



The Yarning Circle

Winter 2023 | Edition #13

Artwork by Chris Edward (2010)
Swimmy Creek [Mixed media on Latvian
linen 100cm x 145cm Western Sydney
University Art Collection Image in
Western Red].

Acknowledgement

With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support for its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

Disclaimers

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that the following magazine may contain images or names of deceased persons.

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Western Sydney University's iconic new Indigenous Centre of Excellence to connect people and place

Western Sydney University welcomes the NSW Government's announcement of \$78.5 million from the WestInvest program to help establish an Indigenous Centre of Excellence at the University.

The Centre, to be based at the Parramatta South campus, located on Darug land, will be an important gathering place for the community to celebrate both the University's and the region's long-standing connection with Indigenous people.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, Professor Michelle Trudgett, said the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a benchmark for Indigenous leadership and education – a transformational place of research and inquiry, where tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and history will be celebrated throughout a state-of-the-art building.

The Centre will be established in collaboration with the University's Elders Advisory Committee and key Indigenous stakeholders, with the University



Artist's Impression of new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Photography: Allen Jack+Cottier Architects.

planning to launch a national design competition for the building, befitting a facility of such cultural and community significance.

Environmental sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to Country will be central to the building's architectural design and position within the surrounding natural landscape.

"The University community is delighted by the NSW Government's support to help establish the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. The Centre will consolidate Western Sydney as a region at the forefront of Indigenous education, employment and research," said Professor Trudgett.

"Western Sydney is home to the largest Indigenous population in the country, so it is only fitting that we create a place for Indigenous people to celebrate culture and connection to Country.

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It will be an iconic destination where the community can come together to acknowledge the region's deep connection with Indigenous people as well as lead global discourse on Indigenous knowledges steeped in the principles of reciprocity, generosity, and respect."

The state-of-the-art facility will be accessible to the region's schools, residents, and businesses, where people of all ages, abilities and interests can learn more about the rich Indigenous culture and heritage of the region, explore its arts and cultural collections, and attend performances, talks and screenings.

A showcase for stories from across the western Sydney region, the Centre will incorporate purpose-built facilities and spaces to support the sharing and preservation of Indigenous Australian culture while informal learning spaces will provide opportunities for engagement and collaboration.



Artist's Impression of new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Photography: Allen Jack+Cottier Architects.

Professor Trudgett said the new Centre is a key part of the University's Indigenous Strategy 2020-2025 and its ambition to be a national leader in Indigenous higher education.

"The University has always been located on Aboriginal land. As an anchor institution serving Western Sydney we value and nurture our relationships with the Indigenous community," Professor Trudgett said.

"By working together, we will increase Indigenous participation in higher education, pay tribute to the deep learning that has existed on these lands for tens of thousands of years, position Indigenous knowledge at the core of the University and strive towards

Upcoming events

Western Sydney University has planned a number of face-to-face and online events in the coming months to showcase Indigenous knowledges, success and stories. All events may be subject to change. Please follow the link for updates on Western's calendar and upcoming events:

<http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander/events>

a sustainable future that nurtures emerging generations for decades to come."

"This is a generational opportunity for us to intensify our engagement with the community, at such a critical time for Indigenous Australians," said Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor and President of Western Sydney University.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

It gives me enormous pleasure to present the Winter 2023 edition of the Yarning Circle. The cover story outlines our recent success in securing \$78.5 million of funding through the NSW State Government's WestInvest Scheme to establish an Indigenous Centre of Excellence on our Parramatta South Campus. This is an outstanding achievement that will have considerable impact across Western and the broader Indigenous communities. The new Indigenous Centre will be a space that we can all be proud of. It will be a place where we can connect while learning from, and celebrating, Indigenous culture and knowledges. I look forward to providing further updates on the progress of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence in future editions of The Yarning Circle.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share that Western has been very active in promoting platforms where we can discuss the upcoming referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. In doing so, we recognise the role that universities play in disseminating information so that our students and staff can make informed decisions that best serve themselves, their families, their communities and the nation more broadly. Whilst there are many fantastic initiatives occurring across Western, one I would like to highlight is the educative Referendum: Indigenous Voice to Parliament Library Guide which can be located here <https://subjectguides.library.westernsydney.edu.au/c.php?q=957784>

Another highlight was the annual Indigenous Students versus staff soccer match held at the end of March. This was the fourth year the soccer match was held and while the staff team were hoping for a win the students were just too good on the day. Congratulations to the students, all of whom played a phenomenal game.



Professor Michelle Trudgett. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to remind students that the professional caring team at Badanami - Centre for Indigenous Education are there to support your academic journeys. Please remain connected as there are many fantastic opportunities available to you.

**Professor Michelle Trudgett
(BA, MPS, EdD)**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Indigenous Leadership

BOLD

conversations

Ali Gebhardt

The Bold Conversation segment encourages Indigenous staff and students to share their honest perspectives and opinions about key topics and current issues in order to promote discussions in a culturally safe environment.

Ali Gebhardt. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.



Ali Gebhardt is a Wiradjuri woman. She is a Mum of two amazing kids and an Associate Lecturer in Occupational Therapy within the School of Health Sciences at Western Sydney University. She is a registered Occupational Therapist with over 20 years clinical experience in both the public and private sectors within metropolitan and rural New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Ali has lectured in the Occupational Therapy program for more than 7 years and is currently a Higher Degree Research Student. Ali's current research is in preparing and supporting Occupational Therapy students in practice education.

In the following segment Ali offers insights into her journey in academia and the processes she is taking to Indigenise Occupational Therapy curriculum. She discusses three main lessons that she has learnt throughout her academic and teaching journey. Ali hopes this article invites others to reflect on approaches to better centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ways of knowing, being and doing in curriculum.

I feel very under qualified to be writing this Bold Conversation segment. As I write this, I question if I have what it takes to write this piece and engage in bold conversations. I am just one Aboriginal woman writing about my experience and my journey in academia as well as the process I take in Indigenising Occupational Therapy Curriculum.

I wear many hats in my role at a Western Sydney University. I am an Associate Lecturer in occupational therapy. Occupational therapy is something that I'm passionate about. I love the varied roles that occupational therapists can work in helping others do meaningful

activities and be the person they want to be. Occupational therapists are great problem solvers and work with others to overcome barriers or hurdles to carrying out their roles. I am honoured that I can teach students how to be an occupational therapist. I love teaching; sharing what I know to assist students transform themselves to think and be an occupational therapist. Occupational therapy is a Westernised profession. My journey in academia has challenged my thinking about occupational therapy and how occupational therapist serve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. It is noticeable that the occupational therapy profession does not attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Less than 1% of registered occupational therapists in Australia are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People. Not only in Australia, but worldwide, occupational therapy students lack in diversity of background and there is a possible danger that the profession is far from making an impact on communities that it could serve so well (Thew & Harkness, 2018). I want to change this.

I am also a higher degree research student. Underline student. It made sense to me to start my research in occupational therapy. The journey commenced with much reading and learning all about research, methodology and paradigms. It came to choosing methodology and none of them seem to fit with me, my thinking, and ways of knowing. I just felt like choosing one out of a hat. I am so grateful that in 2021 I was gifted with the opportunity to partake in a Professional Certificate of Indigenous Research through the Melbourne University. What an honour and privilege to be with mob and to learn about Indigenous research. Research

finally started making sense. Indigenous research methodology made sense. Shawn Wilson's paper on Indigenous Research Methodology (2001) was pivotal for me. I found comfort and am now learning the ropes of research as an Indigenous researcher.

This brings me to another hat. I have had the honour and a privilege of beginning to walk with and lead my colleagues in Indigenising the occupational therapy curriculum. A process that combines research, teaching and learning and Aboriginal history, knowledge and pedagogy. The very process of Indigenizing the occupational therapy curriculum feels unattainable. How do you integrate Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in a westernised profession? The occupational therapy profession is renowned for being client centered. Students engage with learning activities centred around understanding their own culture, values, experiences, and worldviews and those that they will work with. It is encouraging to see the addition of learning activities that increase student knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ways of knowing, being and doing in Western Sydney University occupational therapy curriculum. How do we strengthen these learning experiences? It is my hope to move beyond providing students with knowledge to equipping students with skills and experiences to be more capable to serve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. How do Western Sydney University occupational therapy graduates stand out as being culturally safe in their practice? How does Western Sydney University's occupational therapy program attract and retain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to lead the profession in this space?

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In my steep learning curve in academia and becoming a leader in Indigenizing curriculum, three main lessons stand out. Firstly, I am not alone. Despite being one of the 1% of occupational therapist who are Aboriginal and the even smaller number of Aboriginal Academics, I am not alone in this journey. Thankfully, I realise I cannot Indigenise the occupational therapy curriculum alone. I am grateful to be led and guided by Aboriginal academics at Western Sydney. I am surrounded by an amazing team of occupational therapists who are allies and desire to see the occupational therapy program develop. I have amazing colleagues, occupational therapy alumni and friends who share their knowledges and challenge my thoughts and attitudes. It takes a team to make changes.

Secondly, learn from those that have gone before you. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework (2014) has provided a framework to shape the process of Indigenizing curriculum. Other professions, in particular Western Sydney University School of Medicine and School of Nursing have made significant gains in this area. Professor Susan Page, Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching, has been pivotal in the process, sharing her expertise and research. Thank you. Wiradjuri Academic, Alison Barnes, from the School of Nursing and Midwifery. You are walking before me. I have learnt and am learning much from you. Thank you.

Lastly, Indigenising Curriculum is hard. There have been experiences along the way, where I have felt confronted by other peoples' attitudes and thinking about Aboriginal and Torres Islander Peoples, history, culture, and ways. I have felt angry, disheartened, and exhausted. How do you challenge the thoughts and attitudes of others, that appear ignorant or racist? I have seen this done respectfully where truth and kindness existed together and where assertiveness was used without aggression. It afforded others a space to be challenged. In times of anger, frustration and exhaustion, when I am juggling all the hats I wear, I hope that I too, can respond with truth, kindness and assertiveness.



IGNITE Traineeship Graduation Ceremony. Photography: Kyisoe Han

IGNITE Traineeship Program Continues to support Indigenous Success

In 2022 the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Indigenous Leadership launched the Ignite Indigenous Traineeship Program. This program was delivered by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Indigenous Leadership in collaboration with Western Sydney University Registered Training Organisation (RTO) The College. This university wide initiative saw involvement from multiple schools, divisions and institutes at Western to host an Ignite Indigenous Trainee.

On 21 March 2023, as the 2022 Ignite Trainees approached the completion of their traineeship, the trainees attended their graduation ceremony at the Parramatta South Campus. Supported by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, their family, supervisors, The College, The Office of People, Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, Souths Cares and Kimberwalli, it was a day of reflection and celebration for the trainees. Korinne Bargiel a 2022 Ignite Indigenous Trainee in the School of Nursing gave a heart-warming speech about her experiences and captured precious moments within the last 12 months.

Ashleigh Lia, a proud Indigenous woman and trainee, said the traineeship has truly changed the lives of her family.

"I can put my kids in after-school care, weekend sports and take my family on adventures having fun and enjoying life instead of always stressing about money. Through this process, my kids have

learnt that to have nice things, you have to work hard, apply yourself, and if you are knocked down, you get back up and go again. This opportunity has allowed me to be a role model for my kids; it has well and truly given me a purpose I didn't know that I was looking for," said Ashleigh Lia.

Adriana Ferkula Cohen is a proud Indigenous woman and trainee in the MARCS Institute at the Westmead campus. She said the IGNITE Traineeship has been one of the best opportunities.

"I've not only learnt a lot, but I've been supported by so many people within the program to reach success and push myself to learn new skills. I could yarn about this program all day, honestly," said Adriana Ferkula Cohen.

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Indigenous Leadership is excited to share that the Ignite Indigenous Traineeship Program will continue in 2023. With involvement from the Hawkesbury Institute for Environment, School of Science, Humanities and Communication Arts, Law and Social Science.

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Indigenous Leadership would like to thank the participating schools, divisions and institutes for supporting the creation of entry-level positions for the Indigenous community. Best of luck to the 2022 cohort as they venture into the university as staff and to the 2023 cohort as they start their traineeship journey.



Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

Western's Indigenous students once again take the win at the annual soccer match

On Friday the 24th of March Western's Indigenous students and staff laced up their joggers and pulled on their jerseys for the fourth annual Indigenous Students vs Staff Soccer match. The game was held at the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre and was once again a great day for all who attended.

Students were up 3-0 in the first half before the Dean of the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Professor Matt McGuire, scored a spectacular goal for the staff team. Despite a concerted effort by the staff, the student team held their lead and came away with a score of 7-1. Many thanks to Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, for refereeing once again, to all who participated and those who cheered from the sidelines with the number of spectators growing year to year.

Professor Kevin Dunn was astounded by each team's sporting performances and camaraderie. He was particularly impressed by Sarah Loft and James

Whiting's performances and awarded them both the Best and Fairest Players of the match. It was also wonderful to have Malcolm and Brooke from the GWS Giants come along to the game with a signed Giants ball and signed Giants jersey which were given away as lucky door prizes.

The winning student team was captained by Kobi Newell, a proud Warrimay man and undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Human Resource Management and Australian Indigenous Studies.

"The annual Indigenous Students vs Staff Soccer Game 2023 was awesome. I was fortunate enough to meet and captain a great squad of students, new faces and old. Thank you to all who worked behind the scenes to manage and elevate the event to a new level this year. It was incredible to see the amount of support on the day and to see Western's students, staff, Elders, alumni, and community having the opportunity to meet, connect and celebrate," said Kobi.

Josh Mason, Captain of the Staff Team and Senior Student Advancement Officer in the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, said the event was once again a great reminder of the strong connections between Western's Indigenous student and staff networks.

"It was an honour to captain the staff team and play alongside Indigenous and non-Indigenous colleagues who are passionate about supporting Indigenous success at our university. Congratulations to the students who were this year's winners and a huge thank you to everyone who got involved, in particular Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership and her office for hosting and organising the event. Hopefully next year the staff will redeem ourselves and come away with the win," said Josh Mason.

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership, said both teams played with great spirit and pride.

"This event is a highlight in the Western Sydney University Indigenous calendar with the number of spectators growing annually. The result however was not so good for the staff team with us suffering our biggest loss to date, 7-1. There were a number of very talented players on both sides, however the student team played a phenomenal game and were just too good for us on the day."

"It was a day of coming together and building valuable connections between our students and staff. It brought everyone together in a fun way that promotes Indigenous excellence and wellbeing through positive engagement. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to what was a great game, particularly Professor Kevin Dunn who once again generously refereed the game," said Professor Trudgett.



Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

Students

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S INDIGENOUS STUDENTS ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS

Seven deadly questions: Introducing Henry Woods

Henry is undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Information, Communication, and Technology

Who are you?

Hi, my name is Henry and I study a Bachelor of Information, Communication, and Technology. I was born deaf and wear a hearing device to assist with hearing. I have a companion green tree frog named after Lara Croft because she likes to climb on everything. In my spare time I like to read, listen to music, play video games, draw, take photos, rock climb with the dangerous Nicholas, and late night Maccas runs with my main cuz Audree.

Who is your mob?

I'm a proud Kamilaroi man from Narrabri. Also, I am currently researching more about my Aboriginal family.

What community or cultural events have you been involved in lately or will you engage in this year?

I always come to the Indigenous soccer games each year, it is a lot of fun and I recommend anyone who hasn't tried it yet or is thinking about trying it, to come. It is a very welcoming environment and a great time.

Soon, I will be going to the Naidoc Ball with my mates. This will be the first one I am going to. I am looking forward to learning a lot from the experience.

With the company that I currently work for, the diversity team is working closely with me to hire and encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to join the team. We are actively being involved in the community and coming up with new ideas on how to better reach and connect with more people and provide career opportunities.



Henry Woods

Why did you choose to study at Western Sydney University?

I chose Western Sydney University to further improve my skillset and employability. Western offers great flexibility when it comes to course structure, the order in which you study your units, and the delivery of the learning material.

Have you faced any challenges as an Indigenous student? If so, how did you overcome them?

It is challenging to juggle life, sometimes it's good to pause, take a moment to breathe, and ask yourself if you are committing to too many things. If the answer is yes, I usually clear up my week and protect some time for myself.

Study loads can also become overwhelming. I've had to reduce my study load at times during University. I find that three units a semester work best for me. However, everybody is an individual and the study load may vary from person to person.

Also, making friends at university can be a bit difficult at first, especially if you are an introvert or don't know anyone at University. However, by placing yourself in common areas such as classrooms, Badanami centre, club activities and talking with the people around you. You will make plenty of friends. Just start with, 'Hey,' and the rest will figure itself out.

When you graduate from Western Sydney University what do you hope to achieve?

When I graduate, I would like to go on a nice holiday and soak in the sun hopefully.

You are clearly a busy person with lots of commitments, what are your top 5 tips towards success for other Indigenous Western Sydney University students?

1. Make sure to familiarise yourself with the learning guide and marking rubric. Most of the time students will ask questions that are already answered in the learning guide.
2. Make good use of the Badanami Centre at University, it is there to help you succeed. Also, there are many friendly Aunties, Uncles, and Cousins waiting to meet and welcome you.
3. If you are in your first year, start looking for an internship now. Companies are looking for first-year students. Even if you do not feel like you have enough experience yet, apply as they do not expect you to know everything as an intern.
4. Try not to overcommit, look after yourself first. Reducing the number of units, you are doing each semester is common, especially if life is getting in the way.
5. Try to attend all the classes, the more work you get done in class means the more available time during your week. Also, you will have support available if you get stuck on something during class.



Tayla Rae [on the right] and her sister who is also a CareerTrackers intern.

Western student, Tayla Rae, is awarded Careertrackers NSW and ACT Intern of the Year

Earlier this year CareerTrackers took an in-person, place-based approach to their Gala presentations across the country. This allowed for each region to celebrate in their hometown, and to recognise the key individuals in their state that have contributed to their local program and community's success through the Gala Awards.

The Sydney Gala Awards night was a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander excellence as the CareerTrackers team awarded individuals and organisations who have demonstrated leadership and excellence. Many Western Sydney University students attended the event.

Tayla Rae, a Western alumni, attended the event and was honoured to receive the most prestigious Gala Award; the Intern of the Year Award. This award is presented to an intern who has demonstrated all-round excellence in the three pillars of CareerTrackers; university, internship and community. Tayla exceeds expectations in her degree and internship and is an active and impactful member of the CareerTrackers program. She is a future leader in community and industry.

Since beginning the Careertrackers program, Tayla has graduated from a Bachelor of Planning in 2021 and Masters in Urban Management and Planning at Western Sydney University. Her Masters research project in part identified the missing voice and role of First Nations land management in flood planning and resilience. She completed her internship with Greater Cities Commission and enjoyed the flexibility of the CareerTrackers program as it allowed her the opportunity to undertake a paid internships during her university breaks.

Tayla Rae expressed her gratitude for the nomination and for receiving this award.

"The CareerTrackers Program helped to expand my passions for planning and provided essential networking opportunities. I am very thankful to the many colleagues at the Greater Cities Commission who have supported me during my university studies, and with my professional development so far. I feel very privileged to have been appointed as

a Planning Officer with the Commission during their recruitment last year."

"I want to thank my Western Parkland City team Kim Samuel, Nick Gowing and Lachlan Paull for their support during my Masters study and in my everyday work. I want to highlight Sarah Glennan and Elle Davidson for their support and mentorship to develop my career within planning. I would also like to thank Maddy Towler Lovell for her role as my Careertrackers advisor during the program," said Tayla Rae.

Josh Mason, Acting Director of the Badanami Centre of Indigenous Education, once again would like to congratulate Tayla on receiving this prestigious award.

"I had the pleasure of attending the CareerTrackers Gala Dinner to support a number of our Indigenous students who are engaged with the program. One of the highlights of the gala was seeing one of our own students Tayla Rae receiving the NSW/ACT Intern of the Year award. This award acknowledged Tayla's all-round excellence in the three pillars of the CareerTrackers program. We would like to wish Tayla the best of luck with her future endeavours and have no doubt she will continue to be a real leader for our community in the future." said Josh Mason.

To learn more about the Careertrackers Gala Awards please follow: <https://careertrackers.org.au/gala-awards/>



Allira Johnson and peers in the Brolga Dance Academy. Photography: PR Handout AAP.

Our mob in community

Western Sydney University recognises the strong community connections and commitments that Indigenous staff and students hold. Many of our staff and students engage in events and represent their cultures and Country and here at Western, we are proud of our talented and dynamic students and staff.

Allira Johnson, a 2022 Ignite Indigenous Business trainee, was sighted performing with the Brolga Dance Academy on New Years Eve at the Opera House. Her performance alongside the famous Kobie Dee and Akala Newman gave audiences goosebumps and can be seen by following this link: <https://youtu.be/gz9xxpOiMcE>. Allira also attends annual road trips on country to connect with her ancestors and learn the lifestyle they lived and language they spoke.

Allira Johnson enjoys learning culture through dance and sharing it across communities.

"My people were story tellers. We continue to tell stories through dance and forever will. I express my connection to my ancestors through bringing our dreamtime stories to life. My dance group and I are in a community that allows us to showcase our infusion of Traditional Aboriginal dance and Modern Contemporary dance," said Allira Johnson.

Monique Tait-Owens, another 2022 Ignite Indigenous trainee, was sighted performing with KARI Singers for the opening of the extensions of the M4 and M8 of WestConnex earlier in the year. She sang "I am Australian" (in Dharawal language and English) with the KARI Singers, whilst joining with Transurban on the journey to reconciliation. The full video is accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swUkb9Dqmzo>

Monique Tait-Owens expressed her love for performance and singing.

"I am able to express my cultural learning, language and connections to community and Country through song and dance. I love performing with my brothers and sisters as part of the KARI Singers. This group has provided me many opportunities and opened so many doors for future success," said Monique Tait-Owens.

Staff

Meet the BADANAMI team

The Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education provides Western Sydney University Indigenous students with support and opportunities to ensure their success throughout the course of their degree. There are seven centres across Western Sydney University's campuses including Bankstown City, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Kingswood, Hawkesbury, Parramatta South and Parramatta City. The centres offer study areas, computers labs, printing, kitchen and lounge facilities while studying.

At each centre you will find an Badanami Student Success Officer who is there to assist you in any aspect to support your university experience. Badanami staff provide culturally safe support to all Indigenous students and can help them become familiar of the wide range of support services available across Western, including free 1 v 1 tutoring for eligible students via Badanami's Tutoring for Success Program.



Auntie Jean South. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.



Fiona Towney. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

Fiona Towney is the Director of Badanami Centre For Indigenous Education and is a proud Wiradjuri woman from Central-West New South Wales. She joined Western in 2018 and as the Director of the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, Fiona is responsible for the provision and implementation of education and support services for Western's Indigenous Australian students. As a member of the University's senior team, she contributes to policy and strategic organisational direction and provides advice and leadership, always working to increasing student outcomes. Fiona holds tertiary qualifications in Human Resource Management and Project Management.

Auntie Jean South is Western Sydney University's Elder in Residence and was appointed in this role in 2007. She is Badanami's longest standing Aboriginal staff member and has a long history with Western as she began studying a Bachelor of Arts in 1989 and then on her graduation in 1990, she started working at Western. Auntie Jean plays an important role by motivating, supporting and engaging with current and prospective students, and local communities and organisations to enhance the University's commitment to further education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She supports and helps students to continue to be in touch with their culture during their journey as a student here at the University. She always loves giving hugs.



Josh Mason. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

Josh Mason is the Senior Student Advancement Officer and is a proud Wiradjuri man. He has worked at Western since 2010 and now holds the position of Senior Student Advancement Officer. Josh considers himself extremely lucky to be part of the amazing work our university is doing for our Indigenous students, staff and community, and enjoys playing a role in securing success for our people.

Kerry Licastro is a Badanami Student Success Officer based at Kingswood Campus (Building N) and is a proud Kamiliaroi and Wakka Wakka woman. She was born and raised on Eora lands in Sydney and is raising her family on Dharug lands in Western Sydney. Kerry has worked at Western and in the Badanami Centre since 2013 having held multiple roles. She has been in her current role as Student Success Officer since 2015 and loves supporting and advocating for our students.



Kerry Licastro.



Kristy Bell.

Kristy Bell is a Badanami Student Success Officer based at Campbelltown Campus (Building 3) and is a proud Wiradjuri woman born in Dubbo, now living in the Camden area. She has been working at Western for over 10 years and moved over from the Engagement Team into the student support role in Badanami. Kristy takes pride in her role and supporting our mob to achieve their educational goals for their future and loves being able to build strong relationships with students and our Western community.

Wayne Clark is a Badanami Student Success Officer based at Hawkesbury Campus (Building K4) and is a proud Kamilaroi man who lives and works on Dharug country. He has been with Western Sydney University since 2017 in various positions. In 2022, Wayne joined the Badanami team and is also currently looking after our Tutoring for Success Program. Working with Indigenous students on their path to success is a highlight for Wayne.



Wayne Clark.



Adrian Atkins.

Adrian Atkins is a Badanami Student Success Officer at Bankstown Campus (Level 3) and is a proud Gorrie man from the Anaiwan nation. He is also connected to the Thungutti and Kamilaroi mobs. Before commencing in his role with Western, he spent 12 months working as a Reunification Caseworker with Link-Up NSW. Adrian joined the Badanami team in February 2022.

Georgina West joined the Badanami team in May of 2022 and is a Badanami Student Success Officer at Liverpool Campus (Level 1). She is a proud Kamilaroi woman, who has spent a lot of her early career working with vulnerable people. She has had the privilege of working within the community services and disability industries and has a passion for Aboriginal people and community. Georgina strives to change the narrative for Indigenous Australians and enjoys supporting and advocating for people and their future.



Georgina West.



Matthew Taylor.

Matthew Taylor is a Badanami Student Success Officer at Parramatta South Campus (Building EY) and is a proud Kamilaroi man born and raised on Kamilaroi country in Tamworth, rural New South Wales. Matt has been living on Gadigal and Dharug land for the past 8 years whilst completing his Science degree at UNSW. Prior to joining Western Sydney University in early 2023, he was heavily involved with various Indigenous higher education outreach opportunities, particularly in STEM, to explore his passion for opening opportunities for the next generation of Indigenous students. Matt is passionate about supporting and advocating for Indigenous students throughout Western Sydney University.

The Badanami team would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit their centres across campuses.

If you would like to find out more information about the programs and services offered by Western Sydney University's Badanami Centre, please contact the team at Badanami@westernsydney.edu.au. Also, for regular updates and stories about Indigenous success at Western Sydney University, please join the Badanami Facebook account via <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010513178148>.

Staff

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S PASSIONATE INDIGENOUS STAFF

Seven deadly questions: Introducing Amelia Corr, a Future Student Engagement Senior Project Support Officer

Who are you?

My name is Amelia Corr, I am a proud Aboriginal woman, a daughter, sister, aunty, community member, dancer, storyteller, weaver and teacher.

Who is your mob?

My mobs are Bundjalung, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta. My family have lived on Dharug Ngurra (Western Sydney Hawkesbury and Mt Druitt) for three generations, and I'm an active member of the Western Sydney Aboriginal Community.

What community/cultural events have you been involved in lately?

I'm at Community events constantly, whether that's representing Western, as an attendee, cultural performer or family representative. I recently went to the Cooe Festival in Mt Druitt, hosted by Link-Up. The day was full of cultural performances, artists, stalls and information sharing. It was a nice day out in the sun seeing local community come together.

I'm a member of the local Aboriginal Education Consultative group, as well as many Indigenous advisory and interagency groups, so that takes up a bit of my time. I also do lots of work in community around maintaining and teaching our cultural practices such as dance, storytelling and caring for Country. I've been very privileged to of been raised by strong matriarchs, Elders and family, so it's a responsibility for me to share, teach and uplift my community.



Amelia Corr. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

What is your current position at Western Sydney University and how long have you worked at the University?

My current position is Future Student Engagement Senior Project Support Officer. I started this role in January, after spending 8 months working on the Pathways to Dreaming School Engagement program. In this role I co-ordinate our Indigenous Pathways Entry Program and represent the university in Indigenous community engagements.

Have you always aspired to work in tertiary education?

No, when I got my first university degree and started working, my aspirations were for a career in Indigenous history or cultural heritage management. I started working in an Indigenous unit, completed a teaching qualification and realised the impact of education for mob. I built myself a solid career foundation at that institution, before moving into leadership positions in TAFE Sydney Region and local government policy. But I missed the grass roots, I missed making everyday impact in the life of young mob and spending my time sharing and teaching culture. So, I've found myself back where I started, working in Indigenous community engagement.

What is your favourite thing about working at Western Sydney University?

I love that I get to work within and for my community. When I came to Western, I only planned on completing a short-term contract before going back to a leadership position. But after completing that contract, I made the decision to stay. I see my value add to this organisation and role - I'm good at it and I enjoy it. I get to see the positive impact education brings about for community every time I pop down to the shops and bump into mob! Also, the work life balance Western affords me which allows me to fulfil my cultural and kinship responsibilities.

Do you have any advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wanting to work at Western Sydney University?

I think it's important to know your history of place, Country and community. This will take you a long way.

Staff Updates

Western Sydney University would like to congratulate the following staff members on their new appointments:

- Matthew Taylor who joined the Badanami team as a Student Success Officer at Parramatta South Campus.
- Jordan Janson who has joined Western as Ignite Business Administration Trainees.
- Karla Beasley who has joined Western as Ignite Business Administration Trainees.
- Alexis Mitchell who has joined Western as Ignite Business Administration Trainees.
- Harry Randell who has joined Western as an Indigenous Trainee Technical Officer, Mechanical/ Mechatronics.

Western Sydney University would also like to thank all of the Indigenous staff who continuously demonstrate excellence and the Universities values ensuring Western is the place to be.

Elders

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S ELDERS

Western welcomes Aunty Cindy Laws and Aunty Rayna Shelley into the Indigenous Elders Advisory Committee

Western Sydney University's Elders Indigenous Advisory Committee is committed to Indigenous excellence and leadership. The Elders on the Committee are highly respected and provide advice on matters that relate to Indigenous culture and people and on matters impacting Greater Western Sydney's Indigenous communities. The advisory committee assists in building Indigenous cultural viability and knowledge across Western Sydney University as they provide support to Indigenous students and staff.

Western Sydney University is excited to welcome two new Elders into the Advisory Committee: Aunty Cindy Laws and Aunty Rayna St Julian.

Aunty Cindy Laws belongs to the Dharug (Daruk) language group, is an initiated woman of her people and was raised learning about her Aboriginal culture. Her grandfather was a Boorooberongal man from Hawksbury River region in New South Wales, and her grandmother was a Darkinjung woman from the Wollemi region in New South Wales. Aunty Cindy is an artist as she makes use of natural earth pigments, fabric and acrylic paints in her stylised animal and spirit paintings, some of which involve an image being carved into the pigment. She is also a children's author. She has written and illustrated two children's books based on Dreaming narratives: Kootear the Echidna and Wargan the Crow. She was also a finalist in the 2009 Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize and her artwork has been sold nationally and internationally. In 2007 Cindy was a finalist in the Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize in 2007.



Aunty Cindy Laws. Photography: Dyarubbin.

Aunty Cindy is excited to join the Elders Advisory Committee as she hopes to share her stories of the area and bring a better connection to country for the people.

Aunty Rayna St Julian is a proud Kamilaroi woman who is committed to exemplary education practices in Greater Western Sydney. As a former teacher and Elder in community, Aunty Rayna is regularly called upon to give advice and guidance and to provide an insight into Aboriginal affairs and culture. As a former high school educator Aunty Rayna was instrumental in introducing courses and programs that created new opportunities for her students as she was accredited to teach a wide range of Technology, STEM and Vocational Education and Training courses. Aunty Rayna has had a long relationship with Western Sydney University and has worked recently with the Badanami team in Indigenous student support. Aunty Rayna always presents herself as a positive role model and inspires young people through her passions for Indigenous excellence in education.

"By joining the Elders Advisory Committee, my spirit dreams that I can focus and connect community contacts and our culture with life-long education. Continue to make the difference with access and equity for all Indigenous people" said Aunty Rayna.



Aunty Rayna Aunty Rayna St Julian.

Western Sydney University is also saddened to note the retirement of Aunty Norma Shelley OAM from the Elders Advisory Committee. Aunty Norma is a Kamilaroi Elder who is passionate about education and volunteers her time supporting communities across Greater Western Sydney. Aunty Norma brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Elders Advisory Committee. We would like to thank Aunty Norma for her support, guidance and leadership on the panel, and wish her good health and luck in the future.

Alumni

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S INDIGENOUS ALUMNI

Seven deadly questions: Introducing Associate Professor Michael Donovan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) at La Trobe University

Who are you?

My name is Michael Donovan, I am a Gumbaynggirr man from the north coast of NSW, but I grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney. I have spent a larger part of my life living, working, and growing up a family in Newcastle and Newcastle is another place I can comfortably call home.

What community/cultural events have you been involved in lately?

I have recently moved to Victoria, and I am getting to know the associated communities that I work with. I am currently travelling around to the five La Trobe campuses spread across the State introducing myself and participating with social and cultural celebrations. These have included meetings around Treaty Victoria, a dawn service and later community march for Survival Day, graduations with some Indigenous students, a 'Yes' referendum community meeting and spending time with community leaders and Elders discussing community needs and research partnerships.

What is your current position and why are you passionate about it?

I am currently the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous (PVCi) at La Trobe university. There are many things I have a passion for in this role particularly moving to a new State and city. As a foreigner to this Country, I am trying to get to see and engage with as much as I can. Which is not hard as La Trobe has five campuses that cross the State, and I am spending time visiting community, introducing myself and getting to know community and try to re-engage them and work out how we can support their individual community needs in relation to our teaching and research. Working towards what may best suit the specific desires of each community. That is the fun part, some of the more challenging work is trying to embed Indigenous



Associate Professor Michael Donovan.
Photography: La Trobe University.

understandings within our institution with every staff member in their everyday practice to inform all students about Indigenous Australia and how this can support them and support the wider Australian community in their futures.

What degree did you study at Western Sydney University?

I was an AREP student who graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) and attached an Honours research program to the final year with some part-time study to get my thesis completed. Apparently, it was quite unique for blackfellas to complete honours back then especially through an AREP model. My distance learning experience involved an audio tape and overhead projection copies being mailed to me through the post each week for me to read and email back any questions I had, with the occasional phone call to discuss issues.

What has your experience at Western Sydney University given you that is unique compared to graduates from other universities?

AREP or residential programs are not unique to Western, but I found this type of program design very effective to be better engage Aboriginal peoples to further education. Due to allowing them to engage in higher education where you are surrounded and supported with other Aboriginal peoples but also stay in community, connect with family responsibilities, and be allowed to maintain work, usually with some negotiations. From this experience you build family connections and life-long friendships from across the State. Study as a family was the best experience at Western.

Who is your role model and why do they inspire you?

I am fortunate that I have had many people in my life who have inspired or guided me towards goals. These include family, professional colleagues, Elders, community members, and teammates. We are very lucky as blackfellas as there are so many inspiring individuals within our communities and they can appear within so many diverse fields. Such as within sporting teams, educators (not just teachers), Elders, cultural knowledge holders, artists, writers, linguists, work peers and friends. We are such a rich cultural group, and that inspirational knowledge is around us regularly, we just need to remember to stop and listen sometimes to people and country and draw on these experiences.

What would be your top 5 tips towards success for Indigenous graduates from Western Sydney University?

1. Engage with Badanami, this is a place of cultural safety, and it will give you a place to call home. Whilst there ask about support mechanisms to help you get the most out of your higher education experience, this could include tutoring or access to a regular student lunch.
2. Have fun!! Hopefully not too much so that it effects your degree. Remember that university is more than just an education. It should be an experience for your personal and professional growth. So do not forget about university clubs or sports, especially the Indigenous Nationals. Take some time to relax or de-stress even if it is only a quiet coffee outside Badanami with the sun on your skin.
3. Talk to your lecturers and tutors, if they offer to answer questions, please ask them. You do not have to do it publicly but make some time to ask about the course content or assessment tasks, to not only get the best out of the course and your degree but to also get a better understanding about assessment so you can respond effectively to the question.
4. Remember your degree will benefit you and hopefully guide you into a successful career but as an Indigenous person you will also be carrying the goals and responsibilities of your communities past and present. This degree can allow you to be an educational role model and support your community follow in your steps but also allow you to give back to those communities to benefit everyone.
5. Education is part of a lifelong process and should not stop just with your degree. As you travel through your career journeys you may need to further professional skills, Western is there to give you advice or direction on what you may need to achieve these educational goals.



Ashlie Rogers, Charlene Davison, Mason Smith & Professor Michelle Trudgett. Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

April graduates

Western Sydney University is committed to empowering and supporting Indigenous students' study and graduate from degrees of their choice. Currently, Western Sydney University has over 1,568 Indigenous alumni who have graduated from a variety of degrees across the University's range of Schools.

Graduation is an incredibly important milestone as it celebrates all the hard work and time put into achieving a degree, marking the formal end of tertiary study and the beginning of a new career.

In April 2023, 53 deadly students graduated including 2 Diplomas, 3 Undergraduate Certificates, 4 Graduate Certificates, 1 Associate Degree, 39 Bachelor Degrees, 3 Master Degrees and 1 Doctorate. Congratulations to the following students, we are so proud of each of you and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

Abbey-Marie Zabielo graduated from a Bachelor of Arts

Amanda McKenna graduated from a Bachelor of Natural Science (Environment and Health)

Andre Powell graduated from a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Ashlee Newell graduated from a Diploma in Social Science (Policing)

Ashleigh Zarb graduated from a Bachelor of Science, Criminology and Psychological Studies

Bailey Gentle graduated from a Bachelor of Business (Property)

Billy Towney graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Breanna Rowley graduated from a Bachelor of Social Science

Brodie Harris graduated from a Bachelor of Social Work

Carlos Rojas graduated from a Bachelor of Construction Management

Carolyn Nancarrow graduated from a Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

Cheryl Martin graduated from a Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

Clarinda Martin graduated from a Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

Damon Lee graduated from a Bachelor of Construction Management

Daniel Loxley graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Ethen Webster graduated from a Bachelor of Business (Marketing)

Fiona Towney graduated from an Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity, Cybercrime and Behaviour

Georgia Pace graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Holly Reynolds graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Jackson Coles graduated from an Associate Degree in Engineering

Jai Vakai graduated from a Bachelor of Policing

Jay Moy graduated from a Bachelor of Business (International Business) (Marketing)

Jay Moy graduated from a Diploma in Business

Jayda Weightman graduated from a Bachelor of Arts

Jesse Warran-Rigby graduated from an Undergraduate Certificate in Counselling and Mental Health

Joel Delaney graduated from a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Kalila Devitt graduated from a Bachelor of Medical Science (Forensic Mortuary Practice)

Karah Edwards-Knight graduated from a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Kate Kennedy graduated from a Graduate Certificate in Bushfire Protection

Kayden Edwards graduated from a Bachelor of Arts

Kiara Bennett graduated from a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Kyle Brazel graduated from a Bachelor of Arts (Dean's Scholars)

Lara Manning graduated from a Bachelor of Arts

Luke Abbey graduated from a Bachelor of Cyber Security and Behaviour

Mason Smith graduated from a Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Melissa Williams graduated from a Doctor of Philosophy

Nathan Vassallo graduated from a Bachelor of Business (Economics)

Nelson McLaughlin graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Patrick Corcoran graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Racheal Williams graduated from a Bachelor of Nursing

Rebecca Malcolm graduated from a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

Renae Smith graduated from a Bachelor of Midwifery

Samuel Barton graduated from a Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Sophie Keen graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Tai Lovatt graduated from a Bachelor of Business (Property)

Tasman Sadler graduated from a Bachelor of Communication

Tatum Maybir graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Tayla Drew graduated from a Bachelor of Midwifery

Tayla Rae graduated from a Master of Urban Management and Planning

Tiaan McLean graduated from a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine)

Toni Walters graduated from an Undergraduate Certificate in Counselling and Mental Health

Tristan Strange graduated from a Bachelor of Computer Science

Research

CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Western Sydney University is very proud of our Indigenous academics and higher degree research students. Please read about some of their outstanding research that was completed late last year and earlier this year.

Karen Soldatic, **Corrinne T. Sullivan**, Linda Briskman, John Leha, William Trewlynn & Kim Spurway. (2023). Indigenous LGBTIQSB+ People's Experiences of Family Violence in Australia. *J Fam Viol.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00539-1>

Michelle Locke, Michelle Trudgett & Susan Page. (2022). Indigenous early career researchers in the time of Covid-19. *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues*, 25(3-4), 11-27. DOI: 10.3316/informit.881818329736230

Rhonda Povey, **Michelle Trudgett, Susan Page & Stacey Kim Coates.** (2022). Paying-it-forward: Indigenous leadership in American higher education. *Race Ethnicity and Education.* DOI: 10.1080/13613324.2022.2033197

Scott Avery. (2022). Closing the Gap Disability Dialogues 2022: A co-production and delivery model for elevating issues and policy responses affecting First Nations people with disability within Australian government agencies. Commissioned Report. Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Canberra, Australia.



Indigenous staff, students, and Elders at the Bankstown City Campus Badanami Centre.

Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education opens at Bankstown City campus

Western Sydney University recently officially opened its newest Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education based at the University's Bankstown City campus. The ceremony, held on Thursday, 16 March, brought together Indigenous staff, students and Elders.

Guided by the University's Indigenous Elders Advisory Committee, the existing Milperra campus' 'Wall of Hands', a 5-metre brick wall of Indigenous

graduates' painted handprints over the past 40-years, was carefully taken apart to allow its incorporation into Western Sydney University's newest campus in Bankstown CBD.

All original handprints on the wall were carefully scanned and transferred to a new steel work in collaboration with industrial artist Anton Grimes. The new work has now been installed at the heart of the student hub in front of the new Badanami Centre on Level 3 of the recently opened Bankstown City campus.

All pieces of the original Wall of Hands will be used in the gabion walls forming a key component of the Yarning Circle

on the terrace of Level 3. Construction work on the Yarning Circle is currently in progress.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, Professor Michelle Trudgett, said the Bankstown Badanami Centre reflects and celebrates the cultural heritage of the diverse student population.

"Western Sydney University is proud to open its newest Badanami Centre which will offer students, staff and the community an inspiring space to connect and share knowledge, while also supporting Indigenous students to succeed in their studies," said Professor Trudgett.

Research Spotlight: Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan

Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan is a Wiradjuri scholar in Human Geography, and the Associate Dean (Indigenous Education) in the School of Social Sciences. Her research interests are multi-disciplinary and focus broadly on experiences and effects of body and identity in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Associate Professor Sullivan's current research projects explore the embodied geographies of sexuality and/or gender. Corrinne also conducts research in Indigenous Education and has expertise in Indigenous curriculum and pedagogy development.

Western Sydney University would like to congratulate Associate Professor Sullivan on her recent research successes. In recent months, Associate Professor Sullivan received two Australian Research Council (ARC) grants and was awarded the Australian Health Research Alliance, Women's Health Research Translation Network Indigenous Early-Mid Career Researcher Award. The following is a snapshot of Associate Professor Sullivan's current research projects.

Earlier in the year Associate Professor Sullivan, Professor Karen Soldatic and community partners, BlaQ Aboriginal Corporation, received an ARC Linkage Project grant of over \$370,000 for their research entitled, 'Walking my path: NSW Indigenous LGBTIQ+ peoples' experiences & aspirations'.

This is the first research project to focus on how the lived experiences of Indigenous gender/sexuality diverse peoples in New South Wales intersect with their social, economic and cultural needs and aspirations regarding community, culture and Country. The project will build upon the initial evidence from the team's prior research, enriching understandings of the lived experiences of Indigenous gender/sexuality diverse peoples and their needs and aspirations. The project will use in-depth, rich analysis from multiple sources, interviews, yarning circles and digital narratives, that will illuminate their lives and facilitate understandings of what they want in the short and long term.

Associate Professor Sullivan also received an ARC linkage grant for a research project that will be conducted with Associate Professor Jess McLean, Associate Professor Fiona Miller and community partners Mudgee Aboriginal Land Council,

and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The ARC Linkage Project grant saw over \$180,000 awarded to the research project entitled, 'Storying and repairing water places in Wiradjuri Country'.

This co-designed project will centre Aboriginal knowledges to story and repair Wiradjuri Country around the Mudgee area in central west NSW. Building on an existing research relationship with local Aboriginal people, the project will support Aboriginal people in caring for Country and build collaborative research and management opportunities that facilitate care, storying, and repair. While Aboriginal people and natural resource managers have engaged in some co-management of parts of Wiradjuri Country around Mudgee over the last decade, this project is the first time that extension and documentation of the relations and knowledges underpinning co-management will occur for the broader community. The project will answer the following research question: How can making art and stories through on-Country learning increase understandings of waterways, gender and environmental change, to facilitate repairing relations with Country, water and each other?

Additionally, Associate Professor Sullivan was awarded the Australian Health Research Alliance, Women's Health Research Translation Network Indigenous Early-Mid Career Researcher Award to explore the sexual health and wellbeing needs of Indigenous women who are lesbian, queer and/or trans. Undertaking this research will have significant healthcare benefits to the participants by increasing the capacity of service providers through education. The education of service providers will ensure better sexual health outcomes for Indigenous women who are lesbian, queer and/or trans.

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director of Indigenous Research, would like to congratulate Associate Professor Sullivan on developing and engaging in such culturally significant projects.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Associate Professor Sullivan for around 10 years now, and I've always been impressed by her critical mind, passion, and drive. Associate Professor Sullivan is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with within both the Indigenous Studies and Human Geography disciplines. Her recent grant successes (and many publications) are not only a testament to this, but also clearly show that Associate Professor Sullivan's critical Indigenous thinking is



Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan.
Photography: Sally Tsoutas.

being used as a strong weapon for social justice, and protection (and revival) of Country. I'm proud of you Corrinne," said Professor Bodkin-Andrews.

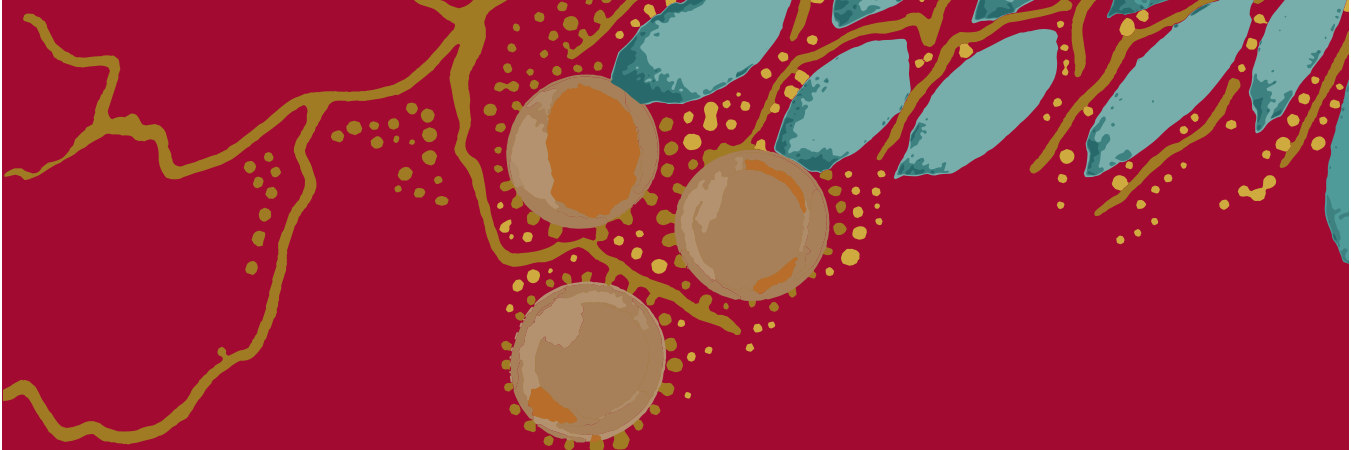
Western Sydney University would once again like to congratulate Associate Professor Sullivan on her recent grant achievements and wish her the best of luck with her research journey. We are impressed by the breadth and depth of Associate Professor Sullivan's research and her vision to promote research that truly works to empower Indigenous Australians and broader communities.

New Resource on the Referendum: Indigenous Voice to Parliament

The Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum is scheduled to take place at the end of the year. Western is keen to provide our staff and students with as much information as possible to make the best decision for themselves, their families and communities, as well as the nation more broadly.

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership and the Library have partnered to develop a fabulous resource. We are pleased to share the Indigenous Voice to Parliament Library Guide which is a collection of interesting resources designed to provide us with a better understanding of the referendum. It can be accessed via the following link <https://subjectguides.library.westernsydney.edu.au/c.php?q=957784&p=6952624>

Please explore this great resource and share it with colleagues and community.



FOR OUR ELDERS
2-9 JULY 2023

**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



YARRAMUNDI LECTURE 2023

Professor Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership warmly invites you to attend Western Sydney University's 25th annual Yarramundi Lecture.

The Yarramundi Lecture provides a forum for the discussion of issues of local and national importance. It has become central to the University's longstanding commitment to its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

GUEST SPEAKERS

→ **Western Sydney University Indigenous Elders Advisory Committee.**

This year's NAIDOC theme is *For Our Elders*. The Elders will share stories from the heart, reflecting their life experiences and matters important to themselves and their communities, for the future.

4 July 2023 | Event begins at 11am and includes post event canapes and networking from 12.30pm

If you have any queries, please contact Western Sydney University's Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership at DVCIL@westernsydney.edu.au

To register for this event, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander/events

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL



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