

# ALW Scholarship Winners 2024

Meet the four outstanding adult learners who are this year's scholarship winners



Scholarship winner Tahnee Baker, above right.

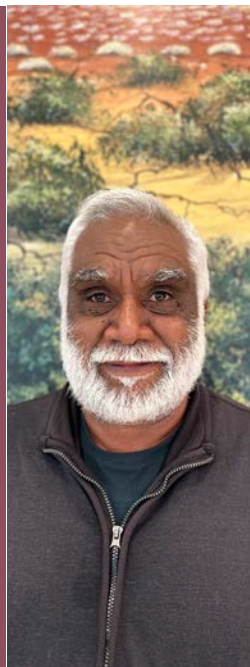
## John Lindsay, Tauondi Aboriginal College

61-year-old River Ngarrindjeri man, John Lindsay, really liked being at school but always struggled with learning. He stayed until it was time to “leave and go to work”.

John then spent 30 years working different jobs, including grave digging, house repairs, and council work. He also became a leader within his community and it was his responsibilities – and his daughter's urging – that led him to the Tauondi Aboriginal College.

Deciding to start the College's Skill Up program, John found that he loved learning and found a whole new world opening up through learning how to use a computer.

Now studying a Certificate I in Access to Vocational Pathways, John wants to continue learning and developing skills so that he can continue to contribute to the needs of his community. As a respected Aboriginal mentor, John is also supporting others while they study at Tauondi and showing them that you can learn at any age.



## Kirsty Marshall, SEED program, Brotherhood of St Laurence

Kirsty Marshall says taking part in the Brotherhood of St Laurence's Sustaining Economic Empowerment and Dignity for Women (SEED) program is the “best thing I've ever done in my life”.

Joining the SEED program earlier this year, Kirsty worked conscientiously to find ways back into paid employment after a two decade break followed setbacks in her early learning and family life. Later, the relationship affected by family violence also prevented her from continuing a career in the support and care sector.

Kirsty's progress led to her graduating from the SEED leadership program, Change Makers. Through Change Makers, participants learn to write and are coached into presenting their Significant Change story publicly. She is now engaged in a six month certificate course which, she hopes, will help her return to being a personal care worker in aged care.



Having survived domestic abuse, Kirsty said the program, which provides financial coaching and access to educational programs, training opportunities and employment assistance, has “pulled me out of my shell and given me confidence again”.



John Lindsay accepts his scholarship from Minister Andrew Giles

## Tahnee Baker, Tamworth Community College

When Tahnee Baker found out that she had won a scholarship, there was only one place she wanted to be to celebrate – the Tamworth Community College which, she says, has given her a renewed sense of purpose and confidence and the skills to pursue a new career.

Tahnee’s commitment to her adult education journey is exceptional. Just two weeks into starting a Certificate III in Business so that she could transition from a hands-on work background, Tahnee suffered a stroke.

This life-altering event would have caused many people to withdraw from their studies. However, Tahnee missed only one week and immediately arranged a catch-up session with her trainer, before completing the course at the same time as her classmates. She has since completed short courses in time management, effective communication, resumé writing and interview techniques.

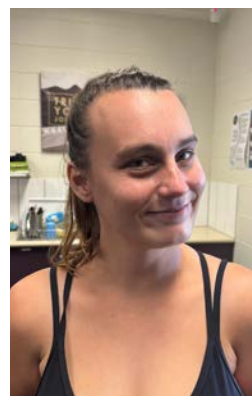
Finding that the flexibility of the course meant she could balance her responsibilities as a mother, Tahnee now feels empowered to strive for more for herself and as a role model for her daughter.



## Jypsey-Lee Banfield-Patterson, Batchelor Institute

Finding out that she had won a scholarship was a very welcome boost for Jypsey-Lee, a young mum who is working hard to study so she can achieve her employment goals and build a future for her and her daughter.

Dyslexia and learning difficulties affected Jypsey-Lee’s enjoyment of school. However, since starting an adult learning journey as a young mum, she has come to understand that she learns differently from others, rather than not being able to learn.



Beginning her community services certificate course when her daughter was only two months old, Jypsey is now one of NT’s Batchelor Institute’s most reliable students.

While classes start at 9.30am two days per week, Jypsey arrives at 7.30am to set up the classroom – often after a 25 minute walk to get there.

With her daughter now in child care, Jypsey is currently thinking about professional jobs that she could get – particularly the type of jobs that will enable her to draw on her transferable skills and experience. At this stage, she is thinking of becoming a sexual health nurse or an alcohol and other drugs counsellor.