



(L-R) WAAPA Aboriginal Theatre students Kalarnim Murray, Tornina Torres, Taylor Green and Phoebe Grainer with Rick Brayford at the student BBQ held at Mount Lawley

Yarning and connecting with students

During August and September, Kurongkurl Katitjin hosted three lunches for ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the Mount Lawley, Bunbury and Joondalup campuses.

Each lunch allowed Kurongkurl Katitjin staff to meet and connect with students returning to study in Semester 2.

Story continued on page 3

Inside This Edition



Cultural River Cruise event on sale



Nyoongar Season Snapshot: Djilba



National Hoodie Day



The Other Election



The Indigenous Science Experience

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 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* focuses on our student experience. Whether it be through activities facilitated by Kurongkurl Katitjin and ECU or other programs such as the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), ensuring our students have access to a quality education, support systems and mentoring is a high priority for us.

Being based at Mount Lawley, my team have been out and about, working extremely hard to ensure we have an increasing presence at the Joondalup and Bunbury campuses. Connecting with students in person is very important to us and helps build stronger relationships.

Through the AIME program at ECU, we were all very excited and proud to hear that Noongar students Jayden Gerrand and Mikayla Hollows made it to the top 10 in The Other Election. Jayden has since placed in the top 3 and will go to Canberra to deliver his speech at Parliament House in October.

On behalf of Kurongkurl Katitjin and ECU, we congratulate Jayden and Mikayla on their achievements in The Other Election initiative and extend our best wishes to Jayden in his maiden speech.

Happy reading!

Colleen W.

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.

Yarning and connecting with students

Continued from page 1

Tutors from Kurongkurl Katitjin's Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) and members of ECU's Student Guild were also invited to attend.

Professor Lyn Farrell, Dean of the Faculty of Regional & Professional Studies also joined the lunch at the Bunbury campus, which was also supported by the local Student Guild.

While attendance numbers were small, the students who did attend, were very appreciative to meet with staff and be updated about student facilities and programs such as the ITAS program over lunch.

Bringing staff and students together also provided a unique opportunity to hear directly from students about their current study and university life experiences.

The feedback provided is invaluable for Kurongkurl Katitjin as it assists in further improving ECU's services and programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students whilst studying.

More frequent gatherings and activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are being planned for implementation in 2014.



L-R: Marisia Martin, Tracey Edwards, Lyn Farrell, Dellas Yarran, Jason Barrow, Garry Henderson, Kristy James and Dianne Webster



L-R: Jillian Carter, Agatha Carracciolo, Jason Barrow, Sharolyn Pearce, Brenton Turner, Sophie Karangaroa and Kenzie Dann

EVENT: Danjoo Bily-ak: Together on the River

Edith Cowan University invites staff, students and members of the community to attend an exclusive cultural event.

Hosted by Kurongkurl Katitjin, ECU's Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, guests will enjoy lunch and a tour of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) to explore its rich Nyoongar heritage as told by ECU's Cultural Ambassador and Elder-in-Residence Dr Noel Nannup.

Danjoo Bily-ak is a Nyoongar phrase meaning **Together on the River**.

This is an event not to be missed. There less than 10 tickets left. Be quick!

Date: Friday, 1 November 2013
Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm
Location: MV River Bells (Vessel)
Departing Barrack Street Jetty
Tickets: \$79.00 (inc GST)

For ticket purchase and more information, visit: www.kk.ecu.edu.au

Nyoongar Season: About Djilba

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

At last the rains have come. It may have taken a little longer than it should have, but as the plants and animals were telling us, Makuru season was going to a relatively warm and dry. While there were some cool (and really cold) nights, overall it has been a relatively warm period with some beautiful sunny days.

Djilba should see the warm conditions continuing, accompanied with some good patches of rain that will trigger many fish species to start their spawning cycles. The continued warming trend has also led to the first hatchlings being seen in early July.

With some bird species choosing to breed so early, it is very likely that they will have two, in some cases, three clutches of eggs this year. Like many animals looking after their new babies very early this year, be mindful of your surroundings to avoid being 'swooped' by protective Koolbardies (magpies).

On the plant side of things, flowers will be on show and in turn, the seeds that follow. Examples of this are the Cockies Tongues (*Templetonia retusa*). Whilst some individual plants are still in full flower, others are already laden with green seedpods that will turn a blackish colour as the weather continues to warm.



Around each of the campuses, we will again see wonderful displays of the everlastings and the State's floral emblem, the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) as pictured at the Mount Lawley campus.

At the eastern end of Kurongkurl Katitjin building, the vivid and striking blues of the Leschenaultias (*Leschenaultia biloba*) down low and the purples of the Native Hibiscuses (*Alyogyne huegelii*) finally start to put on a show, combining with the yellow flowers of the Drummond's Wattles (*Acacia drummondii*) along the southern side of the building.

Further across the South West, we can see a mass explosion of yellows from the Wattles and Acacias and creams from the Parrot Bush (*Banksia sessilis*).

For the more avid bush walkers, it is also the time to seek out the many orchid species that have been waiting patiently for the rains to hydrate them, before they burst quickly into their short lived lives.



Jason Barrow

Kurongkurl Katitjin Cultural Awareness Officer

j.barrow@ecu.edu.au

Wongi Nyoongar – Talking Nyoongar

In this edition of Wongi Nyoongar, we take a look at the proposed 19 Aboriginal names for iconic local geographical features in the Shire of Denmark as part of a dual naming project funded by the WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The project was launched during this year's NAIDOC Week and will involve the installation of appropriate interpretive dual signs at each location, and the incorporation of Aboriginal names on local maps and tourist signs. For more information, visit: www.denmark.wa.gov.au

Current Name	Noongar Name	Meaning of Noongar Name
Mt Lindesay	Peepetup	Place of Breast
Mt Hallowell	Kooryunderup	Place of many Bush Kangaroo (brush tail kanga)
Mt Mehniup	Mehniup	Place of Meni/Mene (edible root of Heamodoron plant)
Mt Shadforth	Wakundup	Place of Wakoon/water fowl
Weedon Hill	Warrumbup	Place of Warroo/doe or female kangaroo
Mt Mcleod	Nakundup	Unknown
Parry Inlet	Kordabup	Place of Heart, coming together place (where women got ready for ceremony)
Irwin Inlet	Quarram	Unknown (maybe the 7 shape of the lake but not used now).
Boat Harbour Lakes	Kurlalup	Unknown
Denmark River	Kwoorabup	Place of brush tailed wallabies (place we return to)
Frankland River	Kwakoorillup	Place of the Quokka
Hay River	Genulup	Place of the day foot crossing. Genu is feet, foot river crossing on the Minang /Bibbulmun line. It was shallow enough for non-swimmers, in the day.
Quickup River	Kwikup	Place of Bones
Kent River	Gnowerrumbup	Place of Feathers
Bow River	Waalitchup	Place of the Eagles
Ocean Beach Peninsula	Poryungup	Place of Large Rock
Parry Beach	Kordabup	Place of the Heart
Peaceful Bay	Kwallup	Sand. Place of sand
Nornalup	Nornalup	Place of Tiger Snake

© Language column reproduced with permission from the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

Nyoongar Story Time

Pallinup Bilya - Pallinup River

The meaning of Pallinup Bilya to the Mirnang Noongar people is a 'damp wet place'. This river has its major water shed to the east, south east of the Stirling Ranges and the south, south west of Gnowangerup. It provided access to a very resource rich area including the South Coast west of Bremer Bay.



Dr Noel Nannup

ECU Cultural Ambassador and Kurongkurl Katitjin Elder-in-Residence

n.nannup@ecu.edu.au

AIME's National Hoodie Day at ECU



National Hoodie Day at ECU

National Hoodie Day is the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience's (AIME) major winter fundraiser, held annually on the 30 August.

AIME partnered with iconic Australian brand, BONDS, for the 2013 AIME Hoodie.

Every limited edition AIME Hoodie sold supports more Indigenous kids to finish school at the same rate as every other Australian child and brings AIME closer to working with 10,000 Indigenous kids across Australia by 2018.

For more information or to buy an AIME Hoodie, visit: www.aimementoring.com

The Other Election: ECU-AIME student in top three

AIME's recent initiative, **The Other Election**, featured 640 Indigenous kids from around Australia in Years 10-12, deliver speeches as the first Indigenous Prime Minister of Australia.

Of those 640 students, ten were mentored by industry experts in Sydney after receiving the most votes through an online poll tallying over 40,000 votes.

Jayden Gerrand, a young Noongar young man from Trinity College and Mikayla Hollows, a young Noongar woman from Ocean Reef Senior High School, who are both involved in the ECU-AIME program, successfully made it to the top 10.

After overwhelming online support through September, Jayden was successful in being voted top three and will go to Canberra in November to deliver his speech in Parliament House.

Jayden was mentored by AIME National Presenter and former AFL player, Malcolm Lynch. Jayden directed his speech at the underdogs, daring them to dream and overcome obstacles.

"This speech is for the dreamers. For our everyday heroes who never get that pat on the back. For that kid without a house, dreaming of a better tomorrow," Jayden said.

"This is our moment. No matter how tough the challenge, no matter how high the mountain or how large the obstacle, we can overcome. We will overcome. Let's search for greatness, because greatness starts from within. If you dare to dream, I will stand with you."

Congratulations to both Jayden and Mikayla to make the top ten in Australia. We especially wish Jayden all the best on his journey to Parliament House.

For more information on The Other Election, visit: www.theotherelection.com.au



Fiona Stuart

ECU AIME Coordinator

fs@aimementoring.com

Staff Snapshot

Melanie King



HR Policy Advisor-Indigenous Employment

Favourite book:

Nelson Mandela -
Long walk to Freedom

Favourite music:

Broad genre of music, particularly
Archie Roach

Favourite food:

A good Asian soup

Favourite TV Program:

An Idiot abroad

Favourite Movie:

Any foreign film with subtitles

If you could meet anyone, who would it be?

Malcolm X (Civil Rights Movement)

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

I have a keen interest in learning about other cultures and customs

The Indigenous Science Experience

Macquarie University's National Indigenous Science Education Program (NISEP), the Redfern Community Centre, the City of Sydney, NSW and Aboriginal elders, people and communities from around Australia, presented an exciting series of science related seminars, community days and activities for schools sharing knowledge, skills, ideas and enthusiasm to coincide with National Science Week.

Over the 10-13 August, the Redfern Community Centre hosted the Indigenous Science Experience, consisting of workshops, hands-on science activities and talks throughout a four-day program of activities.

Aboriginal knowledge remains important for managing farmland and reserves, for scientific research and for people looking for deeper meaning in life.

Strong culture can benefit all Australians as schools and communities work together to respect elders and country, in part contributing to better educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

In sharing in that knowledge and experience, Kurongkurl Katitjin's Cultural Awareness Officer Jason Barrow and Dr Magda Wajrak from ECU's School of Natural Sciences, were again invited to attend and participate in the program.

Jason ran several traditional Nyoongar tool-making workshops, whilst other activities focused upon traditional plant usage knowledge and contemporary science experiences from a laboratory perspective.

A particular highlight for Jason was the boomerang throwing on the Block by Paul Craft, who is the only Aboriginal member of the Australian Boomerang Throwing Team.



Learning to make tools the traditional way with Jason



(L-R) Paul Craft and Jason Barrow.

About this Publication

Our Place is Kurongkurl Katitjin's official newsletter.

Produced six times per year, each edition coincides with one of the six Nyoongar seasons and highlights key activities of the Centre and the University, as well as other significant events and information relating to Indigenous education and research.

It is circulated electronically to a range of stakeholders including staff, students and the broader community. Editions can be found online under the News and Events section at www.kk.ecu.edu.au.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

EDITOR

Tracey Lee Edwards

MAILING ADDRESS

Kurongkurl Katitjin
Edith Cowan University
2 Bradford Street
MT LAWLEY WA 6050

TELEPHONE

134 328

FAX

08 9370 6055

WEBSITE

www.kk.ecu.edu.au



Join our Mailing List

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

There are two options to subscribe to the mailing list;

- Either complete the online form under the News and Events section at www.kk.ecu.edu.au; or
- email Tracey Lee Edwards at tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au with your name, title, organisation and contact details (including email).



Tracey Lee Edwards

Kurongkurl Katitjin Communications and Events Officer

tracey.edwards@ecu.edu.au