



Welcome to
Johnathan Thurston Academy

Monthly Newsletter - May 2025



Celebrating Progress Across Regions

This month, the JYouGotThis program continued to empower young people across Queensland through cultural grounding, confidence-building, and social-emotional learning. Here's a region-wise snapshot of the highlights:

Mount Isa Region

Theme: Progress & Growth

Participants concluded the program with strong engagement, family involvement, and graduation celebrations, including certificate presentations and loyalty card redemptions.

Good News Story – K's Journey

K began with school disengagement and antisocial behaviour. With structured support from JTA and the Early Action Group, he built positive coping strategies and is now enrolled at Silver Linings Boarding School, mentoring peers toward pro-social choices.



Cairns Region



Theme: Role Models

- ◆ Group 1 explored inspiring figures like “Tina” from a featured film and created personal role model profiles.
- ◆ Group 2 engaged in identifying both positive and negative traits of role models using Northern Pride facilities. One young participant committed to guiding peers away from negative influence.

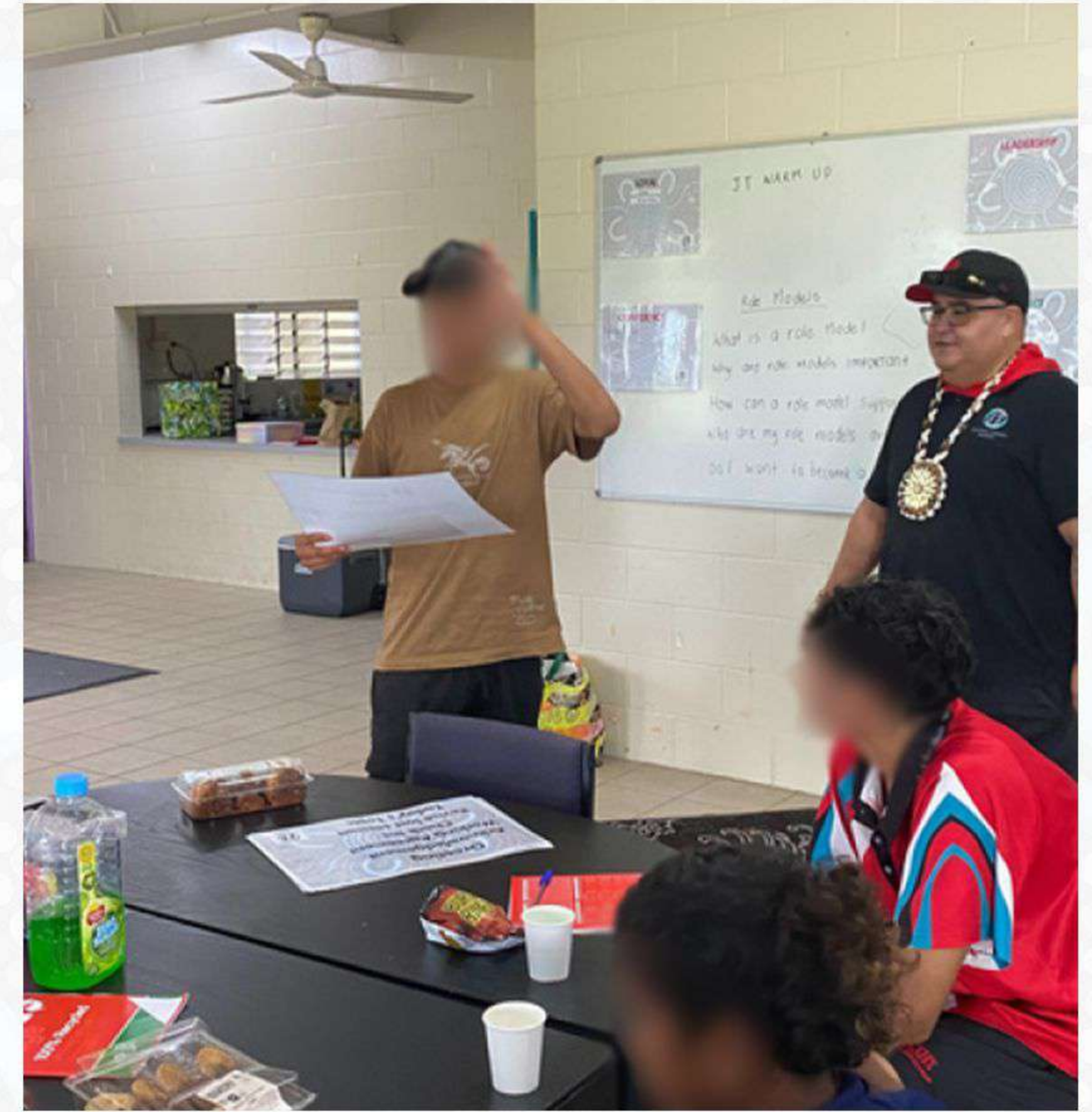
Next Up: On Country Days preparation and new referrals opening for Program 3.



Townsville Region

Theme: Learning Through Reflection

Held at PCYC Aitkenvale, youth reflected on who inspires them and why. The session began with a young person confidently offering an Acknowledgment to Country. The upcoming schedule includes a Lives Lived Well substance awareness session and a Community Day BBQ.



Hervey Bay Region

Theme: Confidence & SMART Goals

- ◆ Program activities included identifying personal values, building self-confidence through role play, and setting SMART goals.
- ◆ Youth practiced leadership and accountability through peer engagement.
- ◆ Several meaningful redirections were observed, such as students encouraging peers to disengage from antisocial behaviours.



Gold Coast Region

Theme: Courage, Thought Traps & Community Engagement

- ◆ Sessions focused on identifying red flags, building resilience, and moral reasoning.
- ◆ Students explored concepts like knife crime impacts through a session with The Balin Stewart Foundation (BTB4B).
- ◆ Activities like “traffic light reasoning,” icebreakers, SMART goals, and “pressure cooker” emotional regulation helped deepen understanding.
- ◆ Community engagement included bowling with QPS/YCRT and outdoor games to strengthen peer connections.

Weekly Affirmation

Every week ends with this mantra echoed across all regions:

“Every day I look in the mirror and I say: I am confident, I am strong, I am amazing!”

Looking Ahead

From Mount Isa to the Gold Coast, JT Academy continues to foster a supportive, culturally grounded environment where young people grow through trust, education, and lived experiences.

We’re grateful to our partners, families, staff, and communities who help us keep this mission alive.



Want to refer a young person or partner with us?