

**grow**  
a star

**SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL**

# Lunch for the Stars

**NOAH'S ON THE BEACH  
FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
JANA PITTMAN**



# THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO PRESENT A VERY REAL AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

With the help of your valued contribution, we are aiming to raise \$30,000 which will go directly to our Grow a Star program, an innovative, youth mentoring and scholarship program that helps young people from disadvantaged backgrounds overcome the financial or generational obstacles that are preventing them from following their dreams.

Our previous lunches over the past three years with guest speakers Craig Johnston, Steven Bradbury, Danny Buderus and Sam Poolman have been warmly received by the Newcastle community, and we are delighted with the growth and success of this sports themed event.

Jana Pittman is an extraordinary woman, overcoming significant challenges throughout her life, to achieve her long held dreams and goals. This is something that is heavily aligned with the Grow a Star ethos.

## EVENT DETAILS

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Friday 13 September 2024</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>12.30pm for 1pm start to 3.30pm</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>Noah's on the Beach</b>
<b>COST:</b>	<b>\$150pp</b>
<b>INCLUDES:</b>	<b>Two course lunch   Includes wine, beer and soft drink</b>
<b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b>	<b>Jana Pittman</b>

## WHAT IS GROW A STAR?

The Grow a Star program was created by Home in Place and is the first of its kind to be designed and operated by a community housing provider.

Since its launch in 2012, the program has assisted hundreds of young people to pursue their academic, artistic and sporting goals at grass-roots and representative levels.

Grow a Star is a program that delivers opportunities for young people. We believe that every person has a right to participate in an activity they enjoy and can excel in. To engage in activity, is to engage in life and society.

Grow a Star aims to build the capacity and self-confidence in young people to achieve their highest ambitions. Activities such as learning, sport and the arts connect young people to their peers and to their communities. A young person engaged in this way will be more likely to engage in positive learning, positive health and eventually positive employment experiences. However, for many disadvantaged and vulnerable young people there are many barriers that get in the way of them participating in their interests and enthusiasms. Too often an opportunity to excel is closed off because of financial and family circumstances that prevent participation.

### **This is where Grow a Star comes in.**

We work with young people and their families to enable them to follow a hobby, an interest, a passion or an ambition. We encourage collaboration between other agencies and mentors – specifically support networks, welfare organisations, sporting partners, government bodies and corporate contributors.

We remove barriers by:

- Funding specialist lessons or coaching
- Purchasing equipment or specialist clothing
- Funding sports club registration and representative fees
- Providing mentoring and support

These are just examples and the possibilities are numerous.



Jana Pittman is a two-time world champion and four-time Commonwealth Champion in Athletics. As the first ever woman to represent the country in the Summer and Winter Olympics, Jana continues to inspire Australians as a doctor, mother and motivational speaker.

Jana made a spectacular athletics debut at just sixteen, where she won her first junior world title at the World Youth Championships. In the following year, she matched the 400m hurdles junior record and won the 400m and 400m hurdles events at the World Juniors. Having made a name for herself on the athletics track, Jana was selected to represent Australia at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

She continued her successful streak with a second World title, just 8 months after the birth of her son. Jana also won the 400m hurdles and 4 x 400m relay at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, as well as a Gold in the 400m hurdles at the 2003 World Championships in Paris.

Jana's incredible career was not without challenges. Having sustained persistent injuries, she inspired audiences with her unmatched resilience and sportsmanship. She faced a devastating knee injury but made a triumphant return in 2006 when she scored the 4 x 400 Gold Medal in front of a home crowd.

Outside of her sporting career, Jana is a certified medical practitioner. Having graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, as well as a Masters of Reproductive Medicine, she assists the local Australian community as a junior doctor in a NSW hospital.

With her inspiring strength and determination, Jana showcased her inspiring personality on the 2021 edition of Channel 7's TV program "SAS Australia". She was a fan favourite among Australian audiences for her incredible endurance and resilience.



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Today, 3 million Australians are living in poverty, including one in six children. That's almost 740,000 children. Poverty can seem insurmountable, but sometimes, all that people need is a chance to break the cycle of disadvantage.

In households where finances are tight, young people can fall behind with their learning, leaving them more vulnerable to experiencing hardship themselves later in life and falling into a cycle of disadvantage. They can also often miss out on the sort of extra-curricular activities that play an important role in connecting people to their communities.

The social benefits of the Grow a Star program are far broader than providing young people with the opportunity to achieve their short-term goals. For many young people, the mentoring on offer through the program represents the first time anyone outside their immediate family has demonstrated any sort of belief in their abilities and just as important, has shown them a realistic pathway to achieving their goals.

Enabling young people to pursue their passions, helps foster habits and behaviours that can set them up for life. Encouraging generational change by empowering young people will have far-reaching, long-term positive effects within our community.

## THE BENEFITS OF SPONSORING

Supporting this event, and ultimately the Grow a Star program, provides a practical and tangible way for your organisation to be involved in giving back, not only to young people in need, but to the community as a whole.

Brand exposure through our promotional activities in the lead up to the event and on the day itself, will provide a unique opportunity to align with any corporate social responsibility goals.

Partnering with us to raise the profile of the Grow a Star program will include positive media attention in relation to our combined investment in the local community.

Sharing outcomes of the funds raised and success stories, pre and post event will create opportunities for expansion of your organisation's content strategy.

As a sponsor, you will receive a special invitation to support future events, before opportunities are released to the wider corporate community.



# SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

## GUEST SPEAKER SPONSOR

**\$7,000 (PLUS GST)**

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- 1 X TABLE OF TEN (INCLUDING GUEST SPEAKER)
- INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER AT THE EVENT & OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION
- BANNER TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EVENT (ON STAGE)
- LOGO ON ALL PROMO MATERIAL, WEBSITE PRE AND POST EVENT

## EVENT SPONSOR

**\$5,000 (PLUS GST)**

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- 1 X TABLE OF TEN
- TAILORED SCHOLARSHIP OF A YOUNG STAR
- OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A SPECIAL SURPRISE SCHOLARSHIP TO THE YOUNG STAR
- BANNER TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EVENT (ON STAGE)
- LOGO ON ALL PROMO MATERIAL, WEBSITE PRE AND POST EVENT

**SOLD**

OUR THANKS TO  
HYFLOW PLUMBING  
SOLUTIONS

## LUNCH SPONSOR

**\$3,000 (PLUS GST)**

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- 2 X TICKETS TO THE EVENT
- BANNER TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EVENT NEXT TO STAGE
- LOGO ON MENU AND ALL PROMO MATERIAL, WEBSITE PRE AND POST EVENT

**SOLD**

OUR THANKS TO  
AON

## BEVERAGE SPONSOR

**\$2,500 (PLUS GST)**

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- 2 X TICKETS TO THE EVENT
- BANNER TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE EVENT NEXT TO STAGE
- BRANDED COASTERS ON TABLES AT THE EVENT
- LOGO ON ALL PROMO MATERIAL, WEBSITE PRE AND POST EVENT

**SOLD**

OUR THANKS TO  
BROADLEY SIGNS

# SIENNA

**Sienna is a young woman with a passion for rugby league and dreams of becoming a professional. A Grow A Star scholarship is helping Sienna and her mum Belinda with the cost of specialist training to help her to achieve that dream.**

The 14 year old from Bellbird in the NSW Hunter Valley will use the scholarship to help pay for the costs associated with travelling to and attending her training with the Hunter Academy of Sport, Specific Sports Training and Tim Browne's Leading Edge intensive 12-week coaching program for

rugby league.

At just 14 years of age, she is very focused on her goal, training five days a week alongside completing Year 8 at Mount View High School.

As a single mother with four children, Sienna's mum Belinda was struggling to pay for Sienna's specialist training and to manage all her family's competing demands. Belinda says Sienna has the talent and potential to achieve her long-held dreams. She is grateful for the scholarship.

"This training helps Sienna to be physically healthier and is also integral for her mental health," Belinda says.

Sienna's potential is already well recognised.

She recently trialled in the Newcastle Knights U/17 Lisa Fiola Squad alongside 51 other young women and she was among the 11 that were selected to join the squad. This will be the first U/17 team that the Knights will field in 2024, with trial games happening in December 2023 and final selections taking place after this for the first round in February 2024.

It's been a journey for Sienna to reach this point, but with the support of Grow a Star, she is realising her dreams, one competition at a time.

In March 2023, Sienna successfully trialled for a position in the Hunter Combined High Schools Under 16s Girls Rugby League team. She was one of 40 young hopefuls, many of whom were a couple of years older than her, competing for a place.

In October 2023, Sienna participated in the NSW Koori Rugby League Knockout Carnival on

the Central Coast, playing with the Newcastle Yowies and she was chosen to play in the Northern NSW side in the Harmony Cup in Wollongong later that month.

She also played in the PCYC Nations of Origin rugby league team, representing the Worimi people in Port Stephens. Nations of Origin is an annual multifaceted sport, cultural, education and leadership program that culminates around NAIDOC Week. Each year around 1,400 Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people represent their Aboriginal Nation in rugby league, football fives, basketball, netball and gymnastics to promote reconciliation within communities and celebrate Australia's diverse Indigenous culture.

Sienna says the extra training is essential in developing her skills and fitness. She is hopeful that all of these opportunities will continue to see her work her way towards her long-term goal of playing professional rugby league in the future.

**She is on her way to becoming a rugby league star.**



# KRYSTAL

## **Grow a Star funding has brought unexpected life changing opportunities for Krystal Dallinger.**

As an aspiring netballer, Krystal relocated to Newcastle from her hometown of Dubbo with her mum back in 2017, so she could pursue her sporting passion. The former Hunter Sports High student says she and her mum had to leave a lot behind when they came to Newcastle to live with her grandmother.

Not long after their move, Krystal was identified for the Hunter Academy of Sport's program and she became a recipient of the Grow a Star program.

"The Grow a Star funding was big for my mum and I," Krystal says. "It allowed me to put myself out there to develop my netball skills through the Academy and then Australian netballer Sam Poolman's Aspire Netball program."

She was 6 weeks into her coaching program with Australian netballer, Sam Poolman when she suffered an ankle injury during the second half of the first game. Ending up in a moon boot for some time, while she recovered Krystal began to use her spare time dabbling in painting.

Krystal says she has always had an interest in creative arts and took up photography as an elective in Dubbo, however the subject wasn't available when she moved to Newcastle, so she found herself in an art class in Year 10. She struggled with this initially as she didn't think she had any skills in this area or even the capability to complete the subject. After speaking with her family, they suggested that she should explore cultural art and her Indigenous heritage, which is ultimately what she did, and her efforts produced her first Indigenous artwork which took approximately eight months to complete.

After spending some months off the netball court with her injury, Krystal was so appreciative to be still included by Sam Poolman in the Aspire program, she designed and painted a hat for Sam as a thank you gift.

Sam was absolutely stunned at Krystal's talent. At the time, Giants Netball were looking for a designer for the Suncorp Super Netball Indigenous Round, so she went directly to the Club and told them if they wanted an aspiring netballer with incredible talent then they should take a chance on Krystal. Sam says "Krystal's art has opened up a topical conversation in sport, promoting inclusivity and what it means and how we can all play a part in closing the gap."

Krystal's artwork was first used for the Giants Indigenous Round uniforms in 2018 and four years on, she is still creating designs for the club. She has also designed the uniform worn by the Dubbo Rhinos rugby union team, a pair of shoes for Emily Dunn who plays for the South Coast Blaze in the Premiere League, the Dubbo women's basketball team which competes every year in the Windmill Competition and an Australian Indigenous awareness t-shirt for Miles Community College in Montana, USA.

She also designed a pair of shoes for her cousin, Rebekah Dallinger, an ex-player of the Australian Indigenous Basketball team. She wore the shoes in the grand final in New Zealand in 2019. The game was televised and the shoes attracted a lot of attention from the media and commentators throughout the game! She's now playing college basketball in Montana, USA and still has the shoes with her.

As a proud Indigenous woman from the Kamilaroi Nation, Krystal's journey with her art is closely linked to her own experiences with her culture. The first book her mother read to her when she was a child, to share stories of the Dreamtime, was Rainbow Serpent. Krystal has incorporated this and other elements into the Giants' 2020 uniform.

Krystal says "The cultural learning I've experienced has been amazing. I'm blessed with such a supportive family, they help me every step of the way and I couldn't do it without them.

Everything I learn is not only Aboriginal history but it's my family's history too and it's so awesome to just be able to sit and take in how knowledgeable they all are.

All of this impacts my art so much. Some of the stories I hear are so inspiring that it drives me to put in the most effort I can. Indigenous art is so beautiful but unfortunately some of it has been lost throughout history so having the skills to do it inspires me to revive this culture and find what has been lost."





Krystal is taking a short break from netball and is now pursuing her passion for art. Much of it is focused on the Indigenous dot painting method and her pieces are incredibly intricate and colourful, often taking her many months to complete.

Connecting the dots is an analogy that could be applied to Krystal's life path over the past few years.... from an obsession with netball to an accidental introduction to art, revealing a previously unknown talent which is now gaining the attention of many, not only in our local community but on the national stage.

Opportunities provided by Grow a Star, really can make dreams a reality.





# MAX

**Max is an enthusiastic, gifted and talented learner but the anxieties and social difficulties that accompany his diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder make it hard for him. A Grow a Star scholarship is helping 13-year-old Newcastle student Max to pursue his passion to learn Japanese.**

Max is an enthusiastic, gifted and talented learner but the anxieties and social difficulties that accompany his diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) make it hard for him to extend himself in his areas of interest.

He finds it difficult to warm to new experiences, people, environments and to develop trust in his teachers and mentors. For many years while his friends were learning instruments, doing art classes, catching up and playing games, and participating in sports, Max was at speech and occupational therapy appointments working hard to get to a point where he could manage his anxiety enough for a play date.

Language is the Year 8 Newcastle High School student's favourite subject and Max dreams of going to Japan.

A Grow a Star scholarship is helping Max and his mum Amy with the costs of one-on-one Japanese language and culture classes with a private teacher. Amy hopes the tutoring and the mentoring from Grow a Star co-ordinator Shane will help Max to feel confident enough to participate in a home stay or exchange program in Japan.

"Max is thoughtful and uniquely creative with an amazing sense of humour," Amy says. "The recognition and sense that his difficulties are understood through the extra tuition, could be an experience that will deepen his sense of trust in community and grow his personal confidence.

Amy came across the Grow a Star program when enquiring about affordable housing with Home in Place.

"My mother and sister both have complex health issues and rely on me as their full-time driver and I have recently reduced my hours to care for Max. We are all feeling the financial strain, and I am extremely concerned about our housing affordability."

She says it is difficult to fund the opportunities Max deserves, to grow his independence and socialise.

"This is where the support of Grow a Star will be so important for Max."

# LLEYTON

**Lleyton found his passion for tennis when he was just 10 years old. He'd been successful in many other sports at school over the years, winning state titles and local competitions including basketball, touch football and cross country. One day he decided to try his hand at tennis, and he said it "just felt right".**

In 2016, when Lleyton was 13, he and his mum Lisa and sister Shania relocated from Gloucester to Newcastle in NSW, to help Lleyton access coaching without having to drive many hours to Forster each week. Not long after, he applied for assistance from Grow a Star to enrol in a training program with Newcastle's Innovate – Sport Specific Conditioning. It had been tough financially for Lisa as a single mum to fund the coaching, equipment, tournament fees and travel costs associated with top level tennis.

A highlight for Lleyton was when he received a personal letter from Aussie tennis legend Ken Rosewall. At 14, Lleyton had won the medal named after the eight times Grand Slam singles winner. He was selected as best and fairest from 241 players in the Inter-district league in Sydney. Lleyton won every match; he didn't drop a set.

2019 was a busy year for Lleyton, winning awards from the Hunter Academy of Sport for Most Outstanding Male Athlete in an Individual Sport, Hunter Blues Sports Award (Top 8 in State for Tennis), Lambton High School's Tennis Player of the Year, Athletics Age Champion and Cross-Country Age Champion.

2020 saw Lleyton complete his HSC, however the COVID-19 pandemic took him on an unexpected path with tennis. He was hoping to get his rankings up during his final year of school, but with all of the national and international competitions being cancelled, he wasn't able to achieve that goal. Instead, he used the downtime to focus on increasing his intensity program with his coach, Anthony at Newcastle's Innovate – Sport Specific Conditioning.

As fate would have it, the pandemic had a silver lining for Lleyton, with his coach Anthony at Innovate suggesting he forget about the junior competition in NSW and head straight for the professional scene. He worked with Lleyton for 9 weeks with 3 x one-on-one sessions a week, building up his strength, undergoing body movement assessments, conditioning and specialised training in preparation for the professional circuit in Melbourne.

Lleyton was assigned a coach at Melbourne's Maribyrnong Sports Academy, where he took part in a disciplined and challenging training program designed to empower and maximise his potential in tennis across all five components of the game (technical, tactical, physical, mental and nutritional).

Lleyton's mum Lisa and sister Shania moved to Melbourne with him in January 2021 to support him. It took them over two weeks to get there with all of the border lockdowns, testing and isolation time.

In mid-2021, Lleyton was able to travel to Qld and the NT to compete in several junior tournaments and his results were very impressive. On his way back to Melbourne he was held up on the Gold Coast and was able to attend the KDV Sports Centre while he waited for borders to re-open.

When Lleyton finally returned to Melbourne, he found himself in lockdown again and was not able to attend the Maribyrnong Sports Academy. After speaking with his coaches about his experiences on the Gold Coast with KDV Sport, they advised him that it might be a better option to move to Qld because of the ongoing COVID situation in Victoria.

So, in November 2021 Lleyton was accepted into the tennis program at KDV Sport and he and his family relocated to the Gold Coast. The move did not come without challenges. It took 8 weeks to receive their border passes to enter Qld after a couple of temporary relocations in NSW. Finding permanent accommodation in Qld has also been difficult.

Lleyton commenced training at KDV Sport in late January 2022 and he has been doing a lot of promotional work with his racquet sponsor, Tenex and is receiving a small wage for it.





Lleyton's mum Lisa said they are confident they will eventually find permanent accommodation and settle into the Gold Coast life and Lleyton can start to focus on his tennis again.

Lisa says "If it wasn't for Grow a Star, Lleyton would never have been able to enrol in that original training program. We just couldn't afford it at the time. It really made the world of difference to his game and enabled him to develop the strength to compete against older players."

Look out for Lleyton, he could well be starring in Australian and international tennis tournaments in the very near future.





# AYA & DALAL

Born in Syria, Aya is the eldest of five siblings and Dalal is the second eldest. The family arrived in Australia in 2018 after spending seven years in a refugee camp in Kurdistan in the northern region of Iraq. They began their life in Australia in Newcastle with the support of services including Settlement Services International (SSI), Northern Settlement Services (NSI) and Wesley Mission.

Aya's dream is to become a human rights lawyer. While the family were living in the refugee camp in Iraq, Aya became involved in Pathfinders, where she spent much of her time teaching other young children in the camp about the mission to empower people to live with hope and equal opportunity to achieve their potential. Aya also taught English and provided translation services for others in the refugee community.

Dalal's dream is to become a pharmacist. She used to spend a lot of time at her uncle's pharmacy in Syria when she was younger, watching him go about his business and it was there, that she began to think about a career in pharmacy.

In 2019, the girls were both attending Callaghan College in Waratah, however they were struggling to keep up with school assignments as their 11 year old sister Gulcheen has significant health issues as well as Spina Bifida and spent 9 months in a Sydney hospital with their mother while she received treatment, including dialysis and ultimately a kidney transplant. While their mother and sister were away, Aya was responsible for all of the cooking, cleaning and caring for their father and other siblings. She became the 'go to person' for her family as she speaks the most fluent English and regularly advocates for her parents.

Aya and Dalal were referred to the Grow a Star program in mid-2019 by Wesley Mission to assist them with their schooling. Aya was granted a \$2,000.00 Beyond Bank Grow a Star Scholarship, which she has used to purchase a laptop, uniforms, PPE clothing for electives, books and stationery. Dalal was also sponsored by Grow a Star to purchase her school uniforms, books and stationery.

Aya and Dalal love attending school here in Australia despite the challenges associated with still learning the English language.

Aya is very focused on university and she's carefully selecting subjects to ensure she obtains an ATAR score that will see her being accepted to study law.

The sisters are determined to find their independence in this new country, with Aya set to gain her provisional driver's licence and Dalal applying for her learners, significant challenges, given their short time in Australia.

With the support of Grow a Star, Aya and Dalal are on track to realise their dreams.

## CONTACT US

To lock in your sponsorship or for more information, contact Michelle Faithfull on 0411 280 074 or email [events@homeinplace.org](mailto:events@homeinplace.org).