

Aboriginal Education Centre

Biannual Newsletter

Edition 2 | December 2017

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, Djab Wurrung
- 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 2nd 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 1st 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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Meet our Coordinator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment

Katrina Beer was appointed as the University's Coordinator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment, as of September 2017. Katrina is based at the Mount Helen Campus. Katrina is a proud Wotjobaluk woman from the Wimmera/Mallee region and has lived in Ballarat her whole life.

The University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy has been implemented to establish the University's priorities and plans for recruiting and retaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at all levels in the University.

Katrina has extensive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment knowledge, in which she was the founder of Yanikan-Werritj Vocational Training and Employment Centre, and has goals to empower our people to create and drive change.

The AEC warmly welcomes Katrina!



Tutoring Jobs

FedUni AEC are seeking Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to become casual tutors to assist our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in 2018.

Please call Emma to discuss:
PH 03) 5327 9648.



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2017 Wurreker Awards Public Sector Employee Finalist & City of Ballarat Youth Awards

Ashlee Rodgers our Aboriginal Liaison Officer based at SMB Campus along with Martin Perkins, VET Teacher, Information Technology- Wimmera Campus, have been recognised in the 2017 Victorian Aboriginal Education Association (VAEI) Wurreker Awards.

Wurreker awards are an integral part of the Victorian Government Wurreker Strategy's vision to enable training for the Koorie Community supporting pathways to employment, Koorie community development, individual learner success and self-determination. "Both Martin and Ashlee have been outstanding ambassadors for the University over many years," Geoff Lord, Head of the Wimmera Campus, said.

young people what can be gained personally and for the community.

Congratulations Ashlee and Martin, we are proud of your work!

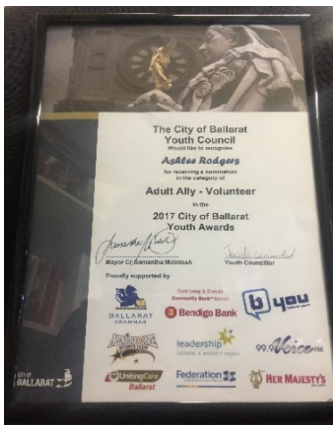
Administrative Officer- New Life with Twins



Our very own Administrative Officer, Erinne Milliken, delivered two very beautiful and healthy, identical twin boys, on the 6th May 2017. Archie and Rueben are doing amazing. They have made their first time mum Erinne, very happy and have adapted to family life with ease. Erinne has been a valued team member of the Aboriginal Education Centre since early 2014. She has been on maternity leave since late April 2017, and will be returning late April 2018.

We look forward to Erinne returning in the New Year and can't wait to have more cuddles with her beautiful boys.

Congratulations Erinne!



Ashlee Rodgers was also a finalist on the Adult Ally – Volunteer Category in the City of Ballarat Youth Awards held in October this year.

This award aims to recognise an individual who demonstrates strong leadership skills and has helped make a difference to young people in their community. By demonstrating it is possible to be a mature and highly-valued member of the community, they illustrate to



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Aboriginal Student Senate Representative- A First!



The first ever Aboriginal representative within the Student Senate has been appointed. A MASSIVE congratulations to Nicola Ingram who is currently studying her Bachelor of Acting for Stage and Screen at our Camp St Campus, who has taken up the position. Nicola has moved all the way from Tasmania away from her mob to study at FedUni.

We look forward to having Nicola be the first Student Senate Aboriginal voice of our students! Congrats Nicola!

NAIDOC Week activities at SMB Campus



Namarilly Bagarook

performed at FedUni's SMB Childcare Centre, as part of the AEC's featured activities on campus! Little ones of all ages participated in a range of activities such as traditional dance and paintings, as well as observing and holding some artefacts.

Mirrning Minnie delivered a Basket Weaving workshop at Fed College, Grant Street, conducted by Bronwyn Razem and her assistant Katja, along with AEC staff. This drew quite a crowd as students and staff were invited to join.



VIC NAIDOC Senior Football and Netball Carnival

The AEC hosted two marquees for the 2017 NAIDOC Football and Netball Carnival held in Ballarat. Activities for community included, colouring competition, remedial massage and course information by our own student ambassadors, and the FedUni Beauty and Hairdressing schools supported the pampering marquee. Marlie Knight, and AEC student ambassador can be seen below in action- Marlie is currently studying her Bachelor of Health and Physical Education at the Mount Helen Campus. We wish you the best in your course and career. ***Thanks to all our supporters in the community and at FedUni!***



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National Indigenous Uni Games



Some of our amazing Sponsors and Participants;

On the 25th of October, the AEC hosted an event to thank all of our sponsors and students/participants. This event was held in Ballarat and gave the opportunity for sponsors to meet the students, and to show our appreciation for the community's contribution in getting the inaugural FedUni team to the Indigenous University Games in Geelong.

THANKYOU!!!



2018 UNI GAMES EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from students to participate in the 2018 National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games, hosted by Macquarie University from 24 June – 28 June in Sydney. To be eligible you must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student who is undertaking a VET qualification or Bachelor Degree with Federation University Australia. To express your interest, please contact Shanaya Sheridan for an application form: s.sheridan@federation.edu.au

Creating Aspirations Employment & Education Forum

Peter Lovett, Wurreker Broker, in partnership with DHHS Lyndel Roberts, developed the 'Creating Aspirations' Event which included Aboriginal guest speakers to work with participants around Employment and Education. Ashlee Rodgers delivered an inspirational talk at this event held in Ballarat, about Education and the services the AEC can offer prospective and current students. Shanaya Sheridan and Topsy Milera also participated by providing knowledge and support to those who visited our course information stall.

Such a fantastic event to be involved in!



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KOORI MAN ATTENDS THE 2017 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS UNIVERSITY GAMES

Koori Man - whose family links are with Coranderrk, Taungurung, and Ngarigo/Monero peoples, is a proud ambassador for the rights of Aboriginal peoples. Koori Man is also a full-time postgraduate student, who openly promotes cultural sovereignty, throughout the university he attends. It was during the 2017 National Indigenous University Games, held in Wadawurrung country in Geelong, that First Nations' and non-First Nations' peoples first saw Koori Man. It was at these games that Koori Man had a yarn to First Nations university students explaining his mission and how proud he was that all these students were undertaking their academic studies.

Please stay tuned to see more of Koori Man's adventures in the community!



Hoops against Violence

Another fantastic Hoops event held in Horsham this year coordinated by VACSAL, in partnership with local and regional community organizations, such as Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op, Aboriginal Community Justice Panel (ACJP), Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-op (BADAC), Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS), and VAEAI with kids across the Central Highlands region making their way to Wimmera to participate! The Horsham Hornets; The Ballarat

Miners; and, Rush teams provided players with skills and coaching clinics, with Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op and Skills Invest providing prizes and health packs.



It is amazing to see the younger generation from across the region come together and participate in cultural dance, basketball drills and activities over two days, and for the fifth year running, and Ballarat is STILL undefeated! Awesome stuff Ballarat!

Thanks to the following who jointly fund this excellent program: Grampians Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group (GIFVRAG), Grampians Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC) and the Grampians Department of Justice and Regulation.



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KAOS

KAOS (Koorie Academy of Success) participated in a tour of the Camp Street Campus, FedUni provided staff to conduct the tour and answer the many questions from curious teenagers. KAOS were given access to the Eye Exhibition, a tour around the Old Law Courts, as well as meeting with Graphic Design teacher Mr. Paul Mah, who generously gave us his time to provide the Graphics class room and present a PowerPoint presentation on all things Graphic Design!

Big Congratulations to Deegan, a KAOS student who ranked top 31% of year 7's across Australia in Mathematics! Fantastic achievement from a bright young man who is a KAOS regular, always giving 100% in every session.

Well done Deegz!



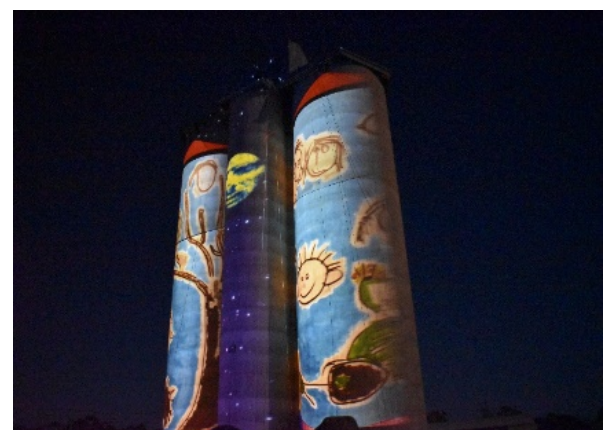
They were there representing themselves as Indigenous students, working with leading producers and directors in screen and media. The work the students produced forms part of their media assessment and is their major project for the year. I was very impressed with the participation of the group who stuck to the tasks scheduled and delivered the content required. This experience will hold them in good stead for their professional careers. The students were credited with their work by having their names projected on the silos at the end of the evening.”- **Martin Perkins, VET Teacher, Information Technology-Wimmera Campus.**



NATI FRINJ Festival

“On the first weekend in November 2017 students from Federation University Certificate III in Screen and Media, were involved in the Nati Frinj Festival.

The festival is held biannually and is held in high regard nationally and internationally with performers from state and overseas. The media students volunteered their services to photograph, video record and produce content for social networking and the evening productions of “Dusk”.



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Student Profiles

Ronald Edwards



Ronald has currently completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at our Gippsland Campus. Ronald began his degree with FedUni back in 2015, and has utilised the AEC's support services throughout his undergraduate studies. Ronald knows the support he has received from the AEC has helped him endure the tough times when studying, but knows it has greatly benefitted his personal well-being.

Ronald is also deeply involved in a lot of Gippsland community projects that see him offer his artwork skills and knowledge to teach others, and pass on those skills and knowledge to future generations.

Ronald strongly believes in supporting young Indigenous and non-Indigenous children to succeed with their endeavours and to strengthen or support them in discovering their cultural identities.

Congratulations Ronald!

Justin Stankovic

Justin is currently studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at our Gippsland Campus. Justin has high aspirations in pursuing a career as an Indigenous teacher for Indigenous students, and later become a Primary School Principal. He has demonstrated the ability to complete required study tasks and assignments, achieving a Distinction grade average and maintaining this level of academic competency since he commenced his studies in 2015.

Justin frequently visits the AEC and knows, all too well, about the support and opportunities the AEC team offers its FedUni Indigenous students.

Justin has recently been selected to participate in the 2017 Aurora Indigenous Scholars International Study Tour. Justin joins 19 other talented Indigenous higher education students and graduates from across Australia and have departed Australia on Saturday 21st October 2017 for the annual Aurora Indigenous Scholars International Study Tour.

The 5-week Study Tour will take them to Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Columbia and New York University in the United States of America, and then on to Cambridge, London School of Economics and Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Well done Justin!



Paige Roy



Paige has been one of our Indigenous students at the Mount Helen Campus since 2012 when she enrolled in a Bachelor of Science. Paige has always had a passion for the field of Justice and Forensic Science, which she feels stems from watching many crime TV shows. She continued this degree for a couple of years, however withdrew from this course to begin a Bachelor of Criminal Justice, which first came to FedUni in 2015. She felt this degree would be more suitable to her interests in the Justice system. At the end of this year, Paige will graduate with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice.

In 2016, Paige entered the Koorie Tertiary Pathways Scholarship where she was granted a \$30,000 scholarship that would help her finish her degree. She had to travel to Melbourne to be interviewed about why she would be a good candidate for the scholarship and to make sure she passed all of her units for her course. Paige was up against many people, but not only was she the perfect candidate, she upheld her end of the deal by passing all of her units!

Scholarships help greatly with the financial pressures students face whilst studying a degree, and Paige can confirm that this

Scholarship is partly the reason why she was able to complete her course. It also demonstrates that students should always apply for external scholarships as well.

Although Paige went through times, where she wanted to give up and was overwhelmed with course content, she persevered and utilised the tutoring facilities that the AEC offers to help her through those difficult times. Paige has always used the AEC to her advantage, throughout her time as a student, where she would check in with her progress, report her concerns and seek help when she needed it. Paige is now in the process of meeting potential employers that work in the Justice area.

We are extremely proud of you Paige!

TAFE Course Information Sessions:

December is full of Information Sessions for courses commencing in 2018. Please attend an information session to gain knowledge and information about the course you are interested in, or contact the TAFE Aboriginal Liaison Officer- Ashlee, for further details: PH (03) 53278471.

Topsy Completes Traineeship

Congratulations Topsy on completing your Certificate III in Business Administration and we wish you all the best for your exciting future. We, the AEC miss your smiley face, however we are grateful to maintain a fantastic connection. A bright future for you awaits!



Well done Topsy!

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Jennifer Graham



Jennifer “Jen” is one of our Indigenous students at the Mount Helen Campus, and has been a part of the AEC family since she began her Bachelor of Applied Science (Geology) back in 2008.

Jen decided to choose this field of study, as she has a passion for the outdoors and Mother Nature. She would always love hearing how things were formed and how they evolved, and loves how there is a variety of jobs on offer in the field and the versatility in the profession. The opportunities to travel would excite Jen and how each day would be different. Jen would often say, “I know I’m not the kind of person who would like a desk job! I need to be outdoors, exploring and learning. This is what excites me and this will keep me in the field.” Jen is the perfect example of how perseverance, determination and hard work can allow you to live your dream.

Jen is also a single mother of 3 children; works part-time at the Base hospital, as an assistant on the wards and also picks up shifts directing

the helipad. Jen would work many night shifts, just so she can make enough money to support her family, and still find the time to come in to the AEC to follow up work on her studies. Although many obstacles have been thrown her way whilst studying, Jen has never given up! Jennie completed her Bachelor of Applied Science back in 2015 and is now near completing her Graduate Diploma in Mining. Jen would love to work in the mines as a Geologist.

The AEC and Indigenous Employment Partners are working together in helping Jen find suitable employment in the Geology field. We are so proud of Jennie’s efforts as a student. She is going to be an asset to any company that decides to take her on as an employee. The Science/ Technology/ Engineering and Mathematics field is greatly made up of male students so it is great to see not only a woman, but one of our Indigenous students completing a degree in this field.

Well done Jen! Your dedication towards your personal development is truly admirable.

Higher Degree by Research Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stipend Scholarship/s:

FedUni is calling for applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seeking to undertake a Research Masters or PhD.

RTP Scholarship value: **\$27,082 per annum** (annual CPI) stipend and RTP Fee-offset tuition scholarship for three years with up to \$2000 per year ancillary support.

Applications close **31 January 2018**.

For further information email:
research.degrees@federation.edu.au



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Emma Milliken | Maternity Replacement

Administrative Officer, All Campuses

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et.milliken@federation.edu.au

To have your details added to our new stakeholder mail list please call: (03) 5327 9648 or

Email: et.milliken@federation.edu.au

