



ABOVE: Actor Jack Thompson with ECU's Professor Colleen Hayward and Professor Brenda Cherednichenko at the 2010 Garma Festival

Garma festival 2010

One of Australia's biggest Indigenous cultural festivals was held in north east Arnhem Land, NT on the 6-10 August 2010. The Garma Festival, now in its 12th year, attracts around 2,000 people from around the country and internationally.

Along with nightly traditional ceremonies, workshops on traditional dance and culture, education experts spearheaded discussions at the key forum on improving 'Indigenous education and training' outcomes.

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Kurongkurl Katitjin, pronounced 'koor-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 Djilba 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* puts the spotlight on various achievements of ECU staff and students over the past few months. Amongst those achievements, the announcement of two inaugural scholarships, the Leading Edge Indigenous ECU Scholarship and the Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship, designed to assist Indigenous recipients financially, complete their respective studies.

Also in this edition, we highlight two Indigenous conferences, namely the Garma Festival and Healing Our Spirit Worldwide. Both conferences attract hundreds of Indigenous people interested in traditional practices, knowledge sharing and networking. These conferences are wonderful opportunities for professional development and to experience the diversity in Indigenous culture and tradition first hand.

The *Our Place* newsletter is almost one year old and it is important for us to know what our readers think. So if there is anything you would like to see featured or have any suggestions in making our publication better, we would love to hear from you. Our contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

Until next time.....

Happy reading!

Colleen W.

Professor Colleen Hayward



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 student recipient of the inaugural Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship

Congratulations to ECU student Lisa Capewell, who is the first West Australian to be awarded the inaugural Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship.

The scholarship aims to assist one Indigenous student in every state and territory to undertake teacher education studies with a higher education provider, with successful applicants receiving \$25,000 per year for the life of their teaching degree (up to four years), to cover study costs.

In addition, all scholarship recipients are provided with the support of a highly accomplished teacher or teacher educator as a mentor throughout the duration of their studies.

Lisa is currently studying teaching at ECU, and was the first Indigenous person to complete a Diploma of Children Services at Kimberley College of TAFE in Broome.

"The Governor-General's scholarship is a fantastic initiative, which aims to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians," says Miss Capewell.

"I am grateful to receive the award, which gives me the financial support to focus on my studies."

Lisa was presented with the scholarship by the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC at an awards ceremony on Monday, 9 August at Government House, Canberra.

Upon graduation, Lisa hopes to work in remote aboriginal communities as both a teacher and role model.

Applications for the Scholarships in 2011 are now open. The guidelines, application form and other details are available on the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website. For further information, visit: www.deewr.gov.au/indigenous

Garma Festival 2010

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With the focus on key issues, opportunities and emerging trends in Indigenous education and training, a small team of staff from Kurungkurl Katitjin and ECU's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Engagement, Equity & Indigenous), Professor Brenda Cherednichenko, attended the key forum.

After attending the Garma Festival for the first time, Professor Cherednichenko reflected on her experience as "fun but more importantly, I learned a great deal".

"Garma is truly everything and more I have imagined it to be over the past few years and I feel privileged to have experienced it with a team of colleagues".

This year's key forum brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators, policy makers, academics, students, trainers, cultural practitioners and government, corporate and community leaders.



ABOVE: (L-R) Sonia Karan, Brenda Cherednichenko, Tracey Lee Edwards, Colleen Hayward, Jason Barrow, Gail Barrow and Heather Monteiro representing ECU at the festival

Nyoongar Season: About Djilba

Djilba season is a time to look for the yellow and cream flowers starting on mass.



Djilba is an unusual time of the year, with some very cold and clear days combining with warmer, rainy and windy days mixing with the occasional warm sunny day or two.

This is the start of the massive flowering explosion that happens in the South West starting with an explosion of yellows (often with the Wattles and Acacias) and creams, combined with some vivid and striking blues that start to abound.

Traditionally, the main food sources again included many of the land based grazing animals including the Yongar (kangaroo), the Waitj (emu) and the Koomal (possum), with the entire animal being utilised not only for food, but for everyday items like skins for clothing and sinews for tool making.

Combining with these meat sources were an abundance of root based plant tubers including the orchids of the South West, as many come to life after a long period of dormancy and they're at maximum rehydration after the rains.

As the days start to warm up, we start to see and hear the first of the new borns with their proud parents out and about either providing them food for a never ending appetite, guiding them through foraging tasks and/or boldly protecting their family units against much bigger animals, including people!

Many of the wetland birds, including the Maili (Black Swan) will be out with their babies, which don't look too much like their parents until they become much older.

Whilst the woodland birds will still be nest bound and hence the swooping protective behaviour of the Koolbardi (magpie) starts to ramp up and if watched closely, so to do the Djidi Djidi (Willy wag tails) and the Chuck-a-luck (Wattle birds) but to name a couple of others.

On the plant front, as already mentioned there's a massive explosion of yellow and cream and in the right places some of the most amazing and delicate orchids and huge carpets of everlastings or paper daisies.

Around the Kurongkurl Katitjin building on the south side, you'll start to see Drummond's Wattle (*Acacia drummondii*) and the Grey Cotton Head (*Conostylis candidans*) with their yellows in full bloom and as pictured, the contrasting blues of the *Dampiera linearis*.

Finally as the season progresses and the temperatures continue to rise, we'll start to see the flower stalks of the Balgas (Grass Trees or *Xanthorrhoea* sp.) starting to emerge in preparation for the coming Kambarang season.

Wongi Nyoongar – Talking Nyoongar

In this edition of *Wongi Nyoongar*, we'll take a look at some general words and short phrases that you may have come across and have wondered what was said but were perhaps unable to ask at the time for one reason or another.

Nyoongar Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
Aliwa	<i>Al-i-wa</i>	Look Out! Danger!
Boodja	<i>Bood-jar</i>	Country, Mother Earth
Boodjari	<i>Bood-jar-i</i>	Pregnant
Boorda	<i>Boarr-da</i>	Later
Djinanginy	<i>Jin-ing-iny</i>	Look, see
Djoorabiny	<i>Joor-a-biny</i>	Happy
Kaya	<i>Ki-ya</i>	Hello, welcome
Koorlangka	<i>Koo-lun-gar</i>	Children
Kwob	<i>Quob</i>	Good
Kwobadarn	<i>Quob-a-darn</i>	Very good
Kwobalitch	<i>Quob-a-litch</i>	Beautiful
Maarmun	<i>Marr-mun</i>	Men
Mooditch	<i>Mood-itch</i>	Strong, Great
Moort	<i>Moor-t</i>	Family, Relations, Kin
Ngarlla Mia	<i>Narla Mia</i>	Our home
Noonook	<i>Noon-ook</i>	You
Wadjela	<i>Wad-gel-a</i>	White person, Non-Aboriginal person
Yorga	<i>Your-ga</i>	Women

Often in our working conversations, especially when there's a few Mooditch Yorgas, Maarmun, Wadjelas and even Koorlangkas having a Wongi, you might notice a few words and phrases thrown in with a great sense of fun and joking, which aids in lifting the mood of the group higher and higher.

The following are two phrases that are used in general conversation that you may be familiar with.

WELCOME

Nyoongar Phrase: Kaya, ngany djoorabiny noonook djinanginy
English Translation: *Hello, I'm happy to see you*

FAREWELL

Nyoongar Phrase: boorda noonook djinanginy
English Translation: *See you later*

It is important to note that the Nyoongar language has many variations in its spellings, pronunciations and meanings. While we have provided one way of using, speaking and spelling Nyoongar language, it could differ in other areas in Nyoongar country.

ECU to host the 'Pay the Debt - Stolen Generations Forum'

On the 5 November 2010, ECU together with the Bringing Them Home Committee WA (Inc) will host a significant event called 'Pay the Debt - Stolen Generation Forum'.

The Forum, supported by Wesfarmers, will feature special guest speaker, Glenys Collard, who will provide a very powerful and personal perspective on this issue and her ongoing struggle for justice.

ECU staff, students and the broader community are invited to participate in this special event which will provide an opportunity hear first hand and to understand the ongoing impact of the Stolen Generation on the Aboriginal community.

Date: **Friday, 5 November 2010**
Time: **4.30pm onwards**
Venue: **Building 17, Room 17.157, ECU Mount Lawley Campus**
RSVP: **Please confirm attendance to Steve Berney at s.berney@ecu.edu.au by Monday, 1 November.**

Refreshments will be served following the forum, please advise of any special dietary requirements when confirming attendance.



Bringing Them Home Committee WA (Inc)



Healing Our Spirit in Hawaii



ABOVE: Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's Alison Weston presented at the conference

On the 3-10 September 2010, more than 2,000 Indigenous peoples from around the world attended the 6th Gathering of the *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW)* Conference.

Held in Hawaii, the quadrennial conference attracted Indigenous peoples from Alaska, the U.S. mainland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Cuba, Rarotonga and Samoa, just to name a few.

The *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide* movement began as one person's vision to create an international forum and movement focused on the alcohol and drug abuse issues and programs in Indigenous communities throughout the global community.



ABOVE: Representing ECU, Kurungkurl Katitjin's Professor Colleen Hayward and Tracey Lee Edwards attended the five day conference

Kurungkurl Katitjin's Professor Colleen Hayward and Tracey Lee Edwards attended the conference, with *HealthInfoNet's* Research Officer Alison Weston, presented on 'Yarning Places' and promoted the online resource as a useful way of connecting and sharing information, regardless of location.

Planned for 2014, Australia won the bid to host the next HOSW gathering in Alice Springs, NT.

For more information on HOSW, visit: www.hosw.com

Kurongkurl Katitjin partners with Wirra's foundation

Over the past eight months, Kurongkurl Katitjin has been working in partnership with the David Wirrpanda Foundation to evaluate the effectiveness of two programs developed for young Indigenous girls in the Pilbara and the Perth metropolitan regions of Western Australia.

The programs, *Dare to Dream* and *Dardii Girlz*, focus on nutrition, physical and mental health, and provide culturally appropriate, gender specific information and tools to deal with issues related to relationships, sexual health and protective behaviours.

The *Dare to Dream* program, supported by Rio Tinto, targets Indigenous girls living in the Pilbara community of Roebourne.

The *Dardi Girlz* program, supported by Healthway, offering activities to young Indigenous girls living in Rockingham and Kwinana. 'Dardii' is a Nyoongar word meaning 'awesome'.

Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin, Professor Colleen Hayward said she was very proud to be working in partnership with an organisation such as the David Wirrpanda Foundation.

"This partnership provides an excellent opportunity to not only appreciate the great work of the *Dare to Dream* and *Dardii Girlz* programs, but to also work with a partner like the David Wirrpanda Foundation," Professor Hayward said.

"Providing opportunities such as this to our young people in both the metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia is a commendable task and we are very proud of our association with them," she said.

For further information on these programs, visit: www.dwf.org.au



Vibe Alive 2010 hits Kalgoorlie

On the 25 and 26 August 2010, more than 2000 students from across Western Australia descended on Kalgoorlie for the third consecutive Vibe Alive Festival.

Young people from as far afield as Perth, Esperance, Merriden and Laverton, joined hundreds of local students at the Vibe Alive Festival which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Vibe Alive is a government-funded festival (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations) that targets students from Kindergarten, right through to Year 12 and is designed to encourage school attendance, retention and healthy lifestyles for all young Australians, in particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

On the careers days of the Festival, Kurongkurl Katitjin's Promotion and Recruitment Officer Max Jackson promoted entry pathways and courses available through ECU, Kurongkurl Katitjin and WAAPA.

For more information about Vibe Alive in Kalgoorlie and other sites around Australia, visit: www.vibealive.com.au



Solid Kids, Solid Schools receives state-wide recognition

Congratulations to ECU's Child Health Promotion Research Centre, whose *Solid Kids, Solid Schools* project was awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement in Community Safety' award at the annual Injury Control Council of Western Australia (ICCWA*) Community Awards on the 29 July 2010.

The awards showcase the excellent work being undertaken in Western Australia and also recognise the significant impact and important role individuals have in highlighting community safety issues.

The *Solid Kids, Solid Schools* project involved researchers working with Aboriginal community members in the Yamaji (Mid West, Murchison) region of Western Australia to determine ways to help Aboriginal young people prevent or deal with bullying.

The project, funded by Healthway, not only identified the cultural understandings of bullying among Aboriginal children and their communities, but also helped develop relevant and culturally-secure bullying prevention and management strategies.

ECU's Professor Donna Cross thanked both the ECU researchers and the Yamaji community for their ongoing commitment to the project.



"I commend the community and project leaders who passionately led this project, particularly Associate Professor of Aboriginal Health, Juli Coffin and Project Coordinator, Ms Dionne Paki."

"I'd also like to thank the Yamaji community who worked along-side us for four years to develop a sustainable program to help to reduce bullying, and other aggression and violence among Aboriginal young people in the Midwest Murchison region of WA," said Professor Cross.

ABOVE: Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, Executive Director Public Health and Chief Health Officer, WA Department of Health with Associate Professor Juli Coffin and Ms Dionne Paki at the awards ceremony

"The *Solid Kids, Solid Schools* project is an outstanding example of ECU's commitment to ongoing community engagement."

The annual Awards continue to grow significantly each year with nominations from a wide range of dedicated individuals and organisations.

Finalists and winners of the ICCWA Community Safety Awards are widely acknowledged for their achievements in promoting injury prevention and community safety.

For more information on ICCWA, visit: www.iccwa.org.au or the *Solid Kids, Solid Schools* project, visit: www.solidkids.net.au

*ICCWA is the peak not for profit organisation involved in injury prevention and community safety promotion in Western Australia.

© Photo reproduced courtesy of the Injury Control Council of Western Australia

A yarn with.....Alison Weston. Member of the ICC

Alison Weston is a descendent of the Meriam Mer People of the Torres Strait on her mother's side, with Scottish heritage through her father. Growing up in Perth, Alison completed her nursing training through the Western Australian School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse in 1988.



After working in the hospital setting for a few years, Alison wanted a change in career and commenced a Law degree at UWA in 1995. During this time, Alison also worked as a Project Development Officer with the Women's Legal Service WA.

Alison's professional career also includes working as a Community and Clinical Nurse at Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, as well as a Project and Policy Officer with the Department of Health WA.

Currently, Alison works as a Research Officer with the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet within Kurungkurl Katitjin at ECU.

What made you want to be involved with ECU and the ICC?

I liked the thought of getting involved at a Committee level and would like to see an infusion of Indigenous perspectives within the ECU curriculum or within the differing courses on offer.

If as a member of the ICC we can influence change, however big or small, being a member will have been worthwhile.

What are some of the changes in our society that you have seen in your lifetime?

More Indigenous people on University campuses and within the professions; the rapid technological advances, particularly in the internet and global

communications, that is now 'de rigueur'; the technological savvy of young people; the lack of street marches as a means of protest that has now been replaced by setting up a facebook page; the influence of pop culture and a more environmentally aware society.

What great historical events you have experienced in your lifetime?

The Berlin wall coming down in 1989; witnessing the outpouring of world wide grief when Princess Diana died; Redfern Park speech by Paul Keating; the Mabo decision; setting up of the Reconciliation Council; the release of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report and the Apology to the Stolen Generation 2008.

What is something that you are really proud of and why?

I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the beginning of 2007, underwent every test and treatment (chemo, radiotherapy and surgery) associated with that diagnosis. I also had multiple operations due to complications.

Throughout all of that, I have remained absolutely positive and committed to still being able to make a difference for myself and my children.

My three daughters have also shown a level of maturity beyond their years and have embraced my diagnosis, their empathy and compassion has been absolute. I am so proud of myself and my daughters.

Two recipients for the leading Edge ECU Indigenous Scholarship

ECU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kerry Cox announced last year that ECU would be making a scholarship available for any Indigenous Australian, not necessarily connected to ECU, to participate in ECU's *Leading Edge* program.

Due to the strength of their applications, ECU increased the scholarship support offered to reward not one, but two exceptional candidates, Melanie King, ECU's Indigenous Employment Coordinator and Alison Weston, Research Officer at ECU-based Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, to participate in the program.

Both Melanie and Alison are breaking new ground as this is the first year that the scholarship has been made available and that the *Leading Edge* program will have participation from Indigenous Australians.

The *Leading Edge* is a multifaceted leadership development program for people between operational and executive levels - team leaders, supervisors, unit managers and middle managers - in public, private and non-profit sectors.

The 12 month program involves a combination of experiential and conceptual activities for enhancing leadership skills. It offers participants time to reflect on workplace achievements and challenges, to discover new perspectives on leadership, to consider skill development needs, to develop networks and learn from peers, to improve relationship skills and to gain confidence in their ability to lead teams in times of change.

Offered through the Centre for Leadership, an initiative of the Joondalup Learning Precinct (JLP) partners, the program is delivered through the shared facilities of the three precinct partners' campuses, namely ECU, the Western Australian Police Academy and West Coast TAFE.

Kurongkurl Katitiin congratulates Melanie and Alison on their selection and wishes them well in their studies.

Scholarships: Extra support for students

With the support of an ECU scholarship, students can realise their ambitions and reach their educational destination. ECU offers a range of scholarships to current and future students that aim to help students successfully complete their course by improving their financial situation. Some of the Indigenous specific Scholarships available include:

- ECU Indigenous Scholarships
- Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships
- Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Australian Scholarship
- Perth Airport Indigenous Scholarship
- ECU Excellence Scholarships

All enquiries regarding ECU scholarships, including information on opening/closing dates and eligibility, contact:

Telephone: 08 6304 3636
Facsimile: 08 6304 2088
Email: [**scholarships@ecu.edu.au**](mailto:scholarships@ecu.edu.au)

Staff Snapshot

Sonia Karan



School Officer (Part-time)

Favourite book:

*The Bronze Horseman (Trilogy),
Paullina Simons*

Favourite music:

Powderfinger

Favourite food:

Thai – Tom Yum Goong

Favourite TV Program:

Grey's Anatomy

Favourite Movie:

The Notebook

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

My Grandfather (Paternal)

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

*I'm a makeup artist in my
spare time, specialising in
bridal makeup.*

Kambarang Careers Day 2010

Make a date with Kurongkurl Katitjin on Thursday 4 November 2010 for the annual Kambarang Careers Day at the Mount Lawley Campus.

All prospective students and their families are invited to come along for an interesting and informative day, with plenty of activities and workshops to enjoy, including.

- Traditional Welcome
- Special Guest Narelda Jacobs
- Indigenous Scholarship Presentation
- Noongar Radio - Live broadcast
- David Wirrpanda Role Models
- Info on Entry Pathways/Courses

Kambarang Career's Day runs from 10.00am to 2.30pm. To view the schedule of activities or for more information visit: www.kk.ecu.edu.au

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



Your journey begins at the

2010 Kambarang Careers Day

Traditional Welcome
Special Guest Narelda Jacobs
Indigenous Scholarship Presentation
Noongar Radio - Live Broadcast
David Wirrpanda Role Models
Info on Entry Pathways/Courses

Thursday 4 November 2010
10.00am - 2.30pm
Kurongkurl Katitjin Building
ECU Mount Lawley Campus
Central Avenue Entrance

Full schedule of activities at:
www.kk.ecu.edu.au

Any enquiries, contact 08 9370 6378



Our Place is Kurongkurl Katitjin's official newsletter and is produced six times a year.

It is circulated electronically to a range of stakeholders including staff, students and the broader community.

PRODUCED BY

Tracey-Lee Edwards,
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Events Officer

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Join our Mailing List

To keep up to date with what's happening at Kurongkurl Katitjin, join our mailing list.

Simply print and complete this page, then return by mail/fax or email tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au with the following information:

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