



NT YOUTH

ROUND TABLE

Where are they now?
Alumni Report 1997 – 2022

About the NT Youth Round Table

In 2022, the Northern Territory (NT) Government is celebrating 25 years of the NT Youth Round Table (previously known as the Chief Minister's Round Table and the Youth Minister's Round Table); the 25 year anniversary highlights the importance of the consultation process between young people and the Territory Government. Since its inception in 1997, over 400 members have been involved in numerous activities, committees and projects. Each year, up to 18 members aged between 15-25 years are selected to take part in the Round Table. Members are representative of the geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity in the Northern Territory.

The Round Table provides an opportunity for young people to have their views about issues that interest them heard by Government. Members consult and advise various government agencies, community groups and other organisations on key initiatives and strategies as well as lead a community-based project throughout their 12 month term.

In addition to providing advice to the NT Government, Round Table members undertake intensive skill development when they meet four times per year. This development includes media training, public speaking and communication skills, project management, team building and report writing skills. Alumni members report that being on the Round Table often shaped their future work direction.

When I look back on my time on the Round Table, I do look back on it with such joy. I am so proud of the fact that as a group we were able to pave the way for many young Territorians to come. Many Territorians that are continuing to excel at making a real difference each and every day. For this, I will be ever grateful for the opportunity, the experience and the memories.

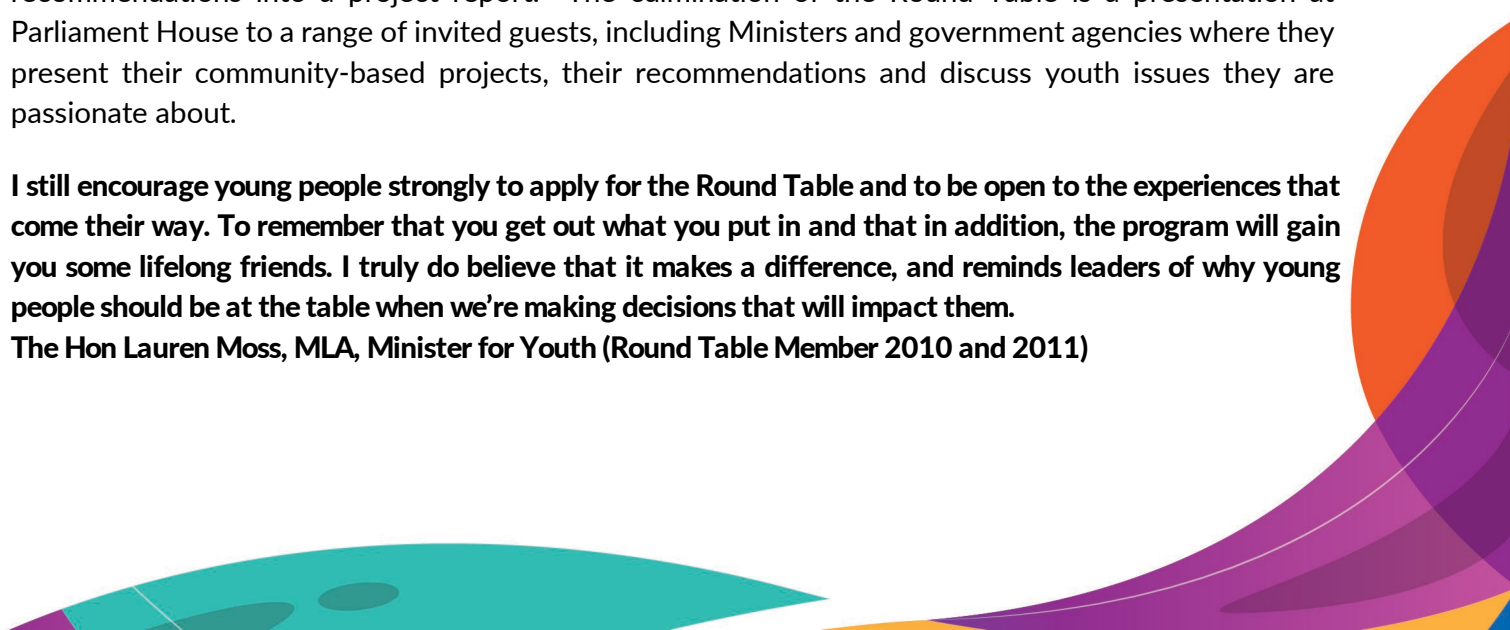
Simona Di Toro-Bell, (Inaugural Round Table Member, 1997)

At the meetings, the members discuss important youth issues with peers, youth groups, service providers, and government representatives. Outside of the four meetings, members are approached for the feedback or input into a wide variety of policies and initiatives. In addition to the skill development, the opportunity to consult with Government and lead a project, Round Table Members all report on the connection and friendships made amongst their cohort.

During the term, Round Table members have the option to lead a community-based project on a topic that they identify as of importance to them and their community. Their project includes researching, consulting with their community, delivering a project and formulating their findings and recommendations into a project report. The culmination of the Round Table is a presentation at Parliament House to a range of invited guests, including Ministers and government agencies where they present their community-based projects, their recommendations and discuss youth issues they are passionate about.

I still encourage young people strongly to apply for the Round Table and to be open to the experiences that come their way. To remember that you get out what you put in and that in addition, the program will gain you some lifelong friends. I truly do believe that it makes a difference, and reminds leaders of why young people should be at the table when we're making decisions that will impact them.

The Hon Lauren Moss, MLA, Minister for Youth (Round Table Member 2010 and 2011)

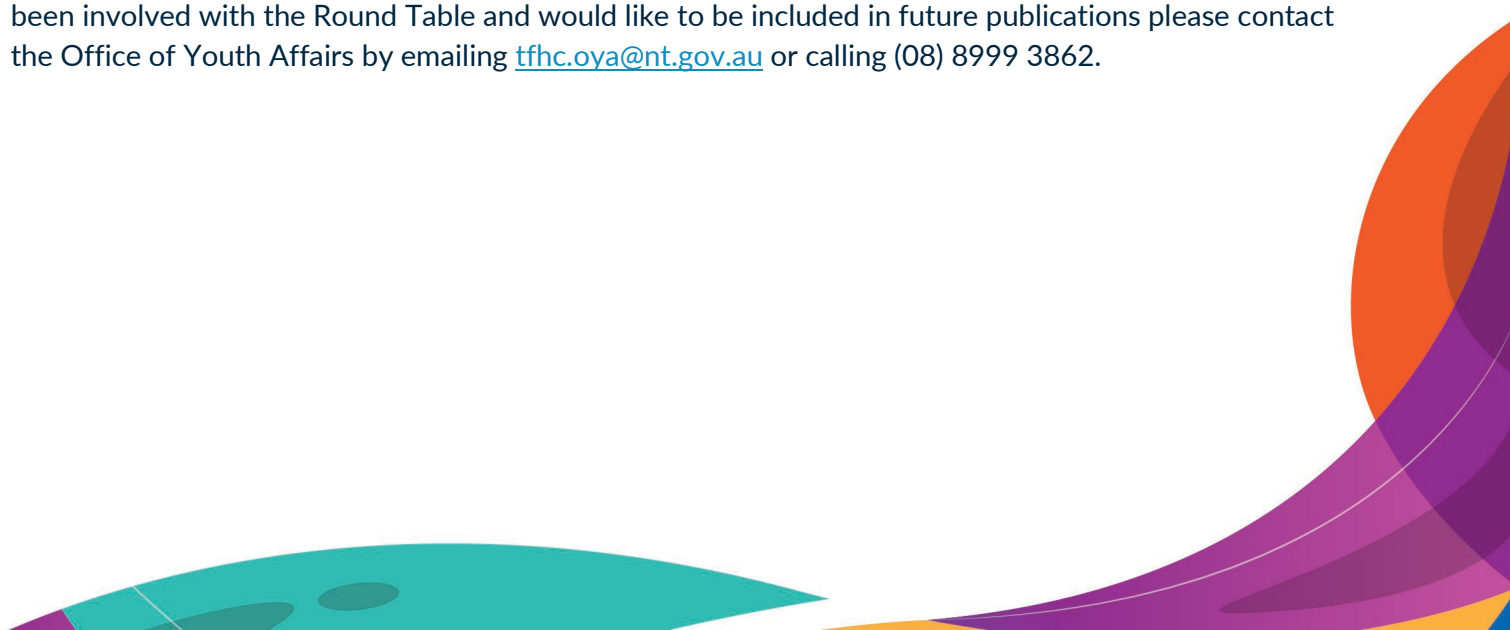


Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIME	Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience
ANU	Australian National University
CDU	Charles Darwin University
MYNT	Multicultural Youth NT
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NT	Northern Territory
NTYW	NT Youth Week
OYA	Office of Youth Affairs
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Round Table	Chief/Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians
UN	United Nations
YSPN	Young Sikh Professionals Network

About this publication

This document is a compilation of updates provided by previous members of the Round Table. Unfortunately it has been impossible to get in contact every previous member, however if you have been involved with the Round Table and would like to be included in future publications please contact the Office of Youth Affairs by emailing tfhc.oya@nt.gov.au or calling (08) 8999 3862.



1997

Alexander Smith

Emma Luong-Van

Graeme Smith

James Brennan

James Swan

Kate Ryan

Kylie Andrews

Larelle Sykes

Matthew Smith

Megan Coutts

Moira Lanzarin (nee O'Brien)

Pryce Dale

Rachel Prior

Romina Santos Reyftmann

Simona Di Toro-Bell

Noel Ryan



Moira Lanzarin (nee O'Brien)



I have the Round Table to thank as a wonderful training ground for even further advocacy work and opportunities. My life has always been filled with family, community and industry – this continues. As a small business owner and operator working on the land in remote regions, I am very aware of the intricate web of connections and how one is just a small part of a great bigger whole. Yet equally aware, that I have the ability and responsibility to influence and make changes for the better.

The past twenty years has seen me as an advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister on Regional Affairs, a member of the National Young Farmers, trips overseas representing Australia and the NT, Chairman of the NT Cattlemen's Top End branch to name but a few. In recent times, after I have been blessed to become a mother of 2 beautiful boys, my leadership interests have become more local – Mataranka School Council Chair, Treasurer of the Better Half Club and Roper River Landcare committee member.

I manage our 3rd generation family farming business breeding gentle Coodardie Brahms for North Australia. Our complimentary tourism operations showcase our philosophy and practice of working in harmony with nature. This year has seen me become an Internationally Accredited Field Professional of Holistic Management from the Savory Institute.

Megan Coutts

I live on my own piece of paradise in Humpty Doo with my husband Colin and Step Son TJ. After a few decades in Hospitality and high stress management, I decided to re-assess my life and goals! I left that career and took some much needed time off. I currently own and run my own public speaking business and recently undertook studying Property Conveyancing.

The Northern Territory is still the best place in the world to live and has so many opportunities for all walks of life, we are just so lucky I think we forget sometimes! I love travelling the world, but I love coming home even more! I would love to be reading this update in years to come and be sitting back, knowing that I helped shape the future landscape and generations of the NT. So, watch this space I guess and hello future Megan!



Simona Di Toro-Bell

I still remember being a part of the inaugural Chief Minister's Round Table, as if it were yesterday. This wasn't just the first initiative of its kind by the NT Government and then Chief Minister, Shane Stone QC, but it was also the first initiative of its kind throughout Australia. Very soon after, other States and Territories followed suit with their own Round Tables.

As a team made up of varying backgrounds, varying ages and truly a lovely group of people, we soon learnt that we each really had a voice. We worked on ideas, projects and initiatives for the youth of the Territory together – some we thought were too impossible to come true, like – how on earth could the Government possibly build a free waterslide park?

It was that desire to make a 'real difference' I developed while being on the Round Table (and I am sure we all did), that lead me to the Department of Defence. I have worked for the Australian Government Vetting Agency and also later managed Communication and Public Affairs for the Department.

My husband and I are still living in Darwin and enjoying every minute with our two awesome kids!

When I look back on my time on the Round Table, I do look back on it with such joy. I am so proud of the fact that as a group we were able to pave the way for many young Territorian's to come. Many Territorian's that are continuing to excel at making a real difference each and every day. For this, I will be ever grateful for the opportunity, the experience and the memories.



Romina Santos Reyftmann

I am the Pro Bono Leader for an international law firm named Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich aiming to serve humanitarian aid organisations around the world and people who may not be able to afford legal representation. I am also a Human Rights Lawyer for the National Justice Project on Gadigal land, Sydney that focus on strategic litigation to hold governments, institutions and people into account. I am originally trained in medicine and am the co-founder of a successful fertility company named the Illawarra Reproductive Medicine and Laparoscopy. I live in Dharawal Country in NSW, with my husband, 10 years old boy-girl twins and two bunny rabbits.



1998

Amanda Lutvey

Angela Batterham

Bardy Bayram

Damien Moriarty

Dean Williams

Fiona Newall

James Brennan

Jamie Kantilla

Kate Ryan

Kathy Fehringer

Larelle Skyes

Pryce Dale

Purdey Eades (nee Curtis)

Robert Elliott

Tegan Flemming

Moira Lanzarin (nee O'Brien)



Damien Moriarty

I live in Darwin, running a construction company with a focus on energy efficient housing. I've recently finished an MBA at University of Melbourne, and a Law Degree from CDU a while ago. I have kept up with volunteering and community service alongside my career, and love the outdoors.

Purdey Eades (nee Curtis)



I am 36 years old and currently living in Palmerston with my husband and 9 month old daughter. Whilst I'm currently enjoying maternity leave I will be returning to my role as Learning and Development Coordinator for Territory Generation in January 2018.

I've also had the privilege to work with a number of community organisations including rotary, with a particular highlight of serving on the boards of both YMCA of the Top End as president and board member for YMCA Australia in recent years.

It is too hard to choose one highlight from the Round Table. I think the thing I valued most was the team work and the opportunity to work with people both older and younger than me.

Learning how to work in teams at such a young age has held me in good stead for the committees and teams I have worked in since. The ability to look critically at problems from a range of perspectives as well as identify and adapt to new opportunities are all skills that were fostered

by the round table. The Round Table will teach you skills you never knew you needed and something you will never forget.

1999

Angela Batterham

Deven Crawford

Geoff Redpath

Laura Kelly

Nesman Bara

Tiffany Stodart

Calin Clifford

Emanuel Siriotis

Georgia Holt

Leanne Hayes

Paula Fong

Dean Williams

Gabe Reynolds

Kevin Ivinson

Melissa Davy

Tegan Flemming



Nesman Bara

I am still living in my community (Umbakumba) working as an Executive Officer. Along with full-time work, I have now got a family of my own with two girls. All the years I have worked closely with government has given me experience and knowledge for where I am heading.

My highlight from the Round Table was working on a project regarding drugs and alcohol. These have been issues that I anticipated would be challenging for young people today. Another highlight for me during my time on the Round Table was giving ideas and sharing stories around the NT.

The Round Table made me confident to speak and work with all sectors of government, and has helped me achieve what I have done in the past years. I recommend that any young people that are interested please join, as we are talking about the future of our Territory.

Paula Fong

Since being on the Round Table in 1999, I've been fortunate enough to spend time living and working across four continents: Melbourne, Singapore, New York City and now Amsterdam where I currently reside.

I love to travel and I don't think I will ever tire of exploring diverse cultures, cities and landscapes. I've been lucky enough to be able to visit 35 countries and over 200 cities so far and since I have moved to Europe this year I look forward to exploring this continent more extensively.

I work in a global marketing role in the travel and hospitality industry and this is definitely the right fit for me given my passion not only for travel but for the opportunity to create and execute your own ideas.

Being a part of the Round Table means you have the opportunity to meet like-minded young Territorians from across the NT and are able to engage directly with the Chief Minister and representatives from the Office of Youth Affairs.

So go for it! You won't regret it! I learnt and grew from my experience and time on the Round Table and would gladly do it all over again.



2000

Abhishek Jain

Daniel Brown

Justin Chambers

Keara Blindell

Rachel Warfe

Tim Rose

Brook Ellison

Erika Carnogoy

Kate Bennett

Lisa McGargill

Samone Sallik

Christian Coffey

Jolyn Muller

Karl Gunderson

Michelle Stephens

Sylvia Panatos



Abhishek Jain

I am a long term Territorian who is proud to call Darwin home for over three decades. I have three tertiary qualifications and am admitted into the legal profession. I have diverse experience in private business, in private firms, community legal centres and the Northern Territory public service. My current role is that of a Policy Lawyer in Solicitor for the Northern Territory.

I am a family man with a wife Kavita, a daughter Priyasha (aged 14), a son Priash (aged 11) and a dog Breeza. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, socialising with friends, listening to music, and watching movies and documentaries. I have an interest in following the news, current affairs and the stock market. I enjoy travelling and have extensively travelled throughout the Northern Territory, Australia and internationally.



Sylvia Panatos

Since joining the Public Sector in 1997 I have principally worked in three fields, human resource management, service delivery which includes team management and fiscal management giving me broad operational and theoretical experience and knowledge in all facets of management and corporate governance. I have successfully undertaken a number of demanding and sensitive employment relations jobs, which undertook complex multifaceted tasks including organisational driven change management processes. I have a demonstrated ability to deliver on HR management practices which incorporated budget and financial management aspects, often providing coaching to managers on complex matters.

I have completed a degree in Business with dual specialisation of Management and Human Resource Management. I completed the Public Sector Management Program and am a trained investigator and conflict coach. In 2001 I represented the NT at the Foundation for Young Australians 'Leaders of Tomorrow' Forum where I was allocated as a member of a team that was asked to solve a problem at a national level. Our team project was passed by parliament and is currently being implemented in New South Wales.

In my current role as Senior Workforce Consultant within Top End Health Services I facilitate all aspects of Human Resource Management for the Royal Darwin Hospital working closely with Managers in the accurate implementation of relevant employment legislation.

Whilst with the Round Table I enjoyed and further developed my engagement and interpersonal skills when engaging and learning from other Round Table Members. It was invaluable to me to learn from others who have developed through other Cultures and social experiences and to learn from them. The Round Table is a very rewarding experience that exposes individuals to knowledge, skills and experiences that you would not otherwise have the opportunity to learn from and develop. Whilst going through the year as a Round Table member you are having fun and engaging with other team members it's not till your time as a member of the Round Table comes to an end and you reflect on your past year that you recognise how you have grown personally.

2001



Anna Maria Socci

Dudley Clarke

Gul Baqar

Jean Toia

Kate Fuller

Vicki Schultz

Candice Levy

Elizabeth Grimley

Helen Roussos

John Rawnsley

Shane Johnson

Dale Wootten

Emily Findlay

Jason Wauchope

Justin Lovett

Troy Buckley



John Rawnsley



I have a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies from Charles Darwin University and I am a member of St. Philips College in Alice Springs, and a member of the NT Constitutional Convention Committee.

My highlight of Round Table was working with a group to deliver a presentation to the Chief Minister about bullying and harassment. It was great to be able to work with a group and involve young people from across the Territory in delivering what we felt was a successful presentation. Having access to such a senior level of government is a tremendous opportunity. There is so much to gain for young people in the Territory, for those who want to contribute and are passionate about what they believe in.

Putting yourself forward to the Round Table is an opportunity to develop your skills with other young people from across the Territory. I gained so much and used the experiences as a springboard for bigger challenges and achievements.

Shane Johnson



I am still performing the role of Community Liaison within the Australian Federal Police in Queensland working closely with diverse communities to build strong relationships, social cohesion and to provide a two-way communication conduit assisting with matters of interest to communities and the AFP. I have two children and enjoy boating, camping and fishing and travel throughout the top end when time permits. The NT is my spiritual home.

During my time on Round Table seeing the dedication and passion of willing and capable young Territorians was a great thing. However, the highlight for me is probably only now being realised with the Round Table igniting a passion for creating positive change and believing that no matter how complex the challenge, there is always a solution or at least a path to a future solution. My advice to anyone considering applying is simple – get on board.



Vicki Schultz

I'm currently working as the Director Regional Development in the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. I have two gorgeous boys are 6 and 9, which keep me on my toes and light up my life. I am deeply passionate about the Northern Territory and the opportunities that exist here for all now and into the future.

Emily Findlay

I am living in Alice Springs with my husband and two young sons. I am working for Parks and Wildlife Commission again after having some extended time off for maternity leave. Since doing the Round Table, I have worked across the Territory and in Fiji and Vanuatu on environmental and sustainability education programs.

The highlight of the Round Table was traveling up to Darwin regularly with other young people from regional NT. Working collaboratively on projects with passionate and motivated young people. I would suggest anyone takes the opportunity to be involved. It not only provides personal rewards it also is an amazing feeling to represent your local community in a positive way.



Kate Fuller



After I finished high school, I started my law studies at Charles Darwin University. I transferred to Griffith University in Queensland and graduated with Honours in 2013. I worked full time as a law clerk in a criminal law firm throughout my university studies and in 2014; I was admitted as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of Queensland.

In 2016, I opened Fuller and White Solicitors with my partner, Brittany White. Our firm specialises in criminal law and also acts in child protection domestic violence and family law matters. I love my job because I am in court every day. We are active participants of the Queensland Law Society's pro bono scheme and also their criminal law committees, which advise the law society and other stakeholders on criminal law issues.

I am also currently studying a Masters of Applied Criminal Law in Sydney and I am an active member of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland.

2002

Alexandra Williams

Ben Lee

Karan Anand

Nigel Browne

Rosalia Munkanome

Tara Berry

Alicia Sims

Chris Earl

Leanne Rodney

Paola Ciarla

Ryan Whittington

Anthony Ormond

Ivana Biorci

Maria Scaturchio

Richard Riley

Sawittree Theerawatporn



Ben Lee

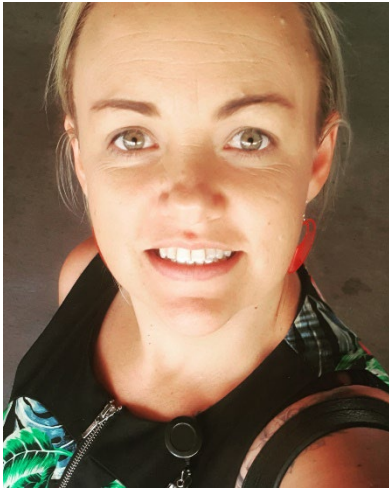
In 2018, I relocated from Melbourne to Singapore, and in 2020 I relocated to Beijing where I am now currently working as General Counsel for Mercedes-Benz Financial Services China.

My highlight of Round Table was being able to present ideas directly to the Chief Minister, this is an opportunity available only to a few, and I think it's great that the Government has continued to give the NT's youth a voice for 25 years.

Being a board member of a large corporation is a challenging position, but it is experiences like the Round Table which put you out of your comfort zone at a young age to help you develop the confidence and resilience to succeed.



Tara Berry



I left Adelaide River and moved to Darwin many years ago for work. I am still living in Darwin. I have been employed with the Northern Territory Government since 2003. I am happily married with 4 beautiful daughters. My hobby is basically cheering from every sideline of a Darwin sports oval, encouraging my girls in all their sports, managing the girls sport teams and volunteering any chance I get for the girls sporting clubs.



Nigel Browne

I am a Larrakia and Wulna man from Darwin. I currently work as a Crown Prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. I have also previously worked for the Solicitor for the NT and the Chief Minister's Office.

I am also the current Chairman of the Larrakia Development Corporation, tasked with helping to advance the economic and business interests of my people.

In August 2011 I was awarded the National Indigenous Legal Professional of the Year Award by former Federal Attorney General Robert McLelland. This national award is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal professionals and is judged on merit by the Law Council of Australia.

I am married with six children. I enjoy 'trying' to keep fit, four-wheel driving, watching the footy, cooking, spending time with family, fishing and a good laugh.

My highlight from the Round Table included the opportunity to contribute to discussions on issues affecting youth in our community, sharing ideas, meeting like-minded people, direct access to the government and Chief Minister, and developing long-standing relationships with the other participants.

My advice for others considering applying for the Round Table is give it a try, if only to prove to yourself that you can effectively contribute to and promote discussion on the many issues currently affecting youth in the NT. The opportunity to communicate directly with the Chief Minister is invaluable, and the connections you make during the course of the year will open up other avenues and opportunities for you.



Karan Anand

I am currently a Management Consultant at Deloitte, entrepreneur, Chair of the Young Sikh Professionals Network (YSPN) and a Director of the Australia India Youth Dialogue based in Sydney. At Deloitte, I consult on matters of strategy to executives of large publically listed companies, focussed on the Financial Services and Consumer Business industries.

I lead YSPN, which was founded in 2012 with a mandate to create the conditions for young Sikh professionals to succeed and amplify their influence. YSPN has active chapters in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth and a management team of >40 people. I also serve as a Director and incoming Chair-Elect of the Australia India Youth Dialogue, the premier track-two diplomatic dialogue between young leaders of Australia and India.

Since my time on the Round Table, I have been a delegate to the Brightest Young Minds forum in Sydney; a delegate to the National Student Leadership Forum in Canberra and part of an Australian delegation to The Hague International Model United Nations. In 2005, I was Darwin's Young Citizen of the Year.

I completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Finance both from University of New South Wales where I was the Goldman Sachs Postgraduate Award winner.

I was one of the younger ones in the group when I joined the Youth Round Table (I was 15 when I was on it), so getting exposed to a group of more mature, intelligent and successful individuals was really valuable.

I was in the Drugs and Alcohol awareness working group – it was an eye opening experience for me to be exposed to some of the critical issues challenging the Territory. If you're interested in some of the critical issues facing the Territory and want to get involved in understanding how public policy is constructed I'd highly recommend it.

I'd particularly recommend it for people on the younger end of the age spectrum to get involved – it's a great way to stretch yourself and accelerate your learning.



2003

Adam Flewell-Smith

Chantelle Ransome

Elyse Leech

Jackson Browne

Matthew Cornell

Talia Fletcher

Ben Woltman

David Hevey

Emma Farnell

Kylie Bloomfield

Ruth Doran

Carmen Que Noy

Ella Cavallaro

Fiona Hughes

Leonie Williams

Steven Van Diermen



Matt Cornell

I am based in the Asia-Pacific region and grew up in Darwin, on Larrakia land. I currently work through dance, choreography, sound, photography, and discussion to craft beautiful ways to subvert dominant cultural narratives.

I believe in the power of non-spoken experience and the far reaching effects of love. I have also toured internationally, won awards, grants, residencies and scholarships.

The highlight from my year on the Round Table was the realisation that one should have an opinion and that it should be informed, that the current state of the world is always changing and to accept nothing solely, because “that’s just the way that it is”. My advice to others that are considering applying for the Round Table is that taking ownership for your community is one of the most empowering things you can do.

My recent projects include “I learnt my cultural dance from youtube” and The Big Bounce. More info at <http://mattcornell.com/>



David Hevey



Dave is preparing for a diplomatic posting as First Secretary – Cyber and Digital Affairs to the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Geneva), from February 2023 – 2026. Dave’s earlier roles in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade include Assistant Director in humanitarian response, and Assistant Director in the Office of the Australian Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Tech. Beforehand, Dave worked in the Attorney-General’s Department, the Department of Prime Minister and the Cabinet, Home Affairs, the natural gas sector in Queensland, as well as in international and community development roles in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Melbourne.

Immediately after CMYRT, Dave studied a Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University, and is married with a handful of “mini me’s”. Dave is a passionate Wallabies and Queensland Reds supporter, and still calls himself a Northern Territory boy.

2004

Carrie Barlow

Dean Garrett

Matthew Lowe

Roxanne Highfold

Scott Cann

Suzanne Cooper

Chad Wilson

Emily Macmillan

Max Morris

Sarah-Jane Saltmarsh

Serena Coleman

Daniel Bouchier

Leanne Washington

Ngaree Ah Kit

Selissa Armstrong

Shari Sebbens



Carrie Barlow

I have some great memories of being on the Youth Round Table in 2004. I was 25 years old, living in Alice Springs and very keen to roll my sleeves up to create some opportunities for young Territorians!

Over the course of the year, we were all tasked with delivering a project. Armed with my journalism degree, several years' public relations experience and some "media friends" who were very generous with their time and skills, I set up a youth newspaper.

DeGener8 was written by the young people of Alice Springs for the young people of Alice Springs. We managed to convince the editors at News Limited to

print several editions of the newspaper for us, which we distributed through schools and throughout the community. It was a way for young people to share information and connect with each other, in the years before anyone had even heard of Facebook or social media. It was an exhilarating feeling every time a new edition of DeGener8 rolled off the press – we were so proud of what we had accomplished!

While DeGener8 didn't continue when I moved overseas in 2005, my experiences on the Round Table were both personally and professionally rewarding. To start with, it introduced me to an amazing group of people I wouldn't have otherwise crossed paths with and I'm sure it has even opened some doors that I wouldn't have otherwise known were there.

I'm now living in Brisbane. I work for the Queensland Government, managing a range of media and communications projects that are not unlike the one I set out to do on the Round Table. In my spare time, you'll find me studying for my future career in law, travelling the world with my hubby, renovating our house and cuddling up with the dog. Wishing the Round Table a happy 20 year anniversary – and hopefully many more to come!



Daniel Bouchier

My current work involves covering major breaking news and reporting broadly on all facets of Indigenous affairs. Where I'm at in my life and career, is because of the many opportunities I've been afforded. The highlight from my participation on the 2004 Round Table without a doubt was the friendships that I made.

Fellow members came from every walk of life, and I was greatly affected by the sharing of experiences and stories. The friends that I made on the Round Table are still friends today, almost a decade later; and although we are in varying stages of our lives and careers, the Round Table afforded us an invaluable opportunity to become lifelong mates.

I feel that it is really important to be open to new experiences, and possess a willing ear to listen to those sitting alongside you. It is also very important to share your own story and use that opportunity to become comfortable in your own skin. There's really not a minute to be lost.

Dean Garrett

Since the Round Table in 2004, life has changed in ways I could not even imagine, both personally and professionally. The experience of the Youth Round Table certainly influenced some of that, but some way just part of the evolutionary process of growing up and figuring out who I am. Professionally, I continued with the NT Government until November 2011 when I relocated to Queensland and commenced with the Queensland Government. I am currently employed as a Principle Advisor in Human Resources for the Queensland Audit Office but constantly on the lookout for the next challenge. I have also continued work related studies and in 2008 I received my post graduate qualification in Management.

I have undertaken training in fitness studies and am working part time as a Group Fitness Instructor, which has become the real passion in my working life. Briefly, but most importantly, my personal life is happier and more fulfilled than it's ever been. Since the move to Brisbane I get to spend a lot more time with my eight year old son, and I have an amazing partner who inspires me every day.

It's very difficult to identify just one highlight... there were so many things that I loved about my Round Table experience. However, a highlight would have to be the friendships that I made during that time and the fact that some of them still remain. A number of those people have gone on to do pretty amazing things and in some sort of strange paternal way that gives me a lot of pride.

My advice to others thinking of applying for the Round Table is, it's probably a lot more work than you are expecting it to be, but it's definitely going to be a lot more fun and a lot more rewarding than you are expecting also.

Matthew Lowe



I currently live in New York City, USA and have been living here for the past four years. Prior to that I lived in London, UK. I am a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and hold a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering (Hons), and a Bachelor Degree in Commerce (Banking & Finance). I recently got married to my wife Sarah whom I met here in NYC. We recently returned from our honeymoon which was on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. My hobbies include running and going to the gym and catching up with friends to watch sports

Ngaree Ah Kit

I live in Darwin and I spent the majority of my adult life working in government before entering politics.

My Round Table experience gave me a greater taste for politics, advocacy and community involvement and I actively sought these opportunities once my time on the Round Table ended.

I spent a decade volunteering on boards and driving community initiatives as a way of encouraging community members to be part of the solution they seek.

My particular passion was suicide prevention, which I became involved in as a way of self-healing after my baby brother took his own life in 2007. I used my experience to help establish the Darwin Region Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network in 2010 to help reduce the incidences and impact of Indigenous suicide in our community.



In late August 2016, I was privileged to win the seat of Karama in the NT Election. I am also fortunate to be able to support my colleagues in my capacity as Minister for, Disabilities, Multicultural Affairs, International Education and Corporate and Digital Development.

My highlight from when I participated on the Round Table was definitely meeting other young people who wanted to improve the quality of life for our Territory peers. Vicki Schultz was awesome as the coordinator and encouraged us to reach for the stars. I remember telling Vicki at one of the Round Table meetings that I would love to have her job one day. And then six years later, I began working in the Office of Youth Affairs as the Round Table Coordinator.

My Round Table experience changed my life and opened up a number of doors that led me to where I am today. So I encourage every young Territorian to give the Round Table a go, as you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Roxanne Highfold

My life has changed significantly since being a part of the Round Table Committee 2004. I now call Alice Springs home. I have a 3 year old son named Charlie and am single mummy working full-time and studying part-time. I work at Central Australian Aboriginal Congress as a research officer. I have my work cut out with taking on various roles in this position. I work on multiple projects ranging from youth health and wellbeing to early childhood development. All studies are qualitative projects which I contribute to significantly to. I recently was co-author on a study called 'Validation of a culturally adapted developmental screening tool for Australian Aboriginal children; early findings and next steps' with Samantha Simpson from Melbourne University. I'm stoked to have worked on this study. I have worked mainly in the early childhood and adolescent field and enjoy working with young people and their families.

I'm also a member of Aboriginal Staff Advisory Committee (ASAC) for Congress, which exists to provide important advice and input for the continual improvement of congress services and programs with an emphasis on cultural safety and support and career development of Congress Aboriginal workforce. This is a true example of how far my skills have come since being a part of the 2004 round table, to now where I'm applying those base skills I've learnt while being a part of round table.

Earlier this year The Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE) in collaboration with The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI), put out a call for Aboriginal Health staff working in the Aboriginal Health Sector to undertake a CREATE Clinical Fellowship. I was successful in securing a scholarship for a place on this course. The Fellowship involves supporting and guiding us to conduct a work place evidence-based implementation project that is looking at evaluating the induction of new staff into Congress's Cultural Environment. Once we complete this course we will have acquired the skills to effectively implement auditing and evaluation strategies to any clinical and research project at Congress.

We are proud to be a part of this course and the support from Congress drives home the message about the importance of developing the capacity and providing opportunities to Aboriginal staff working in Aboriginal Health.

I'm looking forward to what the future holds for me and my little family. I'm enjoying life and hope to have achieved all the goals I set out for myself in the next couple of years. Look forward to hearing an update on everyone in the next ten years.

Sarah-Jane Saltmarsh



The biggest highlight of being part of the Round Table was the people; the Round Table attracts a great group of inspirational young people who have fantastic visions for the NT. It was the year I spent in the Round Table that first sparked my interest in working in remote Australia, and the resultant two and a half years which I then spent working in a community-controlled Aboriginal organisation were by far some of the years which I have learnt the most about life and had the most fun. I am still in touch with a lot of the members now and they are still pursuing great goals, except it is not just in the NT anymore, but all around the world.

As a society, I think we are facing some important questions at the moment that will shape our planet for years to come and young people not only have the answers to many of these questions, but also the energy to make the changes that need to happen.

My advice to those who have the opportunity to be part of the Round Table is to just go for it! Meeting so many inspirational young people will really open your eyes to what can be achieved in

your local community, and will push you to achieve things you don't even realise you can do. From my own experiences, life begins at the end of your comfort zone – and the Round Table is a great first step in pushing yourself out of your comfort zone.

Scott Cann

Hello, my name is Scott and I was a member of the Round Table back in 2004.

I continue to enjoy pursuing my passions in climbing and cycling and have had the chance to climb and cycle throughout Africa, Europe, New Zealand, south-east Asia and Australia and have many more adventures planned.

I had two highlights from the Round Table; firstly, presenting a year's worth of work and effort directly to the Chief Minister, and secondly, meeting inspiring and exciting young people from all over the NT, some of whom I am still friends with today.

My advice to others wishing to apply for the Round Table is that you should not let a lack of experience or skills deter you. We all start somewhere and the Round Table is a great way to build upon and apply your existing skills to practical and meaningful outcomes. The Round Table is a valuable and rewarding experience and I highly recommend that anyone interested apply.



Serena Coleman



I have moved on from my position as Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance which I held for 5.5 years. I am now working as the Executive Officer, Community Engagement, Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project, with NT Government a project I am very excited to be a part of. I am a mum of four awesome kids, one of which has just graduated with their diploma in Psychology and is on to their Master of Teaching down in Melbourne (she was 5 during my time on the Round Table!). Two are in High School at Taminmin and the last of which is only 6 years

old life is busy and I love it. Since the last update I have also managed to purchase my second slice of NT Paradise which will tie my family to the NT for years to come.

2005

Alana Norton

Chloe Smith

Felix Allsop

Joel Bruce

Prue Gell

Sarah Manning

Alice Chang

Christine Cottle

Hailee Skinner

Michael Pearson

Ramesh Jeffery

Catherine Murray

Dwain Westbrook

Jarrad Newman

Owen Strathie-Murray

Rebecca Weller (nee Healy)



Alice Chang

Currently I am a child and adolescent psychiatrist based in Cairns. I am an adjunct lecturer at James Cook University and University of Queensland.

I worked as the director of child and youth mental health service in Far North Queensland, with a strong interest in serving the Indigenous and remote communities.

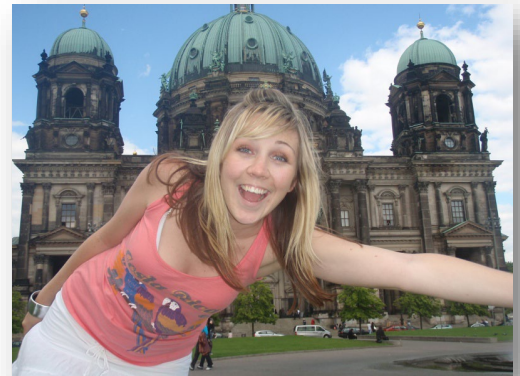
I was the winner of the Gates Cambridge and Sir John Monash Scholarship and studied at Cambridge University.



Catherine Murray

After my time on the Round Table I was instilled with a confidence that allowed me to pursue anything and everything. For me the big ticket item was travel, I packed my bags and moved overseas. Stints living in London and Canada followed with all the destinations I could fit in packed in between, Egypt, America, Europe, South America and Central America.

Darwin is still very much on my radar and I make multiple trips home each year as I still have family and friends there. Darwin itself though still has a very special place in my heart. I have delighted in sharing it's unique experiences with my partner and I have loved watching my home town grow and develop over the years. It comforts me to know the Round Table initiative continues as the youth will always need a voice, especially as times change. It is encouraging to know there is a productive avenue that can be accessed to help their needs and issues be addressed.



The whole experience was honestly a highlight. From meeting enthusiastic, awesome people from all walks of life across the Territory, to the final presentation to the Chief Minister at the end it was a wild ride. Highs and lows of course, it would be stressful at times finding the work/life/Round Table balance but there was so much support to help with that, you were never alone in your problems, the round tables in the years before you had felt the same and your experiences could help those in future. The highs were seeing all the hard work culminate in that face to face with the Chief Minister and various government representatives and feeling validated. The voice of the youth was being heard.

My advice is to embrace it all, it might feel overwhelming but you are all in the same boat. The support is phenomenal and the end results are so satisfying. Enjoy the ride! It's a fantastic experience and the skills you develop will be with you for life. Prioritise workloads and communicate with your group. Communication is key, it might sound cliché but it's true for all facets of life.

Rebecca Weller



As a law breaking, trouble making, angry and bad-mouthed teen, the Round Table provided me with a platform to direct my ideas into meaningful contribution to policy. I felt that I was able to represent the issues of my day, directly to government and I was able to see how society and the machinery of government can work together.

The Round Table was the reason I flew on a plane for the first time and made me feel like I could study law with only a grade 7 education. This group enabled me to see how fragile and disconnected society, policy and law makers can be when tweaking and turning policy like knobs on an airplane, trying to achieve the idea of social outcome. It made me realise that you cannot wait for other people to save you or your community, you must get up and be the change you want to see in the world.

In 2016, I purchased a Caravan Park in Padthaway South Australia and now located here with my two children Chase (16) and Blake (15). In 2011 I was awarded a NT Young Achiever Award, followed by Barnardo's Australian Mother of the Year, and Young Australian of the Year (NT). These experiences allowed me to remain optimistic with my youth and community work through the years with the quality of mentors and networks I have developed.

After the Round Table, I have always and will always value quality mentors and have just completed a scholarship with Inspiring Rare Birds – a mentoring program for female entrepreneurs. I am halfway through my MBA with Monash University and have a part time consultancy business.

Sarah Manning

When I was on the Round Table I was living in Tennant Creek, where I was managing the public library. It was certainly a busy (but hugely rewarding) year and I continue to look back on that period of my life with great fondness. Since that time, I have embarked on a range of adventures.

After Tennant Creek and spending some time working for the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the (then) National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, I pursued a snow-change and spent five years chasing winters; living between New Zealand, Utah (U.S.A) and Canada. Working for a sightseeing helicopter company in the Rocky Mountains piqued my interest in aviation, and I have continued to work in that industry since returning to Australia in 2012. Uninclined to stay in one place for very long I kept on the move, from Darwin to the Byron Bay region, to the Gold Coast and, last year, returning to the Northern Territory once again.

Outside of work I have continued to travel as often as possible with the U.S.A, Vietnam, Iceland, Japan and Chile among my favourite locations. Otherwise, I enjoy spending my time outdoors, being active and adopting a self-sufficient lifestyle.



2006

Annalise Durilla

Emily Ryan

Justin Murphy

Lisa Deverauz

Robert Dalton

Vanessa Matsen

Chee Lean

Hannah Watts

Kelsey Branford

Louisa Bayne

Rose Sadleir

David Johnson

Jaimie McIntyre

Kevin Kadirgamar

Perri Fletcher

Tammy-Jane Reece



Hannah Watts

It's hard to believe it has been over 10 years since my time on the Round Table. I consider myself extremely fortunate, as I have been able to turn my passion for advocating on youth issues into a career that I love.

During my time on the Round Table I was working as a youth worker in Darwin, which I continued for a few more years, while also studying. Then, in 2012 I packed up my life, took time out for some travel around Europe and Australia, and eventually landed in Canberra in October 2013. I've been working for the youth peak body in the Australian Capital Territory ever since, where I have the opportunity to advocate for young people and youth services, and provide professional development and support for other youth workers. Every day is different, and every day we work towards changes that make our community a better place for young people, so it's safe to say I love my job.

I completed my studies last year, graduating from Murdoch University with Bachelor of Arts, double major in Community Development / International Aid and Development, and a minor in Sociology, and was honoured to win a Community Development Prize.

In my life outside of work, you can find me at the beach or down the river swimming almost every weekend in summer, where I love the croc and stinger free life. In winter I'm either hibernating by the fire with good friends or a good book, or yelling my lungs out at the local ice rink supporting our local ice hockey teams. I still get up to the NT every year to visit family and friends, and do a bit of other travel whenever I can – locally and overseas.

My time on the Round Table was a great opportunity to develop professional skills that I still use in my work today, and to see how small groups of passionate people can raise their voices about issues that are important to them, and make a difference.



Kelsey Branford

I'm still in the Territory - now living in Darwin. Alice is still my favourite place which luckily, I get to visit regularly. Currently I'm working as the Senior Policy Adviser to the Honourable Kate Worden MLA. What's great is there are members of other Round Tables working with Minister's too - including Ngaree Ah Kit, who is a Minister herself. It is a face-paced and ever-changing environment where you are constantly learning, something I really enjoy.

Justin Murphy

My highlight from the Round Table was meeting great people, some of whom I am still in contact with today. Another highlight was the chance to share information amongst such a diverse group of people, it was a real eye-opener.

I strongly encourage other young people to apply, submitting the application is the best thing to do. Aside from this, show that you are interested in giving your efforts to the table, but also be prepared to accept someone else's point of view (even if you cannot imagine why they think like that).



Robert Dalton

Since the Round Table, I have travelled around various Territory Government departments and spent several years as a Policy Officer with the Northern Land Council, which was great as it allowed me to work closely with Traditional Owners on some of the more important issues facing them. Through this work I have got to spend a lot of time in communities and have been able to get some exposure to the other end of town – going directly from meetings in Yirrkala to lobbying Federal Ministers in one weekend was surreal and fun as well!

During that time I also found the time to get married, spend some time in New Zealand and Tasmania, and I now have two young sons. Meeting all those people from 2006 was definitely a highlight – I made good friends, and would love to see how we are all doing as a group.

The report that my team produced that year had some really good findings about where young people should seek information about sexual health. It would be good to revisit that and find out if there had been any changes made over time.

Applying for the Round Table should be one step you take in getting involved with your community. All young people should take the opportunity to get involved in their community and make their lives better in small ways.



Kevin Kadirgamar

I am the Manager of Migration NT with the NT Government.

After my year as a Round Table member in 2006, I decided to stay in the Territory, and complete a double degree in a Bachelor of Laws and Business. It's a decision that I have never looked back on and the opportunities and networks that the Round Table opened up certainly played a key role in helping me make that choice.

The Round Table experience inspired me to get more involved in youth-led initiatives in the community. It opened my eyes not just to the issues that young Territorians face but also the numerous opportunities available for young people to get involved in the community and make a real difference. It provided me with the perfect launching pad to initiate and be involved in youth-led organisations such as Multicultural Youth NT (MyNT), and various student groups at CDU.

My highlight from the Round Table was working together with a bunch of like-minded people committed to taking initiative in their communities. We inspired each other to keep going and to make things happen throughout the year.

Apart from having the charge to report to the Minister through our formal project reports, the informal feedback we were able to provide through the Round Table meetings was invaluable. One of the other highlights was taking up the issue of school bus schedules with the Minister. I remember the day of our graduation that year when we were finally told that there would be a whole new bus schedule created to address the issue. The Round Table is an opportunity that every young Territorian should consider. No matter who you are or where you are, young people have unique ideas and experiences that need to be communicated to the government and acted on. Make the most of the opportunity and never underestimate how much of a difference you can make.



Perri Fletcher

I participated in the Round Table in 2006. I was 16 years old. A lot in my life has changed since being on the Round Table. I am still very much interested in youth events and recently decided to become a teacher, so I can reach youth straight on and make a difference in their lives.

I am currently working on some projects of my own with hopes to start a small business venture aimed at youth. The greatest highlight I have from the year I participated in the Round Table is that I got to meet some great people who I know will change the world and change people's lives, because they certainly changed mine. My advice to others that are considering applying for the Round Table is yes, go for it! The amount of information you get out of it and the experience you have sourcing your knowledge for your own projects will make you want to do it, time and time again.

Tammy-Jane Reece

I participated in the Round Table in 2006. In 2008, I decided to make the big move out of Darwin to the bustling city of Melbourne. With an interest in mental health and the desire to learn and care for people, I decided to study Nursing at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. I am currently working in the opposite side of the spectrum, with elderly dementia patients. I love working with the elderly. It's exciting and I have had the opportunity to witness some amazing things.

In June and July of 2011, I decided to go out and experience the world and backpacked throughout Europe. It was definitely an amazing experience, and one that I recommend to everybody. One of the many favourite memories from my trip would definitely have to be sipping champagne at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

There are so many good memories from my time on the Round Table that is hard to just pick one. From meeting Marion Scrymgour, the then Minister for Young Territorians, to the scary rope course for the team building exercises. Having the opportunity to learn and develop my skills on a professional and personal level was an amazing prospect that I recommend to everyone. Meeting people who are like-minded and care about young people and the local community gave me a sense of belonging and faith that there are good people in this world. That change starts from discussion, taking into account that we all have a voice to be heard. I still keep in contact with the friends that I have made on the Round Table to this day, and overall it's the highlight from the Round Table that continues to keep on giving.

My advice to others applying is to just keep on trying. I did not successfully get a position on the Round Table until my second attempt. But with hard work and determination, you can achieve anything. Trust me, the experiences, opportunities and amazing people you get to meet whilst on the Round Table is worth the application process.



2007

Clare Paynter

Jacob Andreae

Lauren Jew

**Nicolette McCourt (nee
Pearce)**

Shamim Kholosi

Tara Alexander

Claire Ryan

Karlie James

Lyndon Duncan

Rosalind Beadle

Shashank Ramakrishna

Darby Bicheno

Katrina Halse

Nathan Frick

Sarah Morris

Siana Cork



Nicolette McCourt

I am now a Senior Firefighter with the Northern Territory Fire Service.

My highlight from Round Table was meeting the other members and attending all the meetings out at Lake Bennett. I learnt so much about myself and my capabilities during my year with the Round Table. This was also the year before I got married to my husband of nine years.

If you are thinking about applying for the Round Table, absolutely do it! Not only to try and make a difference or influence in your community, but to meet some amazing likeminded young people that will become friends for life.



I think it is important for young people to know and learn that change is possible. If you are really passionate about something, no matter how big it seems, you can do it. I may not have achieved everything in the 12 months that I was a part of the Round Table, but it definitely played a large part in setting me up with a good strong foundation for the challenges that lay ahead.

Claire Ryan

In 2007, I worked on a report with my fellow Round Table members, Sarah Morris and Tara Alexander, titled "Youth Curfew Report". Our report explored the concept of the current Alice Springs Town Council's proposed youth curfew and the impact it could have on the community. We conducted extensive consultation through the Alice Springs community to decide if a youth curfew would be appropriate and its success if implemented.

Working on a report that covered an issue which was extremely controversial at the time, made our work extremely interesting. In 2011, the issue of a youth curfew in Alice Springs resurfaced and our report was quoted and referred to in a number of publications. Looking back at the report, I feel that between our team we tackled an issue that really meant something, and our research made an impact.

To me, the confidence that the Round Table gave me, really empowered me in my community and even in my own life. It taught me to be aware of issues in our community that face young (and old) and to not be complacent with unsatisfying approaches to issues. I feel that Round Table gave me the confidence to apply for different things and to throw my hand up to always learn more about our community.



Jacob Andreae

I now have four children, a double degree in sport science and teaching as well as a graduate Diploma of Psychology, I teach at Darwin High School, I've travelled to several of my favourite parts of the world, I've worked at the Northern Territory Institute of Sport and for the Adelaide Crows women's football team.

My highlight from the Round Table was meeting the other participants and attending meetings. This was also my first year of teaching. If you are thinking about applying for Round Table, do it! You learn a lot about yourself and you will develop all sorts of valuable skills along the way. It is a great spring board of motivation onto your next life challenge.



Karlie James

I am still very passionate about issues regarding youth, especially within the NT. I have been active within the community since Round Table, and have been involved with Top End NAIDOC as Chairperson and events coordinator, as well as a member of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee and a parole officer mentoring young Indigenous offenders.

I must admit I was a little side-tracked with expecting my son, but as far as Round Table went the highlight was the meetings at Lake Bennett, and spending time with fellow members working on the various projects. Round Table is definitely a fantastic way to have a voice for young Territorians, meet new people, and have a lot of fun. If you are interested, give it a go. It is a great experience!



Shashank Ramakrishna

So, writing this blurb for the 2017 Alumni Report is daunting yet humbling. To think almost 10 years has passed since my time on the Round Table is the daunting bit. To say a whole lot has happened since then, yet not a lot has changed, is the humbling. I like to tell myself I'm the same 17-year-old Shanks; just 10 years older, hopefully 10 years wiser, but definitely more than 10 kilos heavier!

For me, my time on Round Table '07 coincided with my year 12 at Casuarina Senior College, which also ended up being my final year in Darwin. Whilst I was sad to leave the place I had called home for over 14 years, I was eager at the opportunity that awaited. In 2008, I started my career within the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as an Engineering Officer Trainee at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Fast forwarding four years, at the end of 2011, I graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and was commissioned as an Air Force Officer. In the six years since then, working as an Engineer within the RAAF, I have been privileged to travel a good portion of the world, encounter and work alongside some incredible people, and most importantly, grow as a person.

Now living in Canberra, I'm married to my beautiful wife of two years, Zahra, with whom I have two Fur-babies; Bolt, a 2 year old Siberian Husky, and Severus, a 12 month old Kitten! Similar to my days in Darwin, I still enjoy getting out on the field to play some cricket (#TracyVillage4Life), enjoy riding my push bike (substitute the Casuarina Coastline for numerous Lakes) and love a good chat (#nochange)! Looking forward a few years, I'm hoping to have travelled much of North America and Europe with Zahra, and maybe even some mini-me's!

Rosalind Beadle

I have been living in Warburton, a remote Aboriginal community in the Ngaanyatarru Lands of Western Australia, for the last two years. I am working with a fantastic group of local women who run a catering business. They organise school breakfast, cooking and delivering meals for the elderly and also cater for a range of school and community events. I am undertaking a PhD in young Aboriginal women's health and wellbeing and love living out in the Western Australian desert.

My highlight from the Youth Round Table was being given the opportunity to work alongside such a wonderful and motivating group of young people from around the Territory. I particularly enjoyed the chance to undertake a community project – trying to understand how health and education services could be improved for young Aboriginal mothers in Tennant Creek. Youth Round Table is a unique opportunity to develop your team and communication skills, as well as to gain a greater understanding of the way you as an individual can influence the betterment of your community and provide advocacy to people in need.



2008

Amanda Ngalmi

Chris Helmond

Felix Ho

Jack Hose

Kristian Goodacre

Tessa Snowdon

Amy Sherrin

Desmond Campbell

Gabrielle Morris

Katharina Gerste

Matthew Renshaw

Amy Milford (nee Smith)

Emily Holyoake

**Gemma Harwood (nee
Benn)**

Katie Chatto

Pritika Desai



Desmond Campbell



Participating in the Round Table in 2008, I was privileged to work with some of the most dedicated, strong-willed and professional young people in the NT at the time. Life time friendships were set and almost ten years later, they keep getting stronger. A special appreciation for the staff, Vicki and her team, should always be acknowledged. The experience wouldn't have been what it was without the enthusiasm of the staff.

Over the years since 2008, I've had managerial roles within the NT Government in areas of community education and leadership. I've had endless opportunities to speak at forums for a range of cohorts ranging from young people to groups of all ages and professional backgrounds, in the task of providing motivational leadership, knowledge and being the best you can be. One particular highlight was participating in the Youth NT Conference where I was delighted to be a key note speaker, speaking about successful young Indigenous people doing great things in their individual areas in their communities - true inspiration, true leaders. I saw a great group of young leaders involved in the Foundation of Young

Australians leadership program grow and achieve great things. Another more recent experience was being invited to present at the 2017 Garma Festival on the work I do in the community around education and leadership men should take with stopping domestic and family violence.

Professionally I am working towards maintaining a career within the NT Government. I am locally born and grown and determined to give back to my community through the participating of public service and community volunteering. Through my career progression I have had great opportunities to participate in strategic directions of internal government departmental priorities, NT wide strategic direction priorities such as the 2014-17 NT Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy and national strategic strategy and framework development and implementations such as the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.

I have successfully completed a social science degree - Bachelor in Community Management with Macquarie University, Sydney and more recently graduate diploma in Public Sector Management with the plans to further complete my masters around public sector policy.

Without a doubt, my experience on the Round Table contributed to my success and general happiness and motivation. The program was much more than a year, it's now a lifetime in the form of career success and friendships. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to have been involved.

Felix Ho

Since being on the Round Table in 2008, I've been fortunate to undertake further postgraduate studies and now work within the health care industry in Darwin.

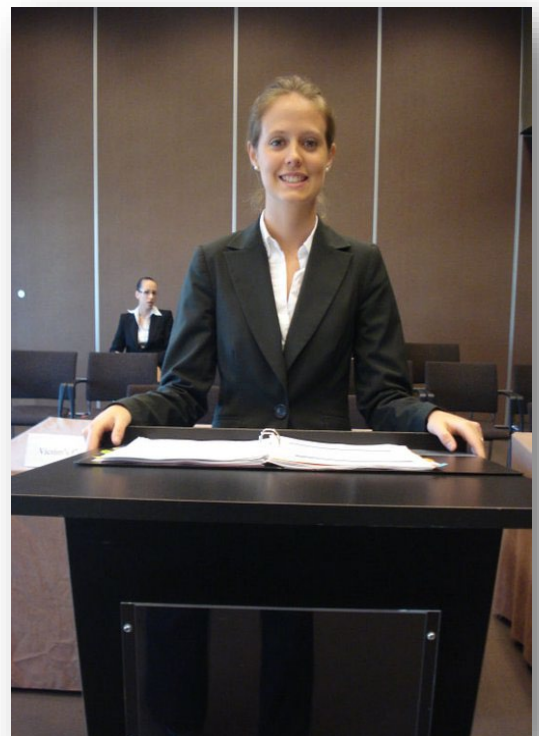
Being part of the Round Table has helped me to develop friendships and networks, as well as meeting some inspirational Territorians. Reflecting that, it's been a great opportunity with some great memories.

Gabrielle Morris

After finishing on the Round Table and graduating from Kormilda College in 2008, I took a gap year before commencing my degree. This memorable year involved travelling through Europe as the Australian Ambassador to The Hague International Model United Nations before returning to Darwin to work for The Exodus Foundation.

Working with Exodus was an exciting experience. The program involved teaching the 'Making Up Lost Time in Literacy' program to urban Indigenous students - one of my most rewarding experiences to date. In the evenings, I tutored boarding students at St Johns College. This work reminded me how many talented young students there are in the Territory, and how motivated they are to excel and achieve great results.

Reflecting back on my year on the Round Table I am flooded with great memories. Meeting an inspiring bunch of diverse and talented young people that are passionate about improving the channels of communication between the young people of the NT and the government was also unforgettable.



Gemma Harwood (nee Benn)



Since participating on the Round Table in 2008, I have continued working in the Northern Territory Public Service. I'm currently undertaking a professional development opportunity with the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet. Previously I had worked with the Department of Health for several years. On the family front, my husband Adam and I now have two beautiful girls. Charlotte is five and Willow is nearly two. We moved to the rural area a couple of years ago and enjoy the peace the relocation has brought us. The years have certainly featured many memorable moments.

Pritika Desai



My life and career has taken many twists and turns since my year on the Round Table, but my journey to where I am now really started there. I am currently working in Sydney as a Senior Project Officer co-designing a new integrated mental health clinic providing coordinated care for people living with severe and persistent mental illness. This is a really exciting project, because it is working with practitioners, consumers and Carers and the wider community to design an innovative new model of service deliver. I also Founded and continue to lead a youth mental health project in the NT called ShoutOut!

Since 2008, I completed a zoology degree in Victoria before moving back to the NT to work in Indigenous community development and establish ShoutOut!. I moved to Sydney last year where I worked with multicultural women to develop social enterprises, particularly focused on the arts, before ending up in mental health where my real passions lie. My advocacy in mental health had stemmed from my Round Table year, where I had first openly spoken about my own mental health issues for my project at the time. For these efforts I was the 2015 Young Achiever of the Year, 2016 Darwin Young Citizen of the Year, 2016 National Youth Week Ambassador, 2016 Young Achiever of the Year Nominee and 2016 India Australia Business and Community Awards Young Community Achiever of the Year. I have also had my name engraved at Sydney's Darling Harbour. Round Table empowered me to take up similar opportunities and learn a range of skills, so was fundamental to my achievements to date.

Round Table was life changing for me. I was 16 when I was diagnosed with mental illness, I was searching for my place in the world and Round Table gave me that purpose. Round Table gave me the confidence to be myself and to stand up for what I believed in. The connections I made through Round Table have stayed with me since, and I have had the pleasure of crossing paths with those people in other projects. I couldn't appreciate the highlight of my year until the year had passed, because the highlight has been the impact Round Table has had on every aspect of my life since.

Round Table is a very special opportunity, and the impact you have on the community and on yourself is really up to you- the memories, change and skills you want to experience. The first step is to just apply.

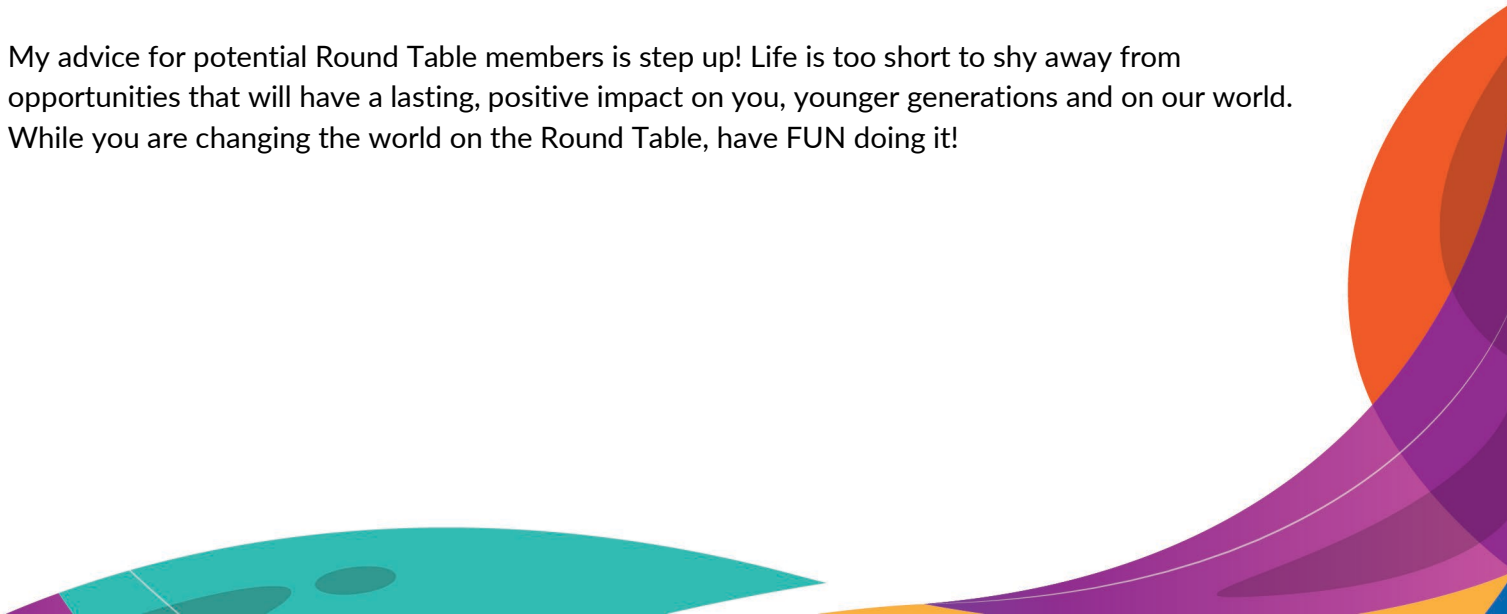
Kristian Goodacre

Life after Round Table is never the same... and I mean that in a good way of course! Prior to moving back south, I was working with children and young people in urban, rural and remote areas of the Territory to create safer communities for kids to grow up in. Some of the projects I was involved with included National Child Protection Week, Children's Week and the Moodditj Program in Maningrida. The final challenge I faced before moving back to Sydney was co-chairing the Youth Delegate Program Committee for the Asia Pacific Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (APCCAN09) in Perth, Western Australia.

These days when I'm not working with inspiring young people, you will find me giving endurance mountain bike racing a crack or surfing/spear fishing at one of Sydney's beaches with my mates. Being back on home turf close to my family and friends hasn't stopped me visiting the Territory to go bush with my Round Table mates, and grabbing a feed at Mindil, Parap or Nightcliff markets. You can't beat Darwin in the dry season! On the horizon I'm looking at utilising my Master's Degree in the field of organisational coaching and management and looking into an overseas placement with AusAid.

During my time in the Territory, I listened and learnt from an array of inspiring people, all of whom have made a profound impact on my life and I will forever be grateful for having had the privilege of growing up in their presence. Seeing the immediate and longer term ripple effect our Round Table projects have had on the young people and their communities is definitely a highlight. There is not much that compares to standing on top of the Humpty Doo half-pipe with your Round Table team, looking out over a youth-led rural rock festival of skating, spray painting, slamming bands and sizzling snags, knowing that you had a hand in pulling it all together and potentially encouraging others to do the same down the track.

My advice for potential Round Table members is step up! Life is too short to shy away from opportunities that will have a lasting, positive impact on you, younger generations and on our world. While you are changing the world on the Round Table, have FUN doing it!



Amy Milford (nee Smith)

I am living in Darwin and now raising my own family here. Since the round table, I have had four kids. My eldest daughter is about to head off to Middle School, my twin boys are 9 years old, and my youngest daughter is six. I call my life my happy crazy chaos, as I am also raising them on my own full time.

I started my own business in 2017, called Darwin Family Life. It is a big online community (over 16k parents across my platforms) and resource for parents but also helps promote and advertise other small businesses. I also work as a part time Project Officer in the NT Government.

My kids and I love exploring the outdoors, swimming, camping and getting out into nature. I also love painting and getting along to salsa dance classes when I can.

In 2022 I was announced as People's Choice bronze winner: Making a difference local community in the AusMumprenuer Awards.



2009

Cindy Schultz

Ethan Woods-Alum

Jessica Cunningham

Luke Phillips

Rebekah Raymond

Steven Pedlar

Craig Pettifor

Felicity Wardle

Justin Heim

Nicole Shotton

Robert Pullino

Elise Moo

Honeylyn Lisson

Larnie Batten

Rebecca Weller (nee Healy)

Sharah Lyons



Elise Clare Moo

I have recently moved from Darwin to Sydney to study a Bachelor of International Studies, majoring in International Relations, at the University of New South Wales.

After completing Year 12, I took a gap year and worked full-time as an administration assistant at a privately owned registered training organisation in Darwin. During this time, I also completed a Certificate III in Business Administration. Working in my gap year, although invaluable in many ways, also confirmed my desire to go to university to be able to pursue a career that I am passionate about, rather than working in a job purely as a means of generating income.



Working enabled me to save enough money to go on five holidays in 2011 with family and friends, which was my main aim in taking a year off. Although this meant I didn't have as much money saved for university as I would have liked, I had a lot of great experiences including attending a music festival in Queensland with friends, going to the New Year's Eve full moon party in Thailand and achieving my open-water scuba diving license.

My tip for others considering applying for the Round Table is to read past project reports before applying. Design a project scope in a way that makes achieving goals realistic. Starting early is key to this. Learning how to utilise the skills of individual team members as well as the group as a whole is valuable.

My highlight from the 2009 Round Table was meeting a variety of like-minded people and sharing ideas about topical issues that affected young people in our communities. I also enjoyed learning about how to conduct a research project and writing up subsequent finding in report format. Being able to pursue an issue was important to me personally and was also a great experience.

Ethan Woods-Alum

After living and working across the NT and QLD I moved back home to Katherine after hitting a rough patch. I now educate around the effects of alcohol and drugs, and talk about my lived experience of drug use.

Honeylyn Lisson

I was a member of the Round Table when I was 16 and in Year 11 at Casuarina Senior College. I have been heavily involved in a number of Youth Organisations since the Round Table including with groups such as the United Nations Youth Australia, City of Darwin's Youth Advisory Group, the Oaktree Foundation, World Vision, the Red Cross, and as the president of my school's student representative council. I was also lucky enough to win the Pride of Australia Award and the Young Achiever Award in the Youth Leadership category. Since graduating, I have stayed involved with many of these groups and have been working full time as a tutor at Casuarina Senior College (I just couldn't leave). I have also spent time travelling in Europe, Asia and will soon be going to Canada and America. Next year I will begin completing an Arts Degree at Monash University in Melbourne and I can't wait.



Determining my highlight from the year is really hard! It was great meeting all of the other Round Table members – some of whom I'm still in contact with – and being able to participate in so many interesting discussions and activities. Looking back, I can't believe how privileged I was to be able to talk directly to politicians and other high powered individuals as well as to receive amazing training and hear from experts in a range of fields.

For those thinking about applying for Round Table – definitely give it a go! It's a great opportunity and if you really put in a lot of effort you can do so, so much. Also remember that time will go super quickly so plan out what you want to try and achieve as early as you can (have a good think about it even before your first face-to-face meeting so you have something to start discussing straight away). And don't forget to ask for help when you need it, pursue a project you're TRULY passionate about and have fun doing it!

Felicity Wardle

Participating in the Round Table has provided me with opportunities to learn more about our political system, its strengths and weaknesses. Overall I found the experience inspiring and enriching. Some highlights for me were feeding into the 2030 Territory policy vision, and contributing to the development of policies relating to young people and their rights and interests. I'd like to see a return to short and long term, evidence based policies and less politicking. I hope young people in the Territory stay engaged in politics and participate more fully.

In the words of Vera Nazarian "a choir is made up of many voices, including yours and mine. If one by one we all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists. Don't let a loud few determine the nature of the sound. It makes for poor harmony and diminishes the song." So speak up and speak your truths.



Justin Heim

During the year I took part in the Round Table, I learnt a great deal about managing deadlines, completing applications and working in a team to achieve a positive result. The coupling of this experience and with my final year of high-school allowed me to better myself as a person in terms of academic achievement, personal growth and many other areas.

My advice to others considering applying is to simply apply for the Round Table. It doesn't matter who you are, as long as you want to make the community around you a better place, then you can achieve this at the Round Table. If you don't apply, you have no chance at all of being involved. But if you do, even the act of applying can teach you about how you could better apply yourself to things in the future.

Larnie Batten



I finished my schooling in Darwin, graduating from Charles Darwin University with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in economics, I have since worked in several NT Government agencies, including the amazing Office of Youth Affairs. I have recently become the Director of Study NT - promoting the Northern Territory as an ideal study destination for international students.

I have a young child who is in primary school in Darwin and am married to my partner of 17 years. I love living in Darwin and seeing all the opportunities that are available for young people here.

My hobbies include running and spending time with friends and family.

Nicole Shotton

It's been a few years since I was part of the Round Table and a lot has changed for me. After graduating high school at the end of 2010, I was lucky enough to have the chance to travel to Cambodia and be a part of the Rotary Exchange Program. Assisting in humanitarian activities such as constructing huts, creating health care packages and aiding the local university has been a life changing experience for me, and one which I will never forget.

To name one highlight I experienced from the 2009 Round Table would be almost impossible, there were so many! Meeting a really great bunch of young people and realising what we could achieve together was an absolute amazing feeling. If you have passion to help people, assist in your (or in my case, wider) community then apply to be a part of the Round Table! The worst that can happen is being short listed, and if that's the case, try again next year!

Rebecca Weller



As a law breaking, trouble making, angry and bad-mouthed teen, the Round Table provided me with a platform to direct my ideas into meaningful contribution to policy. I felt that I was able to represent the issues of my day, directly to government and I was able to see how society and the machinery of government can work together.

The Round Table was the reason I flew on a plane for the first time and made me feel like I could study law with only a grade 7 education. This group enabled me to see how fragile and disconnected society, policy and law makers can be when tweaking and turning policy like knobs on an airplane, trying to achieve the idea social outcome. It made me realise that you cannot wait for other people to save you or your community, you must get up and be the change you want to see in the world.

In 2016, I purchased a Caravan Park in Padthaway South Australia and now located here with my two children Chase (16) and Blake (15). In 2011 I was awarded a NT Young Achiever Award, followed by Barnardo's Australian Mother of the Year, and Young Australian of the Year (NT). These experiences allowed me to remain optimistic with my youth and community work through the years with the quality of mentors and networks I have developed.

After the Round Table, I have always and will always value quality mentors and have just completed a scholarship with Inspiring Rare Birds – a mentoring program for female entrepreneurs. I am halfway through my MBA with Monash University and have a part time consultancy business.

2010

Celeste Brand

Eun Ju Kim-Baker

Joshua May

Lauren Moss

Skye Clayton

Rebecca Rowberry

Aaron Dowling

Amelia Kunoth-Monks

Dimity Jessup

Gavin Henderson

Kelvia-Lee Johnson

Aroha Jennings

Elsbeth Blunt

Hannah Woerle

Kylie-Maree Sambo

Sephyr Crook

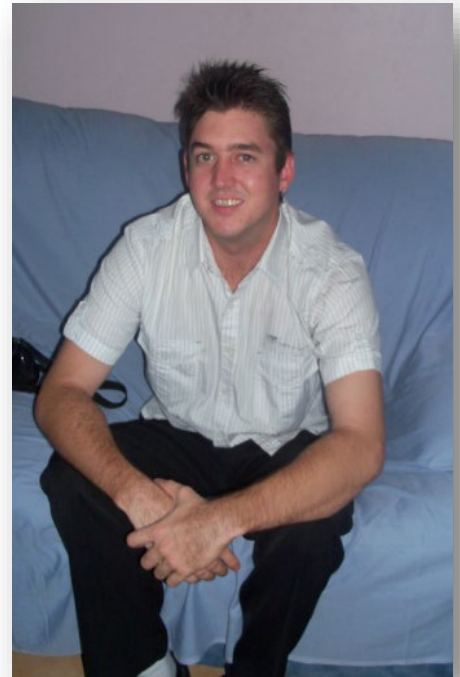


Aaron Dowling

Firstly, I have to say that it was a great experience undertaking the Round Table, and it is excellent to see that there are so many young people who are enthusiastic about the future of young people. It is especially great that the NT Government is supporting this opportunity for youth.

I was given a great opportunity about half way through the first semester of an apprenticeship with the Department of Education and Training, for a Certificate III in Business. With the skills I had obtained I managed to gain a position with the Department of Health within the NT Government, working in Records Management. After one year of working in the department I decided to broaden my career prospects and applied for, and successfully obtained, a traineeship with the Department of Infrastructure.

There were a lot of highlights for me from the Round Table but mainly it was a lot of fun. There were a lot of discussions around the topics and concerns for youth, and it was good to see everyone having input into the things they thought would change the lives of young people for the better. My advice for others thinking of applying for Round Table is to do the best you can and go for it. If there is anything you wish to raise, let it be known to the Round Table and it could lead to action. Make sure that you fully understand your topic first so that you are ready to put your views across to the Round Table.



Celeste Brand



Wow, so much has happened since 2010! In 2013 I moved to Perth to study a Bachelor of Social Work at Curtin University. I completed my studies at the end of last year. I also completed an Indigenous Cadetship with NT Government Department of Health. The cadetship supported me during my studies, this included returning to Alice Springs during semester breaks to complete placements with the Social Work Team at the Alice Springs Hospital. I've now moved back to Alice Springs to work and be with my family. In April, I welcomed my baby daughter into the world. I'm currently enjoying my time with her before I head back to work in a few months as a Social Worker at the Alice Springs Hospital.

I think the Round Table provided me with great learning experiences and opened up new opportunities. A highlight for me was meeting with Ministers, government representatives, and with Non-Government Organisations.

Elspeth Blunt

I am currently 31 and completing my Masters of Teaching at the University of Melbourne. When I was on the Round Table I lived in Alice Springs and managed community arts projects. With fellow Round Table member Gavin Henderson, we formed the Harmony Crew in 2010 to organise events and advocate for other young people in Alice Springs. Since then I've worked in Western Australia and rural Tasmania with Big hART - Australia's leading arts and social change company. Most recently I was the Creative Producer of Big hART's Project O, which drives change in rural communities affected by family violence.



Lauren Moss



In 2010 and 2011 I was fortunate enough to be a member of the Youth Round Table, acting as Chair in the first year. I saw this role as being pivotal in discovering the issues that I wanted to do more about – it definitely drove a significant change in me both personally and professionally. Fast forward to 2022 and every day I pinch myself to have the privilege of representing the people of Casuarina in the NT Legislative Assembly, and to be able to drive change and positive outcomes as the Minister for Youth. The coordinator of the Youth Round Table in 2010 happened to be someone who is now a colleague in Parliament...the Member for Karama Ngaree AhKit!

The project I was part of establishing on the Round Table, Skin Deep, ended up being a five year long love and catapulted me into other opportunities to advocate for better mental health services for young people not only in the NT, but across the country.

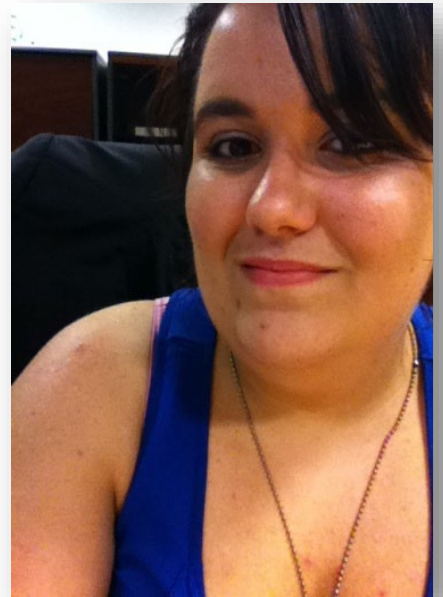
I still encourage young people strongly to apply for the Youth Round Table and to be open to the experiences that come their way. To remember that you get out what you put in, and that in

addition, program will gain you some lifelong friends. I truly do believe that it makes a difference, and reminds leaders of why young people should be at the table when we're making decisions that will impact them.

Dimity Jessup

My highlights of working on the Round Table was that I met other amazing and inspiring young people who share similar and different views, who are working together to improve and promote youth and youth issues in the community. These young people are achieving this with members of the NT Parliament and other organisations at a grass roots level.

I advise everyone to have a go and get out there. Express your views and express yourself in your own way. Every person creates their own world and every little action can change the world.



Sephyr Crook

Having been on the Round Table in 2010 and other community organisations, I now find myself forever busy with different initiatives to help young people and those in need. My highlight from the Round Table was seeing other young people with a passion improve the lives of others.

My advice to others thinking of applying for Round Table is as you look into the real state of things through the Round Table and perhaps find that the picture is somewhat dismal, do not lose hope. You are tackling big matters, but still have fun and enjoy the company of fellow members.

Joshua May

I currently live on the Gold Coast, having graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of International Relations in September 2016.

Since that time, I've been working in Brisbane as a part of the Australian Taxation Office's Graduate Program, where I've had the opportunity to work in Client Engagement and also in Learning and Development. I am a keen performer and member of Sound Connection, one of Australia's premier a cappella groups, and in July 2017, I represented Australia with them in a worldwide competition in Las Vegas!

I am immensely passionate about youth issues and education, and have co-written several school textbooks to help students prepare for life after school. In the next few years, I hope to travel the world a bit more, and continue to help young people achieve their goals.



2011

Alpha Capaque

Amanda Francis

Emily Osborne

Lauren Moss

Steven Satour

Zoe Owens

Bruno Wilson

Dion Dodd

Gavin Henderson

Lianna Georges

Tobi Martins

Connor Reid

Eleanor Dixon

Hannah Woerle

Samuel McIver

Tylee Wirth



Alpha Capaque



Since my Round Table experience, I've served as Chair of Multicultural Youth NT and as Treasurer for Multicultural Council of the NT, both of which gave me confidence in myself and gave me the chance to lead projects I would have never imagined I could before. Round Table has allowed me to see all the opportunities available to young people like myself and this has helped me grow as an individual.

The weekend meetings with the whole Round Table are moments that I will always cherish. These were a bunch of people, mostly strangers to each other, from different backgrounds with different stories. I met leaders, innovators, and inspirational people. But most of all, I met friends. Every meeting, I learnt something new about each of them and I would never forget their stories and the lengths they were willing to go through to make changes in the community.

My advice to others thinking of applying for the Round Table is to submit your applications NOW. It is worth it! Don't let the thought of writing a report or presenting it to the public freak you out. There will be many who will help and support you. It has been one of the most worthwhile things I have done in my life, and submitting my application was one of the best decisions I have made. It has been an amazing journey and I learnt a lot from it. Once you are in the team, don't forget to talk about your ideas (this is the place to talk about things even though you may think no one wants to listen). Be involved and take in as much as possible. After the term, you will have a chance to look back and just be amazed to see how much you and your idea have grown.

Connor Reid

My highlight from the Round Table was gaining more skills with working with people, having a voice for Young Territorians, gaining a better understanding of politics and understanding what's happening in my community.

If you apply for the Round Table, make the most of it. It is a great experience and a great way to help make a positive impact on the community.

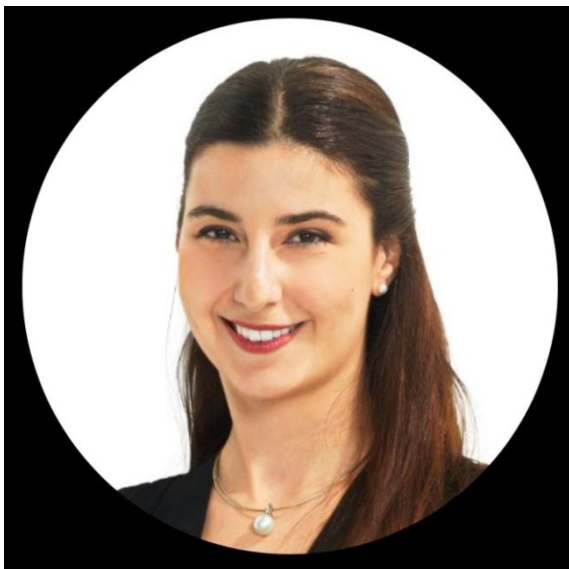
Dion Dodd

The interaction with the other members is definitely my highlight of the Round Table. Meeting these amazing people made it one of the most special years of my life. The drive, intelligence and passion of the people that I met, have inspired me to want to be and do more, not just for myself but for the community.

My advice for those who wish to apply for Round Table is to just do it! It is an opportunity of a lifetime. You will become one of a select few, chosen to represent your community and your peers. I believe that being yourself and having a passion to make changes for youth issues is exactly what you need to be a part of the Round Table.



Lianna Georges



I am a Darwin local and have spent the last 10 years working in both the non-for-profit and property industry. I have fundraised for several local groups including Alzheimer's Australia NT, Charles Darwin University and the NT's Greek cultural community.

I was fortunate to participate in the 2011 Round Table and loved working with a dynamic group of young Territorians. The Round Table definitely allowed me build up my community work and is an experience I highly recommend to other young Territorians.

My newest role is now being a mum and I look forward to getting my little boy involved in everything our fantastic community has to offer.

Tobi Martins

I would have to say that the best part of Round Table was towards the end. Seeing the work the Round Table had put together was very impressive. It showed how much passion and effort everyone had put into it. That sounds a bit cliché, but it is seriously true.

My advice for others considering applying for Round Table is to give it all you have got. It seems daunting at first, but trust me, it is fun and worthwhile. Make sure you use all of the opportunities that you are given to represent at the Round Table. Some of them will be really interesting!



Tylee Wirth

I have been fortunate enough to have worked in the Correctional and Child Protection fields within the Katherine Region. I have moved from the mandatory field, and I am currently working on the Katherine Regional Aboriginal Health and Related Services (KRAHRS) Healing Pathways Project.

I enjoy travelling in South East Asia, but most of all I love camping under the stars and watching my daughter fish (trying to catch Barramundi bigger than her)! The Katherine lifestyle really works for me and my family.

The highlight for me on the Round Table would have to be my project presentation. To have Ministers and very important members of the NT Government not only listen, but really care about what I have to say was amazing.



My advice to others who wish to apply for the Round Table is just go for it! I really had no idea what I was going to experience, but I promise that you will be pleasantly surprised! Having the opportunity to tell people what you think is an amazing development and learning curve.

Zoe Owens

Well that time went fast, since I was on the 2011 Round Table I have graduated both high school and from the University of Adelaide. I currently hold a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science Honours, First Class. At the end of 2016 I moved back to Darwin and started a position with the NT Police in their Forensic Biology laboratory earlier this year. I am thrilled to be able to come back and start the next part of my life in Darwin, there is really nowhere else like it.



2012

Alvin Marrpindiquy

Dimity Jessup

Emily Osborne

Georgia Barlow

Hamish Harty

Isobel Cammarano

Jacinta Newman (nee Kay)

Jessica Cullen

Joseph Smith

Karina Files

Mark Munnich

Rochelle Cabry

Rona Glynn-McDonald

Russell Burns

Shalira Hazelbane

Tylee Wirth



Emily Osborne

My name is Emily Osborne, in 2011, I was a member of the Round Table and in 2012 I was elected as the Chair of the Round Table, with my community based project focusing on Youth Suicide in the NT. In 2011, I was lucky enough to win the Pride of Australia Medal in the Young Leader Category for the NT, while also being School Captain for my school, Nhulunbuy High. I was also the NT Representative for the Australian National Young Carers Action Team for three years (2009-2012), due to caring for my older sister and my involvement with young carer advocacy in Gove.



The highlight for me from the Round Table was definitely completing my community based project after two years and successfully holding a community Suicide Prevention Day in my town of Gove. This prevention day was a year in the making and is one of my proudest accomplishments to date. Being a small town, a death in the community deeply affects the passionate people of Gove and my contribution to those affected by suicide will not heal their losses, but hopefully will help prevent future suicides in the Territory.

If the Round Table feels like the PERFECT thing for you, but you are unsure whether you want to step out of your comfort zone, don't fear! The staff at OYA will guide you every step of the way, the other Round Table members will be there to support you no matter what, and past Round Table members have been there and know that it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You are ALL amazing and you are the only person who can tap your potential.

Isobel Cammarano



In 2012 I was on the Round Table and my project was to run a dance and movement workshop for youth with disabilities in Darwin. The highlights of my year were doing my first dance workshop and being featured in Dolly magazine. Since being on Round Table in 2012 I successfully completed year 11 and 12 at Casuarina Senior College in 2013/14 and took a gap year in 2015. During this time I continued to run dance workshops for young people with Down Syndrome. I ran classes every Wednesday afternoon focusing on strength, flexibility and teaching new choreography. After becoming a zumba instructor I incorporated this into my workshops and ran my own class during my gap year.

In November 2013 I was part of the performance 21 The Journey run by the Down Syndrome Association. This was the story of a mother with a child with Down Syndrome navigating the

challenges of life. I specifically choreographed 3 new pieces for the musical and was involved in organisation backstage. We performed at Brown's Mart theatre and the show was so popular that we put it on again on March 21st 2014 to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. In 2015, I continued to run my weekly dance workshops as well as assist in the Down Syndrome Association's second hand shoe shop WIMS.

In 2016 I made the decision to move to Adelaide to go to university; I am currently in my second year studying a bachelor of Special Education and Disability Studies at Flinders University. It has been a big change moving states but I have very much enjoyed getting back into studying. I am currently on placement working with adults with disability do arts activities such as craft, music and dance. I am so grateful for the experience that Round Table gave me as it helped me to realise what I am passionate about and what I want to do for the rest of my life, there is no way I would be where I am today without it.

Jessica Tait (nee Cullen)

Wow, what a difference five years makes! It's hard to believe how much my life has changed since I last wrote an update for my Round Table Alumni. Where to start!? Well, I'm an open book, so here goes...

The end of two serious relationships (one of them a marriage) and a relocation to beautiful Melbourne are just a couple of the big changes that have happened in my life in the five years since Round Table.

In 2014 I packed up my life in Darwin and moved to Melbourne, without a job or anywhere to live. It was pretty challenging, but after a couple of months I landed a job with a national financial institution and was able to start rebuilding my career. One of the things I learned is both a wonderful and terrible thing about Darwin; everyone knows who you are and what you're about – so it's easy to achieve goals if you have the right support. When you go to a new city, that reputation and support network doesn't follow you, so you have to stand on your own two feet and put in the hard yards. I did, and it paid off. I've been able to get my career goals well and truly back on track and am looking forward to what happens next.

Really getting into the spirit of what it means to be a Melbournian, I've developed an (un)healthy obsession with AFL. I am a passionate member of North Melbourne Football Club and last year started playing footy myself! I play for West Brunswick Amateur Football Club and we are lucky enough to be part of the inaugural women's competitive season of the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA). I love the physicality of the game, the challenge it brings every week, and the 120 new best friends I got when I joined the club.

So all in all, it's been five years full of learning and growth. My decision to apply for Round Table was one of the first times I'd had the confidence to put myself out there and do something I'd always



dreamt of. That was 2012, and thanks to that experience and everything else that's happened along the way, I feel like I can achieve anything I set my mind to.

It really fed the fire of my passion for mental health. My project was around mental health education in schools, and I am still driving the same kind of project today in my workplace. Knowing what I'm passionate about and how to articulate it has given me a real edge in my professional life as well as a focus in my personal life.

I developed a couple of close friendships through RT and have enjoyed seeing the journeys my friends have gone on (looking at you, Lauren Moss!)

Karina Jamieson (nee Files)



The last 4 years have been an exciting time in my life and have seen many major events occur. I have moved to South Australia, got married and bought another property.

I am currently working as the Business Support and Attractions Project Officer for the City of Playford, continuing my work with businesses and regional economic development. I have completed my Bachelor of Government and Public Management, and am currently taking 12 months off from studying, but have plans to go back and complete my MBA in the near future.

My hobbies still include community and charity work and I am an active member of my local Rotary Club. I still love to read and the house renovations never seem to end!

My highlight from participating on the Round Table was the connections I made and the inspiration I gained from the other members. It was an empowering feeling knowing that the work you were doing had the potential to truly make a difference in the NT! Round Table is a great experience and an opportunity to influence key decision makers in the NT. I would strongly encourage anyone that has the opportunity to take it and make a difference!

Mark Munnich

I am the second eldest of seven in my family and am born and raised in Darwin, NT. I am a descendant of the Yawuru peoples from Broome, Western Australia and the Gunggandji peoples from Yarrabah in Cairns, far north Queensland.

I currently work at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and I am currently in my final year of my Bachelor of Laws at CDU. I am a former Fellow of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Human Rights with the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland and currently hold various roles such as an Indigenous ambassador with the Office of Indigenous Student Services at CDU, a volunteer of the Bilata Indigenous Legal Pathways Program, Board member of Danila Dilba Health Service, NT AIDS and Hepatitis Council and the Winkiku Rumbangi Indigenous Lawyers Association of the NT.



Over the years I have had the privilege of receiving various accolades such as Young Citizen of Palmerston, 2014 the Top End NAIDOC Youth of the Year, 2016 Student Leader of the Year with the Australian Leadership Excellence Awards and the 2017 Minister for Territory Families Excellence in Youth Leadership, the 2017 overall Young Achiever of the Year with the Young Achiever Awards and was awarded the 2017 Top End NAIDOC Scholar of the Year.

The experience and highlights of my term on Round Table gave me a platform and a voice directly to the Government to put my views and recommendations for issues that youth were facing in my community around Leadership, advocacy and opportunities. I applaud the NT Youth Round Table for its 20 years of giving young people across the Territory a voice to share the issues that young people face and directly from the young people who face the issues that concerns them.

Jacinta Newman (nee Kay)

It took me a while, but I have finally finished my bachelor of nursing at CDU, and was lucky enough to secure a grad program as a Registered Nurse at Royal Darwin Hospital in the busy Emergency department. I have a lot to learn, but I get to work alongside a wonderful and very talented bunch of doctors and nurses, which I am loving. I am excited about the future and where my career in Nursing can take me. I also still work at Channel 9 on a casual basis when they need the extra help.

Taylor is now 18 months old and keeping us on our toes. He continues to make us laugh constantly, and it's amazing seeing him grow into a gorgeous little boy. Between the shift work, Taylor and sport there is not much time for anything else, but my husband and I continue to enjoy our life in Darwin.



2013

Allan Sommerville

Jessica Sullivan

Sarah Tam-Perez

Leonie Williams

Caleb Maru

Natasha Pilakui

Carlie Richards

Rochelle Cabry

Elizabeth Fogarty

Olivia Johnson

Thomas Ballas

Janet Truong

Renon Schafer

Sebastian Pascoe



Jessica Sullivan

I am currently based in Brisbane and am in my last semester of a Bachelor of Health Sciences at UQ. I am hoping to get into a postgraduate medicine degree beginning next year and become a rural practitioner. Ideally I'd like to move back to Darwin and study through the NT Medical Program. I am also getting married at the end of the year so that is making my final semester interesting!

I used to sneak out of Round Table meetings for a couple of hours occasionally to play footy and I am still involved in AFL, playing for my college and university, and coaching a local youth girls' team. My other main extracurricular activity is being part of a Christian group on campus called Uni Impact. I was very lucky to travel to Thailand with Uni Impact on a cross cultural project at the beginning of this year to work with a similar university ministry in Chiang Mai.

The highlight of my time on the Round Table was getting the news that the NT Government had committed an extra \$3.85million to youth mental health in light of our presentations at the end of 2014. That was real reinforcement that the Round Table is listened to and can make tangible a difference to the lives of young Territorians.



2014

Aidan Sears

Christine Gardiner

David Ridley

Emma Cooper

Erin Keeley

Jeremy Gillen

Jermaine Campbell

Joshua Jackson

Jessica Sullivan

Lily Reid

Ned Hall

Rangga Daranindra

Nathan Fanning

Janet Truong



Emma Cooper

During 2015 I stayed in Katherine where I continued my job as a teacher as well as volunteer commitments as the Katherine Scout Leader and as a member of the Regional Economic Board. I was honoured to be awarded the 2015 Katherine Young Citizen of the Year as well as receiving a special award from Scouts Australia for my work with Katherine Scouts and another award to recognise the years I had committed to being a Scout leader in Tasmania and the NT.

I accepted a new teaching job in Palmerston for 2016 onwards so in December left Katherine for Darwin. Early January 2016 I was one of the adults who travelled with a contingent for around 70 young Territorians to New South Wales for a two week Scout Camp involving more than 10, 000 people Australia wide.

2016 has seen me take some time off from my volunteer roles and focus on my new school and job. It is also my most exciting year yet as I am expecting my first baby with my partner in December.

Since my involvement in the Round Table I have had lots of adventures camping around the Territory and driving through Western Australia as well as trips overseas with friends.

The highlight of Round Table was meeting and networking with other young Territorians and mentors as well as being involved on boards and planning for the future. The Round Table is a fantastic opportunity if you are passionate about improving the NT and meeting likeminded people.



Nathan Fanning

Since 2014 when I was the Chair of the Chief Ministers Round Table I have continued my passion for making our community a better place. I have tutored Aboriginal engineering students, organised awards to honour NT's firefighters and been a board member of the Australia Day Council NT for six years. I am currently working as a Director of Industry Strategy for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, NT Government focused on policy development leveraging the priority economic sectors of the NT. I am fortunate to have a wonderful family with two beautiful boys who are aged four and one, who are my world.

I encourage other people to consider joining future Round Tables, as there isn't a better experience to equip you for future opportunities. A major highlight of the Round Table is working with so many talented people to make a better life for young Territorians.



Lily Reid

I am 21 years old and still living in Darwin. Since leaving Round Table, I have developed my passion for advocating for young people through becoming a dance coach with a local dance school in Palmerston, as well as working as the admin officer for the Transition to Work program with YouthWorX NT. Through working with YouthWorX NT I have been exposed to working with young people who have or are currently experiencing a variety of hardships. This exposure has led me to look at studying community services with the long-term goal of becoming a youth worker.



In the 3 years since leaving Round Table I have worked for the NT Government. I have completed 2 years in university and decided to defer. I have had heart surgery and took this year off from university to sort out my priorities while recovering from heart surgery which I had at the end of 2016. This year has been an exciting year where I had the opportunity to travel overseas and now I am focusing on my work aspirations.

Round Table taught me about governance and processes that were directly linked to community needs to help and support young Territorians.

A highlight for me was being able to stand in front of the members of Parliament and present my briefing. It was especially great to really pique the interest of those in the room so much so that Ministers from other portfolios than the Health wanted to help as much as they could. Round Table really helped me to find out who I wanted to become as an adult and has really defined my goals for the future!

Erin Keeley

Since the Round Table, I have moved to the Sunshine Coast to undertake a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology). Upon completion of this, I hope to move back to Darwin to undertake my Honors in Psychology. I would love to continue to further my study to hopefully become a school psychologist/ counsellor. My dream would to become a forensic or clinical psychologist. I have been lucky to travelled abroad in the past two years and currently saving to travel America and do a volunteer trip to Cambodia teaching young children.



I loved the experience to meet new people. The guest speakers always gave me new ways to think about things. I was most proud of the moment I found out we had made a difference, having the government listen to our recommendations and funding the different regions of the NT to increase support facilities of those living with mental illnesses. Be interactive! It is an amazing, unique opportunity that I am so glad I had the chance of taking part in!

Rangga Daranindra

Before starting my career in the NT Public Sector in 2015, I worked for various private organisations like the Charles Darwin University and Mediterranean Hotel while completing my postgraduate degree in Masters of Business Administration. During my free time, I enjoy volunteering in community groups such as with the Multicultural Broadcasting Council NT, Young Professional Network NT and Australia Indonesian Youth Association NT. I believe that volunteering has enabled me to meet new people and understand the community better.

I decided to join the Round Table in 2016 after finding out that my close cousin attempted suicide due to intense cyber-bullying by her classmates. As a Round Table member, I took on cyber-bullying as my main research project with the hope to create awareness to the NT public, particularly the young Territorians, on the existence and impact of cyber-bullying in the NT. My findings and recommendations were presented at the final Round Table meeting addressed to the Chief Minister and members of the cabinet.

One of the main highlight during my time at the round table was the opportunity to meet likeminded young Territorians who now I consider them not only as my team mates, but also family.



Janet Truong



I am currently working and still studying at university in the field of law. Post Round Table I have been working as an administration officer for three years. The highlight from the years I was involved with the Round Table was being able to meet and work together with other like-minded young people and of course the process of creating my community-based project report.

I particularly enjoyed the consultation process for both of my projects as it gave me a chance to speak to stakeholders in which my project were likely going to impact on. In addition, it was rewarding in 2014 where

for my Peer Panel project, I conducted 5 demonstrations of the draft Peer Panel model which over 25 young people as well as adults showed immense support by undertaking a key role and demonstrated its potential. Overall, every aspect of Round Table was rewarding in its own way during my 2 years tenure.

2015

Nicholas Harding

Gabrielle Hale

Ritwik Dasgupta

Lauren Northcote

Joelene Puntoriero

Daniel Murdoch

Aurora Jan

Jerome Gilbert

Tenneil Ross

Venaska Cheliah

Savanne Canobie

Ineke Wallis

Nooria Muradi

Lauren Yan

Edna Snape



Joelene Puntoriero

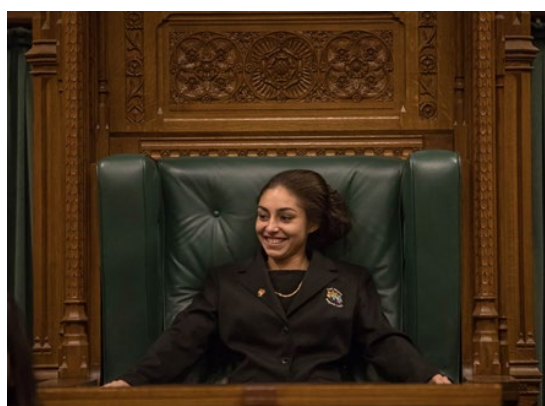
I am working as a Youth Development Officer at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award NT Division and studying full-time university in a Bachelor of Environmental Science.

My highlight from Round Table was being able to be surrounded by such compassionate and motivational young people from around Darwin.

My advice to others considering joining Round Table would be to take this opportunity to develop a program for the youth of Darwin.



Ineke Wallis

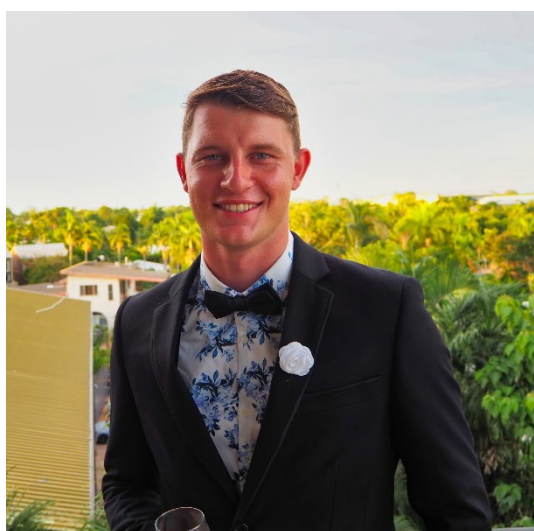


I am 22 years old and currently working as the Governance and Executive Support Coordinator at East Arnhem Regional Council.

I am proud to be the first Indigenous manager/coordinator at the East Arnhem Regional Council, moving my way up throughout the organisation. I am a professional in Ballet, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Tap and contemporary dance.

I was lucky enough to receive the Genesee and Wyoming Australia Indigenous Achievement Award in 2017 and also participated in the Indigenous Youth Parliament in 2014. My highlight from Round Table was having the opportunity to speak with Senators and Ministers and having an input on decisions made for youth, Australian's and the Indigenous people of Australia.

Daniel Murdoch



I consider myself a lifelong learner, and have continued my education by doing post-graduate studies at Charles Darwin University. I was lucky enough to work in a few different international policy areas within Northern Territory Government and am currently a Senior Policy Officer for MigrationNT. One of the proudest moments in my career has been representing the NT Government at CAUSINDY Conference in Makassar and Darwin. It was great to shine a light on how incredible the Northern Territory is. I love giving back to my community and have continued to serve as a Reservist in the Australian Defence Force. I also have a love for travel which has led my partner and I to travel around the world, mainly Asia and America, with Europe on the cards in 2023. I love the people, opportunities and

lifestyle the Territory offers, and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

2016

Pearl Randhay

Cindy Uzzell

Leicholhn McKellar

Jack Lake

Breanna Duncan

Annelise Lelli

Bryn Gleeson

Henry Boeck

Aimee-Leigh Frencken

Natasha May

Ernest Issac

Sam Swan

Zoe Cincaid-Agnew

Malia Ford (nee Mary Cunningham)



Breanna Duncan

Things have been pretty steady since I finished my year with the Round Table in 2016. I am currently the National Business Manager and Facilitator with Balanced Chouice.

The highlight of my time during the Round Table was making friends with like-minded, passionate young people who wanted to instigate change within their community. It was great to share the year with them and work towards supporting our communities.

My advice for those who wish to apply for the Round Table would be to stay open-minded but pursue your passion. There are many issues facing young people today that need to be addressed, but to focus on one issue at a time will help lead the way to more positive environments for young people. Know that every little act moves you forward to achieving your goal and don't give up. You have an incredible support in OYA and your fellow members. Don't be afraid to connect.



Cindy Uzzell



Hi, my name is Cindy I'm 22 from Alice Springs, I sat on the Round Table in 2016. I am also the Young Centralian of the Year for 2017.

Currently, I am studying a Bachelor of Community and Humanitarian studies at CDU online. I'm living in Sydney doing an internship with the National Student Leadership Forum and working for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs NSW within the Stolen Generations Reparations Unit as an Office Manager.

Malia Ford *(nee Mary Cunningham)*

I am currently residing in Darwin, I am on the Young Professionals Network Committee and working for a non-for-profit. Am still working on establishing my project into reality, through the Round Table I have been able to make connections in which I would not have been able to otherwise. I met my now closest friends from attending events that the round table gave me access too.

Participating in the Round Table was an amazing experience and has given me guidance as to what I may wish to do in the future. I recently returned from two months in Europe visiting twenty countries, it is always an amazing experience reaching out of your comfort zone, you see and do things you never would have thought possible and end up making friends for life.

Attending several events at parliament house and being able to represent the youth of the NT. I moved from Katherine to Darwin whilst on the round table and was able to bring the experience of working with Indigenous youth in the remote communities in the Roper Region, from Barunga to Ngukurr and all the way to Borroloola! Growing up in Alice Springs and being able to compare issues youth face in all these places it was excellent to collaborate with other young Territorians from all over!

Do it! You may not know what you could be bringing to the table, when I had applied I mentioned an issue I thought I could assist with, but then at my first meeting I realised what my passion was and did something completely different! You make lifelong friends and you improve the NT for the youth to come.



2017

Brooke Johnston

Leah Sharp

Kyaw Naing John Yusuf

Patrick Walker

Cindy Um

Kelvin Ganambarr

Alicia Kent

Cassie Boyle

Mollie Graham

Steven Lawton

Esiah Jones

Christopher Teng

Khayla De Aussen

Matthew Shaw

Zak Borges-Nunes

Frank Hooper



Matthew Shaw

I was very lucky to be the Vice-Chair of the NT Youth Round Table in 2017, after returning to Australia from living overseas in the Middle East. While I was on the Round Table, I was also fortunate enough to compete in national debating, public speaking and mooted (mock trial) competitions across the country.

After my time on the Round Table sadly came to an end, I moved to Canberra to study a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy & Economics at the ANU. Thanks in no small part to the experience and skills I learnt as part of the Round Table, during this time I was also lucky to fly to the United Kingdom to represent my home Northern Territory at the International Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Jersey.



Coming back to Australia and to Canberra, I started working in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, as part of the team responsible for implementing the Government's response to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's landmark Respect@Work Report. Sure enough though, the unique Top End lifestyle and beautiful warmth were too tempting to keep me away, and earlier this year I returned home to take up a role as a Policy Adviser to the Minister for Alcohol Policy. All of my studies, experience and career choices have been in pursuit of implementing positive, systems-level change - a mission inspired and nurtured during my time on the Round Table!

Alicia Kent

My name is Alicia, I am 23 and I currently live in Karama, Darwin. I work full time for the City of Darwin as their youth services trainee. Last year in 2016, I won the NT Young Achievers Somerville Community Service Award. During this year Round Table, I was selected as Chair of the Round Table.

I'm sure more will come as the year progresses, but one of the highlights was being selected as the Chair, which I consider a huge honour. It was also great to meet young Territorians passionate about young people and wanting to make a change and difference in the lives of young people in their communities. I have already learnt a lot from all of them, and I can't wait to see where they all end up after this experience.



Absolutely do it. You'll no doubt meet amazing people and the experience has taught me a lot. I was unsure about it before, unsure if I could really contribute anything or make much of a difference, and I was unsure about the commitment involved in it with regard to the Community Based Projects.



Leah Sharp

I am a Katherine Region Representative for the 2017 NT Youth Round Table. I moved over to Australia from England when I was 7 and have lived all over Australia as my Step-dad is in the Airforce. I like swimming, singing and love a good book. I am very passionate about giving Australian youth a voice and changing the narrative about young people in the media.

Mollie Graham

I am currently the School Captain of Nhulunbuy High School and member of the 2017 NT Youth Round Table and I love every opportunity that has been thrown my way. In the future I plan to go to university and now thanks to the incite from the Round Table I aspire to be a politician.

As my year of has not yet finished I can only comment of the first half of the year but, I would have to say that talking to likeminded young people who share the same values and opinions is pretty awesome. Defiantly give it a go, it's totally worth is and it is very rewarding!



Kyaw Naing John Yusuf

I am a proud young Territorian. I am fluent in English, Bahasa Indonesia and Burmese. Currently, I am currently studying a Bachelor of Commerce at Charles Darwin University and work as a fulltime carer for my mum.



I am passionate about community development and government relations. I am the NT chapter President for Australia Indonesia Youth Association, a member of Australia National Young Carer Action Team and Treasurer for Multicultural Youth NT during my free time. I am also a member of the City of Darwin Youth Advisory Group. I also volunteer with community business organisation Territory Proud Inc.

I recently received the NT Government Young Carer's Award 2017 and was previously honoured with several awards and recognition for my contributions. I am an alumni of the 2015 Australian Muslim Exchange Program and 2016 FUSE National Youth Leadership Summit. I am a strong networker and enjoy reading non-fiction books, exercise and meeting new people.

One of the best decisions I made for 2017 was to join the Round Table program and I am still only half way of my journey. So far, I get access to a strong network of young change makers across the NT, including change makers from rural regions through this program.

I have learnt a lot about myself, developed a stronger passion for being an agent of change and improved various leadership skills. The Round Table helped me to gain a firmer understanding of my own strengths and weaknesses. It helped me to grow personally and professionally.

The Round Table program is a rewarding platform to make differences for yourself and for your community. My advice to NT young change-makers would be to apply this program as soon as you feel ready. Use this rare platform to make differences you want to see in the Territory and keep adding positive values to it. Feel free to approach previous Round Table members of your choice if you need information or to help out with your application. You don't have to be a sky-high super smart person to join the Round Table, as long as you have passion to make positive changes, you are in.

Christopher Teng

Six months into 2017, I am thrilled to have attended our first and second NT Round Table meetings. I continue to live in my hometown of Darwin and I'm in my third year of studies in a Bachelor of Law and Arts at Charles Darwin University. During our two earlier meetings, I was excited to have participated in various forums and sessions with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) including Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield, and Kate Worden MLA and Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, and representatives from the Department of Education Chief Executive Officer Vicki Baylis, and ABC News Darwin.



Outside of the Round Table, my hobbies include spending time playing with my dog and volunteering with UN Youth NT. In early July, I was part of a facilitation team that lead the NT delegation of 10 high school students to UN Youth Australia's National Conference in Perth. This conference also included over 140 students from across Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

My highlight from this year was our first Round Table meeting. This was the first opportunity for me to meet and make new friends with my fellow Round Table members. Our shared interests in various topics ranging from mental health to LGBTQI* rights and our passion for the Territory was so inspiring to be a part of.

My advice to potential members considering applying for the Round Table is to seize every moment and opportunity presented during the year-long membership. This forum empowers young Territorians in a way that is so unique from other organisations and also difficult to briefly describe. Being a member of the Round Table gives young Territorians the invaluable encouragement, support and tools to persuade and enact change within their communities.

Frank Hooper



A lot has happened since I was on the Round Table. I've been to uni, left uni, started working as a youth worker in Melbourne, gone back to uni, and just returned from a month travelling in New Zealand. I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Science online part time and about to start a new job as a Youth Engagement Officer for Hume City Council which I'm very excited for. In my spare time I like to create; whether that's sewing clothes, doing cross stitch, knitting, weaving, sculpture or carving, I've really fallen into a large collection of hobbies. I also love hiking, camping and kayaking.

My passion project during my time with the Round Table grew quite a lot, from what it was at the time to a two week long Pride festival in Katherine. Now Darwin Pride runs events in Katherine to fill the gap I left when I moved away from the NT which I'm very grateful for. I still work in some areas of advocacy, mostly within organisations and systems, and am currently sitting on a Youth Council for the American Embassy in Melbourne.

Zak Borges-Nunes



Currently, I am completing year 12 and intend on studying at university next year. I haven't been able to travel much this year, but in recent years, I have been fortunate enough to visit a number of European countries in summer with my family. I enjoy being active, so in my leisure time, I exercise and play sport.

It is difficult to name a single highlight from the Round Table though, I have thoroughly enjoyed and been fortunate enough to meet an array of leaders and strong-minded people from current Round Table members, to past Round Table members, Ministers and Guest Speakers from all corners of the Territory.

Steven Lawton

I am 24 from Tennant Creek. I joined the NT Youth Round Table to make a change in my community with the alcohol and drug abuse. I would like to see improvements with education and school attendance with Indigenous youth, and more Indigenous year 12 graduates and leaders.





Esiah Jones

I am from Orapuntja Community. I work with young people in my community through my work as a teacher's assistant at the local school. I have joined the Round Table to talk about the very important issues affecting young people.

Khayla De Ausen

I am 24 and I am from the Darwin region. I joined the NT Youth Round Table as I believe I am a strong advocate in supporting young parents. I want to raise awareness of issues with young peoples and be a role model in my community.



2018

Alannah Bond

Anna Wommatakimmi-Chapman

Ashlee Coleman

Braeden Parnell

Clare Forsyth

Daniel (Junior) Dickenson

Finlay Dale

Gretel Baily-Preston

Hannah Illingworth

Jane Alia

Jason MacDonald

Lara Stimpson

Lyric Hearn

Raymond Tilmouth

Sara Kena

Sean King

Syed Alj (Sam) Mehdi Rizvi



2019

Augustine Gapinski

Benjamin Angstmann

Emily Dollar

Emma Angstmann

Enoch Strickland

Eric Withnall

Fletcher Austin

Hannah Maljcov

Hayden Dale

Isabel Blundel

Pauline Papajua

Samuel Roussos

Tahlia Gronn-Nolan

Zhengxiong Xiao

Enoch Strickland

As I write this I am in Seoul, South Korea. I am currently studying at ANU and I am on exchange. Although I will eventually return to Canberra for my studies, I am thoroughly enjoying myself exploring the Korea, and I will soon head to Japan and Taiwan.

I have enjoyed doing various jobs in Canberra related to politics, networking with incredibly interesting people at National Press Club diplomatic nights and just making new friends all over the world!.

Samuel Roussos



Being born and raised in Darwin, and completing year 12 and my tenure on the Youth Round Table in 2019, I moved to Victoria to undertake a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne, and having just completed my degree. I will now be undertaking a Juris Doctor. Since my time on the Youth Round Table I have run a start-up that tackles disposable coffee cup waste, been the editor-in-chief of an impact-oriented publication, worked in the not-for-profit consulting space, taught financial literacy to underprivileged high schoolers, and travelled to countries such as Norway for business competitions. Underpinning all of these is a focus on social impact, and I believe that the Youth Round Table undoubtedly catalysed this trajectory my life has taken; for that, I would like to say thank you.

2020

Alexsandra Thorogood

Amy Guymer

Darlene William

David Ninan

Evellena Wanambi

Eytahnyia Scott

Kaitlyn Pagel

Kealey Gibson

Melanie Gunner

Paige Horrigan

Quinton Appleby

Raquel Samson

Tahni Rowe

Tanisha Cubillo

Quinton Appleby

I'm currently working part-time for Territory Native Plants doing nursery work or driving the truck around. I also work with The National Roadmap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Adolescent Health as one of the Northern Territory representatives. I'm living in Millner with my two cats, Nuka and Zteel, and about to go on a trip to Adelaide to tick off a bucket list item by going to a Tech N9ne concert.

Paige Horrigan



Since being on the NT Youth Round Table I have graduated year 12, got accepted into university, expanded my skills in my field of work and continued my advocacy work in the LGBTQIA+ community.

After graduating year 12 at Palmerston College in 2021, I chose to defer my acceptance in ANU so I could have a gap year and enjoy some extra time in the NT.

Something I'm very proud of and am so happy to see continue as a result of the NTYRT is the Palmerston Pride Picnic. Which was a consultation event for my NTYRT project in 2020 that expanded and continued again seeing greater acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people in Palmerston.

This year (2022) I was given the incredible opportunity to be on the Top End Pride Committee and help organise the Pride

Festivals in the NT for this year. Which included the return of a Youth event to this calendar!

Although, unfortunately at the end of this year (2022) I will be moving to ACT for university but in won't be the last you see of me NT, the Top End will always be my home.

David Ninan



I have the NT Youth Round Table to thank for being a brilliant training ground that furthered my advocacy skills and opened my eyes to the intricate connections linking each person in our communities. My highlight from the Round Table was the incredible people I met.

I used the skills from the Round Table to give back to my community. I have done this through being involved in organisations such as the Young Professionals Rotaract NT. I have taken up a role on the Board to advocate for improved opportunities for professionals who are at the start of their careers here in the NT.

After my time on the Round Table, I was able to complete a law degree and proudly join the ranks of Territory-bred and -educated lawyers. After having volunteered as a law student, I now also regularly

provide free legal advice at the Darwin Community Legal Service.

I have also continued my Round Table project by assisting young people to improve their financial literacy. I regularly meet and discuss with young people how they can build financial support systems which will assist in keeping them safe and secure throughout their lives.

I also run bespoke handmade leather goods (@NinanDesigns) and photography (@yungdza) businesses. The majority of my customers are based internationally, however I have been growing my business within the NT as well.

I am looking forward to seeing how each of my fellow Round Table alumni have engaged in their individual pursuits and the amazing things they have no doubt achieved.

Alexsandra Thorogood



After finishing high school at the end of 2021 I decided that I wanted to take a gap year before deciding if I wanted to continue to study. So at the start of 2022, I won a position as a GetSet Gap Year Cadet within the Northern Territory Government and worked in the Department of Education before transferring to a position within the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. Whilst completing my full-time work I continued to support and contribute to my community by working closely with Alice Springs Town Council for their major events throughout the year. These events included the Youth Recycled Art Prize that occurred during NT Youth Week where I won first place in my age category for my art piece 'Debbie Debris', a sculpture of a turtle constructed from reclaimed/recycled materials. I also won first place, along with the People's Choice Award in the Phoney Film Festival for my short film 'Treasure'.

I was lucky enough to attend the Northern Territory Young Achievers Awards in 2022 as a semi-finalist in two award categories for my program 'The Planeteers' which was the project I created during my time on the NT Youth Round Table. As well as my full-time work, I also continued to work as a Lifeguard at the local pool. I absolutely love the job as it allows me the opportunity to talk to so many different people and listen to their stories. During my gap year I was also able to reconnect with some of my passions including hockey, reading, writing and travel.

After having spent my entire life in Alice Springs, my family and I made the decision to move to Townsville. Since then I have been living in Townsville working as a Lifeguard at a local pool located right on the stunning beachfront of The Strand. I adore living my newfound lifestyle and am still striving to pursue my artistic endeavours as well as be a mentor and role model for emerging youth leaders.



2021

Alina Biju

Auston Bruckshaw

Emma King

Francis Koulakis

Gabriella Ceccato

Jemima Fernandes

Kiyarnie Reynolds

Kyanna Murrungun

Liberty Rossiter

Lithira Abeysinghe

Patrick Coleman

Ruizhe Zhao

Sizolwenkosi Fuyana

Tameka McMasters

Alina Biju

Alina Biju (she/her) is a Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) Graduate from Charles Darwin University (Northern Territory). She is deeply interested in research, public health, and youth engagement. She was also a member of the 2021 NT Youth Round Table and an NT representative on the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Young Leaders and Advocates Fellowship. Alina believes that if young people are equipped with the knowledge to make healthier choices, they will have better public health outcomes. She has promoted significant and positive change in communities and individuals through advocacy and empowerment. She was a finalist for the 2022 Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards in the categories of Super Spirit Create Change and Charles Darwin University Innovation Award. She is recognised as the Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year NT 2022 by Volunteering NT.



I founded a student group name CDU Women's Collective for Innovation and Change (WCIC). During my WCIC presidency, I held events, including an employability skills series to equip students with the skills to progress to higher leadership positions in their careers, a self-defence workshop, and the inaugural WCIC Ball and CDU Women of the Year Awards, among many others. My efforts in combatting the STEM Gap were officially recognised during NT National Science Week with an award for 'Promoting Women and Girls in STEM Representation', sponsored by Engineers Australia.

I am taking a gap year at the moment, not working in my profession. But I intend to study Master of Global Public Health next year. My long-term goal is to pursue a career in Medicine/ Public Health.

Jemima Fernandes



Since participating in the NT Youth Round Table, I've gone on to continue my career in law by working as a legal assistant alongside my studies at Charles Darwin University. As I write this, I have one more exam left to go before graduating with a Bachelor of Laws! In 2023, I will step into a new role as a Graduate Trainee with the NTG's Department of Treasury and Finance, which I am very excited about!

My passions lie in community engagement, youth empowerment, multiculturalism, and music - so it's no surprise that I devote most of my time outside of university and work to this! I continue to serve my community by volunteering in several programs which fit my passions, such as the NTG's Office of Youth Affairs, City of Darwin, Charles Darwin University, and more. I also assisted in developing and executing the first Territory-wide Youth Conference in 10 years! I enjoy spending my free time with my family and friends, performing, and exploring Darwin's vast multicultural scene.

I have found a student group name CDU Women's Collective for Innovation and Change (WCIC). During my WCIC presidency, I held events, including an employability skills series to equip students with the skills to progress to higher leadership positions in their careers, a self-defence workshop, and the inaugural WCIC Ball and CDU Women of the Year Awards, among many others. My efforts in combatting the STEM Gap were officially recognised during NT National Science Week with an award for 'Promoting Women and Girls in STEM Representation', sponsored by Engineers Australia.

I am taking a gap year at the moment, not working in my profession. But I intend to study Master of Global Public Health next year. My long-term goal is to pursue a career in Medicine/ Public Health.



Ruiz Zhao

I am currently living in Darwin, NT. I am a classroom teacher at Girraween Primary School. I love playing sports and go exploring the nature.

Lithira – Lith Abeyasinghe



I am a Territory local kid at this stage. I was originally born in Sri Lanka and studied in the Maldives for a period in my youth. I came to Australia in 2007, and I consider my new country/home almost as though a new step-parent that has granted me a world of possibility and potential. However, having seen and coming from disadvantage, I wish to contribute to my new home in any capacity, particularly in advancing the causes of equality and equity. I am currently studying Law at my local university, CDU.

2022

Akeelah Cowen

Hajrah Kamran

**Michael Gadingura
Yunupingu**

Alexander Storey

Isla Hooper

**Paddy van der Geest-
Hester**

Alicia Kuroda-Metin

Jahdai Vigona

Shanae Kuo

Azra Zendelji

Jordan Humphreys

Tayloraye Bailey

Cecilia Afeaki

Kyle Bambra

Upuni Muthumala

Connie-Anne Shaw

Kyle Lachlan

Tayloraye Bailey



I have lived in Katherine for 15 years of my life, as my family on my father's side are Katherine long term locals and have also grown up in Katherine. I was born in Brisbane where my mother side of the family are from, making me a true blue Queensland supporter in State of Origin.

I am currently working full-time in Headspace Katherine and am loving my job. My favourite part about my work is being able to help all the young people that work through the door, and make them feel comfortable when feeling vulnerable when in need of help.

I love to be a part of the community and enjoy participating in community engagement activities. I have been volunteering for various organisations such as Katherine Community Radio as secretary, Youth Advisory Group member at Headspace Katherine and the Katherine Youth Interagency

Group as a young voice. Another way to be immersive in the Katherine community is by playing a sport. My hobby, ever since I was in primary school, is playing and umpiring in Katherine Netball Association.

I have taken a year intermission from Monash University and will be attending again in 2024 to complete my final semester in Bachelor of Science degree. In the meantime, I have completed an undergrad in Mental Health and will be starting a diploma in Social Care in 2023. I love learning and will be trying to pursue a career in social work.

Isla Hooper



I am currently working with Central Craft in Alice Springs helping to facilitate workshops, make our studio space as accessible as possible, and manage our storefront along with a whole swag of other duties (including finances). My passions lie in making the arts more community-minded and I have been working with Central Craft and the Round Table this year to bring more attention to this passion. I love running workshops and watching kids' behaviours switch almost instantly when they get hands on with crafts and I hope to continue in this area of work for the foreseeable future.

Jordy Humphreys



I am currently in year 12 at St Philip's College in Alice Springs, where I am Vice-Captain of McKay House. Outside of school, I am on the committee for the 2023 NT Youth Conference, and hope to lead the preparations for the Central Australia events. I am also a member of the Project Reference Group for the inaugural NT Youth Strategy, and hope to be appointed as a Youth Week Ambassador for 2023.

Currently, I am a passionate advocate for equal opportunity for those with a disability, as well as mental health and prevention of bullying. This year I had the pleasure of speaking to the NT Disability Advisory Committee about my personal experiences with disability (ADHD and Scoliosis). I also consulted on the development of the National Disability Framework, and the development of the NT Department of Education Youth Voice Peak Group. I also consulted during the

development of the Federal Department of Education Student Voice Forum. I have continued my passion for aviation through flight simulation, where I am currently learning to operate the Airbus A380, after teaching myself to fly the A320 earlier this year. Time to do some long-haul flights!

This year, I represented my school and Australia at the 2022 Round Square International Conference in the UK, travelling to Oxford and the Isle of Wight. I currently hold the bronze and silver levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, as well as a Certificate II in Hospitality.

After completing year 12, I hope to study a Bachelor or Psychology, and maybe travel the world for a few years. I definitely want to go back to the UK, and I might go see Canada while I'm at it!

Alex Storey



I currently live in Darwin, studying for my Bachelor of Laws (Graduate) from the CDU while working as a Project Officer for the Department of Territory Families Housing and Communities.

Thanks to my involvement with the Youth Round Table, I've had so many opportunities to act as a youth representative presented to me this year. This includes both of my appointments to the U.S Consulate in Melbourne's Youth Council Network and my appointment to the NT Youth Strategy and Project Reference Group.

Since returning to my home town of Darwin from studying in Sydney, I've taken up my new passion for gardening and plant identification; I've also discovered that I'm horrible at gardening. Nevertheless, the mountain of dead plants I leave behind is a great way to spend the weekend.

Hajrah Kamran



Hajrah, 19 years old and currently studying two bachelor's degrees simultaneously - a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science at Charles Darwin University, and a Bachelor of Islamic Studies at Charles Sturt University. I cannot wait to become a medical scientist, soon! I love contributing my time, skills and knowledge to the broader NT community and I am extremely passionate about boosting young people's mental, physical and spiritual health. I am the Youth Coordinator at the United Muslims of Northern Territory, the Allied Health Representative for the Students Association for Rural and Remote Health, a CDU Student Ambassador and the NT Representative for numerous organisations based in different states across Australia. I utilise my passion for Arabic Calligraphy to conduct yearly calligraphy workshops for young people and

they have been very popular in the Muslim community. I have received many academic and leadership awards over the years, including the Young Achievers Award on Australia Day 2022, the Student Citizen Award on Australia Day 2021, the Fuji Xerox Award for outstanding leadership in the final year of studies (2020) and the student choice runner-up award for agar art competition for medical microbiology at CDU.

I have a small family, consisting of an older brother studying engineering at CDU, dad studying Bachelor of Social work at CDU and a lovely mum always standing by our side. I love travelling with family and we always have a few days of stay-overs when visiting Pakistan, in countries including Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. My favourite holiday was to Saudia Arabia in 2017, as it was a spiritually boosting holiday and allowed me to spend time with my extended family members, eat lots of delicious food and experience a wonderful country for the first time in my life.

My hobbies include- Arabic calligraphy, reading (non-fiction) and driving.

Alicia Kuroda-Metin



After completing year 12, I am waiting upon my results of which I will use for university next year. I am currently still living in Darwin but will see where university takes me! I hope to study in the science or health field, but want to make sure I can travel and have fun between all the study. My goal is to visit my family in Japan in the next year!

I love to keep up with my hobbies and spend time with friends, sing, read, and go the gym. I also love cooking and baking, and I have a list of recipes that I'm going to try!

Being a part of the Youth Round Table this year I learnt so much, and am inspired by all the hard work young people are doing around their communities. Going into the future, I'd like to be further involved with youth activities, conferences and youth-led discussions around the NT.

Kyle Lachlan



I am currently living in Darwin, soon to be Alice Springs. I begun working in Darwin with CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation, but now work for NT PFES.

I am currently completing a diploma certificate with NT PFES, and absolutely love what I do.

Paddy van der Geest-Hester



Hi, my name is Paddy!

Currently completing Year 10 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College in Alice Springs, I joined the 2022 Youth Round Table to make positive changes that will help Centralian kids.

Born in Alice Springs, I live at home with my Mum, younger brother Thomas and our pet cockatiel Bootu. My older brother Jack is away at the University of Melbourne but I regularly chat over the phone to catch up. I enjoy learning at school especially science. Like most kids, I love sport and enjoy swimming and dancing outside of school.

Passionate about the environment, I like hiking and exploring out bush. As a strong advocate for the environment, I have been a member of 'The Planeteers' and regularly attend green initiatives like, 'Youth Recycled Art Prize' and 'Rubbish to Life,' organised by the Alice Springs Town Council. I believe that the Territory has the potential to lead Australia as a green energy producer while simultaneously, preserving its unique and diverse environment.

Crime is another issue I feel lets the Territory's youth down. As such, I have decided to initiate an Action Based Community Project (ABCP) that I hope may promote change around this issue by writing the lyrics to a song. Hopefully, its message will resonate with youth and will help to make a positive change, if only small, towards a better Territory.

Contact

The NT Youth Round Table recruits each year in October/November.

If you would like more information or to apply to be a part of the NT Youth Round Table, please contact:

The Office of Youth Affairs

Phone: (08) 8999 3862

Email: tfhc.oia@nt.gov.au

Website: www.youth.nt.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/YouthNT

Instagram: www.instagram.com/Youth_NT