

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



Because of the current housing crisis, I speak to a lot of people who are either homeless or are at imminent risk of homelessness or are not in housing that meets their needs.

Being at risk or in the wrong sort of housing, such as unaffordable housing, it is stressful and scary. Being homeless is distracting, timeconsuming and dehumanising.

Many people talk about spending hours each day organising meals, sorting out how to get clean clothes, bedding and if they are lucky, how they will get a chance to watch a bit of TV or get some data so they can go online.

Many community services are finding that not having secure and affordable accommodation is distracting people from addressing other needs like health and nutrition, money management, employment or training and children's sports and social needs.

For Sharehouse, we understand the needs of young people who are not securely housed, who need a chance to catch their breath and work out a plan that will get some of their needs met. We have amazing staff who understand their roles, take their responsibilities seriously and have skills and knowledge that assist many young people as they work towards solutions.

We can't always meet their needs, often we come nowhere near it, but we try and find ways to enable them to continue to move towards self-determination, independence, autonomy and more informed decisions.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON CONT.

Our Management Committee continues to recognise the needs of young people in vulnerable situations as our primary focus. We meet each month and contribute to the strategic direction of the service as well as ensuring the organisation is meeting it's obligations to the employees, the funding bodies, but more importantly, to our community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow MC members for all their dedication, time, and continued contributions to the governance of Sharehouse.

I also want to thank the staff who bring so much of themselves to their role and continue to grow and develop for the benefit of the young people that we work with.

I specifically want to acknowledge Lisa Pyne and Matthew Jarden for their willingness to step up into more senior roles and to show us that working within a culture of professional development can lead to some amazing achievements. This shift in our culture has shown us that when we share our knowledge, when we willingly teach each other skills, when we support each other's achievements, we are stronger together as well as individually.

Finally, I want to thank our funders for their continued commitment, Queensland Government's Department of Housing and the Queensland Government's Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, And our sponsors and partners who provide donations and small grants; OzHarvest, The Good Box, Townsville City Council and Civil Geotechnical Consultants (CGC).



ABOUT US

Sharehouse is a non-profit organisation based in Townsville and we've been a beacon of hope for at-risk youth since 1979. We cater to 16-25 year-olds experiencing or at risk of homelessness, providing safe accommodation and a range of support services to foster independence and confidence.

Our Mobile Support team extends our help beyond accommodation, assisting with Centrelink and housing applications, and teaching essential life skills. Since 2022, we've run the 'Step Into Success' program, a free in-house course that equips young people with employment skills.

At our core, we are committed to guiding young people towards independence in housing, employment, and life skills.



GROWTH

PROGRAMS

OUR PEOPLE

ACCOMMODATION





OUR VISION

YOUNG PEOPLE GROW STRENGTH, INSPIRATION, AND INDEPENDENCE TO CONFIDENTLY EMBARK ON THEIR FUTURE LIFE ADVENTURES.

OUR MISSION

WE SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR JOURNEY
TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE INCLUDING HOUSING,
EMPLOYMENT AND LIFE SKILLS.

OUR VALUES

INDEPENDENCE & EMPOWERMENT

ACCOUNTABILITY

INDIVIDUALITY & CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

GROWTH

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sharehouse Youth Programs is governed by a volunteer Management Committee, who share their time, talents, and expertise to help the Sharehouse team to improve the lives of young people in Townsville.



JENNY KING
CHAIRPERSON



VICE CHAIRPERSON











OUR PEOPLE

The team at Sharehouse are passionate about helping local at-risk youth. With decades of experience between us, we have the skills and knowledge to work with young people to help them live their best lives.

STAFF

MANAGER

PROPERTY & ADMIN MANAGER

TEAM LEADER

PROGRAM FACILITATOR

YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER

YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER

YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER

YOUTH WORKER

MOBILE SUPPORT WORKER

MOBILE SUPPORT WORKER

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

LISA PYNE

JULIE SMITH

MATTHEW JARDEN

JANINE SMITH

LUCILLE MARTIN

JAYME HARLEY

KATHLEEN MELVILLE

KASMA HEM

LUCAS MCCLELLAND

DONNA MURA

GEORGIA HILL

MELINDA CHAMBERS

FAREWELLS

TEAM LEADER

PROPERTY & ADMIN MANAGER

YOUTH WORKER

YOUTH WORKER

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

TREASURER

CHAIRPERSON

DEBRA ANDERSON

CAROL-LEA GRANGE

JOHN KELLY

JACKIRRA BRAICO

DANIELLE SMALLACOMBE

JEFF PRINGLE

RAY KENT

GOOD NEWS STORY

MOBILE SUPPORT & TRANSITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

"I was living in overcrowded conditions at the time, with shared custody of my son." Jayden* recalls that before reaching out to Sharehouse "I was a victim of being king hit, resulting in traumatic brain injury - leaving me unable to work, with extreme fatigue and short-term memory issues." Jayden also lacked access to government support due to not being an Australian citizen.

After being referred by Red Cross, Jayden came into Sharehouse for an intake and then worked with Mobile Support for a month, before receiving an offer of crisis accommodation.

Once Jayden was in Sharehouse accommodation, he received support through food, advocacy, and referrals. While working with us, Jayden achieved significant milestones; with support, Jayden was granted citizenship, which eventually led to him receiving government assistance. Through advocacy and support, he was on a path toward self-sufficiency.

Sharehouse advocated for Jayden to gain permanent accommodation with the Department of Housing. In July, Jayden was offered a secure unit with a community housing provider. He was absolutely over the moon. Jayden was supported during the transition to his new home. Sharehouse assisted with organising removalists.

Jayden says securing permanent accommodation has helped tonnes with his mental health, quality of life, and sense of stability.



"I have security of knowing it's mine. I have great neighbours and am part of an awesome community."

Now in stable housing, Jayden has set his sights on the future: "I want to get a car, go hiking, camping, and fishing". In the long term, he aspires to build a career. His outlook on life has undergone a profound transformation, driven by the newfound stability that permanent accommodation has brought.

For those currently experiencing or at a risk of homelessness, Jayden offers a message of encouragement: "Don't give up."

His journey is a testament to the perseverance of those who face struggles and seek assistance.

Jayden says he still feels supported by Sharehouse through regular check-ins and offers of help.

*Names have been changed

MANAGER'S REPORT

It's my pleasure to report on the achievements of our organisation through a demanding and challenging year.

Our team has gone above and beyond to support young people in finding safe and secure housing, employment, and assisting with the complex challenges they are facing.

This year, we've seen Sharehouse go from strength to strength. Alongside undertaking the core business of our organisation, we've also established our three-year Strategic Plan, and tackled a complete review of all operational aspects, internal policies, and procedures.

We've embraced a changing environment with new team members, diverse needs of the young people we support, and the newly established **Step Into Success** employment program.

Highlights of the year:

- April visit from the Minister Hon Leeanne Enoch
- Supported 396 young people across all programs.
- Generous funding from Civil Geotechnical Consultants (CGC) enabled us to purchase 55 iPads & 142 hygiene packs for young people.
- Office mural art makeover promoting inclusion & diversity, and providing a bright welcoming environment for young people, visitors, and staff.



Within our Leadership team, we welcomed former Sharehouse Youth Worker, Matthew Jarden, who stepped up into the Team Leader role for Specialist Homelessness Services where he provides excellent capacity-building advice and support to our passionate team of six Youth Workers. Julie Smith, a local property industry legend (and administrator extraordinaire) joined the team as our Property Administration Manager, taking expert control of administration and providing guidance and leadership to our Property Trainee.

Administration Trainee who took on internal marketing and social media creation this year. The content Georgia has created and shared has resulted in more young people being aware of our service, external recognition of the incredible achievements of Sharehouse and our young people, and greatly assisted in us securing a generous donation from CGC.

To ensure our team are well supported in their complex and demanding work, we've established a large training budget and commenced work on a benefits and wellbeing policy.

MANAGER'S REPORT CONT.

Thanks to the Department of Housing, we were able to swap two of our smaller units for larger three-bedroom properties, which meant we were able to accommodate and support the young families needing our services. Our accommodation continues to be permanently occupied and in demand more than ever. The average length of stay is unfortunately much longer than previous years due to the unattainable rental market and lack of available properties.

In April 2023, we were privileged to host a visit from Hon Leeanne Enoch, Housing Minister. It was beneficial for the Minister to hear directly from the young people utilising our service about issues affecting them, and how we help.

We're so thankful for all the support we receive from our funding bodies, businesses, community organisations, and individuals who have provided donations (monetary, products, & in-kind), and assistance in our advocacy to end youth homelessness. CGC provided a generous and highly-appreciated donation of \$35,000 to provide hygiene packs for young people, iPads for young people completing our employment program, and additional funds for food, activities and entertainment for our office NAIDOC day celebration.

In 2024, Sharehouse is set to embark on an exciting journey filled with innovation and growth. We'll be working to establish a Youth Advisory Group to enable young people's voices to inform and guide our work and ensure we're providing the most useful support. We're also seeking funding to install a much-needed shower and laundry facility for young people to be able to use with dignity within a safe environment.

I'm extremely proud of the team and management committee for their commitment to the values of Sharehouse and for choosing to put the young people first in every decision we make. Our Chairperson Jenny King has been a vital asset to Sharehouse, volunteering an enormous amount of time supporting myself and our entire team. The achievements of this organisation have been a collective effort with a group of truly passionate people who make working at Sharehouse a pleasure every day.





SPECIALISED HOMELESSNESS SERVICE

WHO SHAREHOUSE IS SUPPORTING

1 IN 10 UNDER 18 60% ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER **CULTURALLY AND** LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE **CLIENTS BELONGING TO** 29% **SAME FAMILY GROUP** 2.8% PRIOR TO ACCESSING SHAREHOUSE - OUR CLIENTS WERE: **DIAGNOSED WITH A** 16% MENTAL HEALTH UNEMPLOYED 72% CONDITION **SLEEPING** 18% ROUGH AT A GLANCE 10,455 6074 130 329

CASE MANAGEMENT

HOURS WORKED

OCCASIONS

OF SUPPORT

CLIENTS

NIGHTS (DURATION OF

AVERAGE STAY)

BEDNIGHTS

STEP INTO SUCCESS

The Step Into Success Program has had a triumphant year, with numerous factors contributing to its success. We identified transport as a significant obstacle and addressed it by offering pickups to young people to and from the class. Our partnership with OzHarvest and use of our community kitchen not only increased participation but also fostered key employability skills like communication and teamwork during cooking activities. The program's popularity even led to serval word-of-mouth referrals.

Our Open Day on 17 March 2023 was met with enthusiasm and positive feedback. Guests were enlightened about the program and left feeling informed and inspired. ABC TV interviewed one of our participants about their experiences with homelessness and their journey through the program.

The Step Into Success Program has been instrumental in helping young people surmount obstacles and thrive in their career and learning paths, and we hope to receive continued future funding to grow and expand this vital program.













STEP INTO SUCCESS

MARCH 2022 - MARCH 2023



THIS CLASS MADE MY HOPE
COME BACK.
I GENUINELY THOUGHT MY
LIFE WAS GOING NOWHERE
BEFORE JOINING STEP INTO
SUCCESS.



WHEN I FIRST CAME INTO CLASS
I FELT A WARM WELCOME. I
ACTUALLY FELT REALLY HAPPY
AND EXCITED TO COME ALONG.
IT WASN'T WHAT I EXPECTED.
WHAT I LIKED THE MOST WAS
YOU COULD BE YOURSELF.



I LOVED COMING TO CLASS. IT
GAVE ME SO MANY THINGS TO
LOOK FORWARD TO
(ESPECIALLY JANINE'S
COOKING). I AM A LOT MORE
CONFIDENT AND I HAVE A JOB
NOW!



STEP INTO SUCCESS HAS BEEN
SUCH A GREAT HELP TO ME.
I NO LONGER HAVE SELFDOUBT. JANINE HAS HELPED ME
BOOST MY CONFIDENCE. THE
CLASS HAS HELPED ME IN
EVERY WAY.



I APPRECIATED THE
ACCEPTING ATMOSPHERE, NO
JUDGEMENT. I ENJOYED
MEETING NEW PEOPLE. THIS
CLASS HAS BEEN VERY
POSITIVE. I AM NOW
PREPARED TO GO FOR JOBS.



THIS EXPERIENCE WAS THE BEST OF MY YEAR. I LOVE HOW THE PEOPLE THAT WORK THERE ARE FUN AND SUPPORTIVE. THEY HELPED ME TO GET INTO TAFE TO STUDY BECOMING A SUPPORT WORKER MYSELF.



I WAS LOOKING FOR WORK, NOT SURE WHERE TO START. I NEEDED ASSISTANCE GETTING MY WHITE CARD. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET EVERYTHING ORGANISED TO START WORK.



I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO
EXPECT WHEN I FIRST CAME IN.
I'M GLAD I DID.
I ENJOYED BEING ABLE TO
MOVE AT MY OWN PACE. THE
CLASS HAS HELPED PUSH ME
INTO WORKING TOWARDS
GETTING A JOB.

GOOD NEWS STORY

STEP INTO SUCCESS

This past year, Sharehouse had the opportunity to congratulate Sabrina* for her hard work and dedication in completing the Step Into Success course and securing a job. Sabrina had also embarked on her journey towards a Certificate III in Childcare through Aurora and received an iPad generously donated by Civil Geotechnical Consultants. Sabrina said the iPad would make learning more accessible and enjoyable by providing easier access to important documents and online classes.

Before she joined the Step into Success program, Sabrina had described herself as feeling lost and unmotivated due to moving towns. She admitted to having hesitated to come to class due to concerns about not knowing anyone but that quickly faded. Reflecting on her experience, Sabrina expressed gratitude for how the class helped rebuild her confidence and hope, making her feel ready to work again.

When asked about her advice for others considering the Step into Success program and receiving an iPad, Sabrina said, 'I would tell them it's worth it.'

*Names have been changed



















OZHARVEST



Sharehouse has been very fortunate to have a partnership with OzHarvest.

Each Monday we receive a food delivery from Woolworths that we pass on to our young people.

The deliveries contain a variety of meats, vegetables, cereals, drinks and an array of other foods and grocery items. This has been and will continue to be much needed resource for our young people.

E-PROPERTY DONATION

Sharehouse recently received a donation from E-Property of stainless steel benches for our kitchen.

This has given our young people a chance to participate and learn skills for working in a kitchen environment.

It has been a well-received popular addition within our kitchen area. The young people can learn and be creative.



THURINGOWA CENTRAL ROTARY CLUB



Thanks to a generous donation of \$500 from the Rotary Club Thuringowa Central, Sharehouse was able to acquire a new stainless steel trolley to complement our recently acquired coffee machine from Department of Housing.

This equipment has been instrumental in furthering our training program for young individuals seeking employment in the hospitality industry.

D.J. MATTHEWS DRIVER TRAINING

Sharehouse have partnered with D. J. Matthews Driver Trainer to support our young people with gaining their drivers licence. This is important to further increase their chances of gaining employment and skills.

We've had many young people now complete this course and create a path to get their driver's licence.



THE GOOD BOX



The Good Box continually donate their thoughtful boxes for us to make available in our front reception for young people to take as they need.

These useful boxes contain hygiene items such as toothpaste, brushes, tissues and more, with an added snack like a nut bar, plus other essentials.

These items might seem small to some of us, but for those who are struggling to make ends meet, and might need to choose between buying them or eating, they can make a huge difference.

KATE'S CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE

Kate's Campaign for Change recently provided crucial support to a young family who were expecting their first child by supplying them with essential baby items.

Furthermore, Kate's Campaign aided two other young families by providing them with cots for their little ones.



GOOD 360



Good360 is a charitable organisation dedicated to bridging the gap in needs.

This year, Sharehouse was able to secure 10 Optus SIM cards, each loaded with a 12-month credit.

These SIM cards were given to young people in crisis, providing them with a vital communication tool.

MISTY MOUNTAIN FARMS & MUNGALLI MILK

Misty Mountain Farms and Mungalli Milk have donated several supplies of fresh, organic milk to Sharehouse.

This milk was distributed among young people and their families. This donation is not just about providing a basic need; it's about promoting health and wellness within the community.



OUR PARTNERS CIVIL GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANTS (CGC)

Earlier this year Sharehouse announced our partnership with Civil Geotechnical Consultants (CGC). This collaboration has been instrumental in supporting the empowerment and success of young people in our community.

CGC's generous donation of \$35,000 has had a significant impact on our operations. This contribution has enabled us to provide iPads for young people participating in our Step Into Success Program.



These iPads have served as valuable tools for participant's educational and career development, equipping them with the necessary resources to flourish in their journeys towards success.

In addition to the iPads, part of CGC's donation was used to provide hygiene packs for young people in need. These packs have ensured our youth have access to essential personal care items, promoting their well-being and dignity. The response from the recipients of these packs has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their gratitude for these essential items.

In a further demonstration of their commitment to the community, CGC also generously donated gift cards to Sharehouse. These gift cards were used as funding for our NAIDOC Day celebrations, contributing to the purchase of food and craft activities.

The partnership with CGC has not only provided tangible resources but also fostered a sense of community and empowerment among the young people we serve. Their commitment to making a positive impact in our community is truly commendable.

As we move into the new year, we look forward to continuing our partnership with CGC. We're immensely grateful to CGC for their unwavering support and commitment to making a difference in our community. Here's to another year of empowering our youth and making a difference together!



CGC TESTIMONIALS

99

WITH THIS IPAD, I WILL BE
ABLE TO UPDATE MY
RESUME AND COMPOSE
MUSIC. I'LEARN HOW TO
MANAGE MY EMAILS
BETTER.



I APPRECIATE CGC FOR THEIR DONATION OF IPADS FOR THE CLASS. IT IS A VERY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION. I WILL BE USING MINE TO ACCESS EMAILS AND KEEP MY RESUME UP TO DATE.



HAVING THIS IPAD WILL
HELP ME BE MORE
INDEPENDENT, I WILL BE
ABLE TO ACCESS
BANKING, MYGOV AND
LOOK FOR JOBS.



I FEEL LIKE THIS IPAD HAS
EMPOWERED ME AND
OTHERS HEAPS.
IT CHANGED THE WAY I FEEL
ABOUT WORKING.
HAVING THIS WILL HELP WITH
MY FUTURE STUDYING.



NOT ONLY WILL THIS IPAD HELP ME WITH FINDING JOBS BUT IT WILL MAKE THE PROCESS A LOT LESS STRESSFUL.



THIS IPAD HAS MADE
ME FEEL MOTIVATED TO
LOOK FOR JOBS AND
COURSES.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial affairs of Sharehouse are monitored by the management committee monthly throughout the year. As is supported by the Audit Report, Sharehouse continues to maintain a healthy position.

Audit Report Summary:

The Audit Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 was again prepared by Jessups and it is agreed they will continue in this role.

The Profit and Loss shows a loss for the year of \$12,548. This is due to the additional spending of profits/surplus from the 2022 Financial Year.

The Balance Sheet continues to show Sharehouse with a strong position. Sharehouse currently has Net Assets of \$787,053, which includes bank balances totaling \$817,010. Sharehouse currently has sufficient assets to cover all liabilities expected to arise during the 2024 Financial Year.

In the opinion of the management committee:

The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of the Association at 30 June 2023 and its results and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the provisions of the Corporations Law.

The report indicates that Sharehouse Youth Programs Inc is in a strong financial position and has necessary funds to repay its debts as and when they fall due.



OUR FUNDING BODIES

Sharehouse Youth Programs is currently funded under the **Queensland Government's Department of Housing** to provide Mobile Support, Immediate Supported Accommodation and Transitional Supported Accommodation.

Our Step Into Success program is currently funded under the Queensland Government's Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training to provide a Ready for Work program.



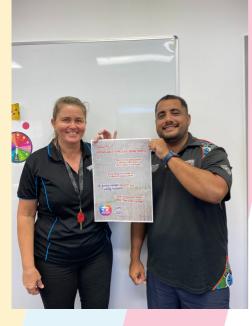
















GOOD NEWS STORY

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION / OZHARVEST MOBILE SUPPORT / TRANSITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

This year we had the opportunity to help a young couple, Sam and Rachel, who were living out of their car with a rooftop tent, moving around Townsville in search of safe places to camp each night. Their situation was far from ideal, especially during the storm season.

Initially, they were couch surfing and housesitting, but circumstances led them to live in their vehicle. They sought help from Busy at Work, an employment service provider, which referred them to Queensland Youth Services. This marked the beginning of a positive change in their lives.

The Red Cross provided temporary hotel accommodation for them, and Queensland Youth Services helped them secure a campsite. They were then referred to us at Sharehouse Youth Programs. As a funded provider offering homelessness assistance in Townsville, we were able to offer immediate support through our mobile service, including food vouchers, Good Boxes, and food donations from OzHarvest.



As soon as a unit became available, we moved them into our emergency accommodation. During their stay, we focused on teaching them skills to maintain their tenancy, such as regular routine inspections and communication skills. After three-and-a-half months, they were offered long-term accommodation in a social housing property.

They appreciated the the food boxes from OzHarvest, and the transport assistance coordinated between Queensland Youth Services and Sharehouse Youth Programs. These services enabled them to attend important appointments.

Now that they have stable, long-term housing, sam and Rachel have a solid foundation to build upon. They are optimistic about their future, recognizing that they now have more opportunities to grow and take care of themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally. They appreciate the simple comforts of having food, daily showers, and hot water, which they consider significant improvements in their lives.

^{*}Names have been changed.

YWAM PARTNERSHIP

In February 2023, Sharehouse and YWAM embarked on a meaningful collaboration aimed at offering young women a pathway towards secure, long-term housing solutions within YWAM's accommodation.

This partnership has allowed us to facilitate the transition of young adult females into more permanent housing options while maintaining an ongoing commitment to support them through our mobile outreach services.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

JULY - NAIDOC '22

We were immensely proud to celebrate NAIDOC 2022 at Sharehouse, and embraced this year's theme: "Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!".

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to: the dancers who graced the event with their presence. A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to bring this event together.

It was a beautiful day of unity and celebration, allowing us all to be a part of something truly special.



AUGUST '22 - HOMELESSNESS WEEK EXPO



Sharehouse, in collaboration with other service organisations, had an interactive and supportive stall at the Homelessness Week Expo, with all kinds of items from Good Boxes, stress balls, gift bags, water bottles, and hygiene packs.

There were also activities and information on how Sharehouse can support people with accommodation and employment skills.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER '22 - COWBOYS GAME

Young people & staff were treated to tickets to the North Queensland Cowboys, Field of Dreams game.

There was a lot of excitement, fun, and celebrity footballers for photo ops. This was supported by the community partners of the North Queensland Cowboys, including the Cowboys Leagues Club, Triple M Townsville, and Townsville City Council.

This is a great event to bring the community together for game day.



APRIL '23 - YOUTH WEEK



Youth Week was another fantastic event Sharehouse staff attended with other services to promote organisation in the community that support our young people.

The day was a success with visits from local MPs. We are exited to continue celebrating events like this with other community organisations future.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

This year's Client Christmas party was held at the Townsville Tenpin & Fun Centre. Our clients celebrated with a variety of engaging activities, including bowling, dodgem cars, and indulged in a delicious spread of party food.

A photo booth was set up to capture some fun Christmas moments.

To round out a memorable experience, a bus tour was organised for our younger attendees, allowing them to visit the spectacular Christmas lights displays of Townsville in comfort while enjoying light refreshments. The experience was remarkable, and everyone had a fabulous time.

The Townsville City Council funding not only facilitated these wonderful experiences but also fostered a sense of community and festive spirit among our clients.

















