

L-R: ECU's Cultural Ambassador and lead Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup with his 2016 NAIDOC artwork appropriately named *The Storyteller*

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by Dr Mick Adams



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International collaboration brings photography and art together

ECU's flagship NAIDOC event, the *Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition*, kicked off celebrations at the University in spectacular style.

Three mixed-medium works (photography and art) become the latest acquisitions to ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Collection, reflecting the 2016 National NAIDOC theme: *Songlines: The living narrative of our nation*.

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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 Makuru 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* centre's around on this year's NAIDOC celebrations at ECU. The 2016 National NAIDOC theme: *Songlines: The living narrative of our nation* was embraced throughout the week's activities, which included our flag raising ceremonies and film screenings at each campus.

Of particular highlight was ECU's flagship event, the *Celebration of Indigenous Art and Culture Exhibition* to kick off the week. Our interpretation of this year's NAIDOC theme was based on our own Elders and their stories.

Through the tremendous support of *Nomad Two Worlds*, world renowned photographer Russell James agreed to be involved in this year's NAIDOC project and personally captured the digital images of our Elders as the basis of this year's artworks.

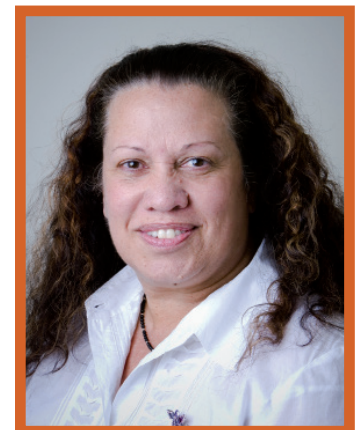
Each of the Elders were paired up with an Aboriginal Artist to transform a photograph taken by Russell, into the wonderful pieces of art now part of ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Collection.

A sophisticated project like this does not happen on its own and we acknowledge the team at *Nomad Two Worlds*, our wonderful Artists and of course, our very own Elders for their contributions to creating such unique acquisitions for our collection.

Happy reading!

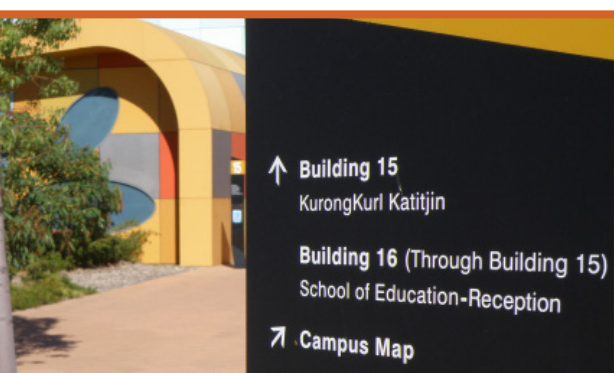
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Professor Colleen Hayward AM
Head of Centre, Kurongkurl Katitjin;
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity & Indigenous)



About the Centre

ECU's Kurongkurl Katitjin has a vital role in assisting the University to meet its commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Our mission is to “provide excellence in teaching and learning and research in a culturally inclusive environment that values the diversity of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and cultural heritage”.

Consistent with this mission, the Centre provides support and academic pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and opportunities for non-Aboriginal students to enhance their professional knowledge and cultural competence.

International collaboration brings photography and art together

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Songlines were used to navigate vast distances and map oceans, waterholes, rivers, birds, animals, plants and hunting grounds. The paths of Songlines are recorded in traditional arts, crafts, dance, songs and stories.

Given that stories play an integral part of *Songlines*, an opportunity to showcase and highlight ECU's local Nyoongar Elders-in-Residence – Dr Noel Nannup, Mrs Oriel Green and Mrs Lera Bennell and each of their stories, was the central focus of the newest acquisitions.

These artworks were created in collaboration with world renowned photographer and *Nomad Two Worlds* founder Russell James and Nyoongar Artists Peter Farmer and Dr Richard Walley OAM; and key artist for *Nomad Two Worlds*, Walmajarri artist Clifton Bieundurry.

A special part of the collaborative process was the production of small video clips that captured the Elder's stories at their photoshoots and helped to create the living inspiration for each Artist to capture on canvas.

These clips were also used as the cultural introduction to each of the unveiling of the artworks, providing an insight into each Elder and highlighting the significance of the photo location each selected.

The three new artworks of ECU's Elders-In-Residence are currently on show in the Kurongkurl Katitjin Art Gallery.

Other NAIDOC activities included screenings of the short film *Bulunu Milkarri* and flag raising ceremonies across all campuses.

About Nomad Two Worlds

Created by world renowned photographer Russell James, NOMAD TWO WORLDS began as a collaborative art project with Indigenous artists.

In the last decade, it has evolved from James' individual attempt to understand the clash of ancient and modern cultures he witnessed growing up in Australia to what it is today – a powerful expression of partnership, reconciliation, and economic opportunity in action through art, music and film that has become a global example of true collaboration across deep cultural divides.

For more information on *Nomad Two Worlds*, visit: www.nomadtwoworlds.com



Lera Bennell and Clifton Bieundurry with the *Lera Crying the Country* artwork



Peter Farmer and Oriel Green with the *Noongar Adaptation* artwork



Dr Richard Walley OAM and Dr Noel Nannup with the *Storyteller* artwork

Nyoongar Season: About Makuru

Buildings at ECU's campuses have changed colour – from green (nodjam) to blue (wooyan) – signalling the arrival of Makuru season.

The Nyoongar Season 'Makuru' (Jun/Jul) is represented by the colour dark blue as it symbolises rain and cold weather.

Makuru sees the coldest and wettest time of the year come into full swing.

Traditionally, this was a good time to move back inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south bringing the cold weather, rains and occasionally snow on the peaks of the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges.

As the waterways and catchments started to fill, people were able to move about their country with ease and thus their food sources changed from sea, estuarine and lake foods to those of the lands in particular the grazing animals such as the kangaroo. As well as a food source, animals provided people with many other things.

For example, 'yongar', or kangaroos, not only provided meat but also 'bookas' (animal skin cloaks) that were used as the nights became much cooler. Nothing was left; even the bones and sinews were used in the manufacturing of bookas and for hunting tools such as spears.

Makuru is also a time for a lot of animals to be pairing up in preparation for breeding in the coming season. If you look carefully, you might now see pairs of 'wardongs' (ravens) flying together. You might also notice these pairs not making the usual 'ark ark arrrrrk' that these birds are well known for when flying solo.

Upon the lakes and rivers of the South West, you'll also start to see a large influx of the black swan or 'mali' as they too prepare to nest and breed.

Flowers that will start to emerge include the blues and purples of the blueberry lily (*Dianella revoluta*) and the purple flags (*Patersonia occidentalis*).

As the season comes to a close, you should also start to notice the white flowers of the weeping peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) as the blues start to make way for the white and cream flowers of the Nyoongar season **Djilba**.



Jason Barrow

Kurongkurl Katitjin Cultural Awareness Officer

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2016 Perth Airport Aboriginal Scholarship recipients announced

Edith Cowan University (ECU) are delighted to announce this year's recipients of the Perth Airport Aboriginal Scholarships, students Nelson Waite, studying Bachelor of Education (Teaching), and Kye McGuire, studying Bachelor of Science (Nursing).

Since 2010, the Perth Airport Aboriginal Scholarship program has supported 14 students studying a variety of disciplines at ECU and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Perth Airport for their continued and generous support.

"For the past six years, Perth Airport has provided scholarships to the value of \$15,000 per Scholarship to support Indigenous students during their studies at ECU," said Ms Fiona Lander, Executive General Manager External Affairs, Perth Airport.

"Our partnership with ECU is very productive and, each year, we look forward to awarding scholarships to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have often had to overcome a range of obstacles to achieve a university place," said Ms Lander.

On 4 July 2016, the Scholarships were presented as part of Perth Airport's NAIDOC Week Celebrations, this was a wonderful occasion to recognise the impact that these Scholarships have had on supporting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Students at ECU.

Manager, Development, within ECU's office of Development and Alumni Relations, Natasha Allchurch said, "We see every day the incredible impact that scholarships have on our student experiences thanks to the generosity of individuals and organisations like Perth Airport".

"We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Perth Airport for their support and commitment to a shared vision of ensuring that, irrespective background and/or financial circumstances, everyone should be supported to reach their full potential. We look forward to working in partnership with Perth Airport to continue this successful program".

For Kye McGuire, the scholarship has lifted pressure financially.

"The scholarship allows me more time to study and spend with my two sons. It's an honour to be given this opportunity", said Ms McGuire.



Victor Howard (Acting CEO, Perth Airport), Kye McGuire and Natasha Allchurch (ECU)

For more information about scholarships at ECU, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/scholarships

New resource for students to help 'keep on track'

The *Ngala Karla - Keeping on Track* Matrix is a resource developed by ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as an easy and quick reference guide to help keep students on track during their learning journey at ECU.

The main aim is for student's to use this Matrix as a reference to reflect on their own progress and feelings along the way. This will enable students to help make sense of where they are at, what they can do and where to find support.

For more information, and to view the Matrix, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/kk

Scholarship win a great start to NAIDOC Week

Becoming a teacher and creating positive change is Aboriginal student Mikayla King's dream and she is well on the way to achieving it.

Mikayla is the recipient of the 2016 Edith Cowan University (ECU) Vice-Chancellor's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Scholarship. The scholarship is ongoing which means Mikayla could receive \$2,500 each semester until the completion of her degree.

Mikayla is a Kalkadoon woman originating from Mount Isa, Queensland. She is currently enrolled in her second year of a Bachelor of Education degree studying Early Childhood Studies at ECU.

"I love all aspects of the course and curriculum, but I'm probably most interested in the psychology behind behaviour and learning. A big part of my university life is constantly thinking of ways to support our Aboriginal children's academic progress, and ways to incorporate Aboriginal elements into day to day literacy and numeracy," Mikayla said.

"The gap for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is far beyond an academic gap in education, there are gaps in opportunities and in knowledge when working with Aboriginal children and families."



Award recipient Mikayla King with
Pro-Vice Chancellor (Equity & Indigenous)
Professor Colleen Hayward AM

While studying at ECU, Mikayla is also working as an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) with the Department of Education.

"I want to impart knowledge and understanding about Aboriginal education, learning styles and needs. In return this will support schools in ensuring culturally responsive programs that connect and empower our children will be embedded in day to day practice," Mikayla said.

As well as working and studying, Mikayla also finds time to manage the Miss NAIDOC Perth Leadership and Empowerment Program for Aboriginal women aged 18-30.

"I was a participant in Miss NAIDOC in 2013 and won the title of Miss Kwobardak (Nyoongar for 'beautiful'), as voted by my peers," Mikayla said.

"From there committee members asked if I would be part of the working group, and in 2016 an Elder of the program has asked me to step up, and manage the program.

"Juggling Miss NAIDOC with work and study has been challenging, but it's been so rewarding to be working on this level with well-respected community members."

Selection for the ECU Vice-Chancellor's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Scholarship is based on academic merit and demonstrated leadership and contribution to the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community or University community.

Mikayla received her scholarship at a flag raising ceremony at the Mount Lawley Campus on Monday, 4 July to mark the beginning of ECU's NAIDOC Week celebrations.

For more information about scholarships at ECU, visit: www.ecu.edu.au/scholarships

Learning from Australia's first scientists

Boomerang throwing, bush medicine and Nyoongar tool making are part of this year's National Science Week program thanks to a new ECU initiative.

The Wadjak Northside Community Science Exchange brings traditional Aboriginal knowledge and contemporary science together in a fun day of free activities on the 20 August 2016.

The new hands-on community event aims to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study and work in STEM-related areas.

Science activities include:

- Traditional Nyoongar tool making and its links to chemistry;
- Boomerang throwing and the physics of flight;
- Bush tucker and bush medicine and how it links to the environment and sustainability;
- Basket weaving and biological sciences, sustainability and environment;
- Microscope discovery and biological and environmental sciences;
- Identifying fingerprint patterns and unknown odours; and
- Using polymorph to make boomerangs.

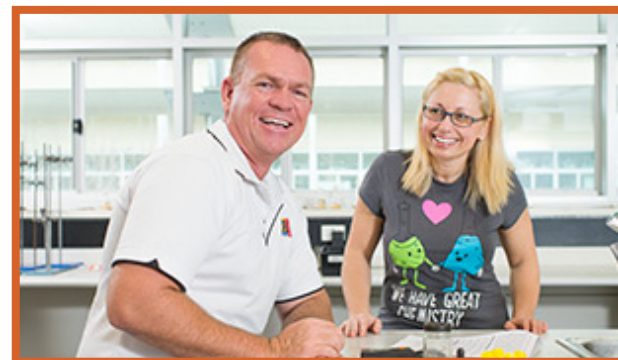
ECU Manager of Education Partnerships Caroline Bishop said the Wadjak Northside Community Science Exchange will build on the success of the award-winning community outreach program *Old Ways New Ways*, also developed by ECU.

"*Old Ways New Ways* began in 2014 visiting primary and high schools across Western Australia and the Northern Territory, including regional and remote areas," she said.

"It was designed to encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary and high school students to study science at tertiary level and ECU has now visited around 2,000 students.

"The Wadjak Northside Community Science Exchange is just one more way we can reach out to potential students and build their confidence in their ability to study science at university," Ms Bishop said.

National Science Week is held from the 13 - 21 August 2016.



Traditional Nyoongar knowledge and modern science will come together at the Wadjak Northside Community Science Exchange

 national science week 2016

ECU off to the 2016 Indigenous Games



2016 ECU Indigenous team competing at NITESG

Eleven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students represent ECU for the first time since 2009, at the 2016 Indigenous Unigames in Brisbane.

The National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games (NITESG) began in 1996 as a joint class project and were attended by around 30 students.

This year, hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students from around 35 universities across Australia will compete.

Team captain Ahmi Narkle, who is studying her final year of nursing, has been instrumental in getting ECU's team together.

"We put out an expression of interest across the university and then held trials, from there a team was selected and we've been training for the past four months," Ahmi said.

"We've been playing scratch matches against the other universities in WA, getting practice and making friends too.

"My goal has been to have this event cemented on the student calendar so that teams from ECU can continue to participate in the games for years to come, giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students the full university experience."

The team will compete in four sports: netball, basketball, touch rugby and volleyball plus a yet to be revealed traditional Indigenous game.

"We're probably most excited and confident about netball. Hopefully we'll be able to bring home the netball cup," Ahmi said.

The team's uniforms feature a design, including ECU's mascot - the Emu - was created for the ECU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student union by local Nyoongar artist Kevin Bynder.



The Emu surrounded by spinifex and bush can also represent the Uni, which is centre of the painting.

The surrounding areas/ symbols represents the campsites or gatherings all pathways head to the middle.

Students from all over WA and states all come together in one point ECU to further their education and live.

The 21st Annual National Indigenous Tertiary Student Games commence on 26 June at Australian Catholic University in Brisbane and run until 1 July 2016.

ECU signs up to Open Statement for Royal Commission

On the 28 July 2016, over 100 organisations, including Edith Cowan University, have released an Open Statement welcoming Prime Minister Turnbull's Royal Commission into the horrific abuse of children in the Northern Territory, but calling for it to be conducted independently from the NT Government and for a broader inquiry into the youth justice system as a whole.

The strong leadership demonstrated by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in swiftly and decisively responding to the ABC's Four Corners episode on Monday night, which revealed a broken youth justice system is welcomed in the Statement.

Change the Record (CTR) Coalition Co-Chair Shane Duffy said, "Prime Minister Turnbull's commitment to establishing a Royal Commission to expose the horrific incidences of abuse at Don Dale is a welcome first step. It is clear that an initial investigation into Northern Territory detention must be conducted as a matter of priority and urgency".

"However it is imperative that the Royal Commission is conducted independent of the NT Government, to ensure that those involved with, and responsible for, the cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of young people in the Northern Territory are held to account"

The Statement also points to the disproportionately high rates of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people across the country. Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are around 24 times more likely to be imprisoned than their non-Indigenous youth.

"The Royal Commission must encompass the entire NT youth justice system, and investigate the underlying factors that have led to the our young people coming in contact with the justice system in the first place" said Mr Duffy.

As a second step, the Open Statement calls for the Royal Commission to conduct a broader inquiry into the youth justice system and extend its Terms of Reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples' interaction with the youth justice system across all State and Territory jurisdictions.

"The issue of over-imprisonment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, is not confined to the Northern Territory. The Royal Commission provides us with opportunity for us to have a broader conversation about how to address some of these systemic issues."

The Open Statement also calls on the Australian Government to take immediate action, including the urgent ratification of OPCAT and setting of national justice targets.

For further information, please visit: www.changetherecord.org.au



Smarter Justice. Safer Communities.

New chronic disease portal provides quick access for workforce

Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet has launched a new online portal for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chronic disease workforce.

The portal provides information about chronic conditions that are a problem for all Australians, but particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including: heart disease, diabetes, respiratory (lung) diseases, cancers and kidney disease. It also covers physical activity and nutrition, as these factors influence many chronic conditions.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew, said 'Our new portal will save busy health practitioners considerable time by providing them with up-to-date information and resources about chronic disease'.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health performance framework 2014 report noted that chronic disease accounts for two-thirds of the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians. The majority (70%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in 2008-12 were due to chronic diseases (e.g. circulatory disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory disease and kidney disease).

Information has been chosen for the portal because it is written in plain language and has practical application in daily work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients with chronic disease or disease risk. The portal provides access to health promotion resources, health practitioner tools and information about programs that promote healthy lifestyles and chronic disease management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It also highlights workforce opportunities for chronic disease workers, including job vacancies, events, training and funding.

To view the portal, visit: www.healthinfo.net.ecu.edu.au/chronic-conditions

New book to inspire others to study at University



L-R: Professor Colleen Hayward AM, Professor Neil Drew, Dr Mick Adams and Dr Noel Nannup

HealthInfoNet's Dr Mick Adams recently launched his new book, *My journey through the academic mist*. His latest book is about the challenges, frustrations and blocks he needed to overcome to reach his goals. It is hoped that the book will inspire all students to realise their full potential.

Mick is a descendant of the Yadhigana/Wuthathi people of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, having traditional family ties with the Gurindji people of Central Western Northern Territory, with extended family relationships with the people of the Torres Straits, Warlpiri (Yuendumu), and East Arnhem Land (Gurrumaru) communities.

Mick holds a PhD in Public Health from Queensland University of Technology and a Master of Arts (Indigenous Research and Development), Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University of Technology. Prior to undertaking his postgraduate studies he undertook a Bachelor of Social Work (James Cook University), a Bachelor of Applied Science (Aboriginal Community Management and Development) (Curtin) an Associate Diploma in Social Work and a Community Development Certificate (South Australia Institute of Technology).

The book retails at \$40 plus \$5 postage and handling. The book is available for purchase by contacting the author direct at mickadams47@gmail.com.

Staff Snapshot

Dr Stu Bradfield



Kurongkurl Katitjin
Casual Research Consultant

Favourite book:

Anything by Jonathan Franzen. His latest, called 'Purity' is a great read.

Favourite music:

Currently enjoying a group out of Mali, Africa called 'Songhoy Blues' and the amazing guitar sounds of my talented 8 year old!

Favourite food:

Anything Asian and spicy

Favourite TV Program:

Robson Green's 'Extreme Fishing'.

Favourite Movie:

'When Harry Met Sally'. My wife and I have watched it every year for about 20 years as we played 'It had to be you' at our wedding.

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Nelson Mandela. Though Usain Bolt would be good value too.

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

I was the 2013 champion and 2015 r/up in the pumpkin seed spitting competition at the Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival.

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:

| Jun 2016 | |
|----------|--|
| 2/6 | Celebration of Leadership & Reconciliation @ Murdoch event |
| 3/6 | Perth NAIDOC Awards Ceremony |
| 3/6 | BoM Reconciliation Week Event |
| 7/6 | Indigenous Resurgence in Canada and Australia Symposium |
| 9/6 | ACER Advisory Committee on Indigenous Education meeting |
| 17/6 | Old Ways, New Ways - Merriwa Primary School |
| 17/6 | US Consul-General farewell function |
| 20/6 | 2015 AIME report launch |
| 25/6 | Netball - West Coast Fever v Central Pulse - Indigenous Round |
| 29/6 | Belmont City College NAIDOC Week Panel + Assembly |
| 29/6 | Meeting of Representatives of Traditional Owners - Referendum Council, AIATSIS |

| Jul 2016 | |
|----------|---|
| 4/7 | Gumala NAIDOC film night |
| 8/7 | National NAIDOC Ball in Darwin |
| 12/7 | Meeting with Perth Convention Bureau |
| 21/7 | Between the Dances - Book Launch |
| 22/7 | City of Wanneroo RAP Art Launch |
| 27/7 | Old Ways, New Ways - Adam Rd Primary School |
| 28/7 | The Need for constitutional change seminar, UWA |

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and research.

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

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