



DREAM VENTURE MASTERCLASS PITCH SHOWCASE

11 April 2024





Minderoo Foundation has delivered the Dream Venture Masterclasses in partnership with the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship and Youth Co:Lab, which is co-led by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation.

Connections. Capability. Capital.

Through a unique and informative program, the Dream Venture Masterclasses have equipped Indigenous entrepreneurs with the skills they need to seek equity investment, develop ideas and grow their businesses.

The program is facilitated by the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship, one of the leading centres training Australia's next generation of start-ups.

The program has now culminated with the chance for finalists to pitch to investors at this showcase event in Sydney.

In 2024, the Dream Venture Masterclasses were delivered in two streams:

- The youth program for First Nations entrepreneurs aged between 18-30 delivered in partnership with Youth Co:Lab.
- The all-ages program for First Nations entrepreneurs seeking to grow their business and secure investment.

All participants are in the running for a share in \$200,000 in seed funding.

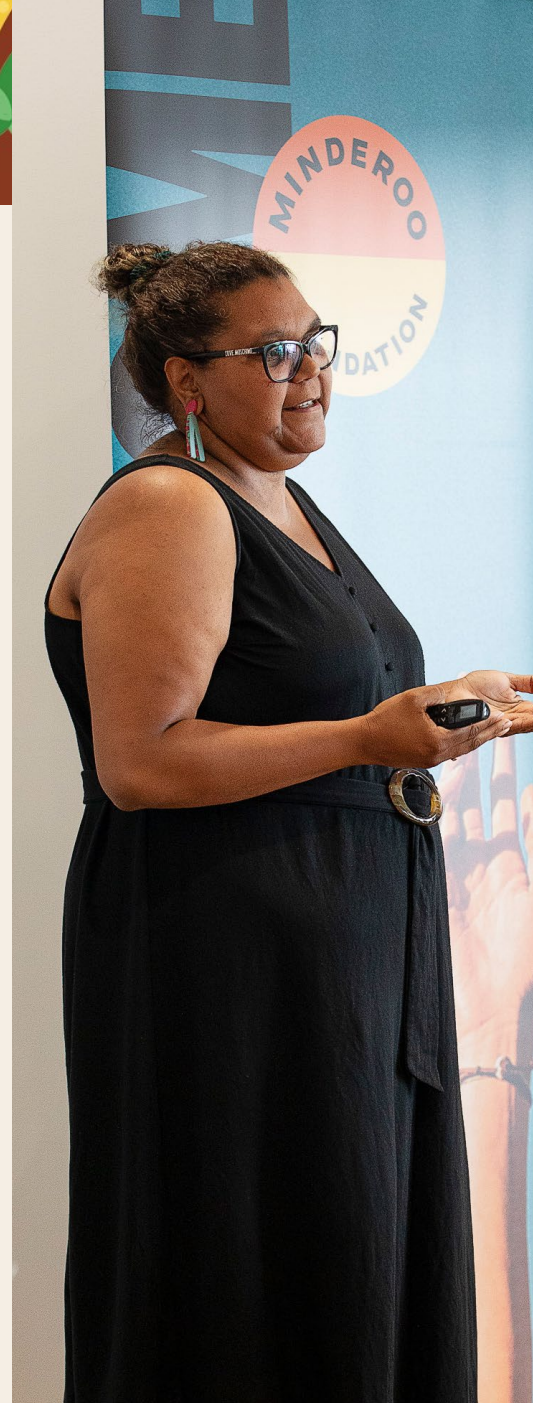
YOUTH MASTERCLASS

In partnership with the Youth Co:Lab program which is co-led by United Nations Development Programme and Citi Foundation, the Masterclasses empowered 20 ambitious entrepreneurs aged between 18-30 to level up their venture, build networks across Asia Pacific and pitch for \$100,000 in seed funding.



ALL AGES MASTERCLASS

For all Indigenous entrepreneurs seeking to build their business skills and secure investment for growth and to pitch for \$100,000 in seed funding.



..
Cover: Artwork Flourishing Together by Leah Cummins.
Left: Jaynaya Winmar Blak Angels investor presenting by Emma Dolzadelli/Minderoo Foundation.

About Minderoo Foundation

Established by Dr Andrew Forrest AO and Nicola Forrest AO in 2001, Minderoo Foundation is a proudly Australian philanthropy that fights for a fairer future and seeks effective, scalable solutions to dismantle the systems that entrench inequality.

We incubate ideas, advocate for change and accelerate impact. We uplift communities, advance gender equality, protect the oceans and respond to emerging challenges.

Minderoo is committed to building collaborative partnerships across our communities to create positive impact for a fairer future.

About the Indigenous Entrepreneurship Impact Project

We believe that First Nations people should have the same opportunities as all Australians to achieve economic independence and empowerment through employment and business.

We work with our partners to secure meaningful and sustainable outcomes for First Nations Australians through our demand-led training approach, investment and mentorship for Indigenous entrepreneurs, and programs which shift mindsets to foster financial independence.

YOUTH COHORT FINALISTS



Leah Bennet
Leah Paige Designs

Leah is the director and founder of Leah Paige Designs, an interior and furniture design company specialising in bringing Aboriginal culture into contemporary design.

She is also a proud Wudjari Noongar woman with family ties to the Ravensthorpe region. Unfortunately, her grandad passed before she was old enough to appreciate the wealth of knowledge in ancestors.

She believes through design we can expand people's understanding and appreciation of our First Nations, allowing them to develop an emotional, tangible connection to culture and work towards a united Australian identity.

leahpaigedesigns@gmail.com | leahpaigedesigns.com



Taylor Coffin
Independent Energy Systems

Taylor is from Port Hedland, WA, and his mob are Palyku/ Njama/ Yindjibarndi. He started his own electrical company, Independent Energy Systems, in late 2022, with a focus on utilising renewable technologies to achieve sustainable energy solutions.

He has built an automatic solar panel cleaning system which aims to make renewable energy more accessible, viable and economical. Taylor has more than 13 years' experience in the resources industry, working for key operators across the mining, oil and gas industries in the Pilbara.

Independent Energy Systems is focused on using current and emerging renewable technologies to assist the energy transition.

taylor@ieselectrical.com.au | ieselectrical.com.au



Grace Power
SIS Staples

Grace is a proud Juru woman from Bowen who currently lives in Brisbane (Meanjin). She has a diverse career background, working in the hospitality industry, medical clinics, events and exhibition management, and the fashion industry.

Grace has formed a business with Alinta and Riana Tatana, which focuses on education about feminine hygiene – specifically about women's periods and producing sanitary products.

josephsgrace@outlook.com



Scott Wilson
Gevolve Solutions

Scott is a Gooniyandi and Gajerrong man from the Kimberley. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Western Australia in anthropology and Indigenous history and heritage.

He has worked in various industries, which has led him to create a network of passionate people that have walked alongside him to create multiple companies.

To protect country and culture, his start-up green hydrogen and renewable energy company aims to amplify First Nations voices to lead and complement humanity's pursuit to reduce our carbon output and create a sustainable future for all.

scott@gevolvesolutions.com.au | gevolvesolutions.com.au



Katrina Wruck
Mining Innovations

Katrina is a Mabugilaig woman from the Torres Strait Islands. While completing her PhD in industrial chemistry and process engineering at QUT, Katrina discovered she could turn mining waste into the central ingredient found in laundry detergent, all while using low-cost, energy-efficient processes and green chemistry principles.

Katrina believes that building connections and fostering relationships within the community of First Nations entrepreneurs is vital for mining innovations development.

katrinawruck@live.com.au

ALL AGES COHORT FINALISTS



Scarlet Barnett Indigenous Psychedelic Assisted Therapies (IPAT)

Scarlet is a proud Palawa descendent, yoga teacher and artist with an entrepreneurial spirit. As the director and co-founder of Indigenous Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies (IPAT) in Melbourne, she spearheads efforts to ensure cultural safety, accessibility and Indigenous representation in this transformative space, deeply rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems.

With a deep-seated passion for health, wellbeing, creative arts and community, Scarlet's business-minded approach drives her mission to create lasting impact at the intersection of social issues and innovation.

ipatherapies@gmail.com | ipat.au



Tara Croker Yaala Sparkling

Tara and Mel are the mother and daughter co-founders of Yaala Sparkling, an Indigenous-owned beverage company that creates unique, healthy drinks made with authentic native ingredients.

With their extensive business backgrounds and shared passion for community, culture and plants, the pair has created a premium brand that bridges the past with the present by honouring ancient knowledge in a modern and delicious form.

admin@yaalasparkling.com | yaalasparkling.com



Terri-Anne Daniel Cooee Cookies

Terri is the founder, heart and soul of Cooee Cookies. In her earlier years, she worked in all aspects of hospitality and loved her time cooking in commercial kitchens. She is a proud Wiradjuri woman, born and raised on Wiradjuri land, and a mother of seven amazing humans who are her driving force. Cooee Cookies are allergy-friendly.

Terri believes food should bring people together and be a celebration of diversity. The cookies are plant-based, gluten-free, no nuts, dairy, GMO, halal, kosher and three of the four flavours are soy-free. Each cookie is a delicious celebration of culture enriched with a native Indigenous ingredient.

delish@cooeecookies.au | cooeecookies.com.au



Samuel Edgar Kaarli Authentic Boomerangs

Sam is a proud Yawuru and Karrajarrri man from Broome in the West Kimberley, WA, with family connections with the Jabirr Jabirr and Ngarinyin people. Raised in the northwest of Australia, he was privileged to grow up surrounded by culture and tradition. From a young age he lived in two worlds, practising culture on weekends and learning about the Western culture every other day.

He is now a leader in his workplace, at one of the big three mining companies. He started Kaarli in 2022, with a vision to create a platform for Indigenous artists and entrepreneurs and share knowledge of walking in two worlds through culture, business, leadership and entrepreneurship.

A message that has always stuck with Sam is: *"dream big, then dream bigger than that"*, a message he wants to share at Kaarli.

samuel.edgar10@hotmail.com | kaarli.com.au



Mitchell Skuta Gardening on Country

Mitch is a husband, father and eco warrior. Born in Bairnsdale, Victoria, on GunaiKurnai Country, he is a proud descendant of the Yuin people of the Southeast Coast of NSW.

Driven by his passion for the environment and a strong desire to contribute to its protection, Mitch embarked on his first personal business venture called Gardening on Country.

Gardening on Country was established in 2023 with a mission to foster a circular economy, where the utilisation of recycled plastic products becomes the standard.

The goal is to set the standard for inventive and environmentally friendly garden tools made from recycled materials.

mitch@gardeningoncountry.com | gardeningoncountry.com

YOUTH COHORT



Brittney Angus
BLA Creative

Brittney is a proud Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal woman, born and raised on Dharawal country in the Illawarra. She has a double bachelor's degree in commerce (marketing) and communications & media. Her work history comprises marketing roles within Aboriginal business and tourism.

She is a graphic designer, looking to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who wish to create their own business, by helping them set themselves up in business through brand identity, graphic design and website development services.

brittneyangus99@gmail.com | brittneyangus.com



Nelson Baker
Liyarn Healing

Nelson works as an actor, poet and model but his first profession and qualification was in massage therapy. He has always dreamed about combining his skills as a massage therapist with his traditional knowledge about culture, spirituality and healing.

He started this dream in his hometown of Broome but now has established himself in Naarm, where he works in the creative space while developing his business ideas.

nelsonbaker46@gmail.com



Barama Blow
Sea Bubs

Sea Bubs is founded by Barama Blow from the Noonuccal / Goreng Goreng Mob and his partner Madison Mogaw. They are dedicated to making swim time safe and fun while maintaining cultural awareness at the forefront their values. The Sea Bubs swimwear range includes designs from local Aboriginal artists. Sharing stories from the community and protecting children from harsh elements.

info@seabubs.com | seabubs.com



Nicola Barker
PIYA

Nicola is a proud Muruwari and Wangkumarra woman from Brewarrina and Bourke in far western NSW. Acknowledging her Elders and generations before her, Nic has continued their work in advocating for the social and emotional wellbeing of young people and their families.

As a qualified social worker, she complements her practice with Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing as the foundation of the work. With permission from her Elders and community, Nic has started her small business called Piya. A Muruwari word meaning "to ask", it aims to decolonise by eliminating any elements of shame and encourages people to seek support.

Piya offers mentoring, counselling, cultural supervision, early career social work supervision, workshop facilitation, mental health training, project support and consultations. Nic is passionate about building a resourceful and sustainable service for her community, especially for the growth and opportunities of young people.

nicola.barker@gmail.com | piyaservices.com.au



Tyson Fuller
Home of Recovery

Tyson, a proud Wiradjuri man, and his partner Shanaya, a personal trainer, both hail from Dubbo and have deep roots in community sports. Recognising an unmet need for recovery services, they established "Home Of Recovery," a sports recovery centre.

This dynamic duo offers an array of services, including compression therapy, contrast therapy, saunas and more. Their mission is to make top-tier sports recovery accessible and affordable to the local community, filling a unique gap in the Dubbo market.

"Home Of Recovery" stands as the sole establishment in Dubbo delivering such services.

tysonfuller1998@hotmail.com

YOUTH COHORT



Emma Garlett Garlett Group

Emma is a visionary entrepreneur dedicated to advancing sustainable mining, environmental justice and Indigenous rights. Emma is a director at Garlett Group, a specialist sustainability and communications firm, which is pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the intersection of technology, communications and sustainability. She is a legal academic and an Industry Fellow at the Sustainable Minerals Institute at the University of Queensland.

Emma is a Teaching Fellow at the Law School at the University of Western Australia and holds a casual appointment at the Law School at Curtin University.

Emma is a columnist for The West Australian and the host of Paint it Blak on YouTube. She is an advisory board member of the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice at Federation University. She is also a tribunal member of the West Australian Football Commission.

She was appointed to, and sits on, the Law Society of Western Australia's Commercial Law Committee and Indigenous Legal Issues Committee.

emma.garlett@hotmail.com



Shania Richards Nerdy Indigenous Art

Lady Shania Janet-Shayne Richards is a proud Barngarla, Wirengu, Nao, Mirning, Ndjau, Gubrun, Bulang, Noongar, Wongutha woman with German heritage. Claiming "Art is my love language" with the development of her own art business, Nerdy Indigenous Art, she has released her first poetry book. Her work also includes language revival efforts of the Barngala language in the form of children's picture books. Everything she does is for the mob.

shaniadimer26@gmail.com | nerdyindigenousart.com.au



Anthony Rigby-Smith Smith Media

Anthony is a photographer and videographer based in Wollongong. He is a Dughutti man who has grown up on Yuin country his whole life. Currently, a committed youth worker, he plans to transition into his creative career full-time in 2024. Anthony loves being involved within community and being able to make a living doing what he loves. He also likes continuing his learning at each event he is part of.

Anthony's business goal is to continue doing what he loves and to create opportunities and pathways for our younger mob.

contactsmithmedia@gmail.com | smithmedia.au



Dale-Maree Rollason Chaotic Craft

Dale-Maree is a Kimberley woman, born and raised in Broome, WA. Her business, Chaotic Craft, is the culmination of her personal and professional experiences and struggles. Celebrating the good that can arise from the chaos of life, she helped raise her four younger siblings and is currently the responsible adult of her adult siblings and father.

As a qualified teacher, in education for 10 years, she has worked to bridge the gap between home and schools for families. She identified the opportunity that schools have to make children feel welcome and grow up with strong and positive self-identity.

Dale's real job began four years ago when she became a mother and her perspective changed on everything. She now prefers to work alongside the system rather than in it. She strives to provoke people to explore and embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through conversation and knowledge sharing.

chaotic.craft@outlook.com | chaoticcraft.com.au

YOUTH COHORT



Chiarah Rusca & Keeley Waterbury Awara Skin Pty Ltd

Chiarah is a proud Yawuru & Yanyuwa woman, born in Perth and grounded in Darwin, NT. She weaves her passion for family, culture and community into her work.

Her business partner, Keeley Waterbury, an Indigenous woman from the Ngan'giwumirri tribe, is deeply devoted to preserving her heritage and enriching her community.

Together, they created Awara Skin to help people feel their best and give back to their people. The pair create natural skincare products that honour their roots and benefit all.

chiarah.koops@gmail.com



Riana Tatana SIS Staples

Riana is a proud Māori and Bundjalung woman. With a bachelor's degree, first-class honours in theatre, and a master of teaching, she's dedicated eight years to education in re-engagement, mainstream and tertiary settings. She's seen the under-representation of Indigenous cultural identity and women's health in our education and healthcare.

Together with her sister, SIS has emerged from lived experiences as Indigenous women and their shared commitment to developing culturally informed, safe products, and educational resources that celebrate women's health.

rianatatana@gmail.com



Alinta Tatana SIS Staples

Alinta is a proud Bundjalung and Te Rarawa woman, transitioning from overseeing the Youth Koori court to Native Title, and recently assuming the role of senior policy officer in the Indigenous space in Meanjin (Brisbane). In 2021, she founded her clothing brand ALINTA.

Her new venture, alongside her sister, is SIS (Sustainable Innovative Sanitary), a sisterhood dedicated to empowering women's health in marginalised communities.

Their vision involves crafting high-quality, non-toxic sanitary products that seamlessly integrate cultural empowerment.

alinta_tatana@hotmail.com

ALL AGES COHORT



Parry Agius Linking Futures Pty Ltd

Founded in 2017 by Parry Agius, Linking Futures assists businesses and governments to collaborate with Aboriginal clientele, insuring community expectations are understood and met by organisations. Parry's journey to sharing knowledge with his community and the people surrounding him was sparked by his grandmother. She believed that his role was critical to change and prosperity.

Parry harnessed this into a post-graduate education and became an influencer with connection to six traditional groups in South Australia. He is now further sharing his resources through Linking Futures.

parry@linkingfutures.com.au | linkingfutures.com.au



Ngaree Blow Bunbi

Ngaree, the Founder of Bunbi, is a part of the Noonuccal, Goreng-Goreng and Yorta-Yorta mob. She is a medical doctor and has worked in various healthcare and academic settings. Her experience led her to develop a holistic music festival called "It's a Mob Thing", which combines her love of community, music and healthcare.

Ngaree is now continuing this conversation through Bunbi, which provides healthcare worker scrubs featuring traditional medicine prints. This showcases her learnings from traditional medicine within the Western world.

ngaree@gmail.com



Leigh Carnall Civiltech Solutions

With more than two decades of experience, Leigh has successfully overseen the execution of civil infrastructure projects in Australia and abroad.

His unwavering commitment to problem solving for clients in the realm of civil infrastructure is powered by the application of engineering principles, extensive knowledge and a wealth of experience.

leigh@civiltechsolutions.com.au | civiltechsolutions.com.au

ALL AGES COHORT



Emma Ceolin
Yogaventures

Based on the Gold Coast, Australia, with her mob's roots in Yirrganydji country (Cairns), Emma embodies an entrepreneurial spirit with an unwavering passion for founding purpose-driven businesses.

Her biz baby, Yogaventures, is an online platform and community dedicated to yoga, meditation and wellness.

emmaceolin@gmail.com | online.yogaventures.com.au



Karla Hart
Karla Hart Productions

Karla studied Aboriginal theatre at WAAPA and holds a BA in contemporary arts, majoring in performing arts, from Edith Cowan University. She has run her company successfully since 2015. Karla received the 2021 Aboriginal Award for West Australian of the Year.

She is also an award-winning filmmaker, actress, radio personality, NAIDOC and DEADLY award winner. Karla's producing, writing and directing credits include more than 130 full-length episodes on television and commercial, VR and game work.

Karla's company produces events for Perth city throughout the year on a weekly basis. Karla's unique work is highly regarded and sought after.

karlahartproductions@gmail.com | karlahartproductions.com



Benjamin Jones
RATJPA Pty Ltd

Benjamin, a Registered Remote Area Nurse with 15 years of experience in remote NT communities, hails from Boulia, Winton Central Queensland, and has roots in the East Kimberley and Nyoongar. Returning to Nyoongar Booja after years abroad, he founded RATJPA, an NDIS service provider catering to Indigenous individuals. Specialising in Autism and Psychosocial support, RATJPA offers tailored care that respects cultural identities and fosters connections to country. Benjamin's aim is to set the gold standard for NDIS providers in Western Australia, utilising his expertise in nursing, management, and cultural awareness. Through a network of regional hubs, RATJPA seeks to enhance Indigenous access to NDIS funding, empowering them to achieve goals independently while maintaining cultural ties.

info@ratjpa.com.au | ratjpa.com.au



Catherine Lawford
Speedy Goanna

Cat is a proud Ballardong/Gnaala Karla Booja woman and mother from Western Australia. Her journey of reconnection inspired her to create a 100 per cent Aboriginal owned Australian plush toy brand named Speedy Goanna.

Through this she shares the cultural art of storytelling. Speedy Goanna focuses on educating children, families and communities about the culture and tradition of Australia's First Nations people. Through a wide-ranging selection of wildlife in toy form.

Catherine aims to deliver diversity, understanding and learnings to homes, workplaces and communities across Australia.

info@speedygoanna.com | speedygoanna.com

ALL AGES COHORT



Keisha Leon
Cause/Affect

Keisha is a proud Waanyi and Kalkadoon woman who leads Cause/Affect, a multidisciplinary creative studio boldly bringing about better outcomes for people and more connected communities through considered, insight-led creative solutions. Keisha's First Nations perspective provides invaluable insights that shape empathetic, inclusive, and impactful outcomes.

Backed by a successful career in design and creative direction in both agency and client-side environments, Keisha combines her proven professional knowledge with a strong sense of social responsibility.

keisha@causeaffect.com.au | causeaffect.com.au



Paul McCann
Paul McCann Art

Paul is a Naarm-based artist and fashion designer, and a proud Marrithiyel man with a strong connection to his country in Delye (NT).

He strongly believes that art is a powerful tool for change and is motivated to design captivating pieces that embody cultural adornment. His artistic practice focuses on wearable art forms, such as couture fashion design and "bling bling faboriginal" (jewellery and accessories).

In 2021, his iconic Gumnut Ball Gown debuted at the first ever Indigenous-led runway show. Since then, his designs have been in high demand from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous celebrities and public figures, including Jessica Mauboy.

He hopes his work can empower First Nations people in the LGBTQIA+ community to confidently express themselves and challenge negative stereotypes.

nuffjah24@hotmail.com



Toby Moran
RiskRyte

Toby is from Ballina, NSW (Bundjalung country), and currently lives in Adelaide. His passion is financial markets and the quantitative analysis of risk. With eight years of experience in commercial and institutional banking, Toby currently provides analyst coverage for a portfolio of global banks, funds, governments and insurance companies with Westpac Institutional Bank.

Toby's expertise lies in financial analysis, modeling and industry research. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics with a focus on econometrics and is also self-taught in data science, with a particular interest in language models. His business, RiskRyte, aims to make investment decision-making simple for the everyday investor.

RiskRyte is currently pre-product.

morantobias@gmail.com



Darren Morris
Wonbon Pty Ltd

Darren is a Banjima man from the Pilbara in Western Australia; Gurri Mata is his skin group. He is the director of Perth-Pilbara business Wonbon, a supply and logistics operation selling consumables to the mining industry.

Named after his father, a Stolen Generations member, Darren took the operational skills and can-do attitude taught to him by his father and built a successful career in the construction and mining industries, including senior training and leadership roles with major international mining companies.

In 2021, Darren decided to use his skills and knowledge to establish this 100% Indigenous-owned and operated business to create opportunities for his family and the communities in which they operate.

Working alongside other local manufacturers and suppliers, he is now fulfilling his desire to be a role model to demonstrate to others what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

darren.morris@wonbon.com.au | wonbon.com.au

ALL AGES COHORT



Jackie Price
Yield Lot 7

Jackie is the founder of Yield Lot 7, a venture encompassing cultural education, native food workshops and the art of self-sufficiency. The latest project involves building a holding place for First Nations farmers.

The company's work with native foods and plants is not just about creating outstanding goods, it's also about giving back to our community and making a positive impact beyond our borders.

By integrating Australian Indigenous practice and produce into our farming, Yield Lot 7 not only delivers premium crops but also fosters a harmonious relationship with the environment and influences the circular economy into the future.

jackiepimms72@gmail.com



Percy Ryder
SYNC

Percy is a family man who is a married father with three beautiful children. He is a Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi, Noongar/Yamatji First Nations man who was raised on his mother's land in the Pilbara.

As a teenager, he was blessed to be one of the first people put through the Polly Farmer Foundation, which is now Follow the Dream. He has worked for several mining companies, doing FIFO with many different shifts and rosters. After living and working the FIFO lifestyle for many years, he came to the realisation that the FIFO life meant he missed out on many different family and social events, ultimately leaving him feeling disconnected.

He knew he wasn't alone. This led him to create SYNC (WA). His vision for SYNC is to build resilience through connection and enhanced work/life balance.

ryderpercy82@gmail.com



Melanie Syron
Black Wattle Professional Services

Melanie is a Worimi and Awabakal woman from Newcastle and grew up on the lands of the Anindilyakwa peoples of Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory.

She completed a bachelor of Aboriginal studies at the University of Newcastle, followed by 15 years in higher education teaching Aboriginal studies.

In 2018, Melanie was approached by PwC and moved to consulting. She then decided to create her own consulting business that focuses on culturally responsive change, underpinned by academically informed theoretical frameworks and aligned to Aboriginal values and lived experience.

Her 100% Aboriginal-owned and operated business balances consulting and academia to deliver Aboriginal informed solutions.

mel@blackwattleps.com.au | blackwattleps.com.au



Raquel Todd
Blak Line Industries

As a proud Aboriginal woman from the Banjima and Kariyarra groups in Western Australia's Pilbara Region, Raquel, managing director at Blak Line Industries, intertwines her professional journey with preserving her cultural roots. She sees herself as a bridge between ancestral wisdom and the modern world, guided by her culture's resilience.

Blak Line is more than a business; it's a platform for community growth and cultural heritage preservation. Her commitment transcends profits, aiming for positive change and empowerment within her community. Raquel's story embodies strength, determination, and a profound connection to her roots. Whether in corporate or community initiatives, she seeks harmonious coexistence of tradition and progress, reflecting her deeply held values.

Through sharing her experiences, she hopes to inspire others to embrace their cultural heritage and find strength in their roots, envisioning a future where tradition and progress thrive together.

raquel@blakline.com.au | blakline.com.au



Ngaree Blow delivering her Dream Venture pitch at the 2022 Dream Venture Pitch Gala by Tiffany Garvie Photography.

FUNDING & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Funding Partner



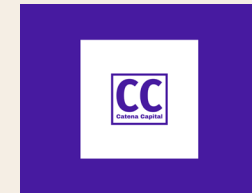
Delivery Partner



Event Partner



Community Partner



MENTORS, JUDGES & CONTRIBUTORS

The Dream Venture Masterclasses program extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to program mentors, panelists, judges and case study contributors for their invaluable dedication to supporting First Nations founders in their entrepreneurial journey:

Mentors

SMK Mills-Krutilek
Path Mint

Roo Harris
Scale Investors

Sta Rizika
Citi

Mark Szumowski
Atlassian

Dickie Currer

Glenn Smith
Full Flight

Sarah Curtis-Fawley
Australian Centre
for Business Growth

Dane Maddams
Culture Amp

Erika Hamilton
Hut Six

Chris Gray
49agnes

Jacqui Bloom
Startup Bootcamp

Laura Warden
Folklore

Garry Williams
Tractor Ventures

Vince Lebon
Rollie Nation

Raaj Rayat
Airtree

Hector Williamson
Chemcloud

Danelle Cross
Curtin University

Morgan Savy
University of
Melbourne

Heath Evans
Wilderlands

Manon Dennison
Gandel Invest

Justine Carzino
One Ventures

Darryl Lyons
Rainstick

James Stewart
Always Carbon

Adam Stanett
Westcourt

Bree Kirkham
F5 Collective

Kate Miller
Citi

Jahna Cedar
IPS

Vidit Agarwal
Curiosity Center

Mads Grummet
Flying Fox
Ventures / ABC

Kate Herbert
Waggly

Jodie Imam
Tractor Ventures

Abs Bulbuliya

Will Richardson
Giant leap

Leah Cameron
Marawah Law

Anthony Wright
Aruma Capital

Richard Barnsdall
Citi

Judy Anderson-Firth
Euphemia

Amelia Hellicar-Forster
Citi

Panelists

Rachel Yang
Giant Leap

Anthony Owen,
Catena Capital

Jo Camilleri,
Minderoo Foundation

Jasmin Herro,
JHerro Pty Ltd

Tina McGhie,
Curijo Pty Ltd

Alisha Geary,
Provvypay +
Blak Angels

Judy Andeson-Firth
Euphemia

Glenn Smith
Full Flight

Kent Matla,
First Australians
Capital + Blak Angels

Mark Szumowski
Atlassian

Matt Vitale
Birchal

Darryl Lyons,
Rainstick +
Blak Angels

Pitch Showcase Judges

Lesie Delaforce,
Minderoo Foundation

Brian Wyborn,
First Nations
Capital

Tom Humphrey,
Blackbird VC

Kent Matla,
First Australians
Capital + Blak Angels

Cissy Shen,
UNDP

Lauren Millar,
Citi Commercial
Bank

Jahna Cedar,
IPS Management
Consultants +
Blak Angels

First Nations Entrepreneurs contributing case study profiles

Jahna Cedar
IPS Management Consultants + Blak Angels

Dr Clinton Schultz
Sobah Beverages



“In Australia, First Nations entrepreneurship is vital to the startup landscape, blending cultural richness, innovation, and resilience. Our goal is to support First Nations entrepreneurs to become investor ready, whilst promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within First Nations communities.”

Leslie Delaforce, Head of Indigenous Entrepreneurship

••
 Leslie Delaforce, accompanied by some of our DVM Alumni, made a delegation to the Summit to represent the Dream Venture Masterclass story at the Youth Co:Lab Indigenous Entrepreneurial Summit in Bangkok by Ruoxiao Song/UNDP.

INDEX

Youth Cohort Finalists

Leah Bennet
Leah Paige Designs

Grace Power
SIS Staples

Katrina Wruck
Mining Innovations

Taylor Coffin
Independent Energy Systems

Scott Wilson
Gevolve Solutions

All Ages Finalists

Scarlet Barnett
Indigenous Psychedelic Assisted Therapies

Terri-Anne Daniel
Cooeee Cookies

Mitchell Skuta
Gardening on Country

Tara Croker
Yaala Sparkling

Samuel Edgar
Kaarli Authentic Boomerangs

Youth Cohort

Brittney Angus
BLA Creative

Barama Blow
Sea Bubs

Shania Richards
Nerdy Indigenous Art

Chiarah Rusca & Keeley Waterbury
Awara Skin Pty Ltd

Nelson Baker
Liyarn Healing

Tyson Fuller
Home of Recovery

Anthony Rigby-Smith
Smith Media

Riana Tatana
SIS Staples

Nicola Barker
PIYA

Emma Garlett
Garlett Group

Dale-Maree Rollason
Chaotic Craft

Alinta Tatana
SIS Staples

All Ages Cohort

Parry Agius
Linking Futures Pty Ltd

Karla Hart
Karla Hart Productions

Paul McCann
Paul McCann Art

Percy Ryder
SYNC

Ngaree Blow
Bunbi

Benjamin Jones
RATJPA Pty Ltd

Toby Moran
RiskRyte

Melanie Syron
Black Wattle Professional Services

Leigh Carnall
Civiltech Solutions

Catherine Lawford
Speedy Goanna

Darren Morris
Wonbon Pty Ltd

Emma Ceolin
Yogaventures

Keisha Leon
Cause/Affect

Jackie Price
Yield Lot 7

Raquel Todd
Blak Line Industries

