



2013 RAP Recognition Award recipients with Professor Colleen Hayward AM (centre)

Recognising commitment during Reconciliation Week 2013

Over 70 ECU staff and students attended a morning tea held at Kurongkurl Katitjin to mark the beginning of National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2013.

This year's theme is **Let's Talk Recognition**, which focuses on the need to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution.

CAUTION: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that an article in this newsletter does include reference to a person who has passed on and this may cause distress.

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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 Djeran 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* is one simply of celebration and reflection during Reconciliation Week.

Reconciliation is a multi-layered process. Achieving Reconciliation involves raising awareness and knowledge of Indigenous history and culture, changing attitudes that are often based on myths and misunderstandings, and encouraging action where everyone plays their part in building a better relationship between us as fellow Australians.

We celebrate colleagues within our University community who demonstrate ECU's values of integrity, respect, rational inquiry and personal excellence, with particular focus on their own contributions to Reconciliation.

We reflect on an individual's legacy and impact on helping build those bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through his work and music.

I take this opportunity to specifically acknowledge and pay our respects to Dr Yunupingu, whose recent passing brings much sadness across our nation.

On behalf of Kurongkurl Katitjin and Edith Cowan University, we extend our deepest sympathies to the Yunupingu family at this sad and difficult time.

Rest in Peace my friend.

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.

Recognising commitment during Reconciliation Week 2013

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The event celebrated progress against the first year of ECU's 2012-2015 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Noteworthy achievements include:

- launching ECU's Aboriginal Research and Study Protocols;
- initiating plans to develop an Indigenous Cultural Reflective Space at the Joondalup Campus;
- holding an Indigenous Consultative Committee (ICC) meeting at the SW Campus;
- revising ECU's Policy for Recognising Indigenous Australian People and Country; and
- finalising the Indigenous Employment Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM also took the opportunity to introduce a new initiative – the RAP Recognition Awards.

The RAP Recognition Award aims to acknowledge individuals within the ECU community, whose personal commitment, support of and contribution to Reconciliation at ECU was worthy of special recognition.

The six 2013 RAP Recognition Award recipients were:

- Kurongkurl Katitjin's Cultural Awareness Officer, Jason Barrow and Manager, Resources and Asset Planning, Kerry Devine for the initiation and progressive work on the Indigenous Cultural Reflective Space at the Joondalup Campus.
- ECU's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group Members, namely staff representatives Lutie Sherdian and Karen Gilmore; and student representatives Jesse Fleay and Nicole Fitch for their integral role in ensuring the successful implementation and continuous monitoring of the RAP.

Professor Hayward said that all recipients have a level of commitment that goes above and beyond their respective roles and actively demonstrated ECU's core values of integrity, respect, rational inquiry and personal excellence.

Other NRW celebrations included a BBQ lunch hosted by the Indigenous Student Support Office and Student Guild at ECU's Bunbury campus.

Noongar Elder Isla Bennell welcomed guests to the event, with Indigenous Student Support Officer Dellas Yarran, highlighting the NRW theme 'Let's Talk Recognition'.

Over 60 people enjoyed damper, kangaroo rissoles, sausages and a Reconciliation Cake, while listening to the music of talented Indigenous musicians Busby Morou and Archie Roach.

Art by local Noongar artists and an information board about National Reconciliation Week were also on display at the event.

For more information on ECU's 2012-2015 Reconciliation Action Plan and progress, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/indigenous-matters



(From left to right) Dr Sandra Wooltorton, Dellas Yarran and Noongar Elder Isla Bennell at the Bunbury event

Nyoongar Season: About Djeran

Djeran season brings cool nights and a sound night's sleep after the nice, long and warm Birak and Bunuru seasons. The dewy mornings will be the first indicator that the season is changing, but if you sleep in, you may miss this at first subtle sign, especially as the white flowers, mostly from the Marri trees, continue to bloom with the warm sunny days.

The winds too have changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes being the go and generally swinging from southerly directions (i.e. south east to south west). However this year, following an early break with the rains, we should see a lingering of the warm winds from the north east.

This makes for some beautiful lazy warm afternoons in which many flying ants can be seen cruising about in the light winds. And just as they did last year, the walking ants, as mentioned in the last edition, will be out in force gathering as much food as they can in preparation for a wet winter.

Djeran is also a time of the red flowers, especially from the Red Flowering Gum (*Corimbia ficifolia*), which has chosen to flower a couple times around the front of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building, along with the smaller and more petite flowers of the Summer Flame (*Beaufortia aestiva*). Further around the back of the building, you will also be able to see the beautiful red flowers of the Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*).

As you travel around the Perth area, you may also notice the silver tips and seed cones forming on the female Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) noticeable in the many roadside and median strip plantings. Many other plants will also be busy producing 'nuts' or seeds, so keep an eye out for the Marri, Snottygooble (*Persoonia longifolia*) and Woody Pear (*Xylomelum occidentale*) trees, especially around our Bunbury campus.

Several banksias will also start to display their flowers, with the most common being the Firewood (*B. menziesii*), Parrot Bush (*B. sessilis*) and Swamp (*B. littoralis*) Banksias, thus ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon the banksias.

Finally, given the early break of rains in the year, keep an eye out for signs of the ground bound foods like the yams and bush potatoes, as they should become active earlier. This could well forecast a dry start to the winter with late season rains, but an overall good wet winter should be had.

Traditionally, foods at this time of the year included the seeds that had been collected and stored for treatment from the *Zamia* last season along with the root bulbs of the 'Yanget', fresh water fish, frogs and turtles.

Seafood also continued to be used and especially the run of the salmon, herring and mullet around the south coast. Skilled hunters were able to 'call in help' from pods of dolphins that would herd schools of fish inshore as well as using a variety of fish traps. With so much 'rich' food being available, people were able to put on some 'condition' that would serve them well in the coming cooler months/seasons.

As the season progresses, the nights will become cooler and damper. Traditionally, this meant that mia mias (houses or shelters) were now repaired and updated to make sure that they were waterproofed and facing in the right direction in readiness for the deep of winter to come.



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 some of the traditional names of animals that can be found around the Derbarl Yerrigan, also known today as the Swan River.

| Nyoongar word | Pronunciation | English translation |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Dubitch | Dub-itch | Mulloway/Jew Fish |
| Banndi | Bann-dee | Black Bream |
| Booladarlung | Bool-a-dar-lung | Pelican |
| Maali | Mar-lee | Black Swan |
| Yerdarap | Yer-darap | Duck |
| Karil / Koril | Car-il / Cor-il | Crab |
| Yala | Yar-la | Prawn |
| Yookil | York-ill | Shell |
| Marron | Marron | Freshwater Crayfish sp |
| Yerrigan | Yer-ri-gan | Long neck turtle |

For many generations, the Derbarl Yerrigan would have provided a variety of animals from around, on and in the river for food sources.

While some animals are still enjoyed by many people today, sadly others have died out.

Nyoongar Story Time

Derbarl Yerrigan - Swan River

'Derbarl Yerrigan' means where the fresh and salt water mix together. I also believe the term 'estuary' could be used as a way of understanding Darbalung (or mixing).

Yerrigan is a long neck turtle and could be found in all the pools along the water course.

Before settlement, a sand bar would close over the mouth of this river during winter, and when it did, water runoff from the hills would build up and run back through a series of lakes on which part of the City of Perth now stands.

Both Herdsman and Monger Lakes are part of this system, with all of the lakes in the system being a major breeding area for numerous water birds.

The area upon which Perth now stands is called Boorloo.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

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Paying tribute to the voice of a nation

Like many Australians, we were extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Yothu Yindi frontman Dr Yunupingu.

Dr Yunupingu was an inspiration to all Australians; a passionate advocate for reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.. He brought his local people, the Yolngu people, and Indigenous issues to a national stage with his musical career.

He co-founded Yothu Yindi in 1986, and was the band's lead singer and most prominent personality. Yothu Yindi, crossed the cultural divide by blending Indigenous and non-Indigenous sounds to create something unique. It's a sound that has had a lasting impact on both the musical and political landscape in Australia, and internationally.

He broke records throughout his life, including becoming the first Aboriginal Australian from Arnhem Land to gain a university degree and the Territory's first Aboriginal principal when he took over as head of the Yirrkala Community School in 1990.

He developed a progressive curriculum that straddled Western and Aboriginal traditions.

In 1992, Dr Yunupingu was named Australian of the Year for his work as a musician and educator and his work in building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Dr Yunupingu was also awarded an honorary doctorate in 1998 by the Queensland University of Technology, "in recognition of his significant contribution to the education of Aboriginal children, and to greater understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians".

Yothu Yindi released six albums, starting with Homeland Movement in 1988 and finishing with Garma in 2000. The band were inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in December 2012. Other musical accolades include eight ARIA awards, including Song of the Year in 1992 for Treaty, and Best Indigenous Release for Tribal Voice.

Dr Yunupingu is survived by his wife Yalmay, six daughters and six grandchildren.

Kurungkurl Katitjin wishes to acknowledge and honour Dr Yunupingu, who will be sadly missed across the Australian community. A number of Kurungkurl Katitjin staff had met Dr Yunupingu, making his passing even sadder.

Dr Yunupingu (17 September 1956 – 2 June 2013)

Register for the Semester 2 Indigenous Student Intake Test

The **Indigenous Student Intake Test** is a culturally appropriate assessment of skills and knowledge, which facilitates the fast tracking of Indigenous students into a bridging or undergraduate course at Edith Cowan University.

The ISIT program is administered by Kurungkurl Katitjin and is held twice a year, prior to each semester commencing. The next date for ISIT is Wednesday 3 July 2013.

For more information or to register your interest, email isit@ecu.edu.au or visit:

www.ecu.edu.au/schools/kurungkurl-katitjin/study-opportunities/indigenous-student-intake-test

2013 National NAIDOC Poster Competition winner announced

Aboriginal artist, Gail Naden, from Gilgandra in NSW has won the 2013 National NAIDOC Poster Competition with her digital artwork titled **Claiming our Ground**.

The enthusiastic artist received a \$5000 cash prize for her submission to the competition. The artwork will feature on the 2013 National NAIDOC Poster, displayed across Australia to promote NAIDOC Week which runs from 7-14 July.

Claiming Our Ground consists of two photographs, one depicting the legs of men walking around the land and one of water particles embossed to create crevices.

Ochre colours were added, and circles of communities were drawn to give the impression of distances occupied by Gail's fore fathers and mothers.

Gail said that she had wanted to create an artwork that reflected this year's NAIDOC theme **We Value the Vision, Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963**, and represented perseverance and success.

"In doing this artwork for this competition, I took photos of frost on the window and decided that that formed a landscape and so I actually coloured that landscape in ochre colours and then I took photos of legs of dancers and that is how I got the two images," Gail said.

"The concept is about gaining land through education, through perseverance and through believing that we can attain success ourselves.

"The message is about grabbing hold of something that you really believe in and making that a success in your life, like the Yolngu people did 50 years ago."

The artwork incorporates Gail's interest in graphic design, but she said she still enjoys traditional methods of creating art.

"Graphic design influences me because I've grown up with it as a design technique, how you combine the different elements, text with images, and formatting text on an illustration, photograph or whatever it is you need to compile those elements so that they work well together," Gail said.

"I have used the mouse as my paintbrush and it is just a different tool to using a real paintbrush. I still physically paint, but using a computer is another medium other than using natural resources."

Gail said that being able to manipulate the photographs on the computer allowed her to create a whole new meaning for the images.

"It isn't just saying it is a picture of frost on a glass, I have actually created another environment. I have said this is land, and these are communities, these are places that we have walked and impacted people. These are communities and these footsteps are significant, wherever you put your feet, you claim that as yours."

Copies of the poster can be ordered online, visit: www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-poster/order-form



Gail Naden, 2013 National NAIDOC Poster Competition winner

ECU supports The Smith Family Graduation

Kurongkurl Katitjin's Head of Centre, Professor Colleen Hayward AM was recently invited to perform the Acknowledgement of Country at The Smith Family's 2013 Graduation Ceremony.



2012 Learning for Life Graduates



(L-R) ECU's Victoria Conheady, Neil Butler, Tony Lazzara, Professor Colleen Hayward AM, Dr Anthony Medhurst and Professor Lynne Cohen with The Smith Family's General Manager (WA) Greg Ryan-Gadsden (second from right)

Held annually, the event celebrates the success of graduating **Learning for Life** students (Year 12, and Tertiary graduates) from High School and Tertiary institutions across Western Australia.

The Smith Family's **Learning for Life** program provides young Australians with holistic, long term support to develop vital life skills, stay engaged in their education and have the best chance to realise their potential.

The 2012 graduates were joined by their families, mentors and staff from The Smith Family, as well as supporters and sponsors of the program.

Edith Cowan University's Victoria Conheady, Neil Butler, Tony Lazzara, Dr Anthony Medhurst and Professor Lynne Cohen also attended.

Graduates each received a certificate and an e-reader in acknowledging their achievements.

The event was generously supported by ECU and is the beginning of a strengthened relationship between the University and The Smith Family.

For more information, visit: www.thesmithfamily.com.au

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* The Smith Family is a children's charity helping disadvantaged Australian children to get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves.

HealthInfoNet's Bibliography reaches new milestone

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's HealthBibliography is the most comprehensive, up-to-date reference library on Australian Indigenous health and is now one of the largest. The HealthBibliography now has over 25,000 publications in its collection in total, with over 20,000 of these including material on Australian Indigenous health. The HealthBibliography is free for everyone to access

Rapid improvement in the collection of bibliographic information from internet sources has enabled the library-level search facility to collect a greater number of publications than was previously available. The online search facility of the Australian Indigenous HealthBibliography means users can instantly access the most comprehensive bibliography of literature relating specifically to Australian Indigenous health.

Publications include journal articles, reports, theses, and 'grey' literature to assist users in work or study. Grey literature includes reports, conference papers, and PhD theses which can also add to the knowledge base in gaining an accurate perspective and data on Australian Indigenous health.

For more information, visit: www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/bibliography

Staff Snapshot

Brenton Turner



Student Recruitment Coordinator -
Indigenous

Favourite book:

Gifted Hands by Ben Carson

Favourite music:

Country, 70's Disco and Reggae

Favourite food:

Oh I love food! If I had to choose one it would be a the delicious tropical fruit, Mango

Favourite TV Program:

OMG... Game of Thrones!!

Favourite Movie:

'Friday' with Chris Tucker and Ice Cube

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Martin Luther King Jnr

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

I love womens fashion. I'd love to create my own label one day.

Remembering the forgotten ANZACs

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a long and proud, but often little known, history of contributing to Australia's military efforts.

Reconciliation Australia have put together some information to help learn about and remember the forgotten ANZACs.

Did you know?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have fought for Australia in every war since Federation and as early as the Boer War.

The Australian Defence Force officially repealed its discriminatory policy excluding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from service in 1949.

During World War II, the Australian Army employed whole Aboriginal communities in Northern Australia in defence work, including construction, army butcheries, farming, hospital aids and general labour. Employees were given rations, housing and sanitation, worked fixed hours and had access to medical treatment in the army hospitals.

Famous Australian poet, Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) joined the Australian Women's Army Service and was trained as a wireless operator.

Some quick statistics

Over **3000** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women are known to have enlisted in World War II.

Over **800** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Soldiers are known to have served in World War I. The true number is likely to be much higher.

There are up to **7000** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans and war widows in the Australian community today.

More than **800** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians currently serve with distinction in the Australian Defence Forces.

For more information, visit: www.reconciliation.org.au

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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.

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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; or
- email Tracey Lee Edwards at tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au with your name, title, organisation and contact details (including email).



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