Mount Isa Future Leaders Program in Mount Isa.

ICPA Qld State Conference: June 2025

Ningana Senior Program Manager Katie Norman attended the 2025 ICPA Qld State Conference in St George.



Hymba Yumba Independent School: June 2025

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisors Sarah O'Brien and Prue Pateras, and staff Neal Harvey and Katie Norman visited Hymba Yumba Independent School and participated in a music class with students.

Out of the Box Festival: June 2025

Ningana Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Advisors Lucy Coulson and Prue Pateras, and staff Neal Harvey, Katie Norman, Hannah Barr, and Sahala Stone attended Out of the Box Festival at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and watched a performance of *Guril Storm Bird*, created in collaboration with jarjum from Hymba Yumba Independent School.



Parent TV: June 2025

Staff Katie Norman attended a community screening of *Seen* in Townsville.

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:

Jenny Wheatley

Senior Program
Manager:

Katie Norman



\$2.276M
distributed since
inception



\$2.66M
total corpus



81
orgs supported
since 2002

Click on the map to see where Ningana Trust funded in 2024-25

