



(L-R) The Didgeridoo Quartet: Damon Nannup, Tom Little, Derek Nannup and Scott Chisholm with ECU's Vice-President (Corporate Services) Scott Henderson (centre) at the launch of the 2013 NAIDOC Art and Culture Exhibition

## Celebrating cultural connections for NAIDOC Week

A unique art exhibition at Edith Cowan University's (ECU's) Mount Lawley Campus embraced this year's NAIDOC Week theme, acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to Federal Parliament.

The 2013 Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition showcased a selection of 'bark' artworks from ECU's Indigenous Art Collection.

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*Kurongkurl Katitjin*, pronounced 'koo-ong-kurl cut-it-chin', is a Nyoongar phrase meaning 'coming together to learn'.

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## Welcome from the Head of Centre

Welcome to the Makuru edition of *Our Place*, the official newsletter of Kurongkurl Katitjin, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research at Edith Cowan University.

This edition of *Our Place* celebrates our week - NAIDOC Week - an opportunity to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ECU has a long and proud tradition of delivering and supporting Indigenous education and ensures that NAIDOC Week is high on the University's calendar of events.

I am pleased to say that each of our three campuses had increased attendance at the flag raising ceremonies to mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week.

Additionally, both the Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition and the daily film screening at the Mount Lawley campus during the week also proved popular.

This year's NAIDOC Week celebrations were certainly a highlight for me and many others. So while we reflect on a great week of activity, let's also remember that we do not only need one week in a year to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture and achievements.

Happy reading!

Colleen W.

**Professor Colleen Hayward AM**  
**Head of Centre, Kurongkurl Katitjin;**  
**Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity & Indigenous)**



## About the Centre

ECU's Kurongkurl Katitjin has a vital role in assisting the University to meet its commitment to Indigenous peoples.



Our mission is to “provide excellence in teaching and learning and research in a culturally inclusive environment that values the diversity of Indigenous Australian history and cultural heritage”.

Consistent with this mission, the Centre provides support and academic pathways for Indigenous students and opportunities for non-Indigenous students to enhance their professional knowledge and cultural competence.



# Celebrating cultural connections for NAIDOC Week

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Of particular significance, a commissioned paperbark piece by Aboriginal artist Brian McNamara was unveiled at the opening night on Friday 5 July 2013.

The artwork entitled 'Nurda Bindj Boya', which is Nyoongar for Mt Cooke, depicts Noongar men sitting around a fire yarning in the bush near Mt Cooke.

Other special items exhibited included a bark fish trap, basket and a full size traditional canoe.

The 'didgeridoo quartet' performance was a highlight of the opening night, which utilised a custom painted didgeridoo by Nyoongar artist Lindsay Harris. The didgeridoo will become part of the ECU Art Collection and was presented to ECU's Vice-President (Corporate Services), Scott Henderson, who took the opportunity for a short, solo performance.

The didgeridoo has become an iconic symbol for a national Aboriginal identity in contemporary Australia. Originating from the Northern Territory, the didgeridoo is traditionally known as the yidaki.

This year's NAIDOC Week daily film screening was the short film **Yidaki: The Sound of the Didgeridoo**, narrated by Jack Thompson.

The film centred on spiritual leader Djalu Gurruwiwi as the guardian of yidaki and how he passes his knowledge down to his son and grandsons the techniques used in finding, making and playing the yidaki.

ECU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM said both the exhibition and screening were important in highlighting the cultural connections between Aboriginal people.

"Given the interesting form in which the Petitions were presented and the significance of the didgeridoo as an example of trade and sharing between and among Aboriginal groups, it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase and highlight the Northern Territory."

"This year's national theme enabled us to celebrate the vision around the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, as well as those cultural connections between Aboriginal people from around Australia," Professor Hayward said.

Other activities included Flag Raising Ceremonies held across all three campuses to mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week.



Artist Brian McNamara and his artwork



A close-up look at the detail in the artwork



Flag raising ceremony at the Mount Lawley campus

## Nyoongar Season: About Makuru

Oh where is the cold, wet and windy Makuru season of old? As indicated earlier in the year when we saw an early break with the rains in late Bunuru (March), we are now seeing the relatively warm and dry conditions continue.

When we do see some rainy days, they will provide us with some good patches of rain as the systems will be making their way across the country slowly, giving the rain a chance to fill the gauges, lakes and dams.

Another good indicator of the mildness of this Makuru season is the very early flowering of some of the wattle species that you will be able to see in their masses of yellow flowers, especially along the freeways and around the various campuses' gardens. Also, when looking around the various garden areas, including your home, you will also notice that the ants have continued really run amok and aerate the soils, lawns, gardens and paving.

Traditionally Makuru was a good time of the year move back inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south bringing the cold, rain and occasional snow on the peaks of the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges. With a milder than usual Makuru forecast, the warm and clear days will see the temperature drop quickly after the sun sets and nights accompanied with frost in lower areas.

During these cold winter months, yonga's (kangaroos) and koomal's (possums) were prized for the 'bookas' or cloaks that they provided to keep people warm as well the red meat they also provided.

When the rains do finally start to make a difference to the water levels across the country, we should also start to notice an increase in the Black Swans or 'mali' as they start to set up their nests in the various lakes and the reed or 'yanget' zones around them.

Also in the rivers, as the tannins from the upper reaches start to get flushed down the rivers to the oceans, we should also see some larger Black Bream and Mulloway making good use of the 'dirty' water to ambush their prey; thus making this a good time to fish for them around the large winter full and new moons.

As you make your way around the metropolitan and surrounding areas, some other flowering plants that you should see signalling the change in seasons will be the striking blues and purples of the Blueberry Lilly (*Dianella revoluta*), Blue Leschenaultia (*Lechenaultia biloba*) and the Purple Flags (*Patersonia occidentalis*), all of which can be seen on the eastern and southern sides of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building.

Another striking flower that will also come to your attention is the red Cockie's Tongue (*Templetonia retusa*) which is often used in median strip and garden plantings.

Finally as the season comes to a close, you should also start to notice the white flowers of the Weeping Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) as the blues and purples start to make way for the white and cream flowers of Djilba.



**Jason Barrow**

**Kurongkurl Katitjin Cultural Awareness Officer**

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# Wongi Nyoongar – Talking Nyoongar

In this edition of Wongi Nyoongar, we take a look at the names of the fourteen different language groups that make up Noongar country.

Noongar country covers the entire southwestern portion of Western Australia. The boundary commences on the west coast at a point north of Jurien Bay, proceeds roughly easterly to a point approximately north of Moora and then roughly south-east to a point on the southern coast between Esperance and Israelite Bay.

NOTE: There are variations in both the spelling and pronunciations of these language groups, but those listed in the table below have been sourced from the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

Language group	Geographic location
Amangu	Jurien Bay and Dandaragan area region Sandplains to Geraldton
Yued	Moora, Gingin and Moore River area
Whadjuk	Perth, Fremantle, Rockingham and metropolitan area
Binjareb	Pinjarra, Waroona and Mandurah area
Wardandi	Busselton, Augusta and Margaret River area
Ballardong	Northam, York, Quairading and Tammin area
Nyakinyaki	Kellerberrin, Merredin and Hyden area
Wilman	Pingelly, Wagin and Narrogin area
Ganeang	Bunbury, Collie, Boyup Brook and Kojonup area
Bibulmun	Manjimup, Bridgetown, Walpole and Denmark area
Mineng	Albany, Mount Barker, Denmark and south coastal area
Goreng	Gnowangerup, Tambellup and Ongerup area
Wudjari	Esperance, Bremer Bay and Ravensthorpe area
Njunga	Esperance Plains

## Nyoongar Story Time

### Kalkanap (Kalgan) Bilya - Kalgan River

The catchment for the Kalgan Bilya includes the western and southern parts of the Kooyingara (Stirling Ranges).

This tributary was also a major trail along which Nyoongar people travelled as they followed a six season cycle. It flows into what is today called Oyster Harbour, and there is still visible evidence of the extensive stone fish traps in the shallows, where the river runs into the harbour.

The main species of fish trapped in Oyster Harbour were Salmon and Mullet.



**Dr Noel Nannup**

**ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence**

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## Elders style up for National NAIDOC Ball in Perth



L-R Ben Taylor AM, Mingili Wanjuri (McGlade), Cheryl Nannup and Dr Noel Nannup attended the National Ball, last hosted in Perth in 2004

The 2013 National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony and Ball was the highlight of an exciting and diverse week of NAIDOC activities across Australia.

Held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 12 July 2013, the event was attended by more than 1200 guests from across the country, including ECU's Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup and wife Cheryl.

Through Kurongkurl Katitjin, ECU also sponsored Nyoongar Elders Ben Taylor AM and Mingili Wanjuri (McGlade) to accompany Dr Nannup at the highly popular, sold-out event.

The awards celebrate vibrant Indigenous culture, recognise inspirational award winners and enjoy high profile Indigenous entertainers. To view award winners, visit: [www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-awards](http://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-awards)

## Miss NAIDOC Perth 2013 crowned

A young Indigenous employment advisor who was crowned Miss NAIDOC Perth 2013, says a lack of education opportunities and drug and alcohol issues are the biggest problems holding young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people back in WA.



Miss NAIDOC Perth 2013, Maree Ansey

Maree Ansey, a 25-year-old Yawuru, Kurrijurri and Torres Strait Islander woman from Broome, was awarded the title at a ceremony on the 25 May 2013.

Ms Ansey said she wanted to encourage more young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to apply for the Miss NAIDOC program.

"I felt very honoured and very proud. It is empowering us and it's a great positive spin on how to empower young Aboriginal women" Ms Ansey said.

"To bring about change it's not just about changing the mindset of our mob. It is about education, but education goes two ways."

Ms Ansey said she wanted to help bring about positive change for the Indigenous community and build on the work she was doing in her day-to-day job with Leighton Contractors.

"I have now realised there is a huge gap in the employment training space and I think it's a great platform into how to bring about this change that we keep talking about," she said.

Miss NAIDOC Perth is a leadership and empowerment program for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Perth, aged between 18-30.

For more information on Miss NAIDOC Perth program, visit: [www.naidocperth.org](http://www.naidocperth.org)

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## Keeping track of our Indigenous Alumni

Kurongkurl Katitjin coordinates activities specifically for ECU's Indigenous alumni, including an annual event in November.

If you, or someone you know graduated from Edith Cowan University or its predecessors\*, between the years of 1951 and 2012, we would love to hear from you.

\*This includes Claremont Teachers College, Graylands Teachers College, the Western Australian Secondary Teachers College, Nedlands College of Advanced Education, Mount Lawley Teachers College, Churchlands Teachers College or the merged Western Australian College of Advanced Education.

For more information on upcoming events and activities, email us at [rocksolid@ecu.edu.au](mailto:rocksolid@ecu.edu.au) to ensure we have your updated contact details.

## Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience commences at ECU

Since the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) kicked off the first of four program sessions at ECU in June, over 90 Indigenous students from nine local high schools have participated in the program.

Over the course of the year, four sessions are each held at the Joondalup and Mount Lawley campuses.

AIME is a program that started in 2005 at Sydney University with 25 university students volunteering to help mentor 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students.



Students at the ECU Mount Lawley session

Founder and CEO Jack Manning-Bancroft started the program at 19 years old and it has since grown to over 15 universities in five states, with ECU operating its program this year.

The AIME program pairs up university students with Indigenous high school students to get them to start thinking about finishing high school before pursuing further education at a University or TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships as well as full time jobs with career prospects.

Through the program, students cover topics such as Aboriginality and Respect, with a strong focus on being proud of who you are, where you come from and where you are going to be.

AIME believes Indigenous equals success and by the end of the day the high school students believed it too by smashing some preconceived notions of what they were able to achieve in life.

The next sessions are scheduled for late July/early August. Anyone interested in learning more or becoming a mentor, should contact ECU AIME Coordinator Fiona Stuart on 0458 007 305 or on the email supplied below.

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**Fiona Stuart**

**ECU AIME Coordinator**

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## New clinical web resource helping health practitioners to reduce Indigenous chronic disease

In June, the Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Warren Snowden MP launched the Australian Indigenous ClinicalInfoNet - an innovative web resource designed to assist primary health care workers in the prevention and management of chronic disease among Indigenous people.

The ClinicalInfoNet will enable doctors, nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers to access quality-assured materials for the prevention, identification and management of five key chronic conditions – cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer.

Health practitioners will now be able to freely access evidenced-based clinical guidelines, tools and patient education resources during patient consultations. The ClinicalInfoNet Project Manager, Kathy Ride, said 'The resource will promote best practice in the prevention, identification and management of the chronic diseases that have major impacts on the health of Indigenous people. The web resource is still in the early stages, but, over time it will continue to develop and expand in terms of functionality and content.'

Previously, these materials were quite difficult to access from different websites, or were only available in hard-copy forms. This precluded real-time access and restricted their use by clinical health professionals. The ClinicalInfoNet can be accessed via the Internet or through the PrimaryCare Sidebar®, currently available with patient management software Medical Director and Best Practice.

Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet is responsible for the successful transition of a pilot website to the ClinicalInfoNet, which has been undertaken in partnership with Hewlett-Packard Enterprises and Pen Computer Systems on behalf of the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing.

The HealthInfoNet will encourage the promotion of the ClinicalInfoNet by working with organisations involved in the delivery of primary health services to Indigenous people; these include NACCHO (National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation), its affiliates and member Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations, mainstream medical and related services, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.



(L-R) Kirsty Douglas Acting Senior Medical Officer (Winnunga), Kathy Ride (Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet), Julie Tongs (CEO Winnunga) and The Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Warren Snowden MP at the launch.

Professor Neil Thomson, HealthInfoNet Director said 'I'm delighted we are extending our existing work in Indigenous health to address some of the specific needs of people working at the health "frontline". The new web resource, which will be a great complement to the HealthInfoNet, acknowledges our contributions over almost 16 years in providing people working in Indigenous health with access to a wide range of information and knowledge.

The materials available on the HealthInfoNet already make a major contribution to both the initial training and continuing professional development of people working in Indigenous health, but the new resource will address the real-time needs of people working in clinical areas'.

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## Staff Snapshot

*James Spurgeon*



Student Information Officer  
Faculty of Education and Arts

### Favourite book:

Lord of The Rings Trilogy

### Favourite music:

90's HipHop

### Favourite food:

I love all foods!!

### Favourite TV Program:

The Simpsons

### Favourite Movie:

Rush Hour with Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan

### If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

My mother's father. He passed away before I was born.

### What is something that people don't know about you?

I have a bilingual 1½ year old son.

## Cast your vote: 2013 Deadly Awards

From the best in AFL and NRL to award winning films and documentaries, the annual Deadlys® recognises the talent and achievement of Indigenous people across sport, music, the arts and community.

With nominations now closed, the Deadly Award categories are packed with achievers who go quietly about their business, making a real difference each day in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

WA is well represented and nominees include:

MUSIC	
Most Promising New Talent In Music	Oz Island Band
	The Merindas
Band of the Year	Bartlett Brothers
Album of the Year	Steven Pigram, The Wanderer
Hip Hop Artist of the Year	Bryte MC
SPORT	
AFL Player of the Year	Lance Franklin (HAW)
	Lewis Jetta (SYD)
THE ARTS	
Visual Artist of the Year	Lena Nyadbi
Film of the Year	Satellite Boy
Published book of the Year	NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation
COMMUNITY	
Health	Professor Pat Dudgeon
	Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation
Education	Ashley Collard
	Deadly Sista Girlz and DWF
Health Worker of the Year	Jenny Poelina, KAMSC
	Marian Hill, Derbarl Yerrigan HS
Employment	Justin Kickett
Community Broadcaster of the Year	Mechelle 'Big Girl' Wilson, 100.9FM
Cultural Advancement	Sam Cook
Scientist / Science Project Of The Year	Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation Yamaji Arts
Journalism Story Of The Year	Michelle White, Koori Mail – The Amazing Nana Purple

Voting is open until the 18 August 2013 and final winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on the 10 September 2013 at Sydney Opera House.

For full details and to vote, visit: [www.deadlys.com.au/vote](http://www.deadlys.com.au/vote)

## About this Publication

*Our Place* is Kurongkurl Katitjin's official newsletter.

Produced six times per year, each edition coincides with one of the six Nyoongar seasons and highlights key activities of the Centre and the University, as well as other significant events and information relating to Indigenous education and research.

It is circulated electronically to a range of stakeholders including staff, students and the broader community. Editions can be found online under the News and Events section at [www.kk.ecu.edu.au](http://www.kk.ecu.edu.au).

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## Join our Mailing List

To keep up to date with what's happening at Kurongkurl Katitjin, join our mailing list.

There are two options to subscribe to the mailing list;

- Either complete the online form under the News and Events section at [www.kk.ecu.edu.au](http://www.kk.ecu.edu.au); or
- email Tracey Lee Edwards at [tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au](mailto:tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au) with your name, title, organisation and contact details (including email).



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