

# THE SASY SCOOP

Issue No. 19 | Term 4 Dec 2024



**SASY 2024 EOY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION @RYMILL PARK**

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## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SASY is open for those who need support during the school holidays period. We are staffed and open for young people on the following dates between 10am-3pm.

**Tues 17th, Wed 18th, Thurs 19th -Dec 2024**

**Tues 14th, Wed 15th, Thurs 16th- Jan 2025**

**Tues 21st, Wed 22nd, Thurs 23rd- Jan 2025**

**Term 1 begins Tues 28th Jan 2025**



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## A note from the Editor

To our dearest readers,

As the year comes to a close, I sit and think about the absolute crazy year 2024 has been! I feel this was the year of getting out of comfort zones, finding our feet and preparing for all the great things to come. I found myself not sure what this role as Marketing Assistant would be or become, and I now, as the year finishes up, am more determined and excited for 2025!

SASY has had a big year of events, celebrations and important days. The standout themes for the year were 'team work' and 'community'. There were so many moments I was left in awe at the young people and staff coming together to help SASY prepare and clean up events and functions.

**“A massive highlight for me was kicking off our Alumni program- Stepping Out! Our micro grants ensured 3 young people received funding towards their pathways, with many more on the way”**

The great minds SASY has is truly a magnificent thing. I got to engage more closely with the young people on a daily basis and see the amazing work our floor staff do. Going on programs, shooting socials content and pictures for our annual report was truly a privilege to be part of.

I want to thank each and every one you that make up the SASY community, for assisting, guiding and allowing me to be a part of your journeys this year. I am beyond keen for what next year will bring, and I hope to encompass fun, excitement and wonder into 2025 events and social media!

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Sunny Stefanovski | Marketing Assistant

## Something from our CE

Hello SASY community,

As we reach the end of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many achievements right across SASY.

2024 saw camps to many locations including Second Valley, Port Elliot, Limestone Coast (Robe, Mount Gambier and Naracoorte), Our first ever interstate trips to Queensland and Victoria. Graduation ceremony was held at Adelaide Town Hall, the SASY Band performed at The Jade and our ice hockey team,

the SASY Assassins won multiple awards throughout the year. An absolute highlight was the annual Celebrate showcase event which demonstrated the incredible achievements of our young people. Record numbers of SACE, TAFE, University and employment goals were achieved by our young people. To name just a few.

At SASY we recognise that success looks different for every young person at SASY and are proud of all young people who have moved through SASY this year. Whether that was trying a program for the first time, meeting new people, achieving SACE, making a friend, gaining employment, completing subject work, or simply just showing up at school after a period of being at home, I extend my congratulations to all SASY students and acknowledge the challenges that must be overcome to get here today.

The incredible passion and commitment of our staff, who have supported our students' education and wellbeing, must also be acknowledged. They have offered engaging and personalised programs and support to all students and meet them where they are at, day to day. We are grateful for their care, skills, and positive impact. Thankyou to each and every one of you!

**“I would also like to thank our Board, who have guided and effectively governed our school, and the Senior Leadership Team, who have led our staff through a year of significant growth and change.”**

SASY would not be where it was without the support and generosity of its stakeholders, partners and broader network. To those who have funded our programs, provided advice or support, or engaged with our students and staff this year, thank you for enriching our school offerings. SASY is a community, and one we are proud of.

At SASY we believe that every young person deserves a chance to thrive, and we will keep working to make that happen. I wish all of our community a safe and happy holiday season, whatever that looks like for you and yours.

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Karen Taylor | Chief Executive



## STEPPING OUT PROGRAM

SASY Alumni program Stepping Out proved a great success with 4 young people receiving funding towards their pathways. See below two of our student leavers, Imogen and Courtney, who received their grant earlier this term. Imogen received an i-Pad Mini to help access their Uni courses online. Courtney received a laptop to be able to access and continue their Diploma in Nursing. SASY is so proud of both young people for the achievements.



LEFT TO RIGHT: IMOGEN, COURTNEY

## ADF RECIPIENTS

On behalf of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), SASY would like to congratulate 2 students as the 2024 winners of the prestigious Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award.

Charlotte is an incredibly supportive and proactive individual. Her role in welcoming new students and staff, conducting inductions, and ensuring everyone feels comfortable is invaluable.

Taiaha is a remarkable individual and a natural leader. His ability to take initiative, fulfil his responsibilities, and maintain a positive attitude even in the face of challenges are indeed admirable qualities. Well done to you both! What a magnificent achievement! 🎉



LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLOTTE, TAIAHA

## SASY ASSASSINS

What a successful year our very own Ice Hockey team- the SASY Assassins had in 2024!

Throwing it back to June where they won 4/4 games for their tournament. Fast forward to September where these talented young people were a part of the 'My Schools Ice Factor Tournament' winning 3 games and drawing in another. With a 2 point lead in every game! Finally, December came quickly enough and to finish off the year, the crew played a total of 4 games, winning 3 and drawing 1 game.

Lawrence from Connect hub was also the recipient of a Leadership Award for his growth of skills both on and off the ice! Blake from Connect hub also managed to score his first goal!

Well done Assassins! SASY is incredibly proud!



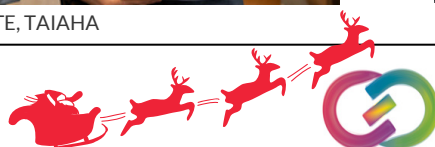
LEFT TO RIGHT: ALEISHA, BLAKE, LAWYER AND LAURENCE

## SACE & VET

SASY is proud to state that we had 17 young people complete Year 12 Stage 2 SACE in 2024. Our largest cohort yet! Along with 22 young people completing VET Courses throughout 2024. Including many other young people gaining qualifications such as white cards and RSA. Well done and congratulations to our SACE graduates and VET completers.



VET BARISTA COURSE



## CONNECT HUB



### Reflecting on the year that was...

This year has been one of celebrations within the Connect Hub, our amazing young peoples' greatest moments and achievements have focused upon building authentic and meaningful connections to themselves and others through learning and wellbeing.

Connect young people have been super busy either in a program or paying rent. "Paying Rent" are weekly tasks linking fun and education to build a culture of inclusivity between the ever-increasing numbers of participants; the regular call of "What's Rent this week?" showed just how much our young people are becoming young adults within the SASY community and beyond.

Connect young people have also increased their engagement in Individual Learning. Connect young peoples' willingness to re-engage with their learning through Prodigy and BKSB was outstanding and was a shining example of their enthusiasm to supporting their development in their Numeracy and Literacy capabilities.

Students also actively pursued interests and passions through personal projects. From badge design to bookmark making, promoting social causes and encouraging educational culture, Connects very own hub graffiti art display, and extraordinary poems and memoirs of their personal experiences, there was no limit to the abilities of these young people.

**"It's not all about the school-stuff though, and this year has seen Connect young people engage in many wonderful SASY events"**

Connect young people have continued to show their understanding and inclusivity by participating in significant events, such as International Women's Day, Remembrance Day, and NAIDOC Week.

They also had the opportunity to get out into the wider community with special celebrations such as the moving Smoking Ceremony at Hindmarsh Square for Reconciliation Week. SASY's RUOK Day was a monumental success, a day full of meaning but also fun; as was the EOY Christmas Party.

Although the final weeks at SASY for 2024 presented one last challenge, we cannot be more thankful and proud of the resilience and understanding that Connect young people showed during the school closure. Here's to a fabulous year in Connect, we are so grateful we got to share it together and we wish you all the best for 2025!

**Bel Quick**  
Connect Teacher





PROGRAM 'LAB RATS'

## INSPIRING THE WAY....

As 2024 comes to a close and our young people prepare for their summer break, it provides staff an opportunity to reflect on the successes that 2024 has brought about.

Focusing on Term 4, we as staff have witnessed the growth in young people and were privileged to share the successes alongside them.

SASY provides unique opportunities for our young people to explore through education and Inspire are fortunate to have an excellent array of staff that are able to guide these young people to their dreams and ambitions. Inspire is a Hub that provides support to a cohort of young adolescents that are just beginning to explore what society has to offer. This is what we like to think of as "opening up the window of opportunity."

Inspire staff are highly skilled to identify when this is occurring, and then provide relevant supports as necessary and as required. Inspire is a launching pad for young people to get prepared for their Senior schooling.

Throughout the Term, we saw some great individual, team, group and Hub Successes. EIF is the only compulsory Year 10 subject. It begins the Stage 1 SACE journey. 13 of our young people fully completed their EIF which is an outstanding result!

Many Inspire Students also began their Stage 1 Year 11 Maths and English with some even completing it, giving them a massive head start into their Senior schooling.

**"Some of our young people also participated in a Coding Club Competition"**

Well done and congratulations:

- Jordan C for getting a Participation in the Python NCSS Competition (July)
- And Jordan C again for getting a Participation in the HTML Competition (October)
- Ed F for getting a Participation in the HTML Competition (October)

As many of our young people are now transitioning to the Senior School, the skills and resilience they have been taught within SASY, will again provide opportunities for success throughout their Senior Years.

All staff from Inspire would like to wish families, carers and young people, the very best wishes for the Festive Season and we look forward to rejoining you all in late January 2025 to recommence our successful journeys.

**Bruce Woodcock**  
Inspire Team Leader





PROGRAM 'GRAVE DISCOVERIES'

## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND GROWTH...

2024 has been an exciting year for the Empower Hub, marked by new faces, innovative programs, and remarkable successes. Our young people have achieved incredible milestones, including the completion of several Certificate 2 and 3 VET courses, with record numbers finishing their Personal Learning Plans (PLP), RSA, White Card, and Barista courses. We are also proud to announce the completion of RP qualifications by many students

Empower participants have engaged in a wide variety of enriching activities, including the NCSS Coding Challenge, a music performance at The Jade, and camps to Port Lincoln and Camp Coorong. Our students showcased their artistic talents at the SALA exhibition, with some selling their own artwork.

Other highlights included work experience opportunities, Adventure activities, and involvement in events like R U OK Day.

**“A special mention goes to the students working with our chef Zach to build confidence in the kitchen.”**

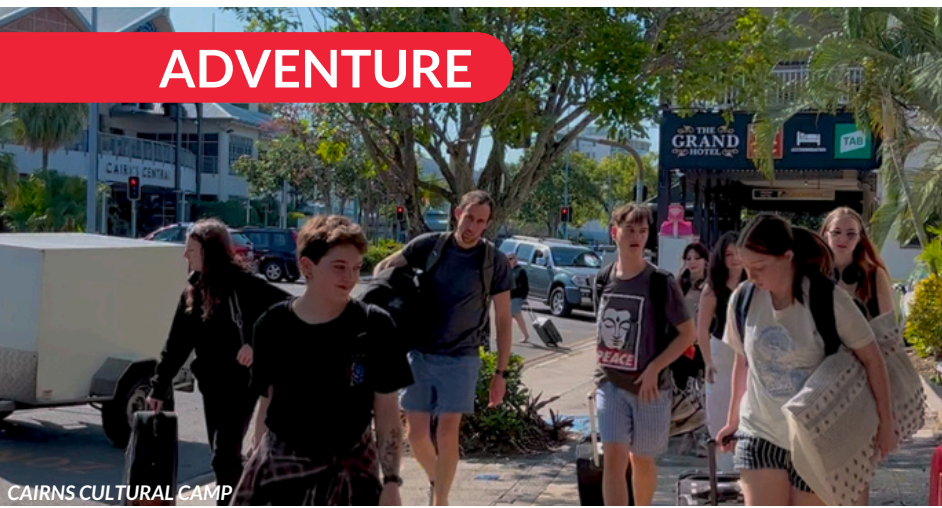
The year also featured exciting trips, including a haunted cemetery visit in the Barossa, and new wellbeing activities such as yoga and meditation. Students enjoyed attending Grease the Musical, completing murals, and participating in community projects like the SASY Book Nook and Rustic Revival.

With a huge number of students completing their SACE through VET courses and SACE subjects, we are excited to see what the future holds for our talented and driven young people.

**Allira Sierke**  
Empower Team Leader



# ADVENTURE



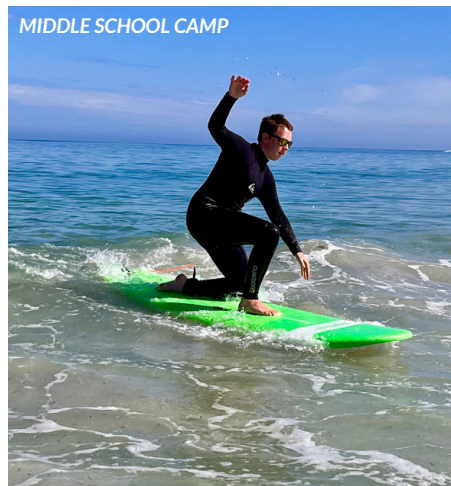
CAIRNS CULTURAL CAMP



CAIRNS CULTURAL CAMP



CAIRNS CULTURAL CAMP



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

## ADVENTURE AT A GLANCE...

Through Semester Two, Adventure's activities made a steady transition from Winter into Spring. We undertook multiple ventures, and we gradually increased our water based endeavours.

The Middle School campers had a blast learning to surf and snorkel off the beautiful coastline of Yorke Peninsula. They stayed in dorms at the Corny Point Caravan Park which added to the adventure. Snorkelling through the pristine waters was magical especially with the colourful shells and sea creatures. And surfing – what a thrill!! Each steady wave bringing a new challenge and the joy of successfully standing up was so rewarding.

Cairns Cultural Camp was an incredible way for the Senior students to conclude their year-long adventure learning! Cairns truly offers a wealth and diverse range of experiences.

**“ It was fantastic to see the students taking charge to plan the trip and create the itinerary”**

They researched about the region and on camp they were given the opportunity to share stories when visiting sacred sites which was deeply enriching for all the group. Exploring the Daintree Rainforest and snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef were such iconic experiences that the students will not forget.

The Seniors had an opportunity to connect with the Minister of Education for the Yidindji Nation.

They learnt about local First Nation culture as a self-ceded sovereignty which added a profound educational layer to the trip.

Adventure scaffolds experiences, building on each previous encounter. With every new challenge, we gain confidence and trust in the process. The more exposure the students have, the better they become, and are able to embrace each opportunity to grow and learn.

**Kath  
Ignite Teacher/Adventure  
Program Lead**



# SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY



BEHIND THE SCENES SHOOT- SASY'S RESIDENT SUPER STAR-  
COOKIE



ADELAIDE GAOL

## A year in Focus!

It's been a year of creativity, learning and fun for the talented students of SASY's senior photography class. From mastering the magic of shutter speed and studio lighting to capturing moments all across the CBD, including the Adelaide Zoo, the historic Adelaide Gaol, the Botanic Gardens and even the West Terrace Cemetery.

One highlight was our studio shoot with Animals Anonymous where we were visited by a menagerie of native Australian animals to practice our lighting skills.

The ultimate high point of the year was our SALA exhibition at Foods for Life Café. The photographic artworks were a great celebration of each young person's achievements capturing their skills and individuality.

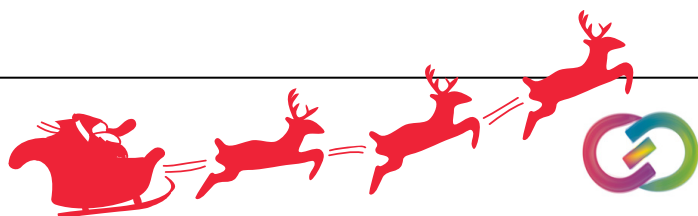
**Jessica Eckermann**  
Empower Teacher



SALA OPENING



AMAZING ANIMALS SHOOT





# Cultural Immersion- Wynne's Trip to Arnhem Land



In August of this year, I was fortunate enough to be able to go on a cultural immersion trip through Culture College to North East Arnhem Land. This trip is part of SASY's Reconciliation Action Plan commitments around professional development for staff.

Our first two nights we camped at Gulkula, the site of Garma festival. It is situated on an important Yolngu ceremonial site, looking over a lush gully of paperbark trees. That evening we were welcomed with a smoking ceremony and bush medicine healing from Yolngu healers. We also met with very important elder Djarpirri, who is a Culture College director and important community leader. We were very lucky that Djarpirri sang ceremonial song for our group, which was the first she had done this. This was very special and moved us greatly.

The following day we visited Makassan beach, one of the sites of trade between Yolngu and Indonesian sailors. There are many hundreds of years of trade between Yolngu and Makassans and it's a reflection of the respect and hospitality of the Yolngu people. We visited an art centre to see beautiful examples of weaving, bark painting and carving. The depth and complexity of the symbolism and craftsmanship was astounding.

The following day we drove 3.5 hours to the Nyinyikay homeland, where a Yolngu family had welcomed us to stay and learn from them on their country and in their traditional home. Due to their geographical location, Yolngu culture had not been as badly disrupted by colonisation and a homeland is where they have been living on their traditional country undisturbed.

Once we were in Nyinyikay, we really settled into being on Country. It was made clear to us that there would not be any set times or schedules, because everything was dependent on the family and their connection with Country as to when it was the right time to do things. It gave us the opportunity to explore the beautiful natural environment, chat with each other, get to know the family and really relax. I took the time to meditate, practice mindfulness and connect with nature.

We did a variety of different workshops such as walks around the area to see native foods and bush medicines, learning about the kinship systems, learning Yolngu Matha (language), the women learnt how to prepare the grass and weave, the men learnt about making and playing a yidaki, we helped making a fish trap, visit important locations and more importantly, spend time with the family and learn through conversation. We were given Yolngu names - mine was Gurtha, which means fire.

Every aspect of Yolngu culture is interconnected, from the way people are named and what tribe they are a part of, to each animal, plant, geographical feature, even moments in time. Everyone has a place and some responsibility and this is carefully balanced. Its like yin and yang. Everything is valued as an essential part of this interconnected web.

The spirit of Yolngu was of respect, love, generosity, and responsibility. They understood that looking after their culture, as well as sharing it with others will not only strengthen the culture, it will lead to greater respect and understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

**“They had a deep care for us and a wicked sense of humour. The depth and complexity of their spirituality as well as their wisdom, was extremely interesting and moving.”**

When we left Nyinyikay, we participated in a traditional dance and ended with hugs and well-wishing prayers. We travelled back to Gulkula for a final night on Country before returning home. We reflected on what we had learnt and experienced. We met with Auntie Djarpirri again and shared our experiences, who bookended our trip with another beautiful ceremonial song.

It was expressed to us that when we learn from Yolngu, but then also strive to embody those learnings, this will have a positive ripple effect in all the spheres of influence we exist in. Due to this trip, I feel I can advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with more depth of understanding, integrate First Nations' perspectives in a more meaningful way into my practice and tread more lightly on the earth.

It was a beautiful, life changing experience that I am deeply grateful for.

**Wynne Plug-Berndt**  
Youth Worker





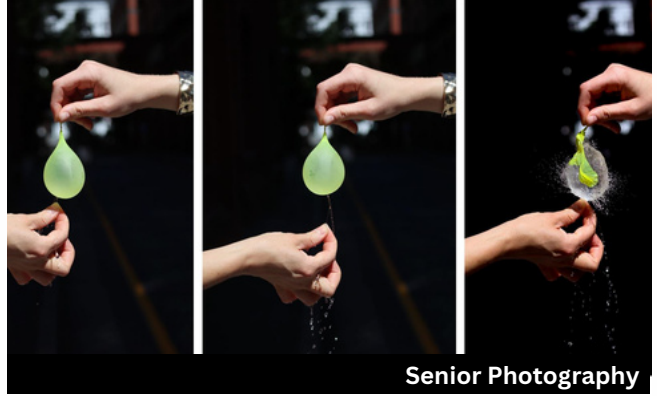
Mural Madness



Adventure @Berenberg for strawberry picking



Mural Madness



Senior Photography



Niamh completed her Cert II in Salon Assistant



Senior Photography- Adelaide Gaol



NE Arnhem Land