

(L-R) Newly added Indigenous graduates Mi-Lin Finnie, Darryl Dawson (representing daughter Rikiesha Dawson) Jonathan Nowers, Kristy Brittain, Jesse Fleay and Juli Coffin with the seventh pillar of the Rock Solid Foundations tribute.

ECU's Indigenous Alumni cohort increases

On Thursday, 28 November 2013, Kurongkurl Katitjin hosted its annual Indigenous Alumni event, which saw 33 new graduate names (between 2011-2012) unveiled as part of the Rock Solid Foundations tribute to ECU's Indigenous Alumni.

Over 60 people, including 19 graduates and Mrs Grace Hayward, the wife of ECU's first Indigenous graduate, attended the celebration.

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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 Kambarang 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. Kurongkurl Katitjin has been busy with a number of events and initiatives, including the establishment of the Rock Solid Foundations Travel Award which aims to re-connect with and increase engagement of ECU's Indigenous graduates who are based in regional WA or interstate.

A further 33 names of Indigenous graduates from 2011-2012 were added to the foundation tribute and unveiled at the anniversary event at the end of November. Of particular highlight, was the presentation of custom, handmade commemorative pins for our Indigenous Alumni. A very special touch to an equally wonderful tribute.

While 2013 slowly comes to a close, I am confident that the year ahead will be just as bright and exciting.

As customary for the last edition of each year, may I take this opportunity to thank our readers and we very much look forward to your continued support as we all look forward to a prosperous 2014.

On behalf of the staff and students of Kurongkurl Katitjin, I wish you, your families and friends a very happy and safe festive season.

Happy reading!

Colleen K.

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.

ECU's Indigenous Alumni cohort increases

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As well as the seventh pillar, a story stone was also unveiled to explain the Rock Solid Foundations tribute and to acknowledge those who made it possible.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the extremely talented performer Miss Tornina Torres, who recently completed WAAPA's Aboriginal Theatre course.

Another special part of the evening was the presentation of commemorative pins for ECU's Indigenous graduates.

Mrs Grace Hayward accepted the inaugural pin on behalf of ECU's first Aboriginal graduate Mr Len Hayward and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Vice-President Professor Arshad Omari accepted a set of seven pins on behalf of the University.

Graduates in attendance also had the opportunity to receive their unique pin as incentive to stay connected to the University.

Now in its third year, the anniversary of Rock Solid Foundations (28 November) has become the flagship celebration to attract Indigenous Alumni back to ECU to re-connect with the University and with each other.

To increase representation from country and interstate graduates at this event, the Rock Solid Foundations Travel Award has been established to provide ECU Indigenous graduates with assistance towards the costs of travelling to Perth to attend this event.

Keep an eye for the Rock Solid Foundations Travel Award in 2014.

New commemorative pins for ECU's Indigenous Alumni

Only available to ECU Indigenous Australian graduates, these custom, handmade pins serve as a symbolic and personal reminder of their journey at ECU.

The shape of the pin represents one of the seven pillars on which a graduates' name appears and subsequently, the unique cohort to which they belong.

Led by Kurongkurl Katitjin's Communications and Events Officer, Tracey Lee Edwards worked in collaboration with Wayne and Lucy McGinness from Aboriginal Steel Art (based in Queensland) to develop the commemorative pins.

Indigenous graduates from ECU are encouraged to contact Kurongkurl Katitjin by email at rocksolid@ecu.edu.au to find out how to receive the unique pin.



WAAPA Aboriginal Theatre student Tornina Torres performing at the event



L-R: Graduates Gail Barrow, Isabelle Adams and Len Collard



Aboriginal Steel Art's Lucy and Wayne McGinness with Kurongkurl Katitjin's Tracey Lee Edwards (centre) with the full set of seven pins

Nyoongar Season: About Kambarang

Kambarang this year has started a little earlier than usual, though with the lingering Djilba rains it might be a little hard to believe.



A good sign that Kambarang is upon us is the many Balga or Grass Tree flower stalks that can be seen emerging from their crowns. This will be especially evident in areas that have been burnt last summer, but we should also see many others in flower because of the better than average 'Spring' rains. These striking flower spears can grow rapidly (5 -10 cm per day in some cases) will start to open from the northern facing side of the spear first. As the flowers start to open, they will be the centre of attention for many insects both walking and flying.

Another key Kambarang flowering indicator is of course the 'Poolgarla' or Bull Banksia (*Banksia grandis*), which will be in fine form producing lots of yummy sticky nectar that will also attract lots of insects as the days start to warm and dry out. Already, when the sun does come out, we are starting to see the first of the 'Noordoos' (Blow Flies), which along with other winged insects, will be starting to emerge to begin their breeding cycles.

A further good indicator of the change in season at this time of the year is the emergence of the reptiles from their winter hibernation and in particular, the snakes and lizards. Please do take care when using walking pathways through bush areas, including along the coastal dune pathways, as October is the number one season to see snakes. Often though, people make far too much noise when walking so the animals are able to get out of the way well before you pass through.

In the trees and skies above, also be alert for the continuing 'swooping' from the Coolbardies (Magpies) that we mentioned in Djilba that have started to breed early this year. Kambarang this year will see a second clutch of eggs for some Coolbardie family groups.

And for those of you who have keenly tuned hearing, see if you can tell the difference between the calls of the various baby birds that will start to venture out of their nests, but are still constantly calling for more food. In particular the Red Wattle Birds, Magpies, Willy Wag Tails and many of the water bird species just to mention to a few nesting birds easily seen in our local areas.

As rains start to ease up into November, we will start to see the yellows of the Candle Stick Banksias (*Banksia attenuata*) and of course another of the signature flowering plants of Nyoongar Country, the Mooja or the Australian Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) with its masses of yellow/orange flowers that will signal the break of Kambarang and the start of Birak season.

Be it an explosion of insect numbers, flowers, animals raising young and protecting them or foraging for food after sleeping through the winter, many plants and animals undergo huge changes with the warm weather and its light winds. So enjoy this fantastic season.



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 names of the towns and places along the Kardakoor Bilya, or the Blackwood River, as it makes its way in a south westerly direction from its upper headwaters, out to the ocean in Augusta on the south coast.

The Arthur and Balgarup Rivers combine to form the start of the river system

Name	Meaning / Description
Augusta	This name possibly comes from a member of the British Royal family, Lady Augusta Murray
Balgarup	Place of the Balgas or Grass Trees.
Balingup	Place of Balinga, a local Aboriginal warrior and hero.
Boyup Brook	Place of smoke or big smoke owing to the large numbers of Blagas that would be set alight in season producing lots of smoke on the water.
Bridgetown	Geeglup is the local Aboriginal name for the area.
Duranillin	The local Aboriginal name for the water hole located there.
Moodiarrup	The local Aboriginal name for this location, which was hard fought for and won by the local settlers of the town.
Nannup	A stopping or resting place.

Nyoongar Story Time

Kardakoor Bilya - Blackwood River

Starting with the Arthur and Balgarup Rivers combining together, the Kardakoor Bilya, or Blackwood River as it is known today, is one of the longest river systems in the South West stretching over 270 km in length.

As with each of the rivers we've mentioned throughout the year, the Kardakoor was used for a source of drinking water, fishing, swimming and bathing in.

It passes through many significant places that have been fortunate enough to have had their traditional names retained, as this was often the easiest way for lost travellers to be able to seek directional assistance from local Aboriginal people when travelling from town to town.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

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Overview of the health of Indigenous people in WA 2013

The Overview of the health of Indigenous people in Western Australia 2013 is now freely available online from Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website. The report was officially launched at the WA Health Conference on the 19-20 November 2013 in Perth.

This report provides comprehensive, WA-specific information about:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations
- the context of Indigenous health
- various measures of population health status
- selected health conditions
- health risk and protective factors.

It is an excellent resource and provides a detailed overview of the major health conditions affecting Indigenous Australians in WA.

For the first time, the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet will also provide a power point presentation containing all of the key facts, tables and figures from the WA Overview, which can easily be incorporated into presentations, lectures, and seminars. The power point presentation is available on the website.

The continued focus of the HealthInfoNet is to help to 'close the gap' by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy. The WA Overview is a key component of our work in adding to the knowledge and evidence base that will inform and assist those working, studying or interested in Indigenous Australian health.

To view online, visit: www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/states-territories-home/wa/reviews/our-review

AIME: Strut the Streets 2013

AIME's **Strut the Streets** campaign kicked-off in 2009, with 240 participants bringing to life an event that has a youthful energy and exuberance that is so central to the success of the AIME Program.

Celebs, CEOs and everyday Australians are planning to Strut the Streets in their swimwear on 13 December 2013 in Sydney, NSW.

Sydney-siders are invited to hit Martin Place in nothing but their Budgy Smugglers or swimsuits and march as one big fleshy throng to the Ivy Pool Club for an after-party featuring Shantan Wantan Ichiban, the Faders and more.

AIME want to raise over \$200,000 through ticket sales to expand and engage an extra 1000 Indigenous high school kids in 2014, and see them finish school at the same rate as every Australian child.

To register to Strut the Streets, or to donate to support a strutter, visit: www.strutthestreets.com



Fiona Stuart

ECU AIME Coordinator

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Perfect day for a cultural cruise on the river

Held on the Friday, 1 November 2013, 60 guests including ECU staff and students, enjoyed the perfect spring weather for a tour along the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) to explore its rich Nyoongar heritage.

The unique event, entitled Danjoo Bily-ak (a Nyoongar phrase meaning 'together on the river') highlighted the significance of the river, its Nyoongar name and its importance to Nyoongar people.

The 'Derbarl Yerrigan', pronounced derr-barl yeah-ri-gan, is also commonly known as the Swan River.

'Darbalung' or Derbarl refers to the estuary area where fresh and salt water mix. The word 'yerrigan' is the name of the long neck turtle, which could be found in pools along the water course.

This geographical feature was created by Nyoongar Creation Spirits, the Wagyl, as he moved north and she moved south along the Swan Coastal Plain, as well as the ground water that also followed them as they went underground.

Guests were treated to this intimate Nyoongar perspective by ECU's Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin's Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup, who also introduced several significant meeting places along the river that continue to be used today, including Jenalup (Black Wall Reach), Dyundalup (Pt Walter) and Katagarup (Kings Park).

After two hours on the river, guests left with a full belly and new insight and appreciation of the river and Nyoongar culture.



Kurongkurl Katitjin's Tracey Lee Edwards and Dr Noel Nannup aboard the river cruise



Two of ECU's Indigenous students Agatha Carracciolo and Jesse Fleay enjoyed the experience

State Award for ECU Aboriginal Nursing graduate

ECU Aboriginal Nursing graduate Shari Pilkington recently won the Graduate of the Year Award in the 2013 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards held on Saturday, 26 October 2013.

Shari was one of fourteen winners across 13 award categories announced at a gala dinner, acknowledging their outstanding contribution to the nursing and midwifery professions throughout the State.

The Graduate of the Year category was for graduate enrolled nurses, registered nurses or midwives who are currently completing or completed their graduate year after June 2012.

Shari graduated from ECU in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) and is a Registered Nurse at Osborne Park Hospital.



Shari Pilkington with Paul Darcy (Ramsay Health)

For more information on the awards and other winners, visit: www.wanmea.com.au

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Head of Centre drives world's first Attention Powered Car

The Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia (RAC) has revealed the world's first Attention Powered Car to raise awareness about the deadly impact of inattention on our roads.



Professor Colleen Hayward AM ready to drive

Kurongkurl Katitjin's Professor Colleen Hayward AM recently had the opportunity to drive the Attention Powered Car in the safe confines of the RAC Driving Centre.

Professor Hayward's attention while driving was tested in a number of controlled scenarios, including changing radio stations, sending a text message and finding a street in a manual street directory.

The Attention Powered Car features a neuro headset that connects brain activity to the car's engine via customised software.

The software communicates with the car and when the driver's level of attention drops the car safely slows down, alerting the driver to their lapse in concentration.

The technology has been installed into a 5-star ANCAP safety rated Hyundai i40 which will only run at full capacity when the driver is paying attention.

Of the experience, Professor Hayward said it was amazing and was honoured to have had the opportunity.



The RAC Attention Powered Car

"I was so impressed with the technology and just wanted to know more".

"As the 2013 Community Safety Month Patron with the Injury Control Council of WA, this experience really highlighted how easily and quickly driver concentration can lapse. Road accidents are preventable and why the Attention Powered Car is such an important initiative to get this message across".

The RAC will use the Attention Powered Car to directly engage the WA community and raise awareness about inattention and possibly find solutions to help save lives on our roads.

For more information on the Attention Powered Car, and to view a series of webisodes, visit: www.forthethebetter.com.au

What Western Australians are doing behind the wheel - Top 5

In a recent survey, RAC asked drivers what else they do behind the wheel, apart from operating the vehicle. It is interesting how many distracting things drivers do. Here are the top 5.

1. 98% of drivers talk to passengers
2. 91% of drivers think about other things like dinner or work
3. 88% of drivers read billboards
4. 87% of drivers change the radio or CDs
5. 78% of drivers eat or drink

New Director of Indigenous Australian HealthInfoNet in 2014

Professor Neil Drew will take over as Director of the HealthInfoNet in early February next year. Neil has more than 30 years' experience working with a diverse range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and groups, initially in Queensland and more recently in WA.

His doctoral studies in community psychology and long-term commitment to the discipline have been of enormous value in his role as program head and co-founder of the Aboriginal Youth and Community Wellbeing Program, which promotes wellness and suicide prevention with young Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley region of WA. In his role as head of the program, Neil has lived in East Kimberley Aboriginal communities for two months each year over the past eight years.

Neil will also bring to the Director's role substantial experience in the tertiary education sector, most recently with the University of Notre Dame Australia (UNDA) as Foundation Head of Behavioural Science, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Deputy Head of UNDA's Broome Campus.



Professor Neil Drew will become the new Director of the Indigenous Australian HealthInfoNet in 2014

To ensure a smooth transition in direction of the HealthInfoNet, Edith Cowan University has provided for a three-month handover period during which time current Director Professor Neil Thomson will introduce Neil Drew to the HealthInfoNet's 'business' and to our stakeholders nationally.

ITAS is helping students succeed

The Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme Tertiary Tuition (ITAS) aims to improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous students in tertiary courses to the same levels as those for non-Indigenous Australians.

ITAS covers the cost of engaging a tutor to provide academic and study skills assistance to eligible students. Students can expect to receive up to two hours tutorial assistance per subject per week, which will be supplemented by an additional total of five hours exam preparation.

ITAS is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education under the Indigenous Education Direct Assistance (IEDA) program and is facilitated by Kurongkurl Katitjin at ECU. For more information about ITAS at ECU, visit: www.kk.ecu.edu.au

"When I first enrolled in uni this time around, I did so without ITAS support and subsequently failed my first unit. The next semester, I approached Bandyup education staff in regards to ITAS as I have received the support before when I was last in prison I completed the IUOC program and did so with a high distinction average and made it onto the Deans' Honour roll.

I knew that ITAS was what I needed to succeed in my academic learning. In my next semester, I achieved a distinction for a second year unit in my first year of study. I have since maintained a distinction average with all my units and I believe I would not have made the gains that I have if it were not for the ITAS program. I believe that being Aboriginal, over 30 and in prison, I already had many obstacles to face when it came to my education and success in my education, the ITAS program creates equality in learning and I am so very grateful for all the assistance I have had and will receive in the future".

Kym Taylor, Bachelor of Social Science Student

New WA Youth Mentoring Ambassadors announced

Three new mentoring ambassadors - Perth Wildcats' Greg Hire, young Aboriginal education champion Lachlan Cooke and Edith Cowan University's Professor Colleen Hayward AM - are spearheading Western Australia's Youth Mentoring Week celebrations.

Announcing the ambassadors at the Thank a Mentor celebrations in Perth on Monday, 21 October 2013, Youth Minister Tony Simpson said mentoring could play a critical role in the lives of young people.

"In so many different walks of life, mentors do a tremendous job in supporting young people, providing friendship and counsel and helping them benefit from their own life experience," Mr Simpson said.



Ambassadors Greg Hire and Professor Colleen Hayward AM with Minister Tony Simpson

Greg Hire is a rising star for the Perth Wildcats in the National Basketball League. He said mentoring in sport had very strong links to high levels of success, both professionally and personally.

Self-starter Lachlan Cooke is the founder and chief executive officer of the youth-run Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness Foundation (ICEA), a youth-driven non-for-profit foundation working to increase cross-cultural awareness among young West Australians.

"Mentoring encourages learning across the generations and ultimately only good things can come from that," Lachlan said.

Professor Hayward is a senior Noongar woman with family links throughout WA's South-West. She said she looked to her family as mentors. Both her parents and two siblings were teachers. Her father was ECU's first Indigenous Australian graduate and the first Aboriginal teacher and principal in WA.

The three ambassadors will be supporting youth mentoring work in WA throughout the year. Youth Mentoring Week is part of the WA youth mentoring reform project run by the Department of Local Government and Communities using Federal funds from the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions. Its theme is 'Thank a mentor, Thank a mate'.

The Minister said the project provided training and development for people working or volunteering as mentors. For more information, visit: www.communities.wa.gov.au/communities-in-focus/youth

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ECU staff tee off for a good cause



L-R: Representing ECU were Michael Parish, Clark Randrup, Alan Needham and Jason Barrow

The City of Wanneroo held its annual charity golf day on Thursday, 17 October 2013 at Carramar Golf Course.

ECU was a silver sponsor of the event and had a corporate team of four staff, including Michael Parish, Clark Randrup, Alan Needham and Kurongkurl Katitjin's Jason Barrow.

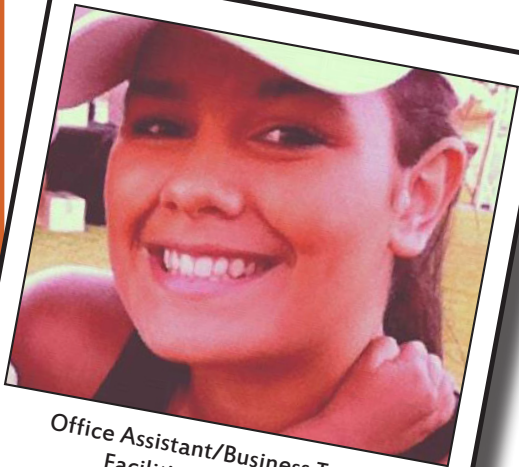
The ECU team finished fourth overall in a close competition and Jason Barrow winning the longest drive for the day.

The event raised \$36,000 for school pastoral care programs in the City of Wanneroo.

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Staff Snapshot

Jarni Lee McGuire



Office Assistant/Business Trainee
Facilities and Services

Favourite book:

Don't have one

Favourite music:

RnB and Hip-hop/rap (Anything except hardcore rock and death metal)

Favourite food:

Lollies

Favourite TV Program:

Modern Family and The League

Favourite Movie:

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Amy Poehler (American actress, comedian, voice artist, producer and writer)

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

I have met Danny De Vito

Indigenous Women's Health Portal

The new Indigenous Women's health portal, located on Edith Cowan University's, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet web resource, aims to provide the health workforce and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with access to quality information.

The portal has been made possible with funds from Jean Hailes for Women's Health, who collaborated with the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, to provide the content to support and inform the efforts of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

Jean Hailes is a leading not-for-profit women's health organisation offering easy-to-understand information and a range of free resources for women and health professionals across Australia.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Thomson, says of the partnership 'this project is a wonderful opportunity for both organisations to bring together their knowledge and expertise to provide in one place, freely accessible knowledge, resources and information about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, which will support the workforce in improving health outcomes for women.'

Jean Hailes launched the portal on Friday 25 October 2013 at the National Indigenous Women's Health workshop held at Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne, VIC.

To view the portal, visit:

www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/womens-health-portal

ECU Essential Student Services Period

ECU will be entering a period of essential student services during the festive season.

From Monday 23 December 2013 to Friday 3 January 2014 inclusive, Kurongkurl Katitjin will be closed, but services are available elsewhere at ECU.

We will be returning to normal operations from Monday 6 January 2014.

Kurongkurl Katitjin staff wish you and your families, a safe and happy festive season. See you in 2014.



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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