

# Aboriginal Education Centre

Biannual Newsletter

Edition 3 | June 2018

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.

## Introduction

**Welcome to our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> 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



## The Aboriginal Education Centre

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

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.

*The symbolic circle component of the Aboriginal Education Centre logo was Designed by Wayne Muir and first used in 1990. The logo incorporates the Aboriginal flag and symbolises a partnership in learning between Indigenous and non-Indigenous People.*



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## Staff News

We are excited to have Erinne Milliken return to her role as Administrative Officer. After being on Maternity Leave for the past 12 months, Erinne has been very excited about returning to work, and looks forward to continuing her support for the centre and our students.

**Welcome back Erinne!**

Whilst we have one staff member return to work our Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer, Shanaya Sheridan, has commenced her maternity leave and welcomed the safe arrival of her baby. Shanaya is a great asset to the Aboriginal Education Centre (AEC) and is greatly missed. We wish Shanaya all the best in her new life as a mother and look forward to seeing her when she returns in March 2019.

**Good Luck Shanaya!**

## Aboriginal Education Centre Orientation Day Event



In February, the AEC held its second consecutive annual Orientation Day, during Orientation Week at our Mount Helen Campus.

Orientation Day gives our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students the opportunity to learn about the AEC and how we can assist them through the duration of their studies. The AEC provided information to our new students on scholarships, AIME mentoring opportunities, and

CareerTrackers. It was deadly to see so many new faces!



This year, we were lucky enough to have The Stray Blacks perform at the University's main event day during Orientation Week. A massive shout out to the band for their deadly performance 😊

## National Close the Gap Day

The AEC and Student Connect teams worked collaboratively to pull off a National Close the Gap event for our Mt Helen Campus on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This was a very informative day for students and staff of all cultures at FedUni, with information provided on; Close the Gap targets and the Prime Minister's Report 2018. We also had some yummy fruit kebabs to promote healthy eating. Thank you to Student Connect for all your collaborative work with us.



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Centre

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## FedUni Living Community Bush Tucker Garden Launched Wayn-Gurr Derrk



Wayn-Gurr Derrk is Wadawurrung language for 'Good Ground'. On the 26<sup>th</sup> March FedUni Living and the AEC hosted the launch of this beautiful and educational garden. It was great to see so many staff and students involved in the lead up and at the launch. Having access to these gardens for the students living on Res will not only give them knowledge of how native plants can be a good source of nutrition but how they can also be used for medicinal purposes. This event was a great step towards Reconciliation and embedding cultural inclusivity at FedUni. Ballarat AEC Team pictured below.



## TAFE Excellence Awards

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, FedUni held the Annual 2018 TAFE Awards for Excellence Celebration. The AEC proudly created and sponsored an award to ensure equitable access for Koorie students to be recognised and celebrated. This year was the inaugural award presentation of the Growth Award.

The AEC is proud to announce the winners of the **Federation College Growth Award:**

Liam McPhan-Smith (pictured below) with his Grandmother and local Elder Aunty Di Nikkelson. Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Senior)



Shayne Pedrotti (pictured below)  
Certificate III Plumbing



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## Baldau Yiooghen 'Big Dreams' Youth Leadership Academy Launch



The Baldau Yiooghen 'Big Dreams' Youth Leadership Academy is a youth centric program that facilitates and encourages young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to realise their full potential. The launch was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May in Melbourne and was well attended. Other organisations involved include:

- Anglicare Victoria
- Australian National Academy of Music
- The Darby McCarthy Indigenous Scholarship
- Essendon FC
- The Long Walk
- Melbourne Victory FC
- Opera Australia
- Tennis Australia

Guests of the launch heard from FedUni alumni and current Goolum Goolum staff member Tanisha Lovett speak about her passion for learning, art and design. She added that Baldau Yiooghen would allow Aboriginal youth from the Wimmera to 'put themselves out there'.

The launch was also attended by distinguished guests: Yorta Yorta Elder Aunty Pam Pedersen (Nicholls), former Government Senator, Australian Olympic gold medallist and Commonwealth Games athlete Nova Peris OAM and 300 game, VFL champion for the Essendon Football Club Simon Madden.

## AEC Launched at Berwick Campus during Reconciliation Week



The opening of the AEC at the Berwick Campus signifies FedUni commitment to Reconciliation as an ongoing journey. We would like to thank the following people: Greg Jakobs, Anton Wray, Tim Wong, AEC staff, and of course the students at the beautiful Campus.

The new AEC is located in building 901 at Berwick Campus.

## Elders visit Wayn-Gur Derrk



A group of local Ballarat Elders visited on Friday 18th May for a picnic lunch in the University gardens. The visit was hosted by FedUni Living and the AEC for the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative as a part of the Elders



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Home and Community Care (HACC) program monthly outings

The Elders visit provided an opportunity for the University community to meet and greet, as well as for members of the local Aboriginal community to see first-hand our amazing garden project.

“Aboriginal culture is for all Australians to celebrate and feel proud of. This is one example of sharing knowledge and working together to increase respect and pride on our journey of cultural inclusivity”. Jasmine Graham- Manager AEC. **Thanks for visiting us!**

## Reconciliation Week Events

For the first time in history the Ballarat Heritage Weekend was inclusive of Aboriginal programs that were co designed and developed with FedUni AEC and other partners including Wadawurrung Corporation, Salt Bush Kitchen and Sovereign Hill.

The program included a canoe being made by Wadawurrung, local and interstate Aboriginal peoples on Wadawurrung country for first time in over 150 years, as well as public lectures on Fire bush farming and the “Return of the Firestick” project.



## Student Profile: Corrie Leatham Berwick Campus



Corrie is a first year higher education student studying a Bachelor of Social Science at the Berwick campus.

Before enrolment with FedUni, Corrie contacted the AEC and enquired about the support facilities that were available for Aboriginal students.

Corrie says “Talking with Nick Johnson from the AEC in early January before I had accepted my offer from FedUni was the catalyst in my decision to move from an on-line university degree to an on-campus under graduate degree with FedUni Berwick campus.

My educational journey has been through the TAFE system, Cert I & II, Cert III's, two Cert IV's then a Diploma, now the privilege of completing a BA in Social Science, pretty cool for an old Taungurung fella.”

***We wish Corrie all the best with his studies!***



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stakeholder mail list please call Emma:**

**03) 5327 9883 or**

**Email: [e.milliken@federation.edu.au](mailto:e.milliken@federation.edu.au)**

## 2018 May Graduates

We would like to congratulate all of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who graduated in May 2018. It is a huge accomplishment to complete a degree and we couldn't be more proud of our students.

We wish you all the best with your future careers and aspirations.

**James Charlton** – Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing

**Zerene Webster-Morley**- Bachelor of Arts (Acting)

**Sarah Hall**- Bachelor of Education

**Desseria Simmons**- Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)

**Paige Roy**- Bachelor of Arts (Criminal Justice)

**Anthony Tatchell**- Bachelor of Education (Physical Education)

**David Parkin**- Bachelor of Applied Management

**Courtney Lavia**- Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)

