



Acknowledgement

The Aboriginal Education Centre, Federation University Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters, where its campuses and centres are located. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present:

- Berwick Campus - Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri
- Camp Street Campus - Wadawurrung
- Gippsland Campus – Gunai Kurnai
- Wimmera Campuses - Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk,
- Mt Helen Campus - Wadawurrung
- SMB Campus - Wadawurrung

We also acknowledge and pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the nation, as the First Nations' peoples of the lands and waters.



Aboriginal staff supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Introduction

Welcome to our 5th Edition of the Aboriginal Education Centre's Biannual Newsletter, since the newly established Federation University Australia (FedUni) was formed. Federation University Australia (formerly the University of Ballarat) is the result of an amalgamation of the University of Ballarat and the Monash University's Gippsland Campus. FedUni officially commenced operations as of 1 January 2014.

The Aboriginal Education Centre's Newsletter aims to provide all staff and students and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with information regarding:

- Student progression and success
- Aboriginal education initiatives and achievements within the University
- Staffing updates
- Current and upcoming events
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The Aboriginal Education Centre

The Aboriginal Education Centre is the central location for the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs within FedUni.

We provide a range of cultural support services for FedUni staff and students, current and prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and the local Aboriginal community.

We welcome all students, staff and community members to contact us and contribute to the life of the Aboriginal Education Centre.



Staff Updates

Nicole Mercer



“ My name is Nicole, I’m a proud and strong Wurundjeri and Wadawurrung woman. I have lived in Ballarat for around five years and have seven children. I have been at FedUni for three months now, as a lecturer in Nursing, while also undertaking a Master of Health (Research Stream).

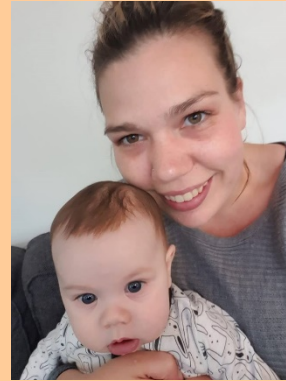
I love being here, particularly at the Mt Helen campus, because I love the smell of the gum in the morning and the bush setting – I find it very grounding.

I hope that I can bring a cultural perspective to the knowledge and learning of all students. I also hope that our Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander students in Nursing see themselves in me – knowing they have someone who knows how hard life can be outside of uni.

We really need a lot more Indigenous nurses to work in mainstream services, to ensure that organisations are culturally appropriate and sensitive when working with all patients. Also, that we have the capacity to look after our own peoples and our health.”

Nicole Mercer – School of Nursing

Shanaya Sheridan



Shanaya Sheridan has returned from maternity leave after the arrival of her beautiful baby boy Jamari, and has hit the ground running.

Shanaya’s role is to support prospective and current online Higher Education students at the Mt Helen, Camp St & Horsham Campuses and those students who are undergoing flexible learning, with their academic and pastoral care needs.

Aboriginal Education Centre, Orientation Day Events

The Aboriginal Education Centre Orientation events are a chance for new and continuing students to keep up to date with the events and supports on offer, to apply for scholarships and receive a book voucher from the AEC to assist with the study journey. AEC Orientation events were held in February at Berwick and Mt Helen Campus with a great attendance.



Berwick Campus

Berwick Campus students and staff joined in a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country at the beginning of the 2019 Orientation Week celebrations. Many students and staff participated in a traditional Smoking Ceremony, which signifies the cleansing of places and people of bad spirits to promote the wellbeing of custodians as well as guests on Boon Wurrung (Bunurong) country. Performances by Lyn Maher and David Tournier.



Mt Helen Campus

On February 27, the Aboriginal Education Centre, Mt Helen Campus held the first bi-annual 'O' Day for 2019 for our identified students. What a great turn out we had this year from our students and staff.

A special thanks to the FedUni staff from the Scholarships team, Student Connect and Student Advisory for contributing to the day. For the first time, we had senior lecturers from Nursing, Business, Community Services and Criminal Justice deliver a presentation on their area of study. It became a performance, and speaking on behalf of everyone in the room that day, it was very entertaining and definitely made everyone think about the possibilities Higher Education can provide.

Our Mid Semester Orientation Day for the Mt Helen Campus will be held on the 22 July 2019. All new and continuing students please feel free to come along. This is a chance to see what we have in store for Semester 2, and also receive a book voucher to offset the costs of study. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!





National Reconciliation Week 2019

National Reconciliation Week is an annual event commemorating two significant dates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history. These dates are:

27 May – Anniversary of the 1967 referendum

03 June – Mabo day

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to come together as a collective and learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements. This is also a time to explore how we can all contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Mt Helen Campus

This year the Aboriginal Education Centre, Mt Helen Campus worked collaboratively with the Student Engagement team at FedUni to host traditional basket weaving with Donna Blackall. Donna is a Yorta Yorta and Taungurung woman living in Ballarat on Wadawurrung Country. Originally taught to weave as a young girl, Donna rekindled her love of weaving when she participated in a workshop delivered by Aunty Bronwyn Razem (Gunditjijmara).

We would like to thank all students and staff who attended. It was a great event.



Gippsland Campus

Many students and staff participated in the Gippsland Campus National Reconciliation Week (NRW) event. This year's Gippsland Campus NRW campaign event theme was 'Grounded in Truth', which was about strengthening positive relationships by undertaking a truth telling process through art.

Berwick Campus

The Berwick Campus National Reconciliation Week event saw many students and staff coming together to explore Australia's shared histories, cultures, and achievements. Many contributed to achieving reconciliation by participating in the event's art activities.



Graduations

Wimmera Campus Completion Celebration

On Friday 31 May, a Completion Celebration was held at the Wimmera Campus to celebrate the completion of a number of graduates including; Christina Secombe, Matthew Cockerall, Tanisha Lovett and Aunty Hazel McDonald.

The ceremony was well attended by students, family and community members.

The FedUni Wimmera Campus delivers education and training throughout Horsham and surrounding regions, including TAFE programs and bachelor courses in Business and Social Sciences, as well as masters programs and PhD research.

The AEC congratulates the students on their successful completions and wishes them well with their future goals!



Pictured above are students, Chancellor Mr Terry Moran AC, Vice Chancellor Prof. Helen Bartlett and Head of Campus (Wimmera), Associate Professor Geoff Lord

Individual Success Plans

Have you completed your Individual Success Plan with your Liaison Officer?

All students are encouraged to complete an Individual Success Plan at either your study location, the AEC offices or anywhere that is convenient for you. These plans enable you to request tutoring (free!) of up to two hours per subject, per week. There is also an incentive to completing a success plan, with either your choice of a gift voucher or one of these deadly T-Shirts (below)!



Pictured from left to right: Matthew Cockerall, Christina Secombe, Aunty Hazel McDonald and Tanisha Lovett





Buldau Yiooghen 'Big Dreams' Youth Leadership Academy- 'Southern Experience'

FedUni AEC along with Tennis Australia, Essendon Football Club, Arts Centre Australia, Melbourne Victory and Goldolphin Stables just to name a few, partnered with Anglicare Victoria to provide our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth the opportunity to realise their 'Big Dreams.'

On 22 May, two selected youth leaders from the Ballarat region, Elias Jarvis and Jaya Foy, along with our Aboriginal Liaison Officers Ashlee Rodgers and Rhianna Milliken participated in the Buldau Yiooghen 'Big Dreams' five day Youth Leadership Academy.

What an awesome experience this was for our young leaders across Victoria to meet representatives from some of Victoria and Australia's leading organisations. They were also granted an opportunity to get paid work experience with the partners of the Academy.

Uncle Ian Goolagong and Aunty Kellie Hunter were the Cultural Advisors for the program, which encouraged students to ask questions, empowering them to be our future leaders.

Pictured below are Uncle Ian Goolagong and Aunty Kellie Hunter



Our Future Leaders

Jaya Foy is a beautiful young woman from Ballarat Grammar. She plans to study Psychology once she completes secondary school. She is definitely a leader of her generation and it was amazing to spend a couple of days with her and discover what she has to offer.



Pictured above Jaya Foy and participants below enjoying time with Tennis Australia





Elias Jarvis is an amazing young man from St Patricks College. Elias's aspirations of becoming a Lawyer once he completes secondary school are well on the way, including being offered a one week paid work experience opportunity with the Legal department at Tennis Australia.

We are so proud of these two Deadly leaders of their generation. They will certainly go far in following their 'Big Dreams!'



Elias Jarvis and Michael Long

Reasons to choose FedUni

According to the latest (2018) results of the ESS, SES, CEQ and GOS, Federation University Australia's current ranking is at the following:

At a national level:

- #1 in Australia for Employability Skills for the second year running*

* Employer Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2018, Australian universities, results released January 2019, and ESS 2017

- #1 in Australia for Teaching Quality*

* Student Experience Survey (SES) 2018, Australian universities, postgraduate level, results released March 2019

At a state level:

- #1 in Victoria for Student Support*

* Student Experience Survey (SES) 2018, Australian universities, undergraduate level, results released March 2019

- #1 in Victoria for Skills Development*

* Student Experience Survey (SES) 2018, Australian universities, undergraduate and postgraduate levels, results released March 2019

- #1 in Victoria for Learner Engagement*

* Student Experience Survey (SES) 2018, Australian universities, postgraduate level, results released March 2019

- #1 in Victoria for Overall Educational Experience*

* Student Experience Survey (SES) 2018, Australian universities, postgraduate level, results released March 2019

PAID TUTORING WORK

The AEC is seeking Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to become paid casual tutors to assist our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in 2019.

Please call Erinne to discuss:
PH: (03) 5327 9883



Interview with Head of Campus (Gippsland) – Leigh Kennedy

Where are you from?

I was born in Traralgon, and lived there for 10 years before moving to Toongabbie with my family. My career has taken me all over the world but I have always considered Toongabbie home.

Who / what inspires you?

A desire to give back to the community that I grew up in. I think Gippsland is a wonderful place, with some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, but it is going through significant change (like many other regional and rural areas around the developed world) and I hope I can help, in some small way, in the regions transition.

What is your job at Fed Uni?

Head of Campus, Gippsland

What are your hopes for Fed Uni?

To be the University of choice to the people of Gippsland, providing learning and job opportunities to Gippslanders and enhancing the community we live in.

What are your hopes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at Fed Uni, new and current?

I hope the University will build on the work it has been doing to become a truly inclusive and respectful place for traditional owners. I would hope this is realised through a broader representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as staff and students, with increased community engagement and collaboration.

If you could sit next to anyone in an airplane, who will it be?

Not particularly creative, but my Mum.



Leigh Kennedy and Nick Johnson

Job Opportunity

Early Childhood Educator Assistant position (Cert III qualified) Closes 14th July.

We currently have an Early Childhood Educator Assistant position based at our FedUni Churchill campus (Gippsland).

This position is advertised as a targeted position for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples only. Salary \$50,323 to \$52,336 per annum plus 17% superannuation.

We are also targeting other positions across all campuses soon. For more information please contact Katrina Beer on 5327 9244 or k.beer@federation.edu.au



Katrina Beer



Harmony Day

On 21 March at Mt Helen, the AEC collaborated with Multicultural Student Support to present a workshop celebrating Harmony Day. The workshop was part of a broader event focussing on the diversity at the University.

The program included Bronwyn Razem from Mirrnong Minnie who ran a workshop sharing the experience of creating bush animals using a weaving technique. It was a great opportunity for students and staff to share the cultural practice of yarning while weaving. Thank you Aunty Bronwyn (pictured below).



A Chat with Luke

“In March 2018 I began an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship with Federation University. In February 2019, I completed a Certificate IV in Business and was able to obtain a full time position within the Federation Business School.

Working with Federation University has given regular professional development and networking opportunities. In recent times I have attended Professional Development days, completed Mental Health First Aid training and worked within other schools.

As a trainee the size of Federation University can be a bit daunting, but with the support given from Federation Business School, Katrina Beer, the AEC and other trainees the transition was seemingly smooth and welcoming.”

Luke Bosworth- Chief Operating Office.



Kristin Dennis, Luke Bosworth and Sarah Doonan



Scholarship Information

Scholarships: There are a range of scholarships offered for those considering studying at FedUni in the future and for current students both international and domestic. FedUni scholarships recognise academic excellence, overcoming adversity, community engagement and/or leadership performance.

Bursaries: Bursaries are offered each semester to assist eligible students who face significant financial challenges to attend university. By completing a Kickstart application you will automatically be considered for a bursary and if successful will be notified before census date

Grants: A grant is a one-time supply of goods or equipment to assist those with the most needs with their studies or placement. A number of different grants are e.g. books, uniforms, computers and placement.

Foundation Scholarships

This year three of our Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander students accepted a Foundation Scholarship from FedUni. This is fantastic news! Foundation Scholarships are a great support while studying for your degree. Unlike the Kickstart scholarships, they close a month earlier. Your Liaison Officers will try to keep you up to date as much as possible of certain scholarships and events, but please be mindful to do your own research and keep important dates in your calendar.

Foundation scholarships:

OPENING DATE for 2020: 1st November 2019

CLOSING DATE: 23rd February 2020

How to apply

COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION ONLY FOR A FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED UNDER EVERY SCHOLARSHIP THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR.

Before you apply please take some time to prepare your response to the following question.

"If successful, a Foundation Scholarship will support your academic study and life / career plans in no more than 300 words, let us know about your vision / goals for yourself both now and in the long term by completing the following -

Receiving a Foundation Scholarship means that I"

Higher Education students are required to attach two written references and TAFE students are required to attach one written reference ONLY. These references should be from people (outside of your family) who can comment with knowledge about your circumstances, study history, commitment to further education and your personal qualities.

Potential referees can be from a FedUni staff member, teacher, employer, family friend, case support worker, sport or club member known to you.

Step 1 - Complete a KickStart registration (do not submit if you have already registered)

Step 2 - Complete an Additional Information survey

If you need assistance with applying for any scholarship, please make an appointment with your Liaison Officer. They will be happy to run through it with you and also be a referee for your application.



Contact Us:

Jasmine Graham | Manager, AEC

All Campuses

PH: 03) 5327 6605

jl.graham@federation.edu.au

**Nicholas Johnson | Aboriginal Liaison Officer
(HE), Gippsland and Berwick Campuses**

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**Rhianna Milliken | Aboriginal Liaison Officer
(HE), Ballarat Campuses and online students**

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Provider**

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**Ashlee Rodgers | Aboriginal Liaison Officer
(TAFE), Ballarat and Wimmera Campuses**

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**Erinne Milliken | Administrative Officer,
All Campuses**

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e.milliken@federation.edu.au

To have your details added to our
stakeholder mail list please call Erinne:
(03) 5327 9883 or

Email: e.milliken@federation.edu.au

Alumni Registration

Are you a graduate of Federation University or previously known University of Ballarat, or any other predecessor Universities?

Follow the instructions below to update your details so that we can plan our **FIRST EVER** 2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumni Gathering!

For more information contact the Aboriginal Education Centre.

Instructions for updating details;

- Access Federation University Webpage
- Click on the Connect tab
- Click on Alumni
- Click on Alumni details and involvement opportunities
- Proceed to updating you details





Aboriginal Education Centre



Wimmera
Campus



Ballarat
Campuses

MELBOURNE



Berwick
Campus



Gippsland
Campus

Aboriginal staff supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

- Higher education and FedUni TAFE
- Advocacy, support services and pastoral care
- Tutorial assistance and individual learning plans
- Scholarship information
- Community engagement
- Culturally safe spaces

Aboriginal staff supporting all FedUni staff and students

- Cultural advice and information
- Resources to support your study/work
- Information on Aboriginal organisations
- Community engagement
- An approachable space to ask questions

Call **1800 333 864** or email aec@federation.edu.au for an appointment, or just drop in! Web: federation.edu.au/aec