

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup and Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox about to cut the ribbon to officially open the Welcome to Place reflection space at the Joondalup campus.

Cultural reflection space open

The first of five cultural reflection spaces created for Edith Cowan University (ECU) was unveiled at a ceremony at the Joondalup Campus held during Reconciliation Week on Wednesday 28 May 2014.

The Welcome to Place reflection space was officially opened by Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox and ECU Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup.

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Farewell to Neil Thomson

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

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* looks at some of ECU's graduates that are doing amazing things in their chosen field.

One of ECU's most high profile and successful graduates, Hugh Jackman, was in town to launch the Jackman Furness Foundation for the Performing Arts in Perth. Mr Jackman and his wife, actress Deborra-lee Furness, established the Foundation to support the performing arts in Australia and the institutions that educate and train Australia's wealth of talent. It was an absolute pleasure to meet the X-Men star. Mr Jackman was so humble, down to earth and a genuinely nice guy.

But Mr Jackman has not been the only very successful WAAPA student. Aboriginal graduates Meyne Wyatt and Shareena Clanton were among five nominees for the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding New Talent in the 2014 Australian TV Week Logie Awards held in April. I am certain we will see more of these up and coming actors, who are already making themselves known in such a tough industry.

Lastly, we celebrated the achievements of one of our colleagues in Professor Neil Thomson, who leaves the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet after founding it 16 years ago. On behalf of my colleagues here at Kurongkurl Katitjin, I take this opportunity to thank him for his significant contribution to the Indigenous health and research sector. All the best Neil.

Happy reading!



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.

Cultural reflection space open

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Around 180 staff, students and community members attended the opening, which included the burning of some Balgas (grass trees) and an official ribbon cutting.

A unique message stick, designed especially for the event by Cultural Awareness Officer Jason Barrow, was given to guests as a special gesture to welcome them and commemorate the occasion.

The design of the glass message stick used smoke coloured glass, along with a smoky design to symbolise the use of smoke in the cleansing Welcome ceremonies, but also in coming together and the intertwining nature of Reconciliation.

These reflection spaces support ECU's Reconciliation Action Plan and each of the five sites will provide a unique opportunity for all people to learn about various aspects of traditional Whadjuk Nyoongar knowledge.

Welcome to Place, the first reflection space, is located outside building 1 and is designed to welcome everyone who passes through the area onto Campus, using bi-lingual terminology with the words 'Wanjoo' and 'Welcome'.

Local plants such as Balga trees and the Coastal Daisy (or Salt Bush), with its smoky-coloured foliage symbolising the cleansing smoke traditionally used in welcomes, have been incorporated into the design. The colour and weave patterns in the paving reflect the south-west prevailing wind direction.

In addition to the symbolic features of the new space, there is a seating area for small groups to be welcomed in a more formal manner.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM said ECU is committed to providing a learning environment that values and encourages Indigenous Australians to achieve to their full potential.

"ECU prides itself on our focus on our students and the experiences they have at the University," she said.

"These reflection spaces are intended to be signal points reinforcing the message of welcome to all members of the ECU community, especially Indigenous people.

"They will also serve as places where all people can pause and receive a positive message of affirmation."



Cultural Awareness Officer Jason Barrow (Centre) with Aboriginal Elders Albert McNamara and Ben Taylor AM



Cultural Awareness Officer Jason Barrow and Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox after lighting the balgas

Nyoongar Season: About Djeran

Warm days and cooler nights are upon us at last as we see Djeran season start to take over from the harsh heat of Bunuru. A key indicator for those early to rise will be the morning frosts and if seen in the right light in those early mornings, they can reveal 'the jewels of the bush'. We should also see the winds becoming lighter, with gentle breezes from the south-east through to south-west and winged insects starting to emerge.

Not only can you expect to see the flying ants out in force, the exquisite Lace Wings (the adults of Ant Lions) may also make an appearance. They have been feasting themselves on the many ants that have been out, continuing to do so for a few more weeks until the first really good mid-season rains, as forecast in Bunuru. Let's see how this pans out.



Across the Coastal Plain, there are several significant flowering trees to also keep an eye out for including the Red Flowering Gum (*Corimbia ficifolia*) as pictured, which is dripping with sweet nectar that you can drink right from the flowers.

There are also several Banksia species including the Firewood (*B. menziesii*), Parrot Bush (*B. sessilis*) and Swamp (*B. littoralis*) Banksias, ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that will be looking to build up their fat stores in readiness for the Makuru season to follow.

Unlike last year, the rains have held off a little longer and therefore the yams are still waiting for the first rains to rehydrate them.

This combined with the masses of flowers from the white flowering gums, should see an early and wet start to the season continuing into Makuru.

Just as we continue to see today, Djeran season also sees the run of the salmon, herring and mullet around the southern coastal waters.

Traditionally, skilled hunters would call in help from pods of dolphins that would herd schools of fish inshore as well as using a variety of fish traps. Whilst they were still on the coastal plain, it was also a time to make the most of the richest foods for people to have good reserves of body fat in readiness for the cold of winter.

Good sources of starch, such as the Yanget (the roots from the bulrushes around the lakes) and Djiridji (*Zamia* seeds that were treated last season) were gathered to be eaten, with the abundance of fish as people got ready to move back off the coastal strip before the weather turned cold and wet.



Jason Barrow

Kurongkurl Katitjin Cultural Awareness Officer

j.barrow@ecu.edu.au

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 Goolugatup, also known as Point Heathcote.

Point Heathcote is a geographic feature located on the south east part of Melville Water on the Derbal Yerrigan. It is located in Applecross – a suburb of Perth, Western Australia

Nyoongar phrase	Pronunciation	English translation
Goolugatup	Gool a gat up	Point Heathcote
Birok Dookarak	Bee-rock Dook-arr-ak	Summer Haze
Banya	Ban-ya	Perspiration/sweat
Maar Koombar	Marr Koom-bar	Strong wind
Maay Kaawiny	Mar-ye Car-win-ee	Echo
Yirakan	Yir-ar-can	Elevated place
Yokalar	Yok-a-lar	Pleiades
Poolgarla	Pool-gar-la	Bull Banksia
Gulamwin	Gulla-min	Sea Breeze or Fremantle Doctor

Nyoongar Story Time

Goolugatup – Port Heathcote

At Goolugatup, also known as Point Heathcote, there is a fresh water spring that provided an ideal place to camp out of the prevailing winds from the south westerly direction; that today we call the Fremantle Doctor.

Traditionally during the warm summer evenings, ceremonies were held here and spirits were asked to provide an abundance of food for the next season.

During these times, there was also a special sweet drink that was made from the flowers of the Poolgarla or Bull Banksia; this drink was called Mungitch.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

n.nannup@ecu.edu.au

2014 Vice-Chancellor Staff Awards

Congratulations to Kurongkurl Katitjin's Cultural Awareness Officer and ITAS Coordinator Jason Barrow, an award winner in the recent 2014 Vice-Chancellor's Staff Awards.

Run each year, the awards recognise and reward staff who exemplify ECU's values of Integrity, Respect, Rational Inquiry and Personal Excellence across the broad areas of engagement, service, learning and teaching, and research.



L-R: Nominator Caroline Bishop with Jason and Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox

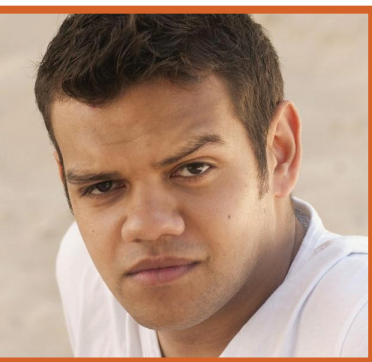
Jason won an award in the community engagement category for 'working tirelessly to integrate and promote the achievements and knowledge of our Indigenous community members and student populations, through a range of community and education engagement activities across the state'.

Nominated by ECU's Planning, Quality and Equity: Engagement team, Jason was presented with a certificate and cash prize at a special presentation ceremony hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on Thursday 29 May 2014.

Congratulations Jason. Very well deserved recognition..

TV Logie Award nominations for two WAAPA graduates

Two Aboriginal WAAPA graduates were nominated and up for a silver Logie at the recent Australian TV Week Logie Awards, held on Sunday 27 April 2014.



Meyne Wyatt

Meyne Wyatt and Shareena Clanton were among five nominees for the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding New Talent.

Created in honour of Graham Kennedy following his death in 2005, the award honours an outstanding performance of a new talent in their first major television role on an Australian program. The winner and nominees of this award are chosen by television industry juries.

Meyne was nominated for his role in Redfern Now (ABC1) and Shareena for her role in Wentworth (Foxtel/SoHo).

Meyne graduated from WAAPA in 2007 with a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre, while Shareena also graduated with an Advanced Diploma of Performing Arts (Acting) in 2010, a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre in 2007 and a Certificate III in Aboriginal Theatre in 2006.

While the silver logie went to Remy Hii in Better Man (SBS One), being nominated at the highest level in Australian television, shows the high regard in which Meyne and Shareena are held within the industry.

Congratulations to Meyne and Shareena on this wonderful achievement. We are certain we will see more of these two amazing local talents in the near future.



Shareena Clanton

© Meyne's photo reproduced courtesy of Marquee Management and Shareena's photo reproduced courtesy of Creative Representation

ECU welcomes Hugh Jackman back to WAAPA

Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry Cox recently welcomed acclaimed actor and ECU alumnus Hugh Jackman back to the University where his career began.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM performed the Acknowledgement of Country and presented Mr Jackman with a special ECU message stick.

Mr Jackman officially launched the Jackman Furness Foundation for the Performing Arts at a special event at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts' (WAAPA) Roundhouse Theatre, held on Saturday 17 May 2014.

Mr Jackman and his wife, actress Deborra-lee Furness, established the Foundation to support the performing arts in Australia and the institutions that educate and train Australia's wealth of talent.

WAAPA will be the initial beneficiary of the Foundation's fundraising activities.

ECU's Aboriginal Theatre students had the opportunity to perform at the event and commented on how honest, genuine and laidback Mr Jackman was. Students Alan Little and Adam Edwards were particularly impressed at how Jackman knew everything that they were doing and going through as WAAPA students, even the smaller things.

Professor Cox said it was a great honour to welcome Mr Jackman back to ECU.

"Hugh Jackman exemplifies ECU's vision for our staff and students to use their talents to contribute to help make our communities more inclusive, prosperous and sustainable," Professor Cox said.

"It is a delight that Hugh Jackman has returned to ECU 20 years after his graduation to 'give back' to the performing arts communities that supported his obvious prodigious talents.

"This new Foundation for the performing arts is yet another example of the deep commitment Mr Jackman has to his roots."

Mr Jackman graduated from WAAPA's acting course in 1994. Since then, he has become an Academy Award® nominated, Golden Globe and Tony Award winning actor.

WAAPA is recognised as one of the leading performing arts academies in the world. Many well-known actors, dancers, musicians and music theatre stars including Tim Minchin, Frances O'Connor, Marcus Graham, William McInnes, Lisa McCune, Lucy Durack, Rachelle Durkin, Emma Matthews, Jamie Oehlers, and Eddie Perfect (amongst many others) have called WAAPA home.

© Group photo reproduced courtesy of Hugh Jackman's Instagram account



Hugh Jackman with Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM



Group photo of excited WAAPA students with Hugh Jackman at the event

Winner of the 2014 NAIDOC Week poster announced

Torres Strait Islander artist, Harry Pitt, has won the prestigious 2014 National NAIDOC Poster Competition. Mr Pitt will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and his artwork will feature on the 2014 National NAIDOC poster. The poster will be distributed across the country to promote NAIDOC Week 2014, which runs from 6-13 July.



2014 National NAIDOC Week poster

Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, and National NAIDOC Committee co-chairs Anne Martin and Benjamin Mitchell, announced Mr Pitt's submission, titled *Those who Stand to Defend our Land*, as the winning artwork for 2014.

Mr Mitchell said the winning entry cleverly reflected this year's NAIDOC theme – *Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond*.

"*Those who Stand to Defend our Land* is a powerful piece of work that tells a story about the young men and women who are doing their very best to protect their home and serve their country," Mr Mitchell said.

Mr Pitt's artwork shows three brothers with their land behind them and the horizon before them, with their Elders reflected in the water giving them the strength to overcome what lies over the horizon.

"My work acknowledges the young men and women of today who are across the sea doing their very best to protect their home and serve their country, empowered by their ancestors.

Our soldiers are embracing their heritage and protecting their homes, just as their ancestors did before them, only now they do this beyond the shores of their homeland" Mr Pitt explained.

The poster can be ordered through the NAIDOC website or by visiting your local Indigenous Coordination Centre. For more information, visit: www.naidoc.org.au

HealthInfoNet farewells founding Director

A farewell event for HealthInfoNet's former Director, Professor Neil Thomson was held on Friday 2 May 2014. The event was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank Professor Thomson for his contribution to ECU and recognise his lasting legacy to the Indigenous health sector as founder of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet.

The HealthInfoNet, now recognised as an integral part of the Indigenous health infrastructure, has been recognised in a number of recent awards, including:

- winner of the 'Diversity' category in the 2011 Australia New Zealand Internet Awards;
- one of three finalists in the Excellence in Research category in the 2012 National Drug and Alcohol Awards;
- winner of the ECU Vice Chancellor's Excellence in Research Award in 2012 recognised for outstanding achievement in the 'charity' section of the Australian Business Awards in 2013;
- winner of the ECU Vice Chancellor's 'Excellence in Research Engagement' award in 2013.

On behalf of Kurungkurl Katitjin, we thank Professor Thomson for his significant contribution to Australian Indigenous health research and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Staff Snapshot

Rick Brayford



Coordinator Aboriginal Theatre
WAAPA

Favourite book:

At the moment, Benang by Kim Scott

Favourite music:

Frank Yamma. I love the fusion of Central Desert Language and English. He always incorporates fine musicians.

Favourite food:

Bush Tucker, Thai and Indian

Favourite TV Program:

At the moment, Gods of Wheat Street, featuring Aboriginal Theatre graduate Shari Sebbens.

Favourite Movie:

Constantly changing but Australian classics, Sunday Too Far Away with Jack Thompson and The Tracker with David Gulpillil. Also a new release called The Chef.

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Sam Sheppard

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

I left school at 15 years old

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:

April 2014	
1/4	The Smith Family graduation ceremony
3/4	Australian 49ers conference
3/4	HEPPP Karratha Senior High
4/4	WA Department of Fire & Emergency Services – opening of their simulation centre
4/4	DLA Piper luncheon event with Timorese Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão
4/4	Investiture ceremony for Australian Honours recipients

May 2014	
6/5	Wesfarmers Executive Development Program
7/5	Wesfarmers RAP Working Group Meeting
12/5	Womens Health and Family Services
13/5	Swan Emergency Accommodation
17/5	Jackman Furness Foundation launch at WAAPA
19/5	Commissioner for Children and Young People events for Dr Michael Ungar, 2014 Thinker in Residence
22/5	Leadership WA - Pilbara Experience
27/5	Launch of Reconciliation Week Street Banner project
28/5	Murdoch University
28/5	City of Wanneroo Reconciliation Week Event
30/5	2014 Western Australian of the Year gala presentation ceremony

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

Kurongkurl Katitjin,
Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research
Edith Cowan University

MAILING ADDRESS

Kurongkurl Katitjin
Edith Cowan University
2 Bradford Street
MT LAWLEY WA 6050

TELEPHONE

134 328

FAX

08 9370 6055

WEBSITE

www.kk.ecu.edu.au

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