

WELCOME TO  
**Johnathan Thurston Academy**  
NEWSLETTER



*You Can Make the Difference!*

TOWNSVILLE  
**2024 WRAP**



**YWAM Warehouse**

IT IS VERY SPECIAL TO SEE THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FACES LIGHT UP WHEN JOHNATHAN DROPS IN DURING PROGRAMS. HE INTERACTS WITH THEM, EMPOWERS THEM, AND ALWAYS ENCOURAGES THEM TO ATTEND HIS PROGRAM.



**YWAM ROPES COURSE**

JOHNATHAN THURSTON ACADEMY WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO COLLABORATE WITH YWAM FOR THE 2024 TERM 2 JT YUOGOTTHIS PROGRAMS. THE YWAM TEAM WORKED WITH THE JTA TOWNSVILLE TEAM TO PRE-PLAN THE ROPES SESSIONS AND ALLOWED US TO UTILISE THEIR WAREHOUSE TO DELIVER THE PROGRAM.

WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME TO LEARN AND OBSERVE HOW THE ONLINE PROGRAM OPERATES. WITH MEL'S SUPPORT, I GAINED MORE CONFIDENCE IN FACILITATING THE ONLINE PROGRAM. ALL PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED WELL AND SHOWED GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM.

**JT Believe Program**



INCREDIBLY HEARTWARMING TO SEE THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE START-OF-YEAR PROGRAM INVITED BACK FOR A FEW COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PLANNED BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS BREAK.

**End of year community day**



**Team Member Of The Year**

**THIS IS CARISSA MILLER, LEAD FACILITATOR**

Carissa was proudly awarded the title "Team member of the year" after her commitment to the team and other regions across Queensland. Carissa is based in Townsville, however, leads online programs to many schools across the region. Johnathan Thurston Academy would like to thank Carissa for her contribution in 2024.





# HERVEY BAY

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



## YouGotThis

Hervey Bay 2024 had a successful year with over 100 young people completing programs across three schools. Both JYouGotThis and JLeadLikeAGirl Programs were delivered. A significant short-term goal for many students was improving school attendance and avoiding suspensions. A large percentage of participants successfully achieved these goals, demonstrating their commitment to positive changes and personal development.

### GOOD NEWS STORY

A young woman attending JYouGotThis program 2024 set her short-term goal during week two of program as "attending school every day for the rest of the term, which included 0 suspensions". JTA staff were able to support her to stay focused and on track with this goal over the ten-week program. This young woman always arrived on time to program and was proud to tell JTA staff a positive update each week. JTA staff were proud to see her graduate the program and achieve the goal she set.





# MOUNT ISA 2024 WRAP

Johathan Thurston Academy officially opened its doors to the community of Mount Isa in March of 2024, starting in a small office where our team facilitated programs at PCYC with the assistance of Ty Williams (Cairns Regional Manager) & Antonio Winterstein (Operations Manager). We found ourselves at the hands of our first program with an impressive group of young men and women. We worked closely with them to gain their trust and show them support within our team. Creating a safe and comfortable space for our young people was a priority- we accomplished this once opening our very own JTA office and program space in August. With the open plan we're lucky enough to have witnessed our young people bond with each other as well as our staff. Mount Isa completed two JTYGT ten-week programs throughout 2024. Our key highlights included Legends of League stars meeting our young people on program, Mount Isa Rodeo with our young people, On-Country days with Aunty Joanie and sharing our memorable moments with Johnathan.



# CAIRNS 2024 WRAP



2024 was an incredible year for the JTA team in the Cairns Region, marked by remarkable achievements and impactful stories. The year concluded on a high note, with the success of Programs three and four highlighting the dedication and hard work of both participants and the team. Program three set a benchmark with an impressive 90%+ attendance rate, underscoring the engagement and commitment of the participants. Building on this momentum, Program four saw the team deliver a transformative five-week intensive program, solidifying positive outcomes for the graduates.

To cap off the year, the Cairns team ventured to Mareeba to deliver a one-day intensive session with local participants. The session was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression not only on participants but also on the Mareeba PCYC staff, who expressed enthusiasm for future collaborations.

Among the many good news stories from 2024, one that stands out is the journey of one of our young men, a participant from program three. Before joining the program, he faced challenges with low confidence, difficulties in school, and a lack of self-belief. Through the support and growth fostered during the program, this young man experienced a significant transformation. Now excelling academically with A grades and staying on track with his education, he is pursuing his dream of becoming an NRL Superstar—a testament to his hard work and the empowering environment created by the JTA team.

The year's accomplishments reflect the positive impact of JTA's programs and the potential for even greater success in 2025.