



Australia Youth Trust

ABN 31 076 218 043

THE AUSTRALIA YOUTH TRUST & 2024 TOM HARVEY AWARD FOR CITIZENSHIP

The Australia Youth Trust was launched in October 1996 at a special gala event held with Diana, Princess of Wales, as Guest of Honour. Since that event, the Trust has been able to support many worthy charitable projects, and recognise young leaders making a difference, in Australia and in developing Commonwealth countries.

The annual Tom Harvey Award is made as part of a wider programme of grants made by the Trust to assist young people within Australia and the Commonwealth of Nations in relation to:

- *the relief of poverty and suffering*
- *the provision of literacy, education, training and employment opportunities*
- *the promotion of exchange between young people in Australia and in Commonwealth nations*

The presentation of the award is made each year at the annual Commonwealth Day Luncheon held at **Parliament House Sydney** on the second Monday in March. Around 200 attend this lunch, with dignitaries including Members of the NSW Parliament, members of the Consular Corps, community leaders and students. We are delighted to make a joint award in 2024 to:

Jackson Bialobrzewski

Jackson is a 19 year old Commerce student at Deakin University. A community volunteer for around 5 and a half years, Jackson has always strived to make Balranald and surrounds a better place, particularly for young people, to live, work and study.

Jackson, along with his team, have achieved many great things for young people in the Balranald Shire and surrounding areas, including initiatives that made council abolish the fee for entry at their local swimming pool, upgrade amenities such as local parks and library services to become more accommodating and modernise their facilities, and provide more entertainment and festivities catered to young people and families.

Jackson strives to make his community a better place every single day, and values the grit and determination of his community to wield together to become more thoughtful, and more considerate of how their region is changing, and what challenges lie ahead in their future. Jackson has participated in many community groups, and has always demonstrated local pride, and been a friendly face for locals and tourists alike, who have come across him.

It remains Jackson's passion to make regional areas like Balranald, more appealing for young people to live their lives, and provide them necessary resources to be able to live, work and study in communities like Balranald. After completing his university degree, it is Jackson's goal to begin working in local government projects, where Jackson can contribute to the continued growth and development of local communities in regional Australia, for families and younger people like him, better places to live.

Jenna Smith

Jenna is a compassionate young person and at only 18 years old has built an extraordinary independent platform that speaks for the voiceless in our society: homeless pets. Jenna has collected and donated 'conservatively' over \$63,000 of pet food and supplies as a result of communications with local community and businesses throughout Australia. It is this type of drive and seeing the greater vision that makes Jenna's volunteer work unique and invaluable. This month Jenna has rolled out The Blue Bin Project which is an exciting extension to her work.

The Blue Bin Project involves having a small fleet of blue bins which are delivered to local businesses for one month and collect pet supplies. The bins are then rotated to new locations. This provides not only additional supplies but connects local businesses with the community.

Jenna strives to enhance the lives of domesticated animals in Australia, through reducing the accumulation of homeless pets in shelters and offering resources to improve their equity of life and wellbeing. Her work consists of raising funds, providing food and animal supplies mainly Central Coast shelters and rescues, namely, SoCares (Charmhaven & Erina), Peggy's Promise and Claws n Paws. She has also provided much needed assistance to rescues of other areas and to local community groups who cannot afford to feed their pets. Jenna and her family foster cats and this year have seen many cats from their care adopted.



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In 2019, Jenna started walking dogs at Gosford Animal Care facility. Even though she was too young to go unassisted, this was something she loved to do, especially on Sunday mornings and during school holidays. This continued until the facility was moved to Maitland and Covid struck, shutting the centres down to the public.

It was during this time that Jenna thought she would collect blankets and goods needed by local animal shelters. In 2021, she assisted in making 25 beds and with her pocket money purchased 100 cat toys and donated those to SoCares Erina. But, Jenna wanted to do more so in November 2022 Jenna decided to make more beds with materials such as quilts and bedding sourced and recycled from the local community. She also embarked on making and selling pet bows and opened her Facebook page.

Jenna has received many awards for her commitment in improving the lives of animals in care. In addition to Jenna's volunteer work for animals, Jenna also volunteers teaching karate to young students (18 months to 6 years old). These programs assist young children to gain confidence, resilience, stranger danger knowledge, and prepare them for school readiness. She also captained a team in 2022 which raised over \$2800 for the Black Dog Institutes One Foot Forward, running over 140 km in the month of October.

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NSW & COMMONWEALTH DAY COUNCIL NSW 2024 PAT KEILL AWARD

The Pat Keill Award has been established in honour of the late Pat Keill OAM. Pat was a great supported of the Country Women's Association where she was General Secretary for over 30 years and also served on the Commonwealth Day Council and Director of the Australia Youth Trust for over 20 years. Her contribution to the community and in particular young people could not go unrecognised. Together the Commonwealth Day Council and the Country Women's Association of NSW created the Pat Keill Award to continue the legacy of Pat and recognise a young person who has contributed to the development and encouragement of young people just as Pat Keill had done. The 2024 Pat Keill Award is awarded to:

Daisy Grady

Daisy is a proud Gurnaikurnai and Palawa woman who is also of Chinese and Caucasian descent. She has struggled with inter-generational trauma, financial hardship, family illness and natural disasters, but does not let these challenges overcome her from reaching her academic and artistic goals.

Raised on a cattle farm with many household pets in the Hunter Region Daisy experienced first-hand the pressing need for animal welfare whenever humans interact with the natural world. Her childhood exposure to breeding cattle during droughts and floods and specialized breeds of dogs and chickens as companions moved her to develop a keen sense of justice for animal welfare.

Daisy attended Merewether High School where she took on leadership responsibilities as Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group President providing insights into school-wide decisions, organising NAIDOC assemblies, delivering speeches, and conducting Acknowledgement of Country during regular school assemblies and as Gay Straight Alliance President, thus fostering a supportive and diverse community for students. She was also a coach and umpire for the local netball association.

Despite experiencing financial hardship at home, Daisy worked hard to proudly and gratefully receive an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Entry Scholarship. Her passion for science, self-discipline and sheer determination yielded her outstanding academic achievements, receiving high distinctions in all four subjects during her first semester. Determined to succeed, given her new opportunities, she strives towards her dream of becoming a companion in animal health.

Daisy's artistic talent also offers her another venue to empathize with others alongside advocating for animal welfare. She regularly conducts art classes for students at the University of Sydney and volunteers at local charity art events.

Recently she created a cross-cultural artwork with her mother, blending Aboriginal and Chinese motifs, which was showcased at a large event to promote discussion around the voice to parliament. The Gadigal Centre also sponsored her to travel to Cairns in her first year to attend the national inaugural First Nations dingo forum, where she assisted in crafting a statement that concretises First Nations peoples' voice and their cultural values across current legislations that the dingo is managed by. With her rising career in animal health science, Daisy dedicates her lifework to improving the quality of life of all animals and their humans.