

Inside This Edition



International Mother Language Day



Indigenous Alumni heads to Oxford



Inaugural Aboriginal Chancellor at UoC



National NAIDOC theme announced



Kurongkurl Katitjin Out and About

L-R: Vice-Chancellor Professor Kerry O. Cox, Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup, Diane Smith-Gander and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity and Indigenous) Professor Colleen Hayward AM

2014 International Women's Day Lecture

The Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture is designed to honour ECU's namesake, Edith Dircksey Cowan, who dedicated her life to equal rights and reducing the barriers to education and leadership for women.

Held on Friday 7 March at ECU's Joondalup campus, the 2014 Edith Cowan Memorial Lecture was opened with a Welcome to Country, performed by ECU's Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence, Dr Noel Nannup.

Story continued on page 3

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 Bunuru 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 and highlights some significant 'first' achievements.

Firstly, Kurongkurl Katitjin celebrated International Mother Language Day with an inaugural Nyoongar Language Video Quiz. It really provided a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to acknowledge the day and learn Nyoongar in an interesting and interactive way.

We also saw one of our Indigenous Alumni, Tamara Murdock, receive a Charlie Perkins Scholarship and will soon head to the University of Oxford to undertake a MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management. Tamara is ECU's first Indigenous graduate to receive one of these scholarships since these were established in 2009.

Lastly, seeing Dr Tom Calma AO formally installed as University of Canberra Chancellor was an historic moment. Dr Calma is the second Indigenous Australian (though first Indigenous male) to serve as a university chancellor. He follows Pat O'Shane, who led the University of New England for nine years until 2003.

Small steps lead to big changes and these achievements especially, are definitely something of which we all should be proud.

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.

2014 International Women's Day Lecture

Continued from page 1

This year's lecture was delivered by inspirational speaker Diane Smith-Gander. In a successful career spanning three decades, Diane has brought a blend of strategic thought and operational experience to the effective execution of major organisational change.

She has held a wide variety of senior roles with organisations around the world, including PA Consulting Group (Hong Kong and Sydney), McKinsey & Company (North America) and Westpac (Australia). Diane is currently the Chairman of Transfield Services Limited and a non-executive director of Wesfarmers Limited and CBH Group companies. Diane holds an MBA from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Economics from UWA.

Diane is a prominent commentator on diversity issues and is a Council Member of Chief Executive Women. Diane has also been very active in sports administration and is a former chairperson of both Basketball Australia Limited and the Australian Sports Drug Agency. Her interest in sports administration followed a successful career as a representative basketballer in Western Australia.

In her address 'Knock on Wood – A Call to Action', Diane considered Edith Cowan's fight for gender equality and how she might view progress today. Diane reflected on her personal experiences and described examples of inequality and its negative impact on our economy and society. She delivered a strong call to action for change to improve the position of women in Western Australia.

To view the full presentation online, visit: www.youtube.com/user/EdithCowanUniversity

International Mother Language Day at Kurongkurl Katitjin

The United Nations' (UN) International Mother Language Day is annually held on 21 February to celebrate languages spoken worldwide. It also observes the human right to use these languages.

To observe this day, Kurongkurl Katitjin invited ECU staff and students to participate in a short Nyoongar Language Video Quiz. It was a great opportunity to engage the University community in a fun, interactive and educational way.

Produced by Sophie Karangaroa, the video featured ECU's Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup and required viewers to match seven phrases spoken in Nyoongar to the English translation.

Congratulations to Fiona Stuart, ECU AIME Program Coordinator for her correct responses to the inaugural Noongar Language Video Quiz.

The seven english phrases and their Nyoongar translation can be found in the Wongi Nyoongar - Talking Nyoongar article on page 5.



A screenshot of Dr Noel Nannup and one of the phrases from the Nyoongar Language Video Quiz

Nyoongar Season: About Bunuru

Bunuru season - a time for the long dry heat, flies, white flowering gums, thunderstorms and the increased frenzied activity of the ants that comes with it. This is the hottest time of the year, usually with little to no rain.

This time of year sees the occasional thunderstorm from the north. These can range from quite mild and non-eventful thundery rumbles through to extremely destructive electrical, hail with flash flooding rains and storm wind gusting beasts, just like we saw back in March of 2010.

These relatively shorter and different weather events were, and still are, able to be predicted somewhat by looking for some of the subtle signs around us, like paying attention to the movements of ants. The ants will become busier during the dry periods, gathering as many food stores before the return of wet weather, aerating the ground as they go.

Another key indicator of the hot dry heat of Bunuru is the sometimes quite amazing quantities of flowers that can be seen such as the Pricklybarks or Coastal Blackbutts (*E. todtiana*) and then continuing with the Jarrahs, Marris and Ghost Gums.



Around the front of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building in the Bunuru gardens, you will start to see masses of white flowers from the *Eucalyptus victrix* (Snow Queen) as pictured left, from mid-February through to March this year.

Right across the Swan Coastal Plain, the Marris have been seen flowering very early, some in the week of January. This may well indicate some nice winter rains this year in Makuru (Jun/Jul) season, especially if the yams hold off on their activity in the absence of some triggering summer rains like we saw last year.

Whilst along the coastal plain, the traditional foods were also reflective of this life style, especially those that came from the waterways. Traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries and as mentioned in the last edition, the crabbing and prawning seasons were in full swing.

As the season starts to come to an end and the new moon comes towards the middle of March, several bird species will begin their migration journey to the far north of Australia and beyond, providing a sign that cooler weather will soon be upon us once again.



Jason Barrow

Kurongkurl Katitjin Cultural Awareness Officer

j.barrow@ecu.edu.au

Wongi Nyoongar – Talking Nyoongar

In this edition of Wongi Nyoongar, we take a look at seven english phrases and their Nyoongar translation as referenced in the article on page 3.

These phrases are simple greetings, used in general conversation.

Nyoongar phrase	Pronunciation	English translation
Ngany djoorabiny	Nyarn jerr-pin-e	I'm good
Noonook waangkan	Noon-ook warn-kan	(You) speak
Kaya	Ky-ya	Hello
Baal yalakitj	Barl yul-kitch	(You) wait
Boorda	Bore-da	Bye
Ni, noonook waangkaniny	Ni, noon-ook waa-can-in-ee	Listen, someone's talking
Baal koorl	Barl coo-ral	(You) Come

Nyoongar Story Time

Moortagrup - Causeway

We all know this place as the Causeway, however it has long been known to the Wadjuk people as Moortagrup.

This area is now composed of two bridges, either side of Heirisson Island, that cross the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) at the eastern end of Perth city.

Moortagrup means 'the water only reaches up to your knees'. Wadjuk families crossed the river safely here for many, many years.

Now thousands of people cross here everyday over those bridges.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

n.nannup@ecu.edu.au

Inspiring and motivating Indigenous students to study science

A new program at ECU has been developed to encourage, support and enthuse Indigenous students in WA High Schools, particularly those in regional and remote communities with low socio-economic status backgrounds, to study science subjects at tertiary level.

The program aims to increase students' confidence in their ability to study science at tertiary level and induce a sense of pride in students by:

1. engaging Indigenous students in science and technology-based learning through hands on activities that involve peer supported learning (students teaching students) that enhance confidence and leadership, literacy and presentation skills and through activities that teach basic scientific concepts;
2. providing and promoting role models and mentors, particularly Indigenous scientists, science researchers, active community organisations and academics, who can highlight education pathways and science career opportunities; and
3. providing training and teaching resources and promoting cultural competency in the area of Indigenous engagement that facilitate the integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems into the teaching of science, that are locally relevant and specific.

Developed and facilitated by ECU's Dr Magdalena Wajrak and Kurongkurl Katitjin's Jason Barrow, the program brings together western and Indigenous knowledge perspectives to science and will be rolled out throughout 2014.

ECU Indigenous graduate is headed to the University of Oxford

The Charlie Perkins Scholarship Trust recently announced its 2014 recipients of the Charlie Perkins Scholarships. The scheme assists Indigenous Australians to pursue postgraduate study at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

ECU graduate Tamara Murdock was announced as one of three scholarship recipients in 2014.

Tamara graduated from ECU with First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Management) in 2011 and has been accepted to undertake an MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management at the University of Oxford.

The scholarship program was established in 2009 in the memory of Dr Charlie Perkins AO, one of the first Indigenous Australians to graduate from university.

Charlie was inspired to return to Australia to undertake university study after playing in a soccer match against the University of Oxford. He completed a Bachelor of Arts from Sydney University in 1966.

The scholarship program is supported by the Australian Government, the British Government (through the Chevening Program), Rio Tinto, the Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust, Cambridge Australia Scholarships, the University of Oxford, the Pratt Foundation, Justice John Basten, the McCusker Foundation and the University of Canberra.

The scholarships are valued at over \$70,000 per annum for up to three years and include all tuition fees and living expenses.

Congratulations Tamara on this wonderful achievement and all the best for your studies at Oxford.

New UC Chancellor calls for a fairer Australia

Health and human rights campaigner Dr Tom Calma AO was formally installed as University of Canberra Chancellor after addressing the National Press Club on the 20 February 2014.

During his address, Dr Calma, widely respected for his advocacy for social justice and inclusion, discussed the importance of education as a “vaccination against poverty” and the critical role universities play in making Australia “healthier, fairer and wealthier”.

The 2013 Australian of the Year has taken over as Chancellor from Dr John Mackay, becoming the sixth Chancellor of the University of Canberra.

Dr Calma talked about what is needed to close the inequality gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and why reconciliation and recognition of the first Australians is fundamental.

One of the drivers of the Close the Gap campaign that advocates for health equality by 2030, Dr Calma said that when it comes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and rural health “universities must be more than teachers, interested observers and researchers.”

“We must be active partners. Partners creating, researching, adding to the latest evidence, the best techniques, cutting-edge treatments and state-of-the-art equipment.”

Dr Calma, the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander man to hold the position of chancellor of an Australian university, said he was proud to be one of a small number of Indigenous Australians in senior governance positions in higher education.

“It’s encouraging that Indigenous participation at all levels – not just chancellors – is growing.”

He said more than 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people completed university degrees in 2012. In the past four decades, over 25,000 Indigenous Australians have completed tertiary studies and by 2020 it is estimated that number will reach 50,000.

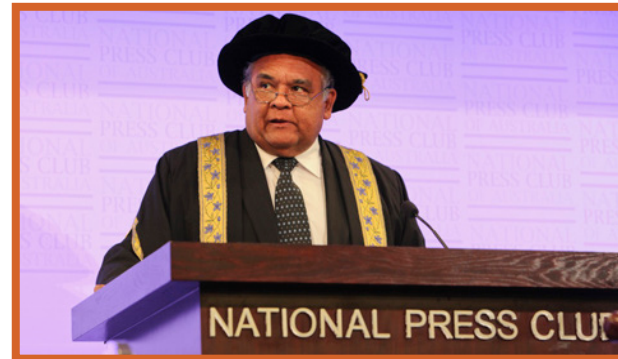
Dr Calma acknowledged that these are “small steps” but said that greater effort needs to be the focus of institutions and the community “to ensure higher education is an aspiration and an achievable goal”.

“The University of Canberra, which has had a Reconciliation Action Plan in place since 2010, is constantly working towards this goal,” he said.

“The University is continuously looking for ways to break down barriers to higher education for Indigenous students as well as building strong relationships and enhanced respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.”

“I’m proud to be Chancellor of the University of Canberra.”

© Photo reproduced courtesy of the University of Canberra



University of Canberra Chancellor Dr Tom Calma AO addresses the audience at the installation ceremony.

2014 NAIDOC Week theme announced



6-13 July
2014 | **SERVING COUNTRY –
CENTENARY & BEYOND**

The National NAIDOC Committee encourages people across the country to embrace the 2014 National NAIDOC theme – **Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond**. This year's theme was selected by the National NAIDOC Committee to honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country.

National NAIDOC Committee co-chairs Anne Martin and Benjamin Mitchell said this year's theme is about proudly highlighting and recognising the role they have played in shaping the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and pausing to reflect on their sacrifice.

"This is about our warriors in the Frontier Wars to our warriors who have served with honour and pride in Australia's military conflicts and engagements across the globe," Ms Martin said.

"We wanted to celebrate and honour their priceless contribution to our nation," Mr Mitchell said.

NAIDOC Week 2014, from Sunday, 6 to Sunday 13 July, is an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to join together to recognise the valuable contribution Indigenous people have made to this country.

Indigenous Australians are encouraged to enter the 2014 National NAIDOC Poster Competition and nominate fellow community members to receive National NAIDOC Awards. Indigenous artists can now start working on entries for the National NAIDOC Poster Competition which reflects this year's NAIDOC theme. The winning entry attracts a \$5000 cash prize and will feature on the 2014 National NAIDOC poster and be displayed across Australia in workplaces, schools and community organisations. The Poster Competition closes on Friday 28 March.

Nominating someone for a National NAIDOC Award is a great chance to acknowledge the contributions and talents of outstanding Indigenous individuals. There are ten categories to choose from including the prestigious Person of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Winners will be honoured during NAIDOC Week at the National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony on the Gold Coast. Nominations for the 2014 National NAIDOC Awards close on Wednesday 23 April.

For entry forms and more information, talk to your nearest Indigenous Coordination Centre on 1800 079 098 or visit: www.naidoc.org.au

ACARA Advisory Membership

Kurungkurl Katitjin's Gail Barrow has recently been appointed to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group for the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA is an independent authority providing a rigorous, national approach to education through the national curriculum, national assessment program and national data collection and reporting program.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group (the Group) has been established to provide ACARA with advice regarding:

- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures priority in the Australian Curriculum.
- protocols and cultural sensitivities that need to be taken into account by ACARA business units as ACARA proceeds with its curriculum, assessment and reporting programs.

Congratulations on your appointment Gail.

Staff Snapshot

Dellas Yarran



Indigenous Student Support Officer
(South West Campus)

Favourite book:

The Bible

Favourite music:

I listen to all music, especially
Alternative

Favourite food:

Seafood

Favourite TV Program:

Arrow

Favourite Movie:

Hidalgo

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

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

My first car was a V8 LH Torana

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:

February 2014	
4/2	Governor's Reception for the Governor-General
5/2	AmCham Women in Leadership Series – Cynthia Griffin, US Consul General
7/2	Launch of Woodside Development Fund
13/2	Hon Tony Simpson, Minister for Local Government, Community Services, Seniors, Volunteers and Youth
13/2	US Consul General, Cynthia Griffin
17/2	Governor's Reception for Leadership WA 2014 Signature Program
22/2	Perth Writers' Festival – Panel on Australian Identity
27/2	Price-Waterhouse-Coopers Many Hats event for executive and non-executive board members

March 2014	
4/3	Launch of 'Being Board Ready – a Guide for Women'
5/3	A/Commissioner for Children and Young People
5/3	ABC Radio Drive-time Interview
6/3	WA's Signature Dish launch event
12/3	Launch of Alcoa Sculptures by the Sea exhibition
13/2	Ron Alexander, Director-General of the WA Department of Sport & recreation
13/3	Leadership WA Alumni
14/3	Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, Mal Wauchope
28/3	Aboriginal Play and Learn Forum
31/3	Luncheon meeting with Hon Nigel Scullion – Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs

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

Join our Mailing List

To keep up to date with what's happening at Kurongkurl Katitjin, join our mailing list by completing the online form under the News and Events section at www.kk.ecu.edu.au.

