



MARCH 2025

Brighter Futures

A start in life
a brighter future for young australians



🌟 CREATING LEARNING-RICH HOMES!

A child's learning doesn't start and stop at the school gates – it's also shaped by their daily experiences, especially at home. A strong home learning environment builds confidence, fosters curiosity, and sets children up for success in school and beyond.

But many families face barriers – whether it's a lack of books, educational materials, or simply the knowledge of where to start. That's where our **Learning for Success** program helps, your donations provide:

- » **Books and literacy tools** for children who need them most
- » **Engaging activities** that make numeracy fun and accessible
- » **Creative materials** that inspire imagination and self-expression

Setting up home learning spaces doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming.

As we kick off the year, it's the perfect time to establish great learning habits at home, so we wanted to share some of our favourite tips with you and the little ones in your life.

Boost Literacy

- » Turn everyday reading into a habit – read street signs, packaging or explore bedtime stories together.
- » Make writing fun by having kids write notes to loved ones or helping with birthday cards.
- » Keep alphabet magnets on the fridge to encourage word building and letter recognition.

“By weaving learning into daily routines, parents can create an engaging, supportive environment without adding pressure.”

Build Numeracy

- » When cooking, get your child to help measure ingredients, count items, or sort food by size or shape.
- » Turn walks into number and shape hunts – spot house numbers, count steps, or find hidden shapes.
- » Make a game out of learning – challenge them to tell the time on an analogue clock.

Encourage Creativity

- » Create a craft box with simple household items like paper tubes, milk caps and buttons - let them create whatever their heart desires!
- » Use car rides as storytelling time – take turns building a story together.
- » Get outside for hands-on fun – make fairy gardens, mud pies or chalk art, or head to the park for fun games.

By weaving learning into daily routines, parents can create an engaging, supportive environment without adding pressure. Share these ideas with your community, and together, let's build a future where every child thrives.





Experiences like these are transformative, but they are only possible with the support of people like you. With your help, we can provide more teens with **career scholarships, mentoring, and real-world learning opportunities** that empower them to reach their full potential.

🌟 OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE!

What better way to start the year than with a glimpse into the real-world possibilities their futures could hold?

For teens stepping into the world of work, career exploration and real-world exposure are game changers. Understanding what's possible – and seeing it firsthand – can ignite ambition, build confidence, and shape the future. That's exactly why our Career and Skills Development Scholarship connects students with industry leaders, giving them invaluable insights into diverse career paths.

This January, our first- and second-year scholarship students kicked off the year with an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience at Canva, one of Australia's leading design and technology companies. More than just a company tour, this visit was a chance for students to meet professionals, hear their career stories, and expand their understanding of what the future can hold.

Bringing Careers to Life

Throughout the day, students engaged with a panel of Canva employees – including a data scientist, product manager, product designer and guest services officer. They spoke candidly about their careers, sharing the unexpected twists and personal decisions that shaped their paths and aligned with their individual values. Their message was clear: there is no single path to success – only the one that is right for you. Beyond the panel,

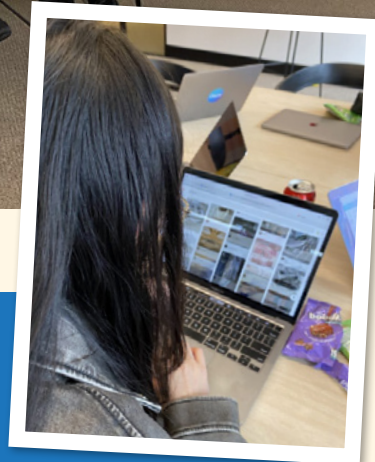
What struck them most? Here's what some of the students took away from the day:

"You can really only learn through experience"
– Petra

"Resilience is the key to success" – Justine

"Be versatile in thinking about your career"
– Mahnoor

"Embrace every opportunity that comes your way" and "do something you love over what's expected" – Saira



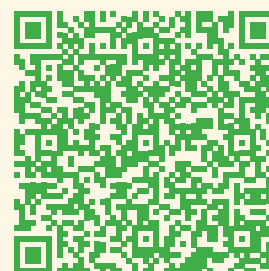
students explored Canva's innovative work environment – a far cry from the traditional office space. With flexible work zones, quiet nooks and open collaboration areas, it challenged their ideas of what a workplace could be. Seeing this firsthand helped the students envision what kind of environment might suit their own ambitions.

From Inspiration to Action

A hands-on vision board activity wrapped up the day, encouraging students to reflect on their strengths, interests and aspirations. It was an opportunity to think big, set goals and connect the dots between where they are now and where they could be. Want to see some of the student's vision boards? **Scan the QR code!**

"Your young people have incredibly bright futures ahead of them."

– Felix, Canva Program Manager



Pursuing higher education is a life-changing opportunity, but for many students, it comes with significant financial strain.

Tuition fees, rent, textbooks, and daily expenses can create immense pressure, making it difficult to focus solely on academics and career goals. Instead of simply worrying about exams, many tertiary students are also juggling part-time jobs, internships, and financial responsibilities – all while working toward their future.

Thanks to our Tertiary Scholarships and support, students like Tina and Ned are not only chasing big dreams but also finding ways to overcome financial barriers. From setting study goals to preparing career paths, they're thinking about the bigger picture and the roadmap to get there. Here's a look at how they're navigating their journeys.

Tina: Investing in her future

Studying Business and IT, Tina has big goals in mind – she wants to become a financial analyst or advisor. To get there, she has taken a strategic approach to her studies and career.

From consistently engaging in tutorial discussions and attending optional classes, to refining notes at home and using online tools, Tina is a hard worker. And she's pleased it's paying off, achieving distinctions and high distinctions.

To set herself up for success, Tina is actively seeking an internship to gain real-world experience, but unpaid opportunities aren't always feasible when balancing living expenses. She has also taken on additional leadership roles, serving as Treasurer of a university society and attending events to build skills and expand her professional network – giving herself an edge in a competitive job market.

One of her biggest goals? Financial independence – *"I want to make sure I'm not tied to a job just for financial reasons"*. With careful planning, Tina hopes to build a strong financial foundation in her 20s, allowing her the freedom to pursue meaningful career opportunities in her 30s.

"Far too many people go through their time with seemingly little respect for their own careers and subsequently themselves, I am not that type of person."

– Ned

This year, we're aiming to support an extra 20 tertiary students – each needing up to \$5,000 a year. Your donation today can help them stay on track and achieve their dreams.



Ned: Turning Passion into a Career

When Ned joined our program, his goal was simple – turn his love for the environment into a career. Recently graduating with a Bachelor of Environmental Science, he's proving that passion and hard work can open doors – but financial constraints made the journey challenging.

While studying, Ned was determined not just to earn good grades but also gain hands-on experience. Our funding eased some financial burden and made it possible to join a professional environmental science organisation, secure a job in natural resources management, and build crucial industry connections.

"Far too many people go through their time with seemingly little respect for their own careers and subsequently themselves, I am not that type of person."

And Ned's dedication paid off – he was recently accepted into a CSIRO traineeship as well as a Master's degree. Now, he faces an exciting decision about his next step, but one thing is certain – he's well on his way to making a real impact in his field.

Tina and Ned's stories reflect the resilience and ambition of many tertiary students – but they also highlight a reality: financial hardship should not be a barrier to education and your support is changing students' futures for the better.



Scan this QR code to donate and discover other ways to help



Student Achievements

The Impact of your Support

© CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to strong community partnerships, students at William Rose School are gaining new opportunities to develop teamwork, build confidence, and discover their passions.

For over fifteen years, we've worked alongside this dedicated sensory and special education school to provide students with enriching experiences that support their learning and personal growth.

Each year, we celebrate student achievements at the William Rose School Award Ceremony – an event that brings together families, peers, teachers, and support staff to recognise students' hard work. At the most recent ceremony, we watched Eddie, a student we've supported since Year 3, accept his award – marking the incredible milestone of his Year 12 graduation. It was a powerful reminder of the impact your donations make.

But our support goes beyond awards. This year, we introduced a new grant providing four students



Students had the chance to learn new skills, make friends, and build confidence on the field.



Neil, A Start in Life's CEO, giving a student his award at last year's ceremony

\$2,000 annually to support their individual learning journeys. Thanks to you, these grants are all about giving students and their families what they need to learn and grow. Whether it's an upgraded iPad with a life-changing communication app, a sensory-friendly school uniform, or access to occupational and behavioural therapy, the funding makes a real difference.

Through partnerships with local sports organisations and professional athletes, we are also creating opportunities for William Rose School students to experience the joy of team sports and active play. Anthony, from our Student Assistance Team, took things to the next level and helped set up weekly football sessions for students with professional players, giving students the chance to learn new skills, make friends, and build confidence on the field. The result? One teacher shared – *"Our students had so much fun learning drills and practicing goal kicking!"* And the professional players? They had just as much fun as the students!

As we continue working with William Rose School, we're excited to see the students enjoy themselves and flourish. With your support, we can keep making a real difference – one student, one opportunity and one partnership at a time.

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