



Nyoongar artist Troy Bennell and 2014 Senior Australian of the Year the Hon. Fred Chaney AO with ECU's newest acquisition entitled 'Bennell Songline'

NAIDOC Week 2014 - Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond

An art exhibition and cultural performance, daily film screenings and flag-raising ceremonies were just some of the ways ECU celebrated the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during 2014 NAIDOC Week.

The launch of the Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition marked the beginning of ECU's NAIDOC celebrations, showcasing a selection of artworks from ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art collection and a special cultural performance by Ochre Contemporary Dance Company.

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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* has a lot to celebrate and to reflect on. This year's National NAIDOC theme, **Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond**, honoured all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women.

This year, our **Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition** focused on journey lines as a means of connecting people and place over time.

With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having a long and proud, but often little known history of contributing to Australia's military efforts, acknowledging them through this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations was so important.

Through this year's exhibition, ECU paid tribute to the journeys in the lives of all who have served, by celebrating the songlines or journey lines taken in service as well as traditionally.

NAIDOC Week is always a great time to catch-up with family and friends, celebrate all things great about our culture and reflect on our 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.

NAIDOC Week 2014 - Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond

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As has become customary for each NAIDOC Week since 2009, ECU commissioned an artwork from a Nyoongar artist for the celebrations.

Artist Troy Bennell, from Bunbury, collaborated with ECU's Elder-in-Residence and Cultural Ambassador Dr Noel Nannup on the painting entitled 'Bennell Songline' that reflects a Nyoongar landscape with songlines.

This commissioned work was unveiled at the launch and was on show as part of the NAIDOC exhibition.

This year's NAIDOC Week film screening at ECU's Mount Lawley Campus embraced the 2014 NAIDOC theme – Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond.

The documentary called *The Forgotten* is about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island servicemen and women who have served, fought and died for their country in all of the wars and peace-keeping missions that have involved Australian Armed Forces.

It contains a personal story about four Nyoongar brothers from the South-West of WA, one of whom is acknowledged as the first Aboriginal soldier to receive a military medal in the First World War.

ECU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM said the exhibition, cultural performance, film screening and flag-raising ceremonies are important events in celebrating NAIDOC Week.

"NAIDOC celebrations take pride of place in ECU's annual calendar of events designed to recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the contribution we make to Australian society."

"The celebrations provide a wonderful opportunity for the whole of the ECU community to reflect and be involved, learning new aspects of Aboriginal culture and engaging with Indigenous people while they do so," Professor Hayward said.

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



L-R: Aboriginal Elders Albert McNamara and Ben Taylor AM with the Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, MP and artist Troy Bennell at the launch event



Cultural Performance by Ochre contemporary dancers



The 'Bennell Songline' artwork (centre) on display in the Kurungkurl Katitjin Gallery during NAIDOC Week

Nyoongar Season: About Makuru

Makuru season is the coldest and wettest time of the year and when it is in full swing, you'll know that winter is definitely here. Traditionally, this was a good time of the year to move back inland from the coast as the winds turned westerly and southerly bringing the rains, icy cold air flows and the occasional snow (as seen on the peaks of the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges).

This year we will again see another mild start to the Makuru season. This is evidenced by the very early flowering of the introduced Golden Wreath Wattles that you can see in variety of places, including along the freeways and around the various ECU campus gardens.

Also, when looking in various garden areas, including your home, you might notice that the ants have continued to really run amok and aerate the soils, lawns, gardens and paving. This isn't a bad thing and you can make good use of them by choosing to plant various seeds now like those of the paper daisy or everlastings and get the ants to help take them under ground for when the soaking rains will penetrate the ground layers to germinate them.

Makuru is also a time for a lot of animals to be pairing up in preparation for breeding in the coming season. If you look carefully, you might now see pairs of Ravens or 'Waardongs' flying together. Upon the lakes and rivers of the south-west, you'll also start to see a large influx of the Black Swan or 'Maali' as they too prepare to nest and breed.

A good sign that swans have bred is that they lose their flight feathers and thus are ground bound for a large portion of the season until the eggs start to hatch. In the past, this meant that if numbers were plentiful then they were also included in the traditional diet for the season as they are easy to catch at this stage of their life cycle.

On the plant front, there is a load of new growth that plants will start to show, with some even preparing their flowers now for a couple of season's time. Around Perth, you might also notice the masses of red flowers from the Cockies Tongue (*Tempeltonia retusa*) and the orange hue of the male Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) which give the trees a rusty appearance. This rusty appearance also signifies that the tannins from the upper reaches of the river systems will soon start to be flushed down-stream and thus provide some unique ambushing opportunities for some of the larger Black Bream and Mulloway around the new and full moons during the month.

Other striking flowers that will start to emerge as Makuru progresses will be the blues and purples of the Blueberry Lilly (*Dianella revoluta*), the Purple Flag (*Patersonia occidentalis*), the Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) and the very striking Blue Leschenaultia (*Lechenaultia biloba*) that will emerge in bushland areas.

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 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 continue the theme of looking at various places and points of interest along the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) and take a closer look at Googalyah, also known as Syds Rapids.

Syds Rapids is located within Walyunga National Park, where the Avon River joins the Brockman River to form the Derbal Yerrigan.

Nyoongar phrase	Pronunciation	English translation
Boorndily	born-dee-al	Splash
Birbin-iny	burr-bin-in-ee	Squirt
Dely	dee-al	Foam
Dandjal	dan-jal	Shallow
Dardoon	dar-doon	Uneven
Darangan-iny	dar-ang-an-in-ee	Spill
Werdiny	word-in-ee	Valley
Koorang-iny	coor-ang-in-ee	Turn around
Djinang mooditj	jjin-ang mord-itch	Take care

Nyoongar Story Time

Googalyah – Syds Rapids

This is where the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) becomes the Avon River.

The word Googalyah means 'laughing water' and refers to the sound of the water flowing over stone.

For those of us to make time to visit this location, we do not need a great deal of imagination to hear the laughter.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

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ECU Student Recruitment connecting with community

NAIDOC Week 2014 was a busy and enjoyable week for the ECU Student Recruitment Team, who attended five NAIDOC events around Perth.



ECU Aboriginal Student Recruitment Coordinator Kristy Brittain managing the stall at the NAIDOC Family Day

The Student Recruitment team had stalls at a number of significant NAIDOC events held over the week including the NAIDOC Perth Opening Ceremony, City of Stirling, Balga SHS, the City of Armadale and the Town of Bassendean/Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services' Family Fun Day at Ashfield Reserve.

Throughout these events, there were a significant number of attendees to whom ECU courses and entry pathways were promoted.

At four out of five NAIDOC events, ECU was the only university in attendance, which allowed the Student Recruitment Team to directly engage with up to 750 members of the community.



ECU Aboriginal Employment Coordinator Melanie King also helped out with promotional activities during NAIDOC Week

As a result of the community engagement throughout NAIDOC Week, ECU had many people attend information sessions held in the following week. These prospective students received more detailed course and entry pathway information, as well as support with their applications.

Overall, NAIDOC week is a fantastic experience for the ECU Student Recruitment Team, who look to identify opportunities to further enhance their engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

For further information on study options and entry pathways, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/overview

Funding announced for Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

The Department of Health has contracted Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet to continue their work in providing the knowledge base to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health.

The HealthInfoNet has received its core funding from the Department since its establishment in 1997. Funding of the new contract – for another three years – commenced on 1 July 2014.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew is delighted that the HealthInfoNet has again been funded by the Federal Government. This is another strong endorsement of the HealthInfoNet's contribution to the Indigenous health infrastructure in providing evidence based decision making to support and inform both health practitioners and policy makers.

'Our work in the area of translational research provides a vital service in supporting those working to close the gap by making important, relevant, high quality material freely accessible to people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health,' he said.

For more information on the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, visit: www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au

Vice-Chancellor awards the 2014 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship

Congratulations to Stevie Langford, the 2014 recipient of the ECU Vice-Chancellor's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship. Stevie was presented the award during ECU's recent NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Currently studying a Bachelor of Creative Industries, Stevie has worked in the community as a child entertainer / face painter. In 2012, she worked alongside Indigenous artist Susan Rey at PMH, bringing art workshops to critically ill patients.

Stevie hopes to use her photography skills to promote Indigenous culture, art and talent.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox and award recipient Stevie Langford

The ECU Vice Chancellor's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship is offered to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in a Bachelor's degree and recognises academic merit, leadership and contributions within the Indigenous and University community.

The scholarship is valued at \$2,500 per semester for full-time study or pro-rata for part-time students.

For more information on this or other scholarships, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/scholarships/overview

Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal Research

On Wednesday 23 July 2014, Dr Dan McAullay* delivered a seminar titled 'Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal Research' at Kurongkurl Katijin.

The seminar explored the intent and application of key documents relating to ethical conduct in Aboriginal Research:

1. The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research (2007);
2. The Values and Ethics: Guidelines and Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (2003); and
3. Keeping Research on Track (2005).

During the seminar participants were encouraged to talk about their experiences and their intentions regarding Aboriginal research.

The seminar was attended by ten researchers who indicated on their evaluation forms that the seminar was extremely helpful. They particularly commented on Dan's style of delivery which was open and encouraging of participation.

*Dr Dan McAullay is a member of the Nyoongar community of the South West of Western Australia and ECU's inaugural Belberry Senior Research Fellow. He has a national profile in developing standards for the conduct of ethical research on Indigenous health issues with NHMRC, including being a member of the review and implementation committee of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ethical guidelines. He is a member and a chair of the Indigenous Health Research Panel and a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Advisory Committee. He has also been a member of the University of Western Australia Human Ethics Committee and the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Information and Ethics Committee, of which he is currently the acting secretariat.

Unique research approach for new project

Kurongkurl Katitjin has developed a unique research approach that looks for synergies of meaning between traditional Nyoongar wisdom and western social or natural sciences to find ways of moving forward together.

Developed by the combined efforts of the Kurongkurl Katitjin team, this important development in research method reflects the University's commitment to reconciliation and to community engagement.



Production crew on-site at Kings Park

The first project to use this approach 'Synergies of Meaning' is the making of a documentary film exploring human adaptation to climate change. This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Media Department of Murdoch University and respected Nyoongar film maker Glen Stasiuk.

A history of Nyoongar Boodja (land) will be told through two lens, traditional stories and natural science (climate history and archeology) is constructed.

ECU's Cultural Ambassador and Nyoongar Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup will work with renowned plant biologist Professor Stephen Hopper to bring these two unique, but complementary perspectives to the project.



Professor Stephen Hopper and Dr Noel Nannup

The documentary will explore key locations, trees, plants and animals and their usefulness to Nyoongar people over the last 50,000 years; and their potential for the future as the climate changes again.

Two further documentaries are planned, one on family intimacy and another on community management.

Keep an eye out for more updates on this exciting project as it develops.

Tangible resources essential for supporting students



L-R: Co-op Staff Nathan Triscari, Neda Bostock (Manager) and Jenny Smith

This year, Kurongkurl Katitjin developed student packs for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students in their first year here at ECU. These packs contain essential stationery items to prepare students for classes.

In addition, all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students were provided with a Co-op Bookstore gift card to go towards other study costs such as text books.

Kurongkurl Katitjin would like to acknowledge and thank the staff from the Mount Lawley Co-op bookstore for kindly helping to compile and facilitate this process on behalf of the Centre. Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive.

Staff Snapshot

Kristy Brittain



Aboriginal Student
Recruitment Coordinator

Favourite book:

The Bible

Favourite music:

The Fray/Silverstein/Hillsong

Favourite food:

Desserts

Favourite TV Program:

Greys Anatomy and Law and Order SVU

Favourite Movie:

Taken and The Notebook

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Anyone from my fav TV shows

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

I play the Guitar and a proud AFL Hawks supporter

Kurongkurl Katitjin Out and About

Each edition, we showcase some of the meetings, activities and events Kurongkurl Katitjin staff were involved or attended 'out and about' in the community.

Here's what we got up to the past few months:

June 2014	
6/6	WA Aboriginal Education and Training Council
6/6	Merriwa Primary School
9/6	Newton Moore Senior High School (Bunbury)
17/6	Ochre Contemporary Dance Company
26/6	State Reception to farewell the Governor
30/6	Courageous Conversations: Race - with Glenn E. Singleton

July 2014	
2/7	238th Anniversary of the Independence of the USA
3/7	Woodside Gala Dinner for 60th Anniversary of WA Operations
3/7	Mount Lawley High School: Follow the Dream
6/7	NAIDOC Perth Opening Ceremony
9/7	State Reception for Japanese Prime Minister Abe
9/7	City of Wanneroo NAIDOC Week event
10/7	Town of Bassendean and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services – NAIDOC Family Fun Day
16/7	Charlie's Country Film Screening
17/7	Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Women of Achievement forum
22/7	VC's distinguished orator - Dr Ira Harkavy
25/7	Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) strategic workshop
31/7	Public Service Commissioner forum

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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