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ABOVE: Ted Penny, one of ECU's first four Aboriginal graduates, with the stone pillar representing 1951-1960.

ECU's Indigenous Alumni now set in stone

2011 is a special year for ECU – not only does it mark 150 years since the birth of the University's namesake, Edith Dircksey Cowan, it also commemorates the 60th anniversary of ECU's first Aboriginal graduate.

On Monday 28 November 2011, a special event to mark the occasion, entitled *Rock Solid Foundations*, saw over 90 people gather to pay tribute to ECU's Indigenous Alumni.

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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 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* acknowledges and celebrates ECU's Indigenous Alumni, particularly with the launch of our *Rock Solid Foundations* tribute. The tribute features the names of ECU's 501 Indigenous graduates from between 1951-2010, with preparation for 2011 and beyond.

From humble beginnings and with a strong foundation in education, ECU has Indigenous graduates from a wide range of disciplines including Teaching, Business, Law, Nursing, Communications and the Arts.

ECU's Indigenous Alumni is and will continue to be a cohort of Indigenous people who represent leadership, strength, resilience and durability. Kurongkurl Katitjin is a Nyoongar phrase meaning 'coming together to learn' and the tribute certainly embodies the spirit of our graduates past, present and in years to come.

With this being the last edition for 2011, 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 2012.

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!



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's Indigenous Alumni now set in stone

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Guests, including 19 Indigenous graduates, saw the unveiling of seven granite pillars to represent 501 ECU Indigenous alumni, including the first Indigenous ECU graduate, Mr Len Hayward.

Graduating in 1951 from ECU's predecessor, Claremont Teachers College, Mr Hayward paved the way for Indigenous teachers, becoming WA's first Aboriginal principal in 1979.

Mr Hayward was a pioneer for Aboriginal teachers, and his achievements are still an inspiration to students today.

"ECU is committed to acknowledging the important role that our Indigenous Alumni have played in shaping ECU as it is today," said Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin Professor Colleen Hayward.

"This foundation tribute is a way to publicly recognise our ECU Indigenous Alumni and celebrate their past achievements and future successes."

The tribute is located outside of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building on the Mount Lawley campus and is a permanent reminder of the successes of ECU's Indigenous students - past, present and future.

Ken Wyatt portrait donated to ECU

A portrait featuring ECU graduate and Indigenous MP, Dr Ken Wyatt AM was presented to the University at the *Rock Solid Foundations* event, held on the 28 November 2011.

Acquired through the University's Foundation Board by a generous anonymous donor, the oil painting entitled 'The First of the First', was presented to ECU because of its contribution to Ken's tertiary education.

Ken graduated in 1973 from the Mount Lawley Teacher's College and known artist Tim Jones as a family friend for 45 years.

This portrait was an entry in the 2011 Archibald prize and depicts Ken in his parliamentary office in Canberra. The tail feather of the red tailed black cockatoo symbolises Ken's links with the Noongar land and leadership.



ABOVE: Indigenous graduate Robert Somerville unveiling one of the pillars



ABOVE: Mrs Grace Hayward with great-grand daughters Kaitlyn and Juliette Barrow and the pillar featuring her husband Len Hayward's name



ABOVE: Artist Tim Jones and Dr Ken Wyatt with the portrait which was generously donated to ECU

Nyoongar Season: About Kambarang *as written by Jason Barrow*

For those of you who like to go back and re-read the past editions for the seasonal indicators, this year's Kambarang will show some indicators of both a lingering Djilba and a shortened Kambarang with periods of intense flowering.

With a lingering Djilba and the continuing rains, the start of a weak Kambarang with its warmth sees an influx of insects. Of course, the insects will need to eat something and those plants that chose to flower first will be feasted upon.

In particular, look closely for the Bull Banksia (*Banksia grandis*) and Balga (*Xanthorrhoea* sp.) flower stalks early in the season and then as November comes with a continued warming, the yellows of the Candle Stick Banksias (*Banksia attenuata*) will take over.

Fine examples of the Candle stick Banksia and the Balgas can be seen at all ECU campuses and in particular, the southern and western sides of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building.

During both the Djilba and Kambarang seasons, we see an abundance of colours and flowers exploding all around us. The yellows of many of the Acacias or Wattles continue to abound along with some of the Banksias and many other smaller delicate flowering plants, including the kangaroo and cats paws, orchids and climbing vines.

Finally one of the most striking displays of flowers to be seen during November and December, will be the Mooja or Australian Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) with its bright orange/yellow flowers that serve to signal the heat is on its way. While this summer will be warm, it should also be accompanied with some good rains if the signs are true to form as they have been over the year.

For the animals, October is also the most likely time of the year that you'll encounter a snake as the reptiles start to awaken from their hibernation and look to make the most of the warm to assist them in getting enough energy to look for food!

It's also a time of many young families of birds as you'll see many ducklings and cygnets and hear many other babies 'singing' out for their parents to feed them.

Coolbardies (Magpies) will also be out in force protecting their nests and their babies, so be aware of nesting birds and give them space for a few weeks so you don't get swooped!



Around the Kurongkurl Katitjin building, if you listen carefully, you'll be able to hear the calls of several birds, including the *Jinjee* (Honey eater) pictured inset, as they continuously call for more food.

Most of all, enjoy this fantastic season and all that it offers, with many things undergoing huge changes with the warm change in the weather and light winds.

Wongi Nyoongar – Talking Nyoongar

In this edition of *Wongi Nyoongar*, we explore some terms around feelings and how you might express them. Expressing your feelings was and still is a great skill and just important, is the ability to hear someone's feelings and act accordingly.

Sometimes the words people use to express their feelings does not match the physical signs, so a skilled listener is also able to 'read' someone whilst listening to them.

Nyoongar name	Pronunciation	English name
nyordobiny	<i>nor-dob-iny</i>	feelings
bidibaba	<i>bidi-bar-bar</i>	tired
birki-birki	<i>brick-e Brick-e</i>	confused
booraka	<i>boor-a-ka</i>	brave
djerap-djerap	<i>jer-ap jer-ap</i>	happy
kaanya	<i>can-ya</i>	shy
karang	<i>car-ang</i>	angry
koorantj	<i>koor-an-ch</i>	embarrassed
kweyiny	<i>kwee-in-ee</i>	frightened
menditj	<i>mend-itch</i>	sick
mirn	<i>me-rin</i>	jealous
winyarn	<i>win-yar-n</i>	sad

And finally a question to ask yourself:

Question: Naatj nyordo ngany kadak?

Pronunciation: *Nat-ch nor-do ng-an-e kar-dak*

English translation: How do I feel?

Nyoongar Story Time *as told by Dr Noel Nannup*

Mammong & Kwella wart-culling: Whale and Dolphin travelling

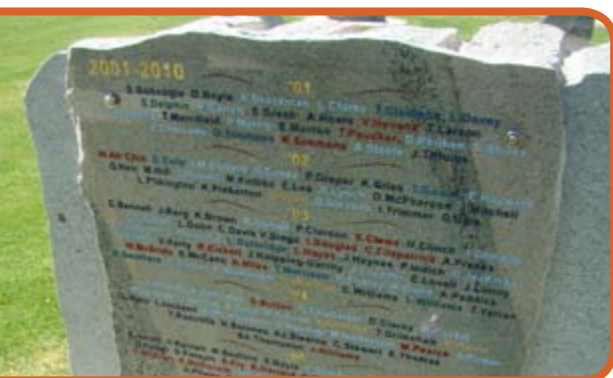
Starting from the latter part of Makuru, through Djilba and into Kambarang, whale strandings are not uncommon. This is in part due to the migration patterns that whales follow from the northern calving waters, back to the south with their new borns for their summer feeding areas in the Southern Ocean.

In the Nyoongar belief system and stories, these strandings are said to be the returning of the spirit children that became trapped under the sea when the sea levels rose. It is also believed that some of the 'cleansed' spirits that were carried out to sea by the Easterly winds in past seasons are also returned in this way.

Dolphins too play an important role in this cycle. During this time, dolphins and people interact either by the dolphins herding schools of fish towards inshore areas and by swimming with children.

The tribute to ECU's Indigenous graduates

Launched on Monday 28 November 2011, the tribute entitled *Rock Solid Foundations*, represents the notion of education being the foundation of a person's life journey. It is the means in which one acquires and builds knowledge and skills to shape their future.



ABOVE: The stone pillar containing ECU's Indigenous graduates from the years 2001-2010



ABOVE: Five of the seven pillars that form the *Rock Solid Foundations* tribute



ABOVE: The tribute in front of the Kurongkurl Katitjin building on the Mount Lawley campus

The Tribute

To reflect this, the use of stone, particularly Western Australian granite, symbolises the foundations upon which one builds during their educational journey. Each stone is unique in its size, formation and texture.

The combination of natural, cut and polished surfaces reflects the process of a student's journey from the beginning, through to graduation and beyond.

In various sizes, the seven stones or pillars, honour the Nyoongar story of the 'Seven Sisters' constellation and are placed accordingly.

Facing north, the pillars not only indicate the location of the constellation, but the idea that as you leave Kurongkurl Katitjin on the Mount Lawley campus, you see the names of the Indigenous students who have led the way and serve as inspiration to others who are following in their footsteps.

Each pillar represents a ten-year block and displays the names of each Indigenous student by the year of their graduation, with names colour-coded according to their discipline or area of study.

The 'wave' design between each year symbolises the 'ripple effect' and how it builds upon itself to gain momentum, much like our graduates who, over time, have built up a cohort of Indigenous people who have succeeded at university to form ECU's Indigenous Alumni community.

The Graduates

The list of 501 graduates were compiled based on a teacher qualification or diploma or higher.

Additionally, graduates have been identified through their status as an Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander person.

NOTE: Graduates with multiple qualifications only appeared once (the year their first qualification was attained) and surnames recorded as at graduation.

Update your details with the Alumni Office

If you're an ECU graduate, you automatically become part of our global alumni community with a world of benefits available to you.

For Indigenous graduates, the launch of the *Rock Solid Foundations* tribute has been a fantastic opportunity to bring together all of our graduates to specifically form an Indigenous Alumni.

Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the tribute contains accurate and up-to-date graduate information at the time of the unveiling, it is possible that some of the Alumni records are incomplete or missing.

Edith Cowan University welcomes any assistance in completing or updating our database to ensure that our records are a true representation of our Indigenous Alumni.

For more information or to update your details, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/alumni



Mental Health and Education Week 2011: Timeline Fact Sheets

To coincide with *Mental Health Week* and *WA Education Week* in 2011, Kurongkurl Katitjin developed two specific timeline fact sheets to mark the occasions.

Produced by Gail Barrow and Tracey Lee Edwards, the timeline fact sheets are not exhaustive, but have been compiled to give an overview, particularly in Western Australia, of some significant events, policies and reports affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

In 2011, *Mental Health Week* was held on the 9 to 15 October and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mental health in the community.

For more information on *Mental Health Week* 2011, visit: www.mentalhealth.wa.gov.au

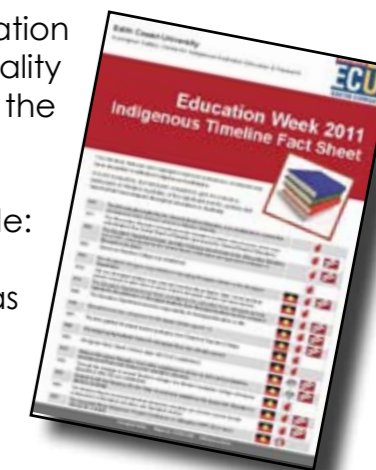
Education Week, held on the 24 to 28 October, brings education to the community through its commitment to the highest quality of education for all Western Australian's and acknowledging the contribution of teachers.

Some interesting excerpts from the Education fact sheet include:

1969: The *Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme* (later ABSTUDY) was established.

1989: WA Education Department recognises that English is a second language for many Aboriginal students.

To view or to download a copy of the fact sheets, visit: www.kk.ecu.edu.au



'Yarning session' at ECU

Indigenous staff and students gathered at Mount Lawley Campus for a 'yarning session' on how to connect and support members of the Indigenous ECU community.

Led by Faculty of Business and Law student information officer Skye-Marie Hedland-Latter and Faculty of Education and Arts Student Information Officer Karina Kitto, the event was a chance to discuss ways to promote study and work opportunities to future Indigenous staff and students.

Over 15 staff and students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, attended the event.

"It was great to see staff and students support this initiative, which resulted in great discussion," said Skye.

"Thanks to everyone who came, and hopefully we can work towards implementing some of the actions in 2012."

The 'yarning session' was part of a nine week program to receive a Certificate II in Leadership Development as part of the *One Sky Many Paths' Indigenous Youth Leadership* program, which was completed by both Skye and Karina.

Indigenous PhD: Associate Professor Juli Coffin

Associate Professor Juli Coffin from the Combined University Centre for Rural Health (CUCRH) in Geraldton has recently been awarded her PhD from Edith Cowan University.

Juli is an Associate Professor in Aboriginal health with a PhD, an education degree and a Master's in Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

As an Aboriginal woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia, she has a background in education, health and preservation of Aboriginal languages.



ABOVE: Juli Coffin at the premier of her film "We All Solid" in Geraldton - May 2011

Recognition of the importance around this issue and community engagement has been the key outcomes from this work and practical based resources for schools and communities.

© Photo obtained from www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2011/05/13/3216510.htm (Jane Kennedy - ABC Midwest)

Head of Centre meets Queen at State Reception

On the 27 October 2011, the Queen and Prince Philip were honoured guests at a State Reception held at Government House in Perth.

About 1,800 people made up the reception's guest list, including Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart, Perth's Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi and a host of state and federal politicians.

Kurongkurl Katitjin's Professor Colleen Hayward was also on the guest list and performed the Acknowledgement of Country at the event.

The Queen was in Perth to officially open the twenty-first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

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ABOVE: Professor Colleen Hayward with the Queen and Premier Colin Barnett at the State Reception

Indigenous health website wins internet award

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet was the winner of the Diversity category at the 2011 Australia New Zealand Internet Awards, announced at a gala dinner on the 17 October 2011 in Melbourne.

HealthInfoNet founder and Director Professor Neil Thomson was delighted with the acknowledgment.

"For 14 years we have been providing the evidence base to inform decision making for those working or studying in Indigenous health by making high quality relevant information about Australian Indigenous health freely accessible via the internet," said Professor Thomson.

"We work in the area of knowledge translation and make academic literature more accessible to Indigenous Health Workers and Indigenous Environmental Health Workers in remote, rural and regional areas of the country. I'd like to thank our committed team of 26 staff and our core funders the Department of Health and Ageing."

The HealthInfoNet receives \$2,500 as the award winner, which will be used to develop materials specifically for the Indigenous Health Worker section on the website.

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet is an innovative internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making the evidence base readily accessible via the Internet.

It is a 'one-stop info-shop' for people interested in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. Access to all information on the site is free and available to everyone.

For more information visit www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au.

WA Social Worker of the Year Awards

Associate Professor Dawn Bessarab from the Aboriginal Health and Education Unit, Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, has won a 2011 *Social Worker of the Year* Award.

Nominated by Marion Kickett, Dawn won the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander* category, which is sponsored by Richmond Fellowship WA.

The award was presented in recognition of Dawn's extraordinary determination and passion to help Aboriginal and Torres Straits Island individuals, families and communities.

Her extensive experience in the sector has ensured she is at the forefront of working and engaging with Indigenous people, especially those experiencing alcohol issues and domestic violence.

The award was announced at a distinguished evening awards ceremony, held at the University Club, University of Western Australia on Monday 7 November 2011.

Kurongkurl Katitjin congratulates Dawn on this wonderful achievement.

For more information on the 2011 awards, visit: www.socialworkeroftheyear.com.au

2011 Deadly Award for Noongar Radio Broadcaster

Held on the 27 September 2011, the 17th Deadly Awards were again held at the Sydney Opera House.



ABOVE: 'Deadly' Broadcaster of the Year, Karla Hart with her mum Jessica at the Opera House

The Deadlys, Australia's largest Indigenous awards night, showcase the depth of talent and achievements of Indigenous Australians across the fields of sport, the arts, education, health, employment, cultural advancement and leadership.

Noongar Radio (100.9fm) broadcaster and ECU graduate, Karla Hart was announced the winner of the 2011 Deadly Award for *Community Broadcaster of the Year*.

Karla's award is indicative of her hard work, dedication and commitment to the Noongar community.

Through community broadcasting, Karla is leading the way for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and representing the Noongar nation proudly.

As the "Drive" presenter and co-host of "The RnB Show" on Noongar Radio, Karla also finds time to manage and perform with the Kwarbah Djookian dance group; is a role model with Role Models Australia throughout remote WA; a lecturer at Polytechnic West; a workshop facilitator in traditional dance, poetry performance, mask performance, creation, self-esteem and confidence talks.

Congratulations Karla on receiving this prestigious award. As they say, too deadly!!

Staff Snapshot

Terry Kessarlis



Favourite book:

The Book of Ruth in The Bible - it is the story of two women who stick together through 'thick and thin' and their amazing journey of healing.

Favourite music:

Ballads and Bach

Favourite food:

Banana and cashew crème pie (raw) - YUM!

Favourite TV Program:

Living Black and Message Stick

Favourite Movie:

The Tall Man (my latest favourite)

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

My great-grandparents - to put more pieces of the jig-saw together.

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

I love fresh coconut milk (young green coconuts)

ECU Essential Student Services Period over Christmas

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

From Monday 26 December 2011 to Friday 6 January 2012 inclusive, Kurongkurl Katitjin will be closed.

We will be returning to normal operations from Monday 9 January 2012.

Kurongkurl Katitjin staff wish you and your families, a safe and happy festive season. See you in 2012.



ECU Smoke-free 2012

ECU is going Smoke-Free in 2012.

As from 1 January 2012, all ECU campuses will become smoke-free in line with new university policies that aim to provide a healthier clean air environment for staff, students and visitors.

The smoke-free initiative will apply to all University campuses and facilities including carparks, ovals and all University leased premises.

As an institute of higher learning, the University wants to encourage healthier lifestyle choices for staff, students and the wider community who share and visit our campuses.

Introducing a smoke-free environment follows feedback from members of the University community and consultation with a range of key stakeholders.

The University has developed a range of support programs to assist staff and students who would like to stop smoking.

To find out more, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/smokefree



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.

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Join our Mailing List

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

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