

Connecting the dots

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Information Network

CAMPUS EVENTS

They served with honour: An exhibition

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) and ECU have collaborated on *They Served With Honour: An Exhibition* which is based upon themes in DAA's 2015 publication *They Served With Honour: Untold Stories of WA Servicemen at Gallipoli*. This unique book outlines the contribution of the thirteen Aboriginal Western Australian Servicemen who served at Gallipoli whose untold stories have come to significantly re-shape Western Australia's historical landscape.

In continuing with the ANZAC Centenary 2015 – 2018 commemorations and celebrating Australia's Indigenous contribution to war, these soldier's stories have been reinvigorated and retold alongside a selection of ECU's Nyoongar artworks, framing them within an art history context.

The Exhibition explores a Nyoongar dialogue symbolic of most of the soldiers featured in TSWH who hailed from Nyoongar country in South-West WA. ECU commissioned an artwork by Peter Farmer, a descendent of two of the featured soldiers in TSWH, which was unveiled at the opening event. ■



News

2016 Indigenous Unigames

The 21st annual National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games (known more commonly as the Indigenous Unigames) will be held at the Australian Catholic University in Brisbane from June 26 to June 30.

Participants compete in competitions across four sports: Basketball, Netball, Touch Football and Volleyball.

This year ECU will be sending a team of 12 students to represent their university.



To download a free copy of *They Served With Honour: Untold Stories of WA Servicemen at Gallipoli*, click [here](#).



Did you know....?

Mungyt (Firewood or Menzies' Banksia)

- The Firewood Banksia, also known as Menzies' Banksia, was called *mungyt* by the Beeloo Whadjuk people in the Perth area.
- The sweet nectar of the *mungyt* was used to make a drink for special festivals.
- A book published in 1842 called *A descriptive vocabulary of the language in common use amongst the Aborigines of Western Australia* mentions the term *mungyt barrang middi*, meaning "a stick for hooking down the mungyt, or banksia cones."
- *Mungyt* has a long flowering period commencing in *Djeran* season (roughly March) and going through to September.
- The nectar of the *mungyt* is very popular with a variety of birds such as the *doongorok/donkarak* (wattle bird), the *bandin* (variety of honeyeater), and the *booldjit* (Western spinebill).



27th MAY - ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1967 REFERENDUM

What was it about?

Question 2 in the 1967 referendum referred to whether two references contained in the Australian Constitution, which were discriminatory against Aboriginal people, should be removed from the Constitution. The referendum was passed with more than 90% approval.

What was it not about?

The referendum was not explicitly about giving Indigenous people the right to vote in federal elections, to Australian citizenship, and to be counted in the census. In fact all of these rights already existed before the referendum.

It was also not about removing a classification of Aboriginal people as fauna. In fact this was never true, although Aboriginal affairs were often handled by departments responsible for flora, fauna and wildlife.

Why are the 1967 Referendum, and these misconceptions, so important?

Although these beliefs were not true on paper, in reality the legal rights of Indigenous people were not publicly made known, acknowledged or honoured. And so the referendum represented a watershed moment for Indigenous people.

Importantly, the idea that the referendum was about gaining these rights helped the 'Yes' campaigners win the votes of a great many fair-minded Australians.

Some other very real outcomes of the referendum were: entitlement to social-security benefits, war pensions, child endowments and children's pensions.

Sources:

- 1967 referendum - Fact Sheet 150 (The National Archives of Australia)
- Professor Peter Buckskin - World News Radio broadcast (SBS, 2014)

WANTED: ABORIGINAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The School of Medical and Health Sciences is looking to recruit two student ambassadors within the health disciplines.

Ambassadors would be paid for 3 hours per fortnight at HEW Level 1.1 to work at building a sense of community among Aboriginal students studying in the health disciplines.

If you know of a student who may be interested, please contact [Daniela Mastrocola](#).



GETTING TO KNOW...

Dr Noel Nannup

Pick up the latest edition of ECU's official magazine *Edith* to read about Noel's decision to become an Elder in Residence at ECU and how he fulfils the role. ([Click here to read the interview online](#)).

For some greater depth and insight into the dreamtime heritage of the Nyoongar people, the overall impact of European colonisation on their traditional homelands, the challenges and achievements of the Nyoongar people, and how Noel sees their future, read Serge DeSilva-Ranasinghe's interview with Noel on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website.

Click here to read [From the Dreaming to Modernity: The Story of the Noongar People of Western Australia](#).

Learning Connections

The 8 Ways of Aboriginal Learning is a framework that depicts the best ways of learning at the interface between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal worlds. It is not a set of pedagogies unique to the Aboriginal world that must be somehow incorporated into Western pedagogy, but rather a depiction of equal balance and overlap between the two ways of learning.

While each symbol represents a single way of learning, the whole picture is modelled on a kinship system to show the dynamic and interactive nature of these complex processes. In each issue of *Connecting the Dots*, two of the 8 ways of learning will be featured as a guide to assist teaching academics.



**The Third Way
(Non-verbal Learning)**
Symbol of the hand

Aboriginal Perspective

From an Aboriginal point of view, this way refers to the great variety of ways in which knowledge can be acquired without the use of words. This includes hand gestures, expressions, eye movements, embodied knowledge, dreams, observation and listening.

Teaching & Learning Perspective

In a teaching context this can include building or testing knowledge through experience, introspection and practice, or applying intra-personal and kinaesthetic skills to thinking and learning.



**The Fourth Way
(Symbols & Images)**
Symbol of the meeting place

Aboriginal Perspective

For Aboriginal people, simple symbols can hold a lot of deeper information and can provide a powerful pathway to understanding.

Teaching & Learning Perspective

This can be as simple as using images and metaphors to aid understanding of concepts, processes and content.

Spotlight on campus art

Where: University Medical Centre Reception - Joondalup Campus, Building 6

What: Two works on display by Lucy Yukenbarri Napanangka, and her husband Helicopter Tjungurray, two highly celebrated *Warlayirti* artists from *Wirrimanu* (Balgo Hills) on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Balgo Hills is one of the most important Aboriginal art centres in Australia, and Lucy Yukenbarri's works feature in private and public collections across Australia and internationally. Lucy Yukenbarri pioneered a unique dotting technique called *kinti-kinti*, which was adopted by other artists also, including her husband. The uniqueness lies in the merging together of the dots to create semi-solid blocks of colour.

Lucy Yukenbarri's work (left) is titled *Punyarnita*,. Helicopter Tjungurray's work (right) is titled "This place my country." Both artists are of the *Kukatja* language group. [Apologies for the poor quality of photos.] ■



News

HealthInfoNet has released a new review titled "[Review of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.](#)"

The review found that after age-adjustment, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are: more than three times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have diabetes; four times as likely to be hospitalised for diabetes as non-Indigenous people; and that diabetes is the second leading underlying cause of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The review identified that short-term healthy lifestyle programs designed to prevent type 2 diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can have positive health effects for up to two years, and are more likely to be effective if they are initiated by the community.

In addition the evidence shows that competent, culturally appropriate primary health care services can be effective in improving diabetes care and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

EVENT

Indigenous Resurgence in Canada and Australia Symposium

In partnership with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Kurongkurl Katitjin will be hosting a one-day symposium next month titled "Indigenous Resurgence in Canada and Australia." In this symposium, Indigenous leaders from Canada and Australia will draw on their own research, writing and experience in leading a conversation about the relationship between First Nations peoples and the settler societies they engage with.

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.ecu.edu.au/centres/kurongkurl-katitjin/news/kk/2016/05/event-indigenous-resurgence-in-canada-and-australia-symposium>

Date: Tuesday, 7 June 2016

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm

Venue: Kurongkurl Katitjin Gallery, Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley Campus, Building 15, Room 127

RSVP: By Friday, 3 June 2016 to [Kurongkurl Katitjin](#). Limited places are available. Secure your seat today. ■

IN THE LIBRARY...

First Australians (documentary series; 7 episodes; online streaming)

Produced by Australia's leading Aboriginal filmmakers, the series chronicles the birth of a country and the collision of two worlds.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Moorditj Mob: Sharing Intercultural Perspectives (workshop)

23rd June (ML)

Register via Staff Kiosk

Indigenous Resurgence in Canada and Australia Symposium

7th June (ML)

Contact Kurongkurl Katitjin to register

NAIDOC Week 2016

8th July (JO)

An afternoon of food, displays, cultural activities and prizes in the Ngoolark forecourt

Details to come of additional NAIDOC Week events on all three campuses.

03-10
JULY
2016



Songlines:
The living narrative
of our nation

SIGNIFICANT DATES

26 May National Sorry Day

27 May Reconciliation Week
(to 3 Jun)

27 May Anniversary of 1967
referendum

3 Jun Mabo Day

CULTURE ON CAMPUS

Green lights signal go for *Djeran* season

The buildings at all three ECU Campuses have again changed colour – from orange (*yoornrt mirda*) to green (*nodjam*), indicating the Nyoongar season *Djeran* has arrived.

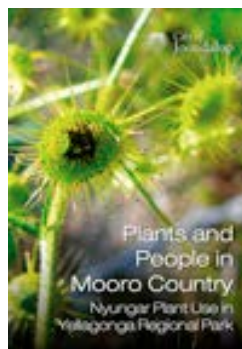
During the 25th anniversary year the Chancellery building at Joondalup, the Library at Mount Lawley and entrance at ECU's South West Campus will light up at night in the colour that represents each of the Nyoongar seasons. Read more about *Djeran* (season of the adulthood) [here](#). ■



CULTURAL RESOURCE

Plants and people in Mooro Country

The City of Joondalup collaborated with Nyoongar Elder Neville Collard to produce a publication called *Plants and people in Mooro Country: Nyungar plant use in Yellagonga Regional Park*. This beautifully produced guide to the natural landscape that encircles Lake Joondalup includes the Nyoongar names for native



plants in the area and their traditional uses. It also includes some of the history of the Yellagonga area.

A PDF version of the publication can be downloaded from the City of Joondalup website by clicking [here](#). ■

Do you have something to share?

If you would like to include information in this newsletter about an event, a resource, your teaching, or even a community story, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email with either [Leitha Delves](#) or [Nigel Andrews](#).

To stop receiving this newsletter, please send an unsubscribe request via email to [Leitha Delves](#).