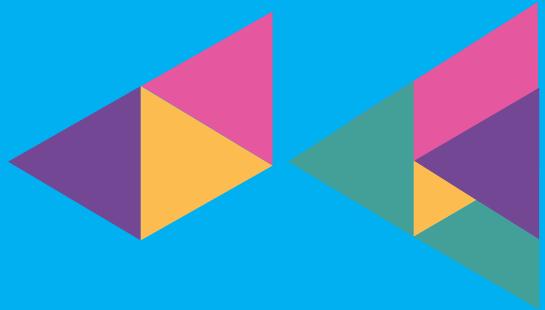


# Youth chronicles

*Edition 2 - Issue 2*



*“Stories of young people achieving great things in our region”*



# Welcome to the Youth Chronicles Magazine

Here you can find the latest news direct from our region's young people.

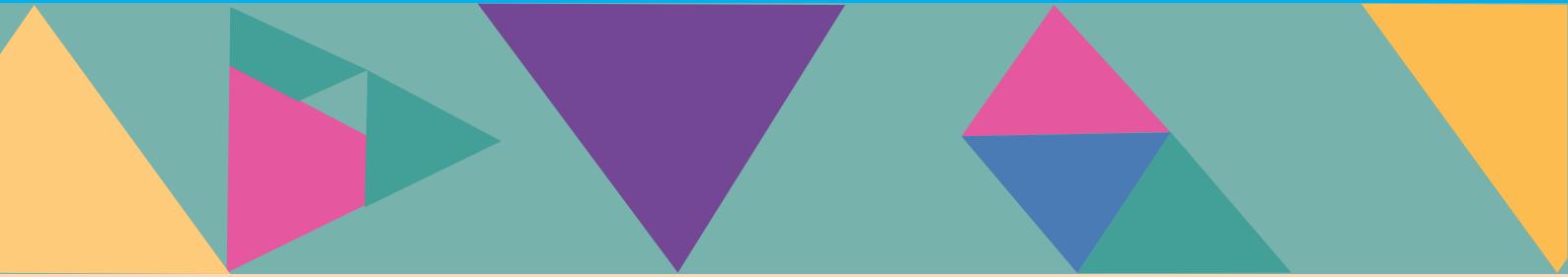
This publication is produced through a partnership between Bundaberg Regional Council, our region's high schools and youth service providers. The Youth Chronicles is released three times a year in May, August and November and contains stories about some of the great things our region's young people are doing and achieving.

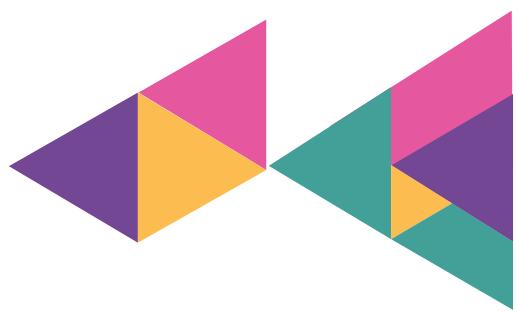
Through region-wide collaboration stories are shared not only from our regions high school students, but also from those young people who are no longer attending school. Every high school in the region is given the opportunity to provide two pages for each edition, with many schools getting the students involved in designing the pages, writing the stories and taking the photos. Youth service providers are also providing stories and photos which are compiled on two pages.

The Youth Chronicles magazine is made available online at [www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/youth](http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/youth). An electronic copy is sent to each school to share and a limited number are printed and distributed throughout the community.

This is our second year of this initiative and we would really appreciate your feedback on the content and quality along with your thoughts on the projects youth have been involved in. The feedback is valuable in ensuring continuous improvement as well as allowing the young people in our community to hear a different narrative about their contributions in the community they live.

*To provide feedback or if you would like more information, please contact our Youth Development Officer on 1300 883 699 or [comdev@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:comdev@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)*





**Youth Chronicles  
Edition 2 - Issue 2  
August 2020**

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OUTSTANDING LEARNERS

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

OUTSTANDING FUTURES

# Bundaberg North State High School 2019

## NORTH STARS LEAD THE WAY

### A cadet and a gentleman



Darcy Simmonds has been a part of cadets for 6 years and is extremely passionate about the defence force. He has an extensive family history in the force and always wanted to be a vehicle mechanic and a fitter armament. Recently, Darcy successfully completed an Australian defence force interview and a full body medical examination which tested all his capabilities. This brings Darcy one step closer to fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming a part of the Australian defence force, as well as working with weapons and vehicles, from small cars to large diesel trucks.

### A dramatic turn

On Thursday afternoons, Ben Edwards and Jemima Pacey go to the Playhouse Theatre and participate in the Drama Queen's theatre group. They've only been participating for a few weeks, but it has been a great experience. Everyone is welcoming and greets them with open arms every week. Joining Drama Queens has helped them to build up their confidence and their leadership and teamwork skills when performing with others. They have learned to participate in groups of strangers and how to work effectively and to the best of their abilities. The instructors have been very supportive and have made sure Jemima and Ben have felt as comfortable around them as possible.



## Cooking up a plan for his future

Braydan Bielefeld is currently doing his Certificate 3 Training and is helping out in the school Tuckshop. Braydan said that the best thing about doing his Certificate 3 Training would be the experience he is gaining by working there and the friendships he has formed along the way with his co-workers. However, Braydan said that the worst thing would be the class time he is missing on Tuesday's when he works. Braydan is doing the training so that when he finishes school and moves to Brisbane to study at university, he will have his certificate in hospitality, this will be used as a way to gain a part-time job easily while he studies.



## Kasey's day in the SUN



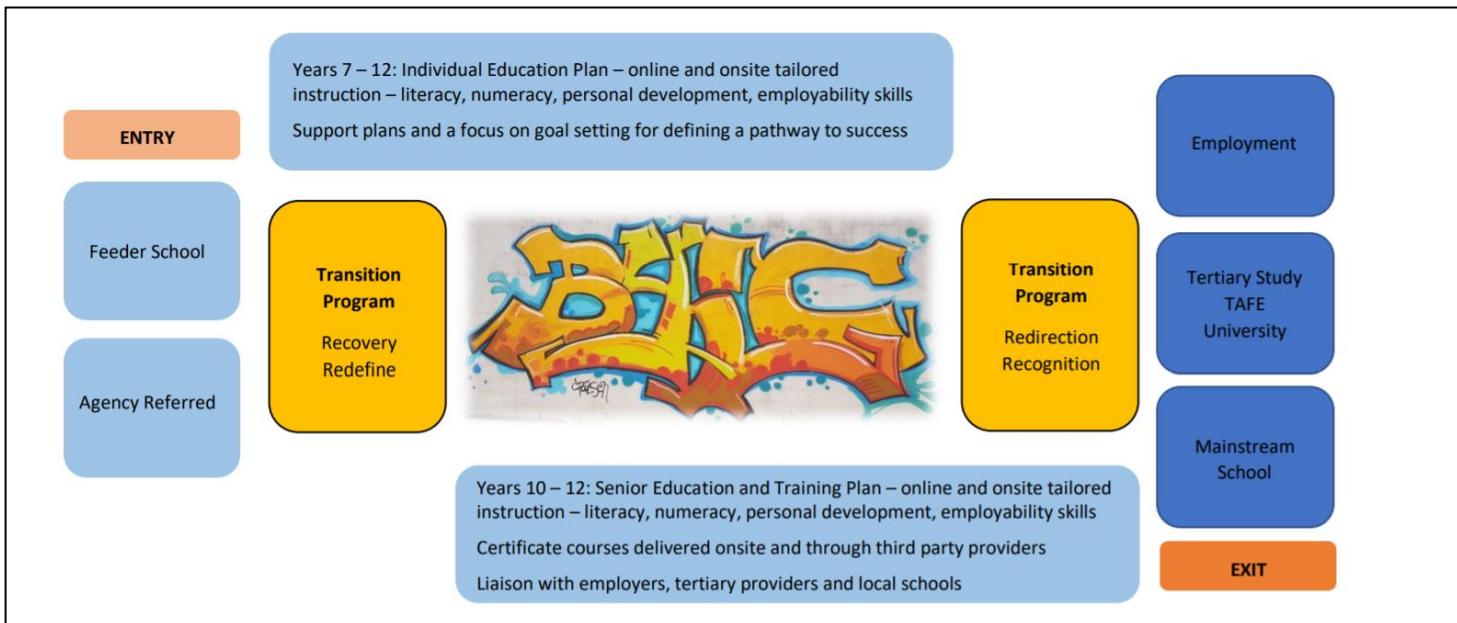
Kasey Houston from grade 11 has completed a SUN program over the Christmas holidays. It was very beneficial as she now has guaranteed entry into the course she wants at CQU, whether it be the year after graduation, or 20 years in the future. She would recommend the program to others as it will help later in life. Year 11 is a very busy and stressful year, so Kasey would recommend that you complete the SUN course at the end of Year 10.



# BURNETT YOUTH LEARNING CENTRE

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## TRANSITION TO SUCCESS



BYLC runs an alternative style of schooling. We like to think we do things a little differently. One of those things we do differently, is celebrating when one of our students leave our program – because it means that they have successfully transitioned to the next stage in their goals: employment, tertiary study, TAFE, University or back to mainstream school... we don't wait for the end of grade twelve to count their successes.

As the flowchart above explains, students come to us and work on an individual education plan – completely tailored to their learning needs and interests. Central to their program is defining a pathway to success.

Today, we feature (and celebrate) two of our students and look at their individual pathways to success: Nyesha is following a university pathway and Misty is moving into a traineeship.

# Taking the challenge... Inspiring hope.

## NYESHA: Reaching for the “SUN”

Nyesha is one of our Year 12 students who has set her sights on becoming a paramedic. Nyesha has not taken an academic pathway and so is not able to enter university through “normal” entry at the end of grade 12 with an ATAR or QCE. That’s where her individualised transition program comes into play because we find a pathway for success, just for Nyesha.

Nyesha has enrolled in the SUN program with CQU. The SUN program is run by CQUniversity for senior students to combine their senior school studies with the opportunity to experience university level studies. Nyesha has enrolled in a course called ‘Human Body Systems’ as a gateway into further study to reach her dreams of becoming a paramedic. “I wouldn’t be doing this if it wasn’t for my teachers at BYLC” says Nyesha.

## MISTY: Quirks work!

Misty is in a unique position to be starting a school-based traineeship, at BYLC as she completes her final year with us. We sat down with Misty to find out about her transition pathway at BYLC.

Interviewer: What do you like about BYLC?

Misty: The teachers. And the feeling of freedom; being set on the farm and surrounded by the outdoors makes the whole school feel like a good place to be.

I: What are you studying?

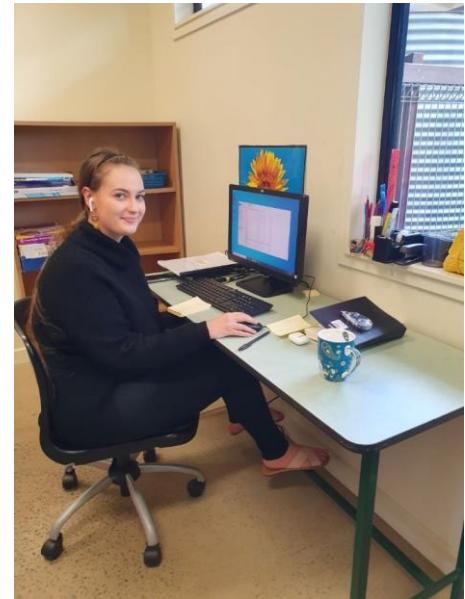
M: I was just signed into a traineeship for a Certificate 3 in Business Admin, working right here at school. Working with the staff at BYLC, they helped me realise what I want to do and went above and beyond to make it happen for me. Now I get to stay at a place I like and feel comfortable at (here at school). Staff helped me to find that my obsession with organisation, neatness and stationary is well suited to this career path.

I: How do you feel about all of this?

M: Good. Excited. I made the decision to work on my mindset, since I attend school three days a week and work here the other two days. I wear my favourite colour, yellow, on my “work” days as like a uniform to represent the different mindset of work verse school. It has been so good working with the office ladies and I have a real appreciation for how hard they work.

I: What has been your favourite thing so far?

M: Learning to use the paper shredder and binding machine!



We are so excited to watch this space as we watch these students journey down their future pathways. **“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” – Colossians 3:23**



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BSHS Junior and Senior students joined forces to Clean Up Australia Day in March.

Students armed themselves with gloves, bags and tongs to collect rubbish and make a difference in our local community! Students completed the event with light refreshments.



## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Bundaberg State High School staff and students showed support for drought-ravaged areas of Queensland at the end of 2019. Bundaberg State High School teacher Keith Holledge had the idea to invite junior students to write to families to show them they were thinking of them. "With more than 87 per cent of Queensland officially in drought at the end of 2019 I felt it was important that our students did something tangible," Keith said. "We just wanted to let our farmers know that our school, our Bundaberg Region was thinking of them, hoping that it would give them and a big smile and some hope."

More than 100 students took up the offer and wrote heartfelt messages of support, sending 178 cards. One student, Anna H., wrote more than 25 cards. "I wrote so many cards because the farmers needed to know that everyone here at this school was supporting them and that we understood what they were going through," Anna said. "It made me really happy that they knew that we cared for them, and we do care for them, and we'd like to know how they're doing all the time."

Fellow student Fletcher C. said, "Anna had inspired the school. Anna was the real superstar! The whole school was very proud of Anna and everyone got in and chipped in. It makes me feel good that we are here to support the farmers in hard times.

Mayor Jack Dempsey commended Bundaberg State High School students and staff on their thoughtfulness in sending Christmas cards with messages of support to our drought-stricken communities.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Alex Buckholz who received the TJ Ryan Scholarship of \$10 000 in March. Alex is now studying at University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus to complete a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours. Alex received an OP1 at the end of 2019.

Congratulations also to Brooklyn Davis who received a CQU Destination Scholarship of \$60 000 towards her University degree at CQU, Bundaberg Campus. Brooklyn is also undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours.



## OUR OLYMPIAN

Congratulations to Samantha Schmidt who is off to the Summer Olympics in Tokyo in 2021, (COVID permitting). Samantha will compete in the Javelin, Discus and Shotput events.

*Through hard work, the stars*



## STUDENT LEADERS INVESTITURE



BSHS 2020 investiture saw the induction of our student leaders at the start of 2020. Together our Junior and Senior leaders committed in unity to make BSHS a better place to learn and grow. Prior to COVID 19, more than 150 guests, including family members beamed with pride as our leaders were presented with their badges. Our Junior Representative Council (JRC), Senior Representative Council (SRC), Indigenous and House leaders have many responsibilities.



## TRACKING OUR STUDENTS POST SCHOOL

Link and Launch is a Queensland Government pilot program, in selected QLD schools. It is a key initiative aligning with the Queensland Governments target to engage 91% of young people into Education, Training or Employment by 2022. Link and Launch is designed to connect with young people who have completed Year 12 but not transitioned into further education, training or employment. The program is designed to assist young people to navigate a range of post-school study, training and work options tailored to the individual goals, aspirations, skills and strengths. Bec our Link and Launch Officer supports the youth to make independent choices that will equip them to make a successful transition. Link and Launch is currently working with around ninety-six young people across our six State High Schools and out of the ninety-six, many have transitioned into a successful pathway being either Employment, University or Certificate III courses.



## QLD 2020 WOMEN IN MINING

As a QMEA Ambassador named in 2019, Katie M. in Year 12 was successful in her application for the Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WMARQ), Girls in Resources Mentoring Program for 2020. This program is supported by the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) and provides students with guidance, support and advice as they navigate through Year 12 and on to further education and/or training. Thanks to the role, the Mining Industry Mentors undertakes.

## 2020 Girl Power STEM

We are delighted to announce Hayley S. in Year 10 has been selected into the 2020 Girls Power STEM program. This program will run throughout the entire school year. In addition to this wonderful news three BSHS Year 9 students, Holly M., Alivia G., and Jayda B., have been invited to attend the North Coast Regional STEM day later in the year.

This program is designed to expose students to the amazing opportunities of STEM career pathways, promoting supportive partnerships between Year 10 and Year 9 students in the delivery of STEM activities.

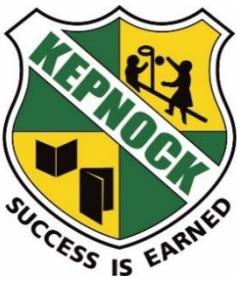
## University Early Entry

Congratulations to eight of our Year 10 students who have enrolled in Headstart/USQ; Amelia K., Brayden S., Natasha W., Briana L., Amelia Rose K., Courtney L., Hannah Rose W. and Izekiel H.

Congratulations to Brenton M., Debbie R., Sophie O., Amanda B., Kai O., Angela S., and Jade M, who are already enrolled in CQU and completed two or more Units, this makes such a difference to student's university preparation time and length of degree.

Having the opportunity of direct entry into a course allowed students to continue their high school study in Years 10 and 11 without all the usual stress associated with Year 12. This is allowing students to better focus on studies and prepare for University.

*Through hard work, the stars*



## Kepnock at a Glance



### Arts Night 2020

Every year Kepnock SHS recognises the wealth of talented students that step through their gates and this year will be no different. Kepnock's annual Arts Night has changed with the times and instead of being held in front of a live audience, it will be performed and filmed to be viewed by the wider school community through an online platform. This new and inventive way of celebrating talented students is yet to be finalised in regards to the platform that will be used but this hasn't stopped students auditioning in their droves. One thing that has been finalised is the theme for this year's Arts Night, changes. This strangely intuitive theme was brainstormed before the outbreak of COVID, which has only provided more creative insights to the soloists, duos or groups that have been auditioning.

The theme of changes is relative in more ways than one as Arts Night has always been a mixture of showcase and fund raising yet this year the latter has been limited significantly. This doesn't mean Kepnock isn't still investing in the Arts as profits from previous years are currently going towards a recording studio for music production. Mr Roberts explained, "Last year's profits for Arts Night went towards a new dance floor, which took 4 years to save up for. The recording studio is about a three-year financial plan and Kepnock has been utilising multiple financial strategies to speed up this process." The room itself is ready to go however, the equipment is still being sourced yet the future is looking bright. The recording studio will be accessible to all the Arts students as its functionality caters for music and films alike which is only encouraging students to participate in this year's Arts Night.

It is going to be exciting to see how this new platform of Arts Nights takes off as Miss O'Neill believes, "It has the ability to connect our students with the wider school community whether it is local galleries or the council, there is a lot of opportunities for Arts Night to evolve into something we haven't seen before." We all know this year has been very different for many people but one thing is certain, change is coming!



Abbey, Jayda and Kelsie.



**1 We** are the only secondary school in Bundaberg to offer all five Arts and all five Technologies areas from Year 7 to Year 12.

**2 We** provide a safe and supportive, inclusive learning environment that caters for diversity.

**3 We** are a Gateway School in Agribusiness and the only state school in Bundaberg to offer training in the Agricultural Sciences.

**4 We** pride ourselves on our extra-curricular involvement including Instrumental Music, Cheerleading and Fish Tank program.



## Mr Howkins High Tea

We're on the downhill slope of 2020 and it's been quite the ride so far. Kepnock SHS, like many establishments, have been in the midst of a chaotic 2020 but through all this, their many successes have shone through. One particular initiative that has resonated with the school community was the Mr Howkins High Tea. This fantastic project was developed to reward the successes students had when showing pride in their uniform during term two.

At the genesis of Mr Howkins High Tea was the new Year Level Coordinator Ms Amey. The event was seen as a great way to celebrate the success of students through some friendly competition. Home groups from Years Seven to Nine competed to see who had the least amount of uniform infringements for the term. The victorious classes were rewarded with tea, of course, and a variety of sweets and treats including chocolate mud cake! Is your mouth watering yet?

Mr Howkins High Tea was so successful that this fantastic initiative will be back again under the banner Dazzling Deserts. This term the whole event will be catered by the year ten hospitality class! The year ten hospitality students will prepare and serve the winning home groups 'Dazzling Desserts' in our school library as part of their assessment. A celebration for students catered by students.

There's more to the project than just delicious deserts, the main goal is to teach students to have respect for the school uniform and themselves. The Year Seven Coordinator, Mr Murphy, explained, 'It's a great way to strengthen our school community as students were actively showing pride in their school while also keeping each other accountable.' The results so far have already shown fantastic effects in its first iteration so it should be exciting to see what the future holds.



Isabella.



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T [twitter.com/KepnockHigh](https://twitter.com/KepnockHigh)

F Like Kepnock State High School on Facebook

# Bundaberg Region Youth Service's Stories

The following stories have been provided to us with the permission of the services and the young people they relate to.

## THE GENERATION OF TODAY

## YOUTH NEWS

### *Young people achieving great things in our region*



Laura Brown undertaking the Hospitality course.

When **Laura Brown** started a hospitality course at IMPACT Community Services, she had no idea it would lead to a new career path, a love of learning and goal to one day become a human rights lawyer.

Laura joined IMPACT's Get Set For Work (GSFW) program in May last year.

She soon enrolled in IMPACT's Certificate III in Hospitality (SIT30616) course.

When she first started in the class Laura was a little quiet and shy, but that quickly passed as she made new friends. She also had the ongoing support of her GSFW youth worker.

Laura focused on doing her book work and progressed quickly. She had a natural flair for learning and often found herself ahead of others in the class.

In her spare time she would help those who had fallen behind.

While doing the practical component of the hospitality course, Laura grew her skills to become confident in making beverages and in cooking meals in a commercial kitchen. She was always keen to learn new things and lend a hand to fellow classmates.

Laura also received great feedback from canteen customers who described her as super friendly, helpful and great with coffees, milkshakes and hot chocolates.

Alongside her study, Laura worked with her GSFW youth worker to update her resume, refresh her interview skills and learned how to write specifically tailored cover letters for job applications.

Not long after this, Laura gained employment at a local discount store.

Laura was proud of her achievement when she completed the course.

"There is no point in starting something if you're not going to finish it," she said.

"I really wanted this Certificate III qualification to help with my dreams of working overseas in third world countries to help provide food, water and shelter for communities."

Laura has now expanded on her goals to include the study of a Bachelor of Law and Business so she can become a human rights lawyer.

To help Laura achieve this goal, she has started the STEPS Tertiary Preparation course to improve her skills in university quality assignment writing.

IMPACT's youth worker Tahnee Foster praised Laura for her commitment, drive and perseverance.

To find out more about Get Set For Work go to  
<https://www.impact.org.au/get-set-for-work>



## Transition to Work Helps Jessicah Progress

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am 21 years of age. Love to be outdoors and hanging with my friends. I am a hard worker and love a good challenge!

### How did you become involved with Transition to Work?

I was without a job suddenly and had a mention about signing up for TTW and thought, why not!

### What support have you been provided?

I have been provided with a major amount of support. My Youth Coach Sam helped me update my resume and made it look immaculate. I have been fortunate enough to have 6 months of my rego paid to help with finances, I have received fuel vouchers and regular check ins to see how I am doing in my position and if there is any assistance I need. I was given a uniform allowance to get me started and know that if I need anything at all, I just call, and my mentor will help me out the best they can. For 12 whole months!

### What have been the benefits of this?

TTW have helped me progress into what I want to do, goal setting and an incredible amount of support to know I'm not in this alone. If I face difficulties, I know that Sam is going to do everything to help me. It has been a major stress reliever for me and has helped me on the right path on where I want to go.

### Is there anything further you would like to add?

TTW helped me out of a rut that I saw as having no way out of. I have had regular chats about my future and what I want to do, without ever feeling like I have not been heard. I know I can ring Sam whenever I need to source information or even just a listening ear. I am proud to be in this program. I'm so happy that I found TTW.



**Bundaberg Regional Council's Youth Development Action Team (YDAT)** has developed an anti-bullying pledge and challenge to take a stand against bullying and unacceptable behaviour in our schools and our community.

The “**Sour Words Hurt**” project is accompanied by resources to increase young people’s awareness and access to quality support services, that are available when and if they need them.

Participants must first read the pledge aloud and commit to treating everyone with respect and compassion, to complete the challenge

The pledge can be found [here](#).

For information on YDAT click [here](#).



An initiative of Bundaberg Regional Council: [comdev@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:comdev@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)