

GUMURRII News

Issue 12



GUMURRII
Student Support Unit



Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith University acknowledges the people who are the traditional custodians of the land, pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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Welcome

The GUMURRII Student Support Unit is the heart of Griffith University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and is located on each of Griffith's five campuses.

2018 marks 30 years for GUMURRII SSU—the dedicated student support unit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at Griffith University.

New GUMURRII logo

The new logo for GUMURRII Student Support Unit symbolises the five campuses with the five traditional owners of the land and depict the career pathways to learning and development, joined by the red to symbolise their journey at Griffith University.



Welcome messages

Message from the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)



Each year I look forward to our GUMURRII Valedictory dinner, and last year's event was extra special.

2017 saw a remarkable 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students complete their degrees across all four Academic Groups. This is the highest number of First Peoples graduates we have had in a single year, and with more than 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students currently enrolled, we hope to continue breaking records in 2018 and beyond.

There is still lots of work to do to Close the Gap, of course. At this year's Senior Leadership Conference, we focused on the targets in our Reconciliation Action Plan, and how to best achieve them. Professor Roianne West, Professor Boni Robertson, and Dr Kerry Bodle and colleagues led discussions on our staffing, research, and teaching and learning, respectively.

The timing was particularly significant—it was ten years to the day that former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a National Apology to the Stolen Generations at Parliament House in Canberra.

At the Senior Leadership Conference, there was spirited discussion about how to better recruit, support, and retain both First Peoples staff, and students, and we have a clear plan of work to complete in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Betts'.

Professor Martin Betts
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement)

Message from the Director



For over thirty years the GUMURRII Student Support Unit has been fundamental in supporting increased educational options for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending Griffith University.

Through our programs for outreach, admission, orientation and study support, the GUMURRII Student Support Units on all five campuses foster a sense of community and provides access to learning resources and personal support for our students.

On behalf of the GUMURRII Student Support staff, it is a pleasure to welcome you to Griffith University. Whether you are a current student or considering studying, alumni, employer, community partner, I invite you to explore the many opportunities that exist through our units or visit our website.

GUMURRII Student Support Unit works with our community partners to create educational pathways that build lifelong learning.

Our primary mission is to provide a cultural learning environment that will assist our students and future students to follow their aspirations through education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Barnes'.

Shane Barnes
Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit

GUMURRII SSU office news

GUMURRII Student Support Unit has a new website—new system, greater access, clear and precise information and answers for your every question.

For information about GUMURRII SSU, and to make contact with a Learning Assistance Officer (LAO), you can find all of our information and contact details at griffith.edu.au/gumurrii



GUMURRII staff photo

Community partners

Murri Sisters is a non-profit Indigenous community organisation that has been operating in the Brisbane area for the past 10 years. A leading Agency in the provision of quality services for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children who are experiencing Domestic and Family Violence and associated factors that are linked to homelessness. Murri Sisters works in collaboration with key stakeholders and affiliated services that respond to domestic and family violence.

Contact

07 3208 5844
admin@murrisisters.org.au
murrisisters.org.au

CareerTrackers supports pre-professional Indigenous university students and links them with private sector employers to participate in paid multi-year internships. Students perform their internship with a sponsoring company with the aim of converting from intern into full-time employee upon completion of their university degree. In addition to making long-lasting placements they provide a wide spectrum of support to help prepare students for leadership in the workplace and the community.

Contact

07 3012 8926
info@careertrackers.org.au
careertrackers.org.au

AIME is a mentoring program based at universities where they build a bridge back to local high schools and mentor the most disadvantaged kids out of inequality. They have successfully done this in Australia for the last 12 years and are about to share the model to the world.

aimementoring.com

Griffith | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Units



The Indigenous Research Unit (IRU) supports the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics and higher degree researchers and their projects. Reporting directly to the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement), the IRU coordinates the Indigenous Research Network (IRN), develops the research capacity of academics and research higher degree students, and administers research projects and grants.

griffith.edu.au/indigenous-research-unit



First Peoples Health Unit

Better wellbeing | *Baugal baugulin yabruma*

The First Peoples Health Unit (FPHU) is committed to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student success towards a more highly skilled, highly educated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

griffith.edu.au/health/first-peoples-health-unit



Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art (CAIA)

You will learn from Indigenous lecturers and focus on traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, media, style, principles and philosophies. With a Griffith CAIA degree, you'll enter the professional

contemporary art environment with a folio of work demonstrating your competence in Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge, technical skills, media and contemporary technologies.

griffith.edu.au/study/visual-creative-arts/contemporary-australian-indigenous-art



Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Partnerships

ICEPP provides the University advice on Indigenous higher education and works on initiatives that contribute to the spiritual, social, emotional, economic and educational wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and to the wellbeing of Indigenous people from other parts of the world.

griffith.edu.au/first-peoples

Indigenous Research Unit

Since its conception a decade ago, and its formal establishment in January 2009, the Indigenous Research Unit (IRU) has been committed to creating an environment that fosters the sharing of Indigenous Research and Knowledges, organisational engagement with and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, research capacity building, and educational advancement.

Working closely with GUMURRII SSU, the IRU supports quality research that is driven by the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and assists researchers to develop and undertake projects in collaboration with communities, research colleagues and national and international organisations. The Unit is also committed to establishing initiatives to attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander post-doctoral researchers and implement strategies (with GUMURRII SSU's Senior Learning Assistance Officer) to support and develop higher degree by research students and, in collaboration with the Kungullanji Coordinator, research-interested undergraduate students.

Currently held from November to February each year, the Kungullanji Undergraduate Research Program strives to create a learning environment that builds the research capacity of undergraduate students. Ultimately the program aims to extend student's interest in the practice of research. If you are an undergraduate student interested in learning more about research the Kungullanji Program might be a great place to start your research journey! More information on the program will be available prior to the next intake round at an IRU Indigenous Knowledges and Research Seminar on the Gold Coast campus on Wednesday 1 August from 10 am to 12 noon.

Entitled 'The Kungullanji Program: Creating Pathways and Raising Aspirations for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers'—the Seminar will overview the program, what it entails and importantly where it can take you!

Further information on the seminar and an RSVP link will be forwarded to all undergraduate students by GUMURRII SSU's Learning Assistance Officers in early July.

During 2018, the IRU will be working in collaboration with John Graham (GUMURRII SSU's Senior Learning Assistance Officer) to identify research activities and create opportunities for the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR cohort to gather and yarn while extending their research skills. We hope that you will join us on either the Nathan, Southbank or Gold Coast Campuses during the year.

Another mechanism that the IRU uses to support both academics and students is knowledge-sharing. Throughout the year, the IRU in collaboration with the Office of Research's Researcher Education and Development Unit hosts an Indigenous

Knowledges and Research Seminar Series aimed at both enriching your research knowledge base, and providing you with an opportunity to meet academic staff and other HDR students interested in Indigenous Research. The Seminars are hosted across the campuses with morning tea or lunch supplied to attendees. Please contact the Researcher Education and Development Unit to receive seminar flyers—red@griffith.edu.au

Finally, the IRU also has a Facebook page (facebook.com/IndigenousResearch) where we post information about the Seminars, Conferences, IRU member achievements and other information aimed at extending your connections and knowledge! Or visit our website griffith.edu.au/indigenous-research-unit

We wish everyone a successful year of study and research!

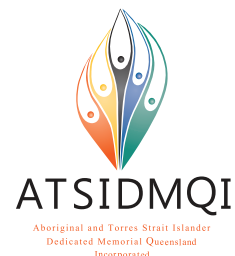
Indigenous Research Unit



Kungullanji Coordinator — Jennifer Campbell and Senior LAO — John Graham

Recognising all who served their Country: Naming the forgotten soldiers

With support from Griffith University, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Queensland Incorporated (ATSIDMQI) aims to have a memorial erected in Brisbane to remember specifically the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force and have their stories etched in a more inclusive history of Australia.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service men and women have served in the Australian armed services, many with distinction as trackers/scouts, light horsemen, pilots, sailors and nurses since the inception of the Federal Armed Service. War Memorial records indicate that more than 800 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service men and women served in the First World War alone. To support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dedicated Memorial Queensland Project, gifts or donations can be made by:

Online donation

app.secure.griffith.edu.au/donations

Please choose 'ATSI Dedicated Memorial Queensland' from the drop down menu. All data is encrypted to ensure your privacy.

Phone—You can use your credit card to make a donation over the phone. Please ring Griffith University, Development and Alumni Office on 07 5552 7218 during business hours.

Direct deposit—A direct deposit can be made into the Griffith University's bank account. 100% of the funds are then transferred to the project.

Please insert 'ATSI Dedicated Memorial Queensland' in the reference field and email giving@griffith.edu.au to confirm a payment has been made.

Bank: ANZ Bank
Account name: Griffith University
Branch: Sunnybank, Queensland
BSB: 014-269
Account number: 837069034

All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible. For more information you can visit their website: atsidmq.com

Lorraine Hatton
Co-Chair ATSIDMQI



Winning design marquette concept (design to be finalised)

Student profiles

Kim Ah Sam

Graduating student — Valedictory spokesperson

A proud Kuku Yalanji (Cooktown) and Kalkadoon (Cloncurry/Mt Isa) woman, born and raised in Brisbane and one of 12 siblings. She grew up in a large family and being the youngest, was always looked after. She is a proud mother of three sons and a grandmother of six.

In her teenage years, she did a lot of traditional dot and line painting. It was always a dream of hers to attend University but life took her on a different journey. Kim had her children and her soul commitment was to raise her sons.

When she felt her sons were independent, Kim decided to follow her heart and take that step toward her dream.

In 2015, she enrolled in the CAIA program (Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art) at the Queensland College of Art, Southbank Campus, as a mature age student.

'I am 47 years old and when I graduate I'll be 50'.

Kim thought she was going to university to do dot and line paintings, but the reality of what she was to experience soon changed her direction. Being introduced to a whole new world of art practices and theory based subjects, with the theory, research and writing were all new to her. Kim had to navigate lots of challenges and obstacles throughout her three years of study.

In her first semester, she learnt technical skills in jewellery making. The second semester delved into print making. Print making interested her and she learnt so many technical skills in the western tradition.

Kim decided to follow the path to become a Print maker and she is very happy that she developed a way to tell her stories through different mediums.



Kim's greatest achievement whilst studying has been becoming one of 30 finalists in the prestigious Churchie Emerging Art Award, selected from over 900 art entries from the whole of Australia.

Kim acknowledged the CAIA Teaching Staff, who are extremely committed to their jobs as educators and who have assisted in the success of all the students in their Studios.

She especially thanked Carmen Perez, the Learning Assistance Officer at South Bank for her support at QCA.

Kim thanked the GUMURRII Student Support Unit which provides student support through tutorial assistance, financial support, and avenues for connection through morning teas and lunches at the different campuses.

To her fellow graduates, she stated always remember this quote by David Frost: 'Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in it and it will come naturally.'

GUMURRII SSU



Student profiles

Griffith student success



Callum Robinson

Tertiary Success in Action — PTS and Beyond

In 2017 Callum Robinson was recognised by Griffith University for the voluntary work he does mentoring students in the School of Nursing and Midwifery Peer Mentoring Program. Callum is a Bachelor of Nursing student and has shown true resilience this year as he faced family tragedy. Callum says 'some days are really hard but as Dory says 'just keep swimming just keep swimming'. I surround myself with great company and keep myself busy.'

Callum completed a Certificate III in Media and the PTS course with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education before enrolling in the Bachelor of Nursing at Griffith University. 2018 is his last year of studies and he keeps dreaming big!



Amanda Wrigley

Tribe: Gamillaroi Nation Studying: Bachelor of Nursing

'Step out of your comfort zone, life begins there.' Amanda Wrigley is one of our students who has set the bar high for success.

Juggling roles as a single mother of two, and life as a student has not been easy for her seeing Amanda drop out of her degree when she was 19 years old to focus on being a first-time mother. She recommenced her degree 13 years later, and has now come a long way since then. This is no easy feat—to defer study and then come back the way she has. Amanda's achievements since coming back to university include:

- Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing Program recipient
- PASS Leader — Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2
- Griffith Honours College member
- Golden Key International Honours Society recipient

- Aunty Pamela Mam Indigenous Nursing Scholarship recipient
- Griffith Honours College Winter Research Bursary recipient.

Once a shy student, Amanda had quickly realised the benefits of asking for support when she needed, and seeking every opportunity at Griffith that would help set herself up for when she graduates. Being a recipient of the Graduate Certificate Paediatric program, she is now confirmed to transition from study straight into employment. 'You are accountable to yourself. If you believe in yourself, stay focussed and commit yourself as a student, many opportunities come'.

Putting her studies aside, Amanda is your everyday person. Pearl Jam is a favourite when it comes to music, 'Anne of Green Gables' is her favourite book, and spending time with family and friends keeps her grounded and strong. Amanda hasn't been alone in her journey and has benefited strongly from the support of the GUMURRII Student Support team, as well as the many opportunities Griffith University has to offer.

griffith.edu.au/scholarships



Violet Singh

Violet was born in Townsville, but raised in Gladstone. Her Mum is Aboriginal/South Sea Islander and her Father is from Murray (Mer) Island in the Torres Strait. She is the second one in her family to go to University, where she successfully completed a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health, in November 2017. This is the foundation for her next arena in doing her Masters in Forensic Mental Health. She would eventually want to work in the Criminal Justice System with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander first time and reoffenders.

Working full time whilst studying part time and completing her postgraduate studies was always challenging because

of the need to submit her assessments on time, keeping up with her reading and attending online lectures. Within her current role as HR Indigenous Programs Specialist with St Vincent's Health Australia, she is also constantly travelling for work. Violet definitely enjoys working with a tight schedule because it challenges her time management skills as well as keeps her within her deadlines.

Violet said 'Studying at Griffith University and connecting with GUMURRII SSU was an opportunity to gain and acquire knowledge to learn and skills in study, learning and experiencing as well as being taught at a tertiary level; so that we then can be challenged towards our future goals and aspirations'.



Chantay Link

Chantay is a Gooreng Gooreng woman and comes from the area around Gladstone. Her mother graduated from the University of Technology in Sydney (UTS) as a mature aged student and she has several siblings who have attended University.

She is currently studying Psychology as Chantay is interested in Post-Trauma Growth. She would like to document Aboriginal resilience and find a pathway between Western healing and our traditional healing processes. Chantay believes they both can coexist and benefit from each other.

The biggest challenge she has experienced has been the amount of Sorry Business and cultural obligations. Chantay has found it difficult to maintain grades and stay engaged when so much is happening outside of university. Some days are overwhelming and she has to remind herself why she is doing her course and to think about the bigger picture.

'It can be very difficult operating within the constraints of this Western learning environment but it's also creates opportunities that may not be afforded if I wasn't engaged.' Chantay said.

Her highlight thus far is definitely the relationships she has made with students and staff. As a matured aged student and being educated alongside with other brilliant young people is an honour and gives her hope for a future, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are able to practice culture and work in big jobs at the same time.

Chantay found the GUMURRII Student Support Unit (SSU) and staff at Mt Gravatt to be invaluable, kind and caring. Her fellow students who use GUMURRII SSU become like family and there is always someone there to yarn with. 'At times studying can be lonely when you're trying to explain things to family but at GUMURRII the other students can understand the stress of getting assignments done on time and also don't think your unstable when you get teary over your results.'

GUMURRII SSU

Valedictory dinner 2017



Griffith University Elders with Maroochy Barambah



Director of GUMURRII – Shane Barnes



Master of Ceremonies – Steven Oliver



Aboriginal Dancers – Nunukul Yuggera



Torres Strait Islander Dancers – Wagga Dance Company



Graduates Cake



Ballroom at Royal on the Park, Brisbane



Student Address – Kim Ah Sam with LAO – Carmen Perez



John Graham, Professor Martin Betts, Jessie Elvin and Becki Cook

Graduating students

GUMURRII Student Support Unit 2017 Valedictory Dinner was hosted at Royal on the Park in Brisbane on Saturday 9 December 2017.

Our Master of Ceremonies was Steven Oliver with the Traditional Owner Song-woman Maroochy Barambah doing the Welcome to Country for all the graduating students and staff.

Director Shane Barnes acknowledged a number of key people who play an important role in the continued success of GUMURRII:

- Professor Martin Betts the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Engagement
- Professor Roianne West, Director of the First Peoples Health Unit
- Professor Boni Robertson Acting Director, Indigenous Research Unit, Professor of Indigenous Policy and Director of Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Partnerships.

Griffith has a national reputation for its continued high-quality equity programs and this is reflected in the number of graduates this year, notably the largest cohort of graduating students thus far.

GUMURRII's Learning Assistance Officer, Jessie Elvin from the Gold Coast campus, graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce with a double major in Finance and Economics. She starts her Honours specialising in Economics in Trimester 1, 2018.

Jessie's proposed thesis topic will focus on Economics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population in Australia. This will include income, health, education and employment inequalities in different States of Australia. She will also look at the implications of various policy and program responses that have tried to 'close the gap'.

GUMURRII SSU



Graduating students with Traditional Owner Song-woman Maroochy Barambah



GUMURRII had 138 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students graduating in 2017

Queensland College of Art — Honour students



Mandy Quadrio

Mandy completed her Bachelor of Contemporary Indigenous Arts (Honours in Fine Arts) in 2017 majoring in Sculpture. Mandy was the recipient of the St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Award, 2017 and is a foot on the pathway to a Doctor of Philosophy.



Andrew Gall

Andrew completed his Bachelor of Contemporary Indigenous Arts (Honours) in 2017 majoring in Jewellery and is commencing studies in a Doctor of Visual Arts.



Venessa Williams Starzynski

Venessa completed her Bachelor of Contemporary Indigenous Arts (Honours in Fine Arts) in 2017 majoring in Painting and is commencing studies of a Doctor of Philosophy.

Carmen Perez — Learning Assistance Officer, South Bank

Walk and Talk provides path to reconciliation



Record numbers participated in Griffith University's Walk and Talk event to mark National Reconciliation Week 2017.

A palpable spirit of togetherness energised the inter-campus bushwalk to mark National Reconciliation Week 2017.

The first of two Walk and Talk events of that week, each hosted by GUMURRII Student Support Unit, took a record number of participants from Griffith's Mt Gravatt campus to the Nathan campus under the soft autumn sunshine.

Amidst the mix of students, staff and a 20-strong group from the Murri School was Professor Martin Betts, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement), Griffith University.

'This important event, now in its seventh year, has developed into a platform where the University community, can enthusiastically celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. 'Through walking and talking, we continue to foster new understandings, new relationships that bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community together,' Professor Betts said.

National Reconciliation Week is an Australia-wide observance held each year, giving people the chance to come together and share in steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

Last year's events have added significance nationwide as 2017 marks 25 years since the historic Mabo decision and the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum where Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the constitution to include Aboriginal people in the census and allow the Commonwealth to create laws for them.

It is also the 10th anniversary of the launch of Griffith's Statement on Reconciliation—a public declaration of the university's commitment to promoting an environment valuing the traditions, protocols and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

'It gives you a sense of solidarity with people from diverse backgrounds where we can recognise things that have happened in our past and acknowledge the progress we've made collectively,' Leah Henderson, Kungullanji Program coordinator, said.

Stephen O'Grady

Walk and Talk 2017

Mt Gravatt campus — Tuesday 30 May

Gold Coast campus — Thursday 1 June

NAIDOC Week 2018

NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made—and continue to make—to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

Under the theme—Because of her, we can!—NAIDOC Week 2018 will be held nationally from Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July.

As pillars of our society, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played—and continue to play—active and significant roles at the community, local, state and national levels.

As leaders, trailblazers, politicians, activists and social change advocates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women fought and continue to fight, for justice, equal rights, our rights to country, for law and justice, access to education, employment and to maintain and celebrate our culture, language, music and art.

They continue to influence as doctors, lawyers, teachers, electricians, chefs, nurses, architects, rangers, Emergency and Defence personnel, writers, volunteers, chief executive officers, actors, singer songwriters, journalists, entrepreneurs, media personalities, board members, accountants, academics, sporting icons and Olympians, the list goes on.

They are our mothers, our elders, our grandmothers, our aunties, our sisters and our daughters.

Sadly, Indigenous women's role in our cultural, social and political survival has often been invisible, unsung or diminished.

For at least 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have carried our dreaming stories, song lines, languages and knowledge that have kept our culture strong and enriched us as the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were there at first contact.

They were there at the Torres Strait Pearlers strike in 1936, the Day of Mourning in 1938, the 1939 Cummeragunja Walk-Off, at the 1946 Pilbara pastoral workers' strike, the 1965 Freedom Rides, the Wave Hill walk off in 1966, on the front line of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1972 and at the drafting of the Uluru Statement.

They have marched, protested and spoken at demonstrations and national gatherings for the proper recognition of our rights and calling for national reform and justice.

Our women were heavily involved in the campaign for the 1967 Referendum and also put up their hands to represent their people at the establishment of national advocacy and representative bodies from the National Aboriginal Congress (NAC) to ATSIC to Land Councils and onto the National Congress for Australia's First Peoples.

They often did so while caring for our families, maintaining our homes and breaking down cultural and institutionalised barriers and gender stereotypes.

Our women did so because they demanded a better life, greater opportunities and—in many cases equal rights—for our children, our families and our people.

They were pioneering women like Barangaroo, Truganini, Gladys Elphick, Fannie Cochrane-Smith, Evelyn Scott, Pearl Gibbs, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Celuia Mapo Salee, Thancoupie, Justine Saunders, Gladys Nicholls, Flo Kennedy, Essie Coffey, Isabel Coe, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Eleanor Harding, Mum Shirl, Ellie Gaffney and Gladys Tybingoompa.

Today, they are trailblazers like Joyce Clague, Yalmay Yunupingu, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Nova Peris, Carol Martin, Elizabeth Morgan, Barbara Shaw, Rose Richards, Vonda Malone, Margaret Valadian, Lowitja O'Donoghue, June Oscar, Pat O'Shane, Pat Anderson Jill Milroy, Banduk Marika, Linda Burney and Rosalie Kunoth-Monks—to name but a few.

Their achievements, their voice, their unwavering passion give us strength and have empowered past generations and paved the way for generations to come.

Because of her, we can!

naidoc.org.au/2018-national-naidoc-theme



BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!

8-15 JULY 2018



Delvene Cockatoo-Collins

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018)

The Commonwealth Games is one month away, but Griffith University alumnus Delvene Cockatoo-Collins already feels like she has won gold.

The North Stradbroke artist was selected to design the artwork for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games medals which were unveiled in early November 2017.

Griffith University Games champion Cameron McEvoy and alumnus Domonic Bedgood were among the athletes at the GC2018 Charity Gala who got a sneak peek at the medals.

'It was overwhelming,' Delvene said. 'My mother was with me and she was in tears.

'It's nice to finally be able to speak about it and see everyone's reaction.

'It was so special to hear the athletes say they loved them, because they are who I had in mind when I did the drawings and designs.'

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation Chairman Peter Beattie AC said the medals were symbolic of every Games and the 'ultimate goal' of every athlete.

'The reveal of these striking gold, silver and bronze medals for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is a special and significant moment for the athletes as they can now visualise what they are training and competing for,' he said.

A descendent of the Nunukul, Ngugi and Goenpul people, Delvene lives and works on Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island—her mother and grandmothers' birthplace.

She said Queensland's beaches and coastline had inspired her designs.

'I hope the athletes and visitors who come here for the Games take away memories of our beautiful beaches and the sunlight and come to understand the history and culture of our First Nation peoples,' she said.

'The Medal design represents the soft sand lines which shift with every tide and wave and is symbolic of athletic achievement.

'The continual change of tide represents the evolution in Athletes who are making their mark. Although the moment in time may be fleeting, it is forever marked within the shells that are brought upon its tidelines.'

Delvene graduated from the Bachelor of Leisure Management in 1996, and was already working as a practicing artist while she studied.

'I was studying full-time and working as a practicing artist—it was a busy time,' she said.

'I look back on those days fondly—I was lucky enough to be mentored by inspiring teachers like Ray Hibbens, and supported by the GUMURRII Student Support Unit.'

Louise Crossen

Griffith News | Community

Griffith helps uncover archaeological past in Mithaka Country.

Unravelling the past for the First People is key to a new partnership between Griffith University and the Mithaka People of South West Queensland. Mithaka People are the Native Title owners of 33,800 square kilometres in the Channel Country of southwest Queensland, as well as the last claimants to a further 22,000 square kilometres west of Cooper's Creek.

Today (July 24) the Mithaka People launched their Research Framework. This research framework will support Mithaka Traditional Owners and their research partners to:

- establish trust between researchers and create a neutral platform for effective research
- implement best practice research using culturally sensitive guidelines and principles
- promote innovative research that traverses and benefits western and traditional knowledge
- create opportunities to develop, promote and engage with Aboriginal research.

The collaboration will allow leading scientists from Griffith's Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution (ARCHE) to further their work with the Mithaka people in the Channel Country.

By integrating non-Indigenous scientific approaches with Indigenous approaches and knowledge, researchers hope to build a thorough understanding of how Mithaka Country received her people and how she carried them through the next 50,000 or so years. Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation chief executive Barry Riddiford said the Mithaka people were really trying to understand what went on across their land for many years.

'This partnership is going to open up a lot more opportunity for in-depth investigation and is a part of a long-term strategy,' he said.

Mr Riddiford said the aim was to participate in and develop research as a practice that collaborated with Mithaka Traditional Owners to manage traditional knowledge so that it benefited Mithaka Country, Culture and People.

ARCHE Director Professor Rainer Grün said there was a wealth of archaeological remains and features in Mithaka Country that would help First People gain insights into their archaeological past.

'I think the partnership is the essence of what we do at ARCHE and part of our mission to help unravel the past for Australia's First Peoples,' he said.

Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation's Research Framework ensures that all stages of research are transparent and accountable, and supported by sound Mithaka governance and continuous communication between Traditional Owners and their research partners.

Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC holds in trust the native title rights and interests of Mithaka People of South-Western Queensland.

It was formed as an entity in September 2015 in order to finalise the Native Title claim over Mithaka Country—an area west of Windorah in South West Queensland.

Mithaka People's non-exclusive native title determination over 33,752km² of country was recognised after a 13 year legal process in October 2015. Mediation with the different interests, primarily pastoral leases, in the determination area ceased in September 2015, and a consent determination was reached.

The Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, which sits within based in Griffith's Environmental Futures Research Institute, is the first academic centre specifically focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the scale of ancient human migrations and the full story of the origins of the people in our region. An initiative of Queensland's Griffith University, ARCHE's mission is to foster research excellence through multidisciplinary projects that bring together leading Australian and international scholars and institutions in the field of human evolution, with a particular focus on two key regions: Australia and neighbouring Southeast Asia.

Stephanie Bedo



Griffith News | Alumni

Award-winning artist Gordon Hookey has been recognised as the 2017 Arts, Education and Law Alumnus of the Year.

Born in Cloncurry and a descendent of the Waanyi people, Gordon is one of the leading Australian artists of his generation and is known for politically charged work that explores the intersections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.

An acclaimed painter and sculptor, Gordon has exhibited extensively both internationally and throughout Australia.

Since graduating from a Master of Visual Arts at the Queensland College of Art in 2012, his works have been acquired for public and private collections around the world, including the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland's Gallery of Modern Art and the Osaka Museum of Ethnology in Japan.

Gordon has used his work to address a variety of historical and contemporary political issues, from the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians, to Australia's intervention in the Middle East and immigration.

Gordon continues to exhibit his work on the international art stage.

His art has hung in The National New Australian Art 2017, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and earlier this year he was one of just three Australian artists invited to show their work at Documenta, dubbed the 'Olympics of the art world'. The blockbuster exhibition is held every five years and features the best contemporary artists from around the world. It attracted more than a million visitors over 100 days, including collectors, curators and media.

Gordon, who received the award at a gala ceremony in Brisbane on October 13 2017, says he was surprised and honoured by the accolade.



AEL PVC Professor Paul Mazerolle, Gordon Hookey, Professor Derrick Cherrie

'This award is important to me, although it came completely out of the blue,' he said.

'My time at the QCA really helped me refine my thinking and it was wonderful to be immersed in an environment where everything is about art.'

His advice for current students is simple.

'Don't see yourself as a student, start looking at yourself as a practicing artist,' he said.

Held at Cloudland Brisbane, the seventh annual AEL Alumni Awards recognise the achievements and successes of Arts, Education and Law graduates.

Louise Crossen

Outstanding School Alumnus Award winners:

Petr Tichy

Griffith Film School

Dr Brian Bumbarger

Griffith School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Suzie Brady

Griffith School of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences

Gordon Hookey

Queensland College of Art

Dr Brett Mason

Griffith Law School

Ryan Walsh

Queensland Conservatorium

Tony Kennedy

Griffith School of Education and Professional Studies

Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year Winner:

Chris Eigeland

Useful information

Direct Entry

The GUMURRII SSU conducts the Direct Entry program designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders seeking to undertake tertiary studies at Griffith University. Through the Direct Entry program, potential students speak directly with GUMURRII SSU staff regarding the courses offered at Griffith University.

The Direct Entry program enables applicants to be assessed on any formal qualifications, life experiences and other transferable skills that support your enrolment application.

How to apply online

All applicants applying through the Direct Entry Program (link below) need to provide the following documents, prior to or at their interview.

- Confirmation of Aboriginality or signed Statutory Declaration
- CV (Curriculum Vitae)/Resume
- School/TAFE Results and/or relevant certificates
- Year 12 Exit Statement or school records statements

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tutorial Assistance Program (ATSITAP)

We facilitate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tutorial Assistance Program, which aims to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Through the program, eligible students are matched with tutors to help them achieve the best possible outcomes in their courses. If you are an eligible student, or tutor, we encourage you to register.

app.secure.griffith.edu.au/gumurrii

Blue Card Application

Blue Card Services

bluecard.qld.gov.au/applications/applications.html

General enquiries

Phone 07 3735 7676

Email gumurrii-admin@griffith.edu.au
griffith.edu.au/gumurrii

Learning Assistance Officers

Gold Coast campus

Phone 07 5552 9631 or
07 5552 8991

Nathan campus

Phone 07 3735 7678 or
07 3735 7653

Logan campus

Phone 07 3382 1101 or
07 3382 1223

South Bank campus

Phone 07 3735 3197

Mt Gravatt campus

Phone 07 3735 5814

Important dates for 2018

26 January	Survival Day
13 February	Anniversary of the Australian Government Apology to the Stolen Generation
15 March	National Closing the Gap Day
26 May	National Sorry Day Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum
27 May – 3 June	National Reconciliation Week
3 June	Mabo Day
1 July	Coming of the Light Festival
8–15 July	National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week
4 August	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (NAICD)
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
5 September	Indigenous Literacy Day

