



# The Yarning Circle

Winter 2021 | Edition #5

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 of its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

## Disclaimers

The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the University or the organisation to which the authors are affiliated. Statements of fact are believed to be true as at the date of publication, and the University accepts no liability for the truth or accuracy of such statements.

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

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Indigenous student and staff soccer teams. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

## Western's soccer match of the Century: Game two

Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 saw Western's Indigenous staff, Indigenous students and friends put down their pens and pull on their sneakers to compete in the second annual Staff vs Student Soccer match. Due to wet weather the event was held at the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre and provided all the opportunity to meet and reconnect with students, staff, Elders, alumni, and friends.

The game was nail-biting. The students were up 3-1 in the first half before a concerted effort by the staff team which saw the score swing around. The staff team defied all odds and came away eventual winners with a score of 4-3.

Many thanks to all who participated, both on court and from the sidelines. A special thanks to Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, for refereeing the game.

Western Sydney Wanderers representatives attended to assist and inspire players on the day, and award the Best and Fairest Player trophy.

They were impressed by how seriously the players took to their roles and were particularly impressed by Chantelle Khamchuang, Badanami Student Success Officer and PhD student, who was awarded Best and Fairest.

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Luke Hodge won a signed picture of the 2020 Western Sydney Wanderers team in the raffle and Tanya Satori won a six seated corporate reserve ticket to a Western Sydney Wanderers game.

The captain of the winning team, Josh Mason, Acting Director of the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, said the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Indigenous soccer game was a huge success.

“It was a day of coming together and building valuable connections between our students and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff here at Western. Thanks to our students who got involved and helped contribute to what was a great game and massive congratulations to our staff team who won the game 4-3. I would like to thank Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and her team for organising the event. I am looking forward to doing it all again next year,” said Josh.



Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Dr Corrinne Sullivan, Associate Dean (Indigenous Education). Photography: Sally Tsoutas

“To all involved in the preparation and execution of such a deadly event, thank you. Congratulations to the staff team on their win, it was a fun, competitive game for all,” said Luke Hodge, captain of the Indigenous student team.

Fiona Towney, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation, said that Western’s annual soccer game brought our students, staff and broader Indigenous community together in a fun way that promotes Indigenous excellence and wellbeing through positive engagement.

“Congratulations to all who were involved. There were a number of very talented players on both sides, but special mention must go to Corrinne Sullivan, who delivered a sensational game in goal. Once again, Professor Kevin Dunn demonstrated his skill and knowledge of the game as referee,” said Ms Towney.

We are looking forward to the 2022 match – will it be Western’s staff or students who go one up?



Fiona Towney, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR

As Reconciliation Week 2021 comes to a close, I am very pleased to present you with the Winter 2021 edition of *The Yarning Circle*.

The Indigenous portfolio experienced some leadership changes from mid-March to mid-June. During this time, Professor Michelle Trudgett was Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I moved into the Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation role and Josh Mason was Acting Director of Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Indigenous students and Indigenous staff studying and working in all areas across Western Sydney University.

The beginning of 2021 has brought about a reawakening for us in many ways. A vaccine has offered most of us a chance for safety and some normality in our lives, Badanami Centres have reopened and we are welcoming our students back.

Our Indigenous student and staff numbers are growing, and we have a newly established Indigenous Elders Indigenous Advisory Committee who will be working collaboratively with us over the next two years.

The future promises to be a time of growth and consolidation for our Indigenous staff, students, families and communities and I welcome you all to be a part of this journey.

### Fiona Towney

Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation



# BOLD

## conversations

by Dr Scott Avery

The Bold Conservation 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.



Dr Scott Avery. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

**Dr Scott Avery is a proud Worimi man and Indigenous disability researcher and advocate located in the School of Social Sciences at Western. Dr Avery reflects on closing the gap between good intentions and good implementation.**

The day that I was invited to write this piece was the day the grim findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety were handed down. These findings reminded me of the harrowing trauma stories of Indigenous people with disability that are unfolding in the Disability Royal Commission. While reflecting on this, I also referred back to the last Bold Conversation where Aboriginal legal scholar Robyn Oxley wrote on the sustained rate of Aboriginal deaths in custody on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Three Royal Commissions and I haven't even left the first paragraph. So much pain, so much energy going into making a difference through these enquiries, yet so very little progress.

My own frustration and despondency in witnessing the relentless cycle of commissions and inquiries comes from asking myself how is it that a nation with the resources and intellectual capital of Australia struggles to make a dent in its most intractable social justice problems. Presuming for a moment there is sufficient good will in the populace in wanting social justice for Indigenous people, how is it that the institutionalised racism that perpetuates historical injustices cannot be altered. Why are good intentions failing?

My experience before coming into academia was with Aboriginal community-based advocacy organisations, including in Indigenous disability with the First Peoples Disability Network. Being on both sides of the fence as a research-activist

has allowed me to reflect upon why there is a difference between wanting to do the right thing by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the ability to affect meaningful change.

One observation I made when working in Aboriginal community is how the leadership role of Indigenous people and their organisations changes from when social inequalities are first identified, to the action needed to address the issues. When it comes to raising the public awareness of social inequalities they face, Indigenous people are the front line, be it through their advocacy, campaigning, or exercising Indigenous philosophies in their teaching and research. However, if they are successful in capturing the public attention, the problem-solving part of social changes is handed to others, and often sent back to the systems and institutions that generated their inequality in the first place.

There's a PhD topic for someone in what happens next. As the social movement shifts to the change-making stage, Indigenous people become dethroned from their leadership role. What is funded and supported is not necessarily the agenda of the Indigenous people who initiated the change, but of governments and service systems seeking to respond. In this process, Indigenous people are re-positioned from leaders to advisors on someone else's social change agenda. It is with this re-positioning in the status of Indigenous people, and the concurrent marginalisation of Indigenous knowledge in system-thinking approaches to solving social problems, that the gap between well-meaning intention and effective execution of social change widens.

Indigenous engagement activities are now regularly included in strategies that governments, universities and other

institutions develop with Indigenous people and their organisations, which are reflective of well-meaning intentions to do the right thing by Indigenous people. However, how 'engagement' is applied in the everyday routine such as teaching in classrooms and in research team meetings needs to be carefully thought through. The narrative around 'engagement' is a promising entry point to recognising the history and contemporary issues of concern for Indigenous people and affords practical mechanisms through which Indigenous people can directly speak on matters that affects them. However, 'engagement' of itself does not guarantee Indigenous sovereignty in the decision and change-making process, as the ultimate authority to say 'yes' or 'no' to any initiative sits beyond their control.

What I'd like to see is an increasing acceptance of approaches to social change that is Indigenous led and Indigenous executed, one where Indigenous people and their communities nominate what matters to them, and then are provided resources and authority to carry their initiatives through. I can envisage a partnership between Indigenous communities and universities, in which Indigenous people have the mandate to call the shots, and it is the university bringing their institutional power and resources behind Indigenous leadership to drive their social change agenda. Treaty, anyone?

Creating partnerships with Indigenous communities and their organisations that elevate Indigenous sovereignty are the next frontier in leveraging the foundation of engagement. The optimist in me thinks there is enough good will to move these approaches forward. The challenge, as always, will come down to executing these bold conversations.

## Western appoints Indigenous higher education leaders

Western Sydney University is pleased to announce two new appointments to its Indigenous senior leadership team, with Professor Susan Page joining the University as its Director of Indigenous Learning and Teaching, and Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews appointed as the Director of Indigenous Research.

Professors Page and Bodkin-Andrews are both highly respected higher education leaders and researchers, bringing a wealth of collective experience to their respective roles.

Professor Page is an Aboriginal scholar, originally from Queensland, with over 25 years' experience in the higher education sector. Her academic work and research focus on Indigenous peoples' experience of learning and academic work in tertiary education, and student learning in Indigenous Studies.

She is currently employed at the University of Technology Sydney, where she is Associate Dean (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) and Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges. Her wide-ranging role includes leading and contributing to various national committees, collaborating with government, implementing university-wide strategic projects and engaging with the local Indigenous community.

Professor Page will commence her role at Western Sydney University in July.

"I am excited to be joining Western Sydney University, and I look forward to working across the University community to develop a range of initiatives to enhance student learning. A key objective will be to work with Schools to implement a large-scale project to deeply embed Indigenous content across the curriculum, ensuring that all students and staff have the opportunity to engage with and learn from Indigenous Knowledges," said Professor Page.



Professor Susan Page

Professor Bodkin-Andrews is from the D'harawal nation and grew up in Western Sydney. His research focuses on encapsulating and promoting Indigenous standpoints and perspectives across a range of disciplines, most notably education and psychology.

Currently employed at the University of Technology Sydney, Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges, Professor Bodkin-Andrews has led numerous research grants investigating a range of topics including mental health, mentoring, identity, Traditional Knowledges, education, racism and bullying. His scholarly work has attracted numerous national and international awards.

Professor Bodkin-Andrews completed his undergraduate degree and PhD at Western Sydney University, and worked at the University as a Research Fellow from 2008 until 2014. He says he is looking forward to taking up his appointment in August.

"I am very much looking forward to returning to Western Sydney University to develop the Indigenous Research agenda, to empower the Aboriginal communities that the University should answer to, and to help the University become a national leader in Indigenous research. Part of that strategy includes attracting and supporting more Indigenous Higher Degree Research students and supporting their transition into valued Career Researchers and industry representatives, further developing our Indigenous scholars, and strengthening the Indigenous research capacity right across the University," Professor Bodkin-Andrews said.



Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Western Sydney University, says she is delighted to welcome Professors Page and Bodkin-Andrews to the University.

"On behalf of the University community, I warmly congratulate Susan and Gawaian on their appointments. They are both outstanding higher education leaders, who are passionate about expanding our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous matters and increasing Indigenous peoples' participation in higher education," said Professor Trudgett.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Barney Glover AO welcomes these appointments.

"Western Sydney University, with the support of our valued Indigenous staff and community, is playing a huge role in fostering Indigenous excellence in education and research in Western Sydney. The appointments of Professors Page and Bodkin-Andrews will help lead the implementation of our University's Indigenous Strategy and work to strengthen Indigenous teaching, learning and research across the University," said Professor Glover.



## Western's artwork is an example of reconciliation in practice

Early last year, Western Sydney University's Executive team, together with a group of academics and professional staff, participated in a full-day cultural exchange workshop to enhance their understanding of Country and culture. This was co-facilitated by Allan McKenzie – a proud Wiradjuri-Gamilaroi man from Griffith NSW. Allan has painted for over 29 years and promotes Aboriginal culture through optical storytelling, song, and dance. It was at this cultural workshop that the journeyed artwork commenced. Since then, Allan facilitated a number of workshops where over 150 individuals, including Western Sydney University staff and students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, contributed to the painting and engaged in Aboriginal cultural learning. This artwork provided all the opportunity to yarn and learn.

The painting is incredibly detailed and hangs at nearly two and a half metres long by one metre wide. It is inspired by the Burramattagal River which flows alongside the Parramatta South campus and symbolises the significance of the Burramattagal people and the lands upon which the campus stands.

Allan McKenzie says that it is truly a remarkable piece.

"It has been an honour to work with Western Sydney University over the past year on this artwork. I would like



Western Executive contributing to the artwork. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

to thank Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Fiona Towney, Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation, for inviting me to be involved in this artistic journey. It was a privilege to facilitate the painting and important yarns about Aboriginal cultures and support necessary for Aboriginal people in the education system," said Mr McKenzie.

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Western Sydney University, says this piece of art is a great example of reconciliation in practice.

"Under the expert guidance of the wonderful Allan McKenzie, this artwork brought together a large number of staff and students who shared a vision to create a beautiful story about the area.

I am incredibly proud of the manner in which staff and students collaborated as they shared stories and laughs in an environment that supported their learning journey. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank Allan and everyone who contributed to this artwork," said Professor Trudgett.

Western Sydney University would like to thank Allan McKenzie and all who contributed to the artwork. The Office Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation invites all to view it proudly hanging in the Chancellery foyer on Parramatta South campus.

To find out more about Allan's advocacy, artworks, apparel and his portfolio of workshops, educational experiences and community activities please, follow the link: <https://www.allanmckenzieaboriginalartist.com.au/>.



Western Sydney University's artwork. Photography: Sally Tsoutas



# Students

## WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S INDIGENOUS STUDENTS ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS

### Seven deadly questions: Introducing Kayden Edwards

#### Who are you?

My name is Kayden Edwards and I am a proud Darug man, born in Penrith and raised in the Hawkesbury. I am one of eight children and am currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Pathway to Teaching Primary). I am in my fourth year of my bachelor's degree and I am set to start my Master of Teaching in Autumn of 2021.

Although I have loads of career aspirations, I always wanted to be a cool, inspiring teacher for the next generation. Outside of University, I love playing video games, longboarding, watching spooky movies and going for shootarounds with my friends.

#### Who is your mob?

I'm an incredibly proud Darug man who has grown up on Country my entire life. Although I know not nearly enough as I would like to know about my family roots, I've traced my family back to the town of Richmond and learned of my family name. I've also been lucky enough to meet mob at loads of events throughout my career, externally and within the University which has helped me learn who I am and where I belong.



Kayden Edwards

#### What community or cultural events have you been involved in lately?

I am a student ambassador at Western Sydney University, and I have recently had the privilege to support community and the next generations through events like Pathway to Dreaming, Heartbeat and PATHE. Engagement in such events has allowed me to meet new people, develop strong bonds and hopefully inspire the next generation to realise their worth and potential. I also played in the 2020 and 2021 Indigenous staff VS students soccer match which enabled me to have fun and engage with Western's mob.

#### Why did you choose to study at Western Sydney University?

I initially chose to study at Western because I had engaged in many events at the University throughout high school such as tutoring and orientation days. It was a University that was familiar, my friends were also going there, it was close to home and I also scored an early entry offer. Western was always my first choice.

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

Overall, my experience with the University as an Indigenous student has been a positive one. The Badanami Centre allowed me extra resources and tutoring whenever I needed it, and with supportive calls, making sure my studies are going well and in order.

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

When I graduate from Western Sydney University, I'll be graduating in the hopes of becoming the greatest teacher there ever was. I aim to inspire the next generation of students and teach them not only how to be awesome students but awesome people. I also want to continue to learn more about my culture and integrate that into my teaching practices, sharing it with future mob and kids to help culture them on how to treat Country and each other.

#### 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?

I have many tips for other deadly students:

1. Do not let anyone else determine your worth. You are your own person capable of the most incredible things. Prejudices and bad vibes do not do anyone any favours. Just be yourself and don't let anyone change that.
2. Do not stress too hard. I know it is easy to read it compared to the real deal but remember to balance work and play to keep yourself at your happiest.
3. Plan. Even a rough plan or calendar outlining when you will tackle your work makes all the difference.
4. For lighter mob like me, do not be uncomfortable in your own skin. We come in all different colours so be unashamedly yourself. Learn your culture and walk proudly on and off campus.
5. "The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all" – The Emperor, Mulan. Find solace in knowing that the challenges you face will be lessons learned.



## The sky is the limit for Harry Brotherhood

Harry Brotherhood is an inspiring 20-year-old student who is currently completing his first year in a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at Western Sydney University. He is a proud Wiradjuri man with ancestral and Country connections to a small-town North of Cowra, however he resides in Liverpool on sovereign Darug land.

Harry is incredibly passionate about engineering and is enjoying the complexities and challenges of his degree. He has always enjoyed designing, building and pulling apart different models. His experiences in Western Sydney University's Pathways to Dreaming Program opened his eyes to the study and career opportunities available to him. Western Sydney University offered Harry an early offer into his course as a result of his academic achievement and community involvement.

Harry has always been a high achiever.



Harry Brotherhood

In Year 11 he was the only Indigenous student to travel to America as part of Lazsta ISTEM Space-camp course wherein he had the opportunity to engage in field studies tours, visit science and technology museums, and collaborate with other like-minded secondary students to

solve simulated engineering and design challenges.

He is also incredibly active in the Liverpool Aboriginal community. Harry was instrumental in setting up Indigenous support and excellence programs at his previous secondary school. He has volunteered at various cultural events, including NAIDOC week celebrations, and has been an invited guest speaker on several occasions.

"It is only by becoming at peace with my connection to Country and culture, and through dedication, I can reach my full potential," said Harry Brotherhood.

"The sky truly is the limit."

Once graduated from Western, Harry hopes to pursue a career in aeronautical engineering where he will specialise in making equipment for various defence forces around the world. Western Sydney University wishes Harry the best of luck in the future. We are looking forward to supporting your progression as you work towards achieving your aspirations.

## Scholarships support the mob to achieve academically

Western Sydney University offers over \$25 million in scholarships every year which includes a generous range of University and donor-funded opportunities. Many of these scholarships recognise and reward students who demonstrate outstanding academic ability, and superior leadership and community skills.



Cooper Hill

Recently, several Indigenous students were awarded scholarships and Western would like to congratulate them on this significant achievement and wish them the best of luck with their studies.

Emily Dunn was awarded the Dean's Indigenous Master of Professional Psychology. This scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student enrolled in a Master of Professional Psychology. It encompasses the payment of 50% of tuition fees per session for up to two years plus a paid internship with the Department of Communities and Justice at the conclusion of the scholarship.

Liam Khan was awarded the inaugural DesignInc Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Architecture Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student commencing study or currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Architectural Design course. The DesignInc Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Architecture Scholarship is highly prestigious and ensures the provision of \$30,000 per year for five years.

Bianca Nicholas-Ceissman, Tiffany Sharpe and Madeleine Maree Taylor received

Western's Indigenous Achievement scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to academically gifted Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students who are either commencing or continuing their tertiary education at Western. Students receive \$5,000 per year for up to five years for an undergraduate degree which may include Honours.

Cooper Hill and Callum Irwin received the School of Medicine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accommodation Scholarship. This scholarship aims to support Indigenous students undertaking the Doctor of Medicine degree, who come from one or more of the University's defined equity or personal disadvantage groups, with the costs associated with accommodation. The value of the scholarship is \$10,000 per year for up to five years.

Western Sydney University offers a wide range of scholarships for both future and current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students on all Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Higher Degree Research levels. To browse the range of scholarships offered, please follow this link: [westernsydney.edu.au/future/why-western/scholarships.html](https://westernsydney.edu.au/future/why-western/scholarships.html)



Uncle Harry Allie, Aunty Norma Shelley, Aunty Pearl Wymarra, Aunty Sandra Lee, Uncle Greg Simms, Aunty Rasme Prior, Uncle Rex Sorby, Aunty Fran Bodkin

## Elders Indigenous Advisory Committee continue their commitment to support and advocate for Western Sydney University

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

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, the new advisory committee met for the first-time and engaged in discussions with Professor Michelle Trudgett, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the team in the Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation.

Uncle Harry Allie BEM is a proud Gudjala Elder and veteran after spending over 23 years in the Royal Australian Air Force. Uncle Harry worked in the Defence industry then joined the Commonwealth Public Service and was involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and issues. The many roles adopted by Uncle Harry include the Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group for Canterbury Bankstown City Council, Member of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council and Board Member of Bankstown Community Resource Group. Uncle Harry is Chair of Indigenous Veterans Commemoration Ceremony. He has been awarded one of five prestigious Elders Awards by the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council for his lifelong contribution to higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as the Western Sydney University Community Award in 2012.

(continued overleaf)



In 2013, Uncle Harry was a recipient of one of the Pauline McLeod Awards for Reconciliation promoting achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans to the wider Australian Community. His service contributions have also been recognised with the British Empire Medal, the Australian Service Medal 1975–1989, the Defence Service Medal, the National Medal, the Australian Defence Medal, Certificate of Outstanding Service and the 2014 Citizen of the Year Award by Bankstown City Council.

D'harawal Elder (Bidjigal clan) and an academically-qualified ethnobotanist and environmental scientist, Aunty Frances (Fran) Bodkin has given a life of service to the community and worked tirelessly towards the teaching and promotion of Aboriginal culture, native plants and bush medicines. She is an active member of Wollondilly Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and is an educator of D'harawal knowledge holding a Bachelor of Environmental Science. Combining the knowledge passed down through her Aboriginal mother with that from her University education, has provided Aunty Fran with a holistic understanding of the environment. Aunty Fran has received many awards for her contributions to Indigenous knowledges and communities including being named one of the 100 most influential Aboriginal women of the last 100 years by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance as part of their International Women's Day celebrations. As a co-speaker, Aunty Fran shared her knowledges in the 2020 Yarramundi Lecture, and in 2012 she received the Western Sydney University Community Award.

Aunty Sandra Lee is a proud Darug Elder. Aunty Sandra continues to promote Darug heritage and culture with her family's centuries-old connections to the Blacktown area and is a strong advocate of First Peoples sovereignty, changes to the Native Title legislation, education and the welfare of Aboriginal youth. She founded the Burbaga Aboriginal Corporation, visited many local schools to disseminate Darug education and worked with the Department of Community Services assisting with

Aboriginal children in foster care and facilitates connections to the Aboriginal community. Aunty Sandra has been acknowledged for her vast contributions to the area. In 2012 she received a Western Sydney University Community Award, was a joint winner of the Blacktown International Women of The Year award, and also received Life Membership of the Western Sydney Community Forum.

Aunty Rasme Prior is a Torres Strait Islander Elder. She has worked for both the Aboriginal Development Commission and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. She has also undertaken volunteer work for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and is an accredited cross-cultural awareness trainer. Aunty Rasme constantly promotes cultural awareness amongst all Australians as she runs her own cross-cultural training consultancy, is a member of the Women's Reconciliation Network NSW and is a founding member for the Cultural Diversity Network Inc.

Aunty Norma Shelley OAM is a Kamilaroi Elder. She is a retired Social Studies, Textile and Design teacher and now donates her time to local community groups, including the Cerebral Palsy Association, Aboriginal Carers, South West Sydney Koori Interagency, NSW Justice Association, Liverpool Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee, Gandangara Land Council, the Heritage Committee and the Aboriginal Consultative Committee. Aunty Norma has received many prestigious awards for her contributions to the community including the Officer of the Order of Liverpool, Order of Australia Medal, The Premier's Seniors Achievement Award, the Federal Government's Seniors Achievement Award, Liverpool Citizen of the Year and in 2012 she received the Western Sydney University Community Award.

Uncle Greg Simms is a proud Gadigal Elder and activist for reconciliation, a traditional woodcarver, a storyteller, and an educator of Aboriginal culture. Uncle Greg's ties to the Aboriginal community of Greater Western Sydney are through his ancestral links to the Gundungurra

(waterdragon lizard people) of the Blue Mountains and the Gadigal (whale people) of the Darug nation. Growing up in La Perouse and now a resident of Greater Western Sydney, Uncle Greg was a Community Liaison Officer with Ability Options which provides employment services specifically to Aboriginal people with a disability or health condition.

Uncle Rex Sorby is a proud Kamilaroi Elder and he is passionate about ensuring equitable governance, policies, and access for all Australians to education, employment, and well-being. Uncle Rex was the first Aboriginal to be elected to the Rail, Tram and Bus Union. Now retired, Uncle Rex has served on a number of Boards including the Heritage Society, an Ethics Committee Member and the Western Sydney University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy Consultative Committee.

Aunty Pearl Wymarra is a proud Gudang Elder in the Far Northern Cape York Peninsula. Her life's work centres on healing and the desire to bring about peace in the world. She has a long-standing relationship with Western Sydney University; she has served on the University's Academic Senate, Equity Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Human Research Ethics Committee, chaired the Unity Week Coordinating Committee and was instrumental in developing the Yarramundi Lecture. Aunty Pearl has worked extensively in the education sector at primary and university levels and acted as the Director of Indigenous Education during 2001 at Western. She is a staunch advocate for better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, completing a number of consultancy projects in NSW and Queensland for health institutions and Aboriginal organisations and she has published articles, presented at conferences extensively around Australia to many groups of people of all ages.

Western Sydney University would like to thank the Elders Indigenous Advisory Committee for their continued support, guidance, and leadership.

# Staff

## WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S PASSIONATE INDIGENOUS STAFF

### Seven deadly questions: Introducing Gabrielle Talbot-Mundine, a Future Student Engagement Senior Project Support Officer

#### Who are you?

My name is Gabrielle Talbot-Mundine, I am a very outgoing, self-motivated, friendly and hard-working Bundjalung woman. I always look forward to a challenge and being able to expand my knowledge and skills. I pride myself on my transparency and honesty towards others and I value the same in return.

#### Who is your mob?

I am a proud Bundjalung woman of the West Bundjalung Nation, specifically the Widabel tribe of the Bundjalung Nation. I am a descendant of Harry Mundine and Pojum, my great grandfather Roy Mundine Senior was a tribe Elder. My grandfather Warren Mundine Snr and Auntie Karen Mundine are Aboriginal ambassadors within the NSW Government. My tribe is based in Baryulgil Grafton but I have resided on Darug land since birth.



Gabrielle Talbot-Mundine. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

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

I recently attended the Western Sydney University Indigenous Staff vs Student Soccer Game held by Professor Michelle Trudgett. I also recently returned to my Country and visited friends and family for the holidays. For me returning to Country is a cultural and spiritual time for reflection, it enabled me to reconnect with the land and my identity as a proud Aboriginal woman. Prior to this in 2020 I conducted and participated in a number of online activities both cultural and community engagement focused. This included internal and external activities to Western Sydney University.

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

I am currently working for Western Sydney University as a full-time ongoing professional staff member in the Future Student Engagement Team as a Senior Project Support Officer. I commenced working with Western Sydney University in 2014 and have been appointed roles in the Assessment and Graduation Unit and Badanami Team.

#### Have you always aspired to work in tertiary education?

I have always aspired to work in a business environment, I saw an opportunity to take on the tertiary education world and I jumped at it. I take pride in providing a high standard of customer service. I work well autonomously and in a team and I utilise these skills constantly in this working environment.

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

There is something so special about being involved and opening doors for the future generations to come. My involvement in providing these opportunities and pathways to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is my favourite part about Western. There are just no words for the feeling you get when you have shown a student they are good enough.

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

Take advantage of the opportunity in front of you, you will never know if you do not give it a try. Western is a diverse community and provides so many levels of opportunity for your professional development.



## Meet Sophie Kobuch, one of Western Sydney University's Super Tutors

### Who are you?

My name is Sophie Kobuch. I was born and raised in France by a French mother and a German dad. I attended the University of Hawaii where I earned a Bachelor in Biology. I moved to Sydney in 2012 and have completed my MBBS, Bachelor of Medical Research and PhD at Western Sydney University. I am now a junior doctor working in Tasmania.

### Who are you tutoring and what are they studying?

I am tutoring two amazing medical students who are now in their final year of medical school. I have tutored them pretty much throughout their whole medical school career.



Sophie Kobuch

### Why did you decide to become part of the Badanami Tutoring for Success Program?

I started tutoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical

students when I began my Bachelor of Medical Research, which was a great way for me to keep up with the medical knowledge and to provide support to younger students. I love the relationships I build with people through tutoring. I learn so much about different learning styles and need to be constantly on my toes to deliver the best possible learning methods tailored to each individual.

### Why is tutoring important?

Tutoring is important as it provides support for students. Furthermore, tutors and tutees often develop strong bonds that may develop long-term friendships.

### What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about becoming a tutor?

It's a great opportunity for tutors to gain experience in teaching and is extremely rewarding!



Western Staff and Student Ambassadors. Photography: Sally Tsoutas

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Future Student Information Evenings for 2021

Are you a prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student who would like to find out more about the opportunities available to you at Western?

Please join our team for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Future Student Information Evenings for 2021 on:

- **Tuesday 20 July 2021**  
**6.00pm - 7.30pm**  
**Parramatta South campus**  
**(Face to Face)**
- **Tuesday 7 September 2021**  
**6.00pm - 7.30pm**  
**Webinar (Online)**

There will be a range of internal and external providers holding information stalls and presenting on the support they offer to Western students. Some of the key stakeholders that you will have the opportunity to meet include:

- Scholarships
- Student Welfare services
- Badanami
- Tutoring for Success
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program
- Career Trackers
- The College
- Admissions
- Centrelink
- Aspire

To find out more and register for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Future Student Information Evening, please follow this link

[westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-information-evenings.html](https://westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-information-evenings.html)

## Western Sydney University partners with The Shed to support the local Aboriginal community



Community at The Shed

The Shed is a community-based suicide prevention centre that operates at the coalface in Emerton, Western Sydney. The Shed is a culturally safe space where men and families, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, can share their stories in a non-judgemental environment which promotes a sense of belonging, healing, listening, trust, respect and offers access to diverse services.

The Shed was established in 2004 as a partnership between Western Sydney University and the Holy Family Church at Mount Druitt. It represents one of Western's attempts to listen and learn from the local community's narrative and further learn from the culture and stories of community and develop some strategies for grass roots change.

This is particularly important because male suicide is an all too frequently encountered phenomenon in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as is the experience of racism, incarceration, job, economic and housing insecurity: these things are often tragically interrelated.

The Shed provides support to men who are considered to be at risk of serious stress and suicide, generally on account of cumulative stress often due to disadvantaged situations. The workers at The Shed; Ricky Welsh, Don Mulholland and recently appointed Richard Duarte listen to the men and re-direct them to points of service such as public housing providers, legal services, or financial counsellors. Services providers also access men at the Shed, notably probation and parole, mental health Team, Centrelink and local Aboriginal services. The services are encouraged to see The Shed as the men's space and not an extension of their offices.

Don Mulholland, a cultural worker, said that The Shed is a large hub gathering place for those in need and enjoys enormous support from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with Elders actively involved in the organisation's direction.

"We aim to maximise the mob's engagement with services to support wellbeing, health and other social determinants of male suicide. We endeavour to help Aboriginal men and families develop a sense of worth and provide opportunities to reconnect with their Aboriginal culture," said Mr Mulholland.

Ricky Welsh, coordinator at The Shed, explained that the organisation's core values and intentions are to empower Aboriginal males and their families.

"The support we offer is essential for strengthening local Aboriginal people's capacities to deal with life's challenges. The Shed is however part of a much wider framework and has contributed nationally to serious issues surrounding men's health and the isolation that comes from social exclusion," said Mr Welsh.

To find out more about The Shed and the services provided please visit [http://www.mengage.org.au/images/The\\_Shed\\_Stories\\_1MB.pdf](http://www.mengage.org.au/images/The_Shed_Stories_1MB.pdf) or contact the team at [d.mulholland@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:d.mulholland@westernsydney.edu.au) or call 9628 6317.

**If this story has raised issues for you, contact Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14 for 24/7 crisis support.**



# Alumni

## WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S INDIGENOUS ALUMNI

### Seven deadly questions: Introducing Rod Towney

#### Who are you?

My name is Uncle Rod, I am a proud Wiradjuri Elder in community, and I am passionate about education, in particular assisting and witnessing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students graduate from school, TAFE, and University courses. I am a proud father of four beautiful children, three sons and one daughter, and a grandfather of three beloved grandchildren. I love sport and music and seeing others succeed in life.

#### What community and cultural events have you been involved in lately?

I currently provide cultural consultancy and on-country experiences in Western NSW. I am an active member in the Wiradjuri community and am looking forward to celebrating NAIDOC with the mob next month.

#### What is your current position and why are you passionate about what you are currently doing?

I am a member of the Wiradjuri Elders Council and am incredibly passionate about Wiradjuri culture. I have previously worked as the Director for Aboriginal Education and Equity provision within TAFE WESTERN, based in Dubbo. I led a fine team of Aboriginal staff, was a member of TAFE WESTERN's executive and represented New South Wales TAFE overseas. I am a trained school teacher and have taught in various schools across the state. I was a previous chair of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and in the year 2000, the then Premier Mr. Bob Carr and his deputy Mr. Andrew Refshauge invited me to welcome the world to Australia at the Sydney Olympics opening ceremony.



Uncle Rod Towney. Photography: ABC News

I travelled the world within the United Nations, speaking in and engaging within Human Rights forums on behalf of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. I also had the honour and privilege of meeting the late Mr. Nelson Mandela, her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and have met and debated with several other world dignitaries. I was also elected to represent Aboriginal peoples on two National ATSIC boards, namely the Wirawongam and Binaal Billa ATSIC regional Councils where I was chair of both for approximately eight years. I also chaired other Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal organisations including Land Council and Housing Corporations. Further, I served for almost twelve years as an elected Councilor on the Dubbo City Council, serving two years as Deputy Mayor and was elected to the New South Wales Local Government Association board where I served for 16 years.

#### What degree did you study at Western Sydney University?

I completed a Diploma of Teaching at Western Sydney University in 1987. I have several other university degrees including a Master of Indigenous Languages, Bachelor of Education in Adult Education, Graduate Certificate in Adult and Community Education, and I further teach the Wiradjuri Language. I have also won numerous awards including an Australia day Medal – Public Service Medal for outstanding Public Service in 2015 and the New South Wales TAFE Gillis Award.

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

If it was not for the programs offered at Western Sydney University, I do not think I would have studied teaching at all. I give a lot of credit to the staff who supported us blackfellas back then. It was a privilege to engage in a tertiary institution which supports our peoples' success. My degree has enabled me to share our peoples' voices internationally.

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

My mother and Elders are my biggest inspirations. They have always been there for me, showed me love, and encouraged me to achieve my aspirations. I live by my Mother's quote "You are as good as anyone else on the planet." My Mother and Elders have inspired my passion for encouraging and supporting others.

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

1. There is nothing that you cannot achieve. Reach for the stars and dream big.
2. Be positive about your future prospects. A positive mindset and a strong work ethic are essential for success.
3. Do not worry about those who want to knock your pulley down. No one can tell you what you can or cannot do or achieve.
4. Remember to work hard, and let others know you mean business. If I can do it as a blackfella, a Wiradjuri man, who grew up with nothing you can do anything.
5. Keep connected with culture and community, your family and Elders are all proud of what you have achieved thus far.

## Congratulations to our 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 1,366 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 current tertiary study and the beginning of a new career.

Our staff are looking forward to celebrating your graduation virtually with you and your closest.

In April 2021, 80 deadly students graduated including 4 Graduate Certificates, 1 Diploma, 1 Graduate Diploma, 4 Undergraduate Certificates, 1 Associate Degree, 59 Bachelor's Degrees, 9 Master Degrees and 1 Doctor of Philosophy. Congratulations to the following students, we are so proud of each of you and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

Aaron Gabriel Gilbert – Bachelor of Construction Management

Alisha Noor Khan – Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Occupational Therapy

Amanda Grant – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Amber Fittler – Bachelor of Arts

Amelia Sarah Bowden – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Andia Loxley – Bachelor of Nursing

Anne Elizabeth Bradbury-Bowler – Master of Social Science

Aras Tahn Moran – Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

Benjamin Lawson – Bachelor of Social Work

Bianca Triestina Coles – Bachelor of Arts

Brooke Linda Duarte – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Caitlin Meredith McArdle – Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Carla Frances Webster – Bachelor of Educational Studies (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education)

Catherine Jane Lambeth – Master of International Criminology

Chantelle Khamchuang – Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

Charles William Jeffrey Fisher – Bachelor of Medical Science

Cherina Lea Brown – Bachelor of Educational Studies (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education)

Courtney Victoria Allen – Bachelor of Arts

Deanna Gwen Thiele – Bachelor of Tourism Management

Ebony Rachal Green – Bachelor of Nursing  
Emily Grace Parker – Bachelor of Nursing

Emily Jodi Dunn – Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

Emily May Bradley – Bachelor of Social Work

Emily Vella – Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

Evan Carl Pitt – Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Georgia Kate Beetson – Bachelor of Nursing

Georgia Lee Addison – Bachelor of Nursing

Holly Minords – Graduate Diploma in Midwifery

Hunter Maree Hakim – Bachelor of Business

Jacob Alexander – Bachelor of Science, Criminology and Psychological Studies (Distinction)

Jessica Dale Collier – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Jessica Fox – Bachelor of Arts

Jonathon Dale Pearson – Bachelor of Business

Jordan Fedeli – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

Josephine Giovanna Ferrari – Bachelor of Science (Nutrition and Food Science)

Julie Trindall – Bachelor of Science, Criminology and Psychological Studies

Justin Mearns – Bachelor of Construction Management

Karen Fiona Menzies – Doctor of Philosophy

Katelyn Marie Gaskin – Bachelor of Arts



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Sash

Katelyn Smith – Bachelor of Health Science

Katherine Anne Roach – Undergraduate Certificate in Counselling and Mental Health

Katherine Louise McQueen – Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Sustainability

Kayla Ramires – Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Kayla Robinson – Bachelor of Arts

Keely Lira Silva – Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Keith Eshman – Master of Teaching (Primary)

Krystal Lee Robinson – Bachelor of Nursing

Kyll Ross – Associate Degree in Engineering

Lauren Elizabeth Smith – Bachelor of Nursing

Lauren Joy Dunlop – Bachelor of Communication (Distinction)

Lillian Beth Newton – Diploma in Engineering

Maddison Rogers – Bachelor of Business and Commerce

Megan Rose Jenkins – Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

Narelle Joy Matthews – Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health (Karitane)

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Nikki Hooker – Bachelor of Nursing

Paul Anthony Saunders – Master of Public Health (Distinction)

Peter Charles LeRoy – Bachelor of Research Studies

Rhiannon Sarah Purcell – Bachelor of Nursing

Ryan Alan Stanley Summers – Undergraduate Certificate in Counselling and Mental Health

Ryan Stephen Stainer – Master of Teaching (Secondary) (Distinction)

Samantha Redding – Bachelor of Physiotherapy

Sarah Jane Bates – Bachelor of Social Work

Sarah Louise Gilpin – Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Sarah Margaret O'Brien – Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Shantay Maree Moore – Bachelor of Laws

Stacey Louise Hampton – Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)

Stevie-Lea Hoffmannbeck – Master of Forensic Science

Susan Margaret Beky – Bachelor of Nursing

Taleisha Gittoes – Bachelor of Nursing

Tara Surrey – Bachelor of Nursing

Tayla O'Hara – Bachelor of Nursing

Thomas James Hill – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Tracey Lee Bryan – Bachelor of Midwifery

Tyran Liddiard – Master of Teaching (Primary)

Veronica Eloise Harrison – Bachelor of Natural Science (Animal Science)

Vicki Lee Taprell – Bachelor of Nursing

Warrika Mincarlie Lilla Watson – Undergraduate Certificate in Counselling and Mental Health

William David Greatbatch – Bachelor of Education (Primary)

# Research

## CELEBRATING RECENT 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 since the beginning of the year.

Lydia Haile, Kaloyan Kamenov, Paul Svitil Briant, Aislyn Orji, Jaimie Steinmetz, Amir Abdoli, **Kerrie Doyle** & Chythra Rao. (2021). Hearing loss prevalence and years lived with disability, 1990–2019: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *The Lancet*, 397(10278), 996–1009.

Noritta Morseu-Diop, **Corrinne Sullivan**, Sharlene Cruickshank, Vicki Hutton, and Susan Sisko. (2021). Post-Colonialism (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). *Multicultural Responsiveness in Counselling and Psychology: Working with Australian Populations*, Palgrave Macmillan 9783030554262.

**Dean Norris**, David Joyce, Jason Siegler, Daniel Cohen, & Ric Lovell. (2021). Considerations in interpreting neuromuscular state in elite level Australian Rules football players. *J Sci Med Sport*. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33715988. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S144024402100030X>

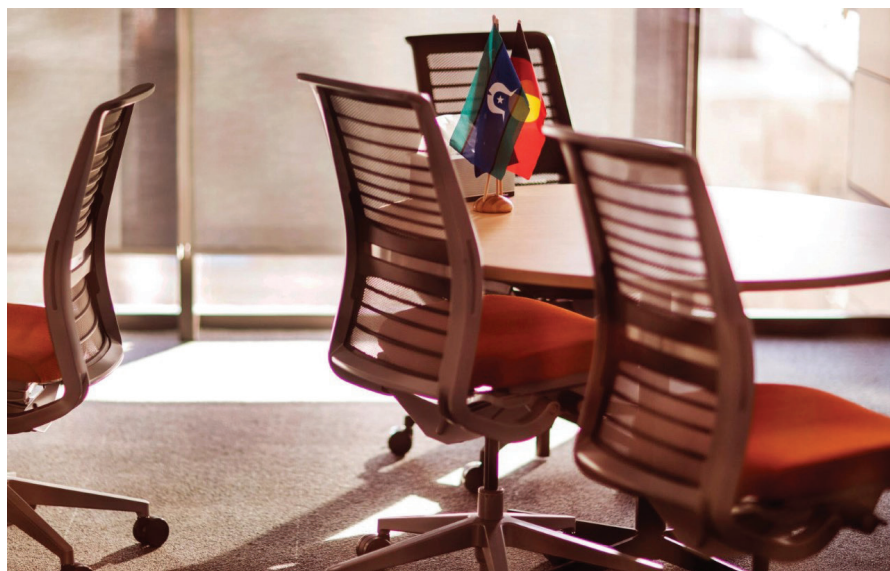
**Paul Saunders**, & **Kerrie Doyle**. (2021). Gambling interventions in Indigenous communities, from theory to practice: A rapid qualitative review of the literature. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-021-10019-0>

**Michelle Trudgett**, Susan Page, & **Stacey Kim Coates**. (2021). Peak bodies: Indigenous representation in the Australian Higher Education sector. *Australian Journal of Education*, 65(2). DOI: 10.1177/00049441211011178

Madhuri Venigalla, Tara Laurine Roberts, Ritesh Raju, Melissa Mrad, Frances Bodkin, Katja Kopp, **Kerrie Doyle**, & Gerald Münch. (2021). Identification of tetragocarbene C and sideroxylin as the most potent anti-inflammatory components of *Syncarpia glomulifera*. *Fitoterapia*, 150, 104843. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fitote.2021.104843>



Photography: Sally Tsoutas



Photography: Sally Tsoutas

## Badanami continues to provide support to Western's Indigenous students

With Badanami Centres reopening in February 2021, the staff have been extremely busy continuing to support all our Indigenous students here at Western. As you may know, coming out of COVID and with students and staff returning to campus, Badanami have moved forward with a hybrid style of student support. Initiatives introduced during COVID such as weekly student Zoom sessions and proactive phone calls to all our students will continue, complementing our teams face to face support services delivered across the six Badanami Centres here at Western.

In addition to the support given to our Indigenous students, Badanami have hosted morning teas for Harmony Day, which were held at our Liverpool and Parramatta South Badanami Centres.

Our Parramatta South Badanami Centre hosted a number of students and staff across two days who contributed to the university's Indigenous artwork with the help from the amazing Allan McKenzie. Badanami staff and some of our Indigenous students were involved in the annual Indigenous Student v Staff Soccer Match which was an amazing event and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

As a reminder, Badanami Centres can be found on our Bankstown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Kingswood, Liverpool, and Parramatta South Campuses. Our centres offer study areas, computer labs, kitchen, and lounge areas. Badanami staff are also available in our centres to provide support and guidance and help put students in touch with other support services such as career advice, counselling, etc.

Please feel free to drop into your local Badanami Centre whenever you are on campus or you can email our team at [Badanami@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:Badanami@westernsydney.edu.au).

## Join us in listening to Western's Indigenous staff and student Spotify playlist

In 2021, Western's Indigenous staff and students have launched a Spotify playlist for your enjoyment. The playlist includes diverse hits from Yothu Yindi, Baker Boy, ABBA, Elton John and also features podcasts from Western Sydney University's Indigenous Academics and students.

Western's Indigenous students are excited to have their personal favourites included.

"I just wanted to say thank you for the Spotify songs! It really made my night after a long, overwhelming day of studying to sit back and listen to some great music! What a treat," said a student.

"I had to double-check that I wasn't playing my own playlist, because it had all my songs in it. Love it! Thank you so much, we are so much more connected than we think," said another student.

If you are an Indigenous staff member or student at Western, and you would like to add your favourite songs to the playlist, please send two songs and artists to [PVCEvents@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:PVCEvents@westernsydney.edu.au).

Let's watch the playlist grow and be sure to follow and enjoy our mix.



WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU