

KooriLife

THE SIX-MONTHLY REVIEW OF NEWS AND EVENTS AT UWS

Spring 2010

UWS producing quality Graduates

The University of Western Sydney is well on its way to becoming a market leader in producing Indigenous graduates. With over 500 Indigenous alumni on its books, Indigenous Australians are becoming more familiar with the wide ranging number of programs on offer.

JOSEPHINE GALEA FROM the Indigenous Outreach Unit says, 'Prospective Indigenous students are really looking forward to becoming students at UWS for the quality of courses and levels of service they are provided'.

In 2010, there were over 70 Indigenous students that were eligible to graduate, with many coming from the education discipline. Kylie Greatbatch, a graduate of the Bachelor of Education (Primary) (AREP) says, 'UWS provided me with the support and confidence to succeed and become a primary school teacher – something that I've always dreamt of being'.

The Bachelor of Education (Primary) (AREP) is a program designed specifically for the needs of Indigenous Australians. The program is dedicated to enrolment of Indigenous Australians and provides students with the necessary skills to become classroom primary school teachers. Kylie believes this is one of the key reasons why she was able to successfully complete the course.

She elaborates, 'I was able to study within my own community and maintain my job as a Teachers' Aide which was one of the major factors why I chose UWS'.

The program has a number of key staff that provide support to Indigenous students including senior academic and course coordinator, Maree Gruppetta. Maree is excited at the prospect of more Indigenous students becoming part of the teaching fraternity. Maree herself is a primary school teacher with many years of classroom experience, which places her in the ideal position to support and act as a mentor for the graduating students. Maree elaborates, 'I take great pleasure in providing students with an opportunity for taking on new challenges'.

Maree recently was nominated for a Deadly Award in the category of Outstanding Teaching & Learning. Maree is very humble about the nomination, 'This is something I was not expecting, I'm really just doing my job.'

Not only does Maree provide support and inspiration to her students, she recently graduated with a PhD in Adult Education after many years of balancing family, work and study. Maree says, 'Even though life was very chaotic I managed to maintain focus to complete my thesis!'

Maree continues, 'Even though I've now completed my PhD, it's given me more drive to help students achieve their aspirations – the students remain my key focus to help increase the number of skilled Indigenous people within the workforce.'

Both Maree and Kylie maintain they will dedicate their efforts to supporting and nurturing future Indigenous leaders through the power of education.

Congratulations to all the recent graduating students.



Maree Gruppetta.

'I was able to study within my own community and maintain my job as a Teachers' Aide which was one of the major factors why I chose UWS.'

Providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians

The University of Western Sydney has a wide range of study options for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

- Arts, Humanities and Languages
- Business
- Creative and Communication Arts
- Engineering, Information and Communications Technology
- Environment and Tourism
- Forensics
- Health Sciences, Nursing and Sports Science

- International Studies
- Law
- Medicine
- Policing and Criminology
- Psychology
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Teaching and Education

A range of scholarship opportunities is also available.

Study by Block Mode

You don't need to leave your community. Study in your own environment, with scheduled on-campus visits throughout the year.

Programs currently available for study in block mode include:

- Bachelor of Education (Primary) (AREP)
- Bachelor of Community and Social Development

A one-year Diploma of Community and Social Development is available on Penrith campus only.



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2011

Did you know that you don't need to have an ATAR or to have completed formal study to apply to UWS? All Indigenous Australians can apply via the Badanami Alternative Entry Program.

NEW FOR 2011: The University of Western Sydney (UWS) is introducing an exciting new major – Indigenous Australian Studies – open to all undergraduate students.

For further information please contact UWS on 1300 897 669 or visit www.uws.edu.au/indigenous



Hello everyone



FIRSTLY, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of Greater Western Sydney, the Darug, Gandangarra and Tharawal peoples, whose land the University of Western Sydney's six campuses span.

As one of Australia's biggest universities, and its location in the midst of one of the largest densities of urban Indigenous population in Australia, UWS recognises the importance of celebrating and sharing Indigenous Australian culture with the wider community. It also presents opportunities for the Indigenous community for education, research, employment and engagement.

Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education has increased its capacity to engage Indigenous people in UWS education, research, employment and engagement throughout 2010. A new Bachelor of Community and Social Development degree will be offered from February 2011 on the Bankstown campus as a block program for Indigenous people. A Diploma of Community and Social Development will also be offered in 2011. It will be offered as a day program on the Penrith campus, Kingswood for Indigenous people who reside in the vicinity of the campus.

Badanami Centre also developed an Indigenous Australian Studies Major (IASM) as one strategy to implement the Indigenous graduate attribute through students' courses at UWS. A number of mainstream courses at UWS have also successfully developed Indigenous content into units as a second strategy, which is providing opportunities for non-Indigenous students to achieve the Indigenous graduate attribute. The aim is to provide education which is rewarding – intellectually, socially and culturally. The Indigenous graduate attribute aims to give non-Indigenous people a greater awareness of Indigenous Australian knowledge and culture and the opportunity to become involved in productive partnerships with Indigenous people and communities.

With the commencement of the new courses and the IASM there will also be opportunities to employ more Indigenous staff as academics, student support officers or in general administration.

Badanami Centre's student support services have expanded in 2010. There are now individual centres, staff, services and resources available to support Indigenous students through their studies on five of the University of Western Sydney campuses.

Badanami Centre staff have been involved in marketing the specific Indigenous courses in primary Education and Community and Social Development throughout the Greater Western Sydney region as well as rural NSW, the border towns of Queensland and Victoria and in Far North Queensland. Badanami Centre aims to increase opportunities to Indigenous people in these areas, where there are no higher education opportunities for study, through its specific block mode courses.

The University of Western Sydney, through Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, looks forward to supporting Indigenous students to access, participate and be successful in their choice of studies at foundation, undergraduate or postgraduate levels.

Associate Professor Berice Anning
Director and Acting Dean
Indigenous Education

Disclaimer

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UWS Yarramundi Lecture 2010

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Jason Glanville, paid tribute to Australia's unsung Indigenous heroes at the 2010 Yarramundi Lecture at the University of Western Sydney, Penrith Campus on Friday 16 July 2010.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid, AM and Mrs Janice Bruny displaying her painting 'The Tree of Knowledge'.

THE YARRAMUNDI LECTURE is a public event that helps the University community celebrate reconciliation and support Indigenous Education.

Each year a prominent Indigenous Australian is invited to present the lecture on important and topical issues debated in the community. The 2010 address by Jason Glanville, a member of the Wiradjuri peoples, drew inspiration from the theme for National Reconciliation Week, 'Unsung Heroes – Closing the Gap by Leading the Way'.

Jason reflected on his experience in community-based Indigenous organisations to highlight the achievements made by some of the nation's unrecognised Indigenous leaders.

As part of this year's Yarramundi Lecture, Mrs Janice Bruny, Indigenous artist and UWS Graduate in Fine Arts with Honours Class 1, made a special presentation of her artwork 'The Tree of Knowledge' to Vice-Chancellor Professor Janice Reid, AM. This artwork was painted for the University in support of the Indigenous education initiatives. 'The Tree of Knowledge' is a wonderful representation of the six University of Western Sydney Campuses: Parramatta, Bankstown, Campbelltown, Penrith, Hawkesbury and Nirimba. 'The Tree of Knowledge' description and story can be viewed at www.uws.edu.au/indigenous



Jie and Jason Glanville.

'The Tree of Knowledge'

THIS ARTWORK WAS painted for the University of Western Sydney in support of the Indigenous Education initiatives. It provides an Aboriginal perspective of education at the University of Western Sydney and it is about the university, what they do and where they are situated.

These large ancient trees were highly regarded and met many needs of our people. Beneath the large branches was the traditional place for learning and knowledge sharing. They were a source of food, fruit, nuts, seeds, clothing, shade, shelter, building materials and even some natural medicines. In the centre of the painting is 'The Tree of Knowledge' which is at the centre of Aboriginal Education. Set under the cool branches, learning takes place, the telling of stories, learning song and dance. This is where we learn about our culture, country, lore and people as well as make artefacts and or decorate personal items. This is why it is 'The Tree of Knowledge'.

Each of the small circles with trees represents the six University of Western Sydney campuses, Parramatta, Bankstown, Campbelltown, Penrith, Hawkesbury and Nirimba. The trees are surrounded by yellow with green dots and represents people associated

with learning. Yellow ochre and white along with green dots then red ochre represent the buildings and places of learning. The U shape is a traditional representation of a person and is utilised in the painting to represent students. The square shape between students represents books, computers and electronic learning tools.

Our environmental campuses are represented by the many different shades of green in the painting and are all connected by motorways and highways which students and staff use to travel to and from university. The small circles without trees represent the cities and suburbs where students reside that attend courses at UWS. The Parramatta River is on the left hand side and Hawkesbury Nepean is on the right hand side with the Cox's River to Warragamba. The blue represents the water surrounded by yellow dots, which represent the sand banks.

Artist credit: Mrs Janice Bruny
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)
Honours Class 1

The full painting of 'The Tree of Knowledge' can be viewed at www.uws.edu.au/badanami



UWS student wins prestigious Dromkeen Medal

Inspirational Indigenous artist, author and educator, Bronwyn Bancroft, has produced a book of paintings and poetry that will introduce children to Australia's many landscapes, from the suburbs and the cities to the bush, desert, surf and snow.

BRONWYN'S LATEST CHILDREN'S book, 'Why I Love Australia', uses her paintings and poetic captions to depict a wide range of Australian lives and landscapes.

'It was important to me to create a book that shows how diverse and beautiful Australia is and encourages every child to love and revere this country,' says Bronwyn.

'So that every child can appreciate and enjoy the book, I ensured that it was representative of each facet of Australian life and each child could see a piece of themselves within it.'

Bronwyn says the scenes of 'Why I Love Australia' are iconically Australian and many are drawn from her own experiences.

'I have lived in or travelled to many of the places in the book and identify with them all on a personal level. For example, the plummeting gorges were inspired by my time working as a teacher in Broome, and the bush cricket scene is derived from stories about my uncles as they were growing up,' she says.

A descendant of the Bundjalung people, Bronwyn says the beauty of 'Why I Love Australia' is that the reader can create their own meanings about the book, based on their own experiences of the landscapes.

'As an artist, I look at a landscape and see all of its textures, tones and linear compositions, and as an Indigenous woman I feel every landscape and see it as distinctly Indigenous,' she says.

Accompanying the illustration on each page of 'Why I Love Australia' is the image of a person holding a coolamon, a wooden bowl with smoke drifting from it, which is representative of a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony.

Bronwyn says the inclusion of this figure was a way to show an appreciation of the Australian landscape, while recognising Indigenous peoples as the custodians of land.

'An understanding exists amongst Aboriginal people that one should show respect for another's language-group area, or country. The

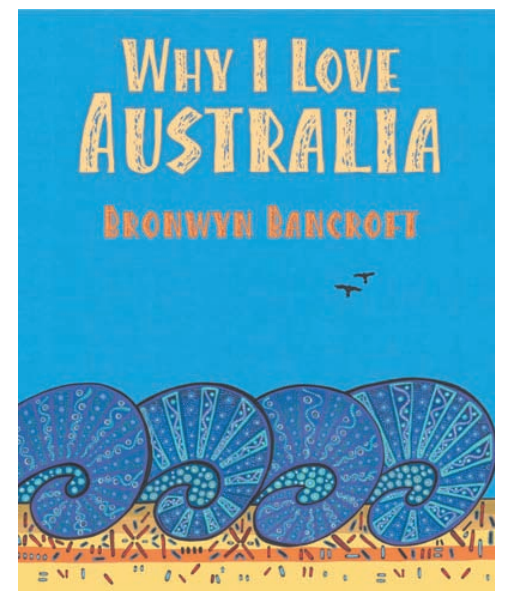
person you see on each page is the host to each of the landscapes, who wishes you well as you visit,' she says.

Bronwyn is in the second year of a Doctor of Creative Arts degree within the Centre for Educational Research at the University of Western Sydney. 'Why I Love Australia' will form part of her PhD research into representations of Aboriginal art in Australia.

'Why I Love Australia' was recently launched in Sydney by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Earlier this year, Bronwyn was awarded the Dromkeen medal, in recognition of her significant contributions to the development of children's literature in Australia.

Perhaps Bronwyn's most well-known title is 'Possum and Wattle: My Big Book of Australian Words.' Her illustrations, which have a distinct Indigenous style, feature in more than twenty-five picture books including 'Fat and Juicy Place'



by Diana Kidd and Sally Morgan's 'Just A Little Brown Dog'.

Bronwyn is the first Indigenous Australian to receive the Dromkeen Medal.

'Being the first Indigenous Australian to receive this award is a significant honour, because the work of Indigenous artists still tends to be under-represented and under-valued in Australia,' says Bronwyn.

'Also, in my family I was the last child out of seven. So I always love the chance to be first,' she says.

As a winner of the Dromkeen Medal, Bronwyn keeps prestigious company. Previous winners of the award include Mem Fox, Robin Klein, Colin Thiele, Graeme Base and Paul Jennings.

'UWS supported my dream to become an accomplished writer and complete my PhD. From my supervisors to administrative staff, I always felt well supported in my studies and it was the commitment of all that helped me realise my potential and ambition as a writer! And for this, all of it, I'll always be grateful.'

Graduate Health Management Program paving the way forward for Indigenous students

Not only has Wendy Bryan-Clothier proven she can undertake the challenges of study by completing an Environmental Health degree, she is now on the path to completing a Master of Health Science (Health Service Management).

EXCITING TIMES ARE ahead for Wendy as she embarks on her second year of a traineeship with Sydney West Area Health Service as part

of the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) Graduate Health Management Program.

The program includes an initiative to support Indigenous Australians with their aspirations to enter careers in health management related fields. Students undertake paid traineeships that provide them with real 'on-the-job' work experience through structured work placements. Their work experience is aligned with the University of Western Sydney's School of Biomedical and Health Science's Master of Health Science – Health Service Management course.

Wendy explains, 'After completing my undergraduate degree at UWS, I wanted to continue with my studies, but also wanted to commence my career in health management and this program was a perfect fit.'

'The program allows me to continue with my learning whilst I gain real experience and earn a salary to support my family.'

The program supports trainees over a two-year period by providing public and private sector placements within NSW Health and ACT Health. Trainees can also opt to have a health professional as a mentor to support them in coping with the day-to-day grind of work, study and career development.

'The mentoring program has helped me reflect on my progress and identify areas of health in which I would like to further my career. The mentoring support has been invaluable and I believe this has allowed me to concentrate on developing a career which supports me and supports the local community,' says Wendy.

Indigenous graduates of the program are highly sought after to fill roles in project and business management within the health care system.

Wendy is extremely optimistic about her future once she completes the program and is awarded her Master degree. She explains, 'This program is providing me with a range of opportunities that I never dreamt were possible, placing me in an ideal position to take on a role that is best suited to me and which will support my career goals.'

Applications for traineeships in the ACHSM Graduate Health Management Program open in May 2011. For more information about the program visit www.achsm.org.au/nsw/

For more detailed information about health and science courses offered at UWS, visit www.uws.edu.au



Graduate Health Management Program Trainees. Back Row: Robert Barnett; Lyndal Smith; Christian Wilson. Front Row: Joshua Roxburgh; Wendy Bryan-Clothier

'The program allows me to continue with my learning whilst I gain real experience and earn a salary to support my family.'



Indigenous smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Wes Marne, local Elder, to celebrate the official launch of the UWS Ngaramada Centre.

A new door opens to success

In life, opportunities for greater learning and self-development don't come along too often. But if you're a student at UWS, you can benefit from a world of academic and personal support . . .

UWS COLLEGE RECENTLY celebrated the official launch of the UWS College Ngaramada Centre – an Indigenous cultural space specifically developed to support the Indigenous students. Students have access to computers, printing and photocopying, as well as lounge and kitchen facilities. Not only will students have the ability to escape the pressures of their studies, students will have access to the Indigenous Project Officer Jeff Dunn, whose primary role is to support and provide academic guidance for the students.

In his role as an Indigenous Project Officer, Jeff is vital in the coordination of a number of integral initiatives.

Having worked with Indigenous students for many years, Jeff is looking forward to living his passion – helping students discover their potential, whatever their background.

'I used to be a labourer and a truck driver – and then someone gave me a chance to challenge myself academically. I joined an enabling program in the early 90s and now I'm having a more cerebral time of it. I'm loving it!'

UWS College is proud to announce a new initiative with the support of the UWS Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, the Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Program (ITEP) and Jeff describes this important new initiative:

'My job is to help create as soft a landing pad as possible for our Indigenous students, a nurturing environment – UWS College can be pretty intimidating at first. So our support can include anything from access to computers to a lounge area with kitchen facilities! It's the students' space, they can step out of the mainstream life of university and relax.'

'Basically, ITEP bridges the academic gap between TAFE and University. And if students are able to successfully complete this enabling program at UWS College, they'll be offered a full-time place at the University of Western Sydney in their chosen degree.'

'The great thing is we'll take mature age and high school students alike. It's all about building their skills.' And the ITEP team will be dedicated to supporting students of all ages for their chosen profession.

ITEP will offer a variety of study disciplines depending on the students' chosen fields for example science, arts, and engineering. A foundation program, ITEP will be staffed by a passionate team of people dedicated to supporting students of all ages for their chosen profession.

'The hope is that ITEP will enrol between 15 and 20 students a year from 2012.'

A Wodi Wodi man, Jeff is excited to be a part of ITEP: 'We have one of the largest Indigenous populations in NSW, so there really is a great need for this sort of program in our area.'

Indigenous Information Evenings 2010

Thursday 28 October

5:30pm – 7:30pm

University of Western Sydney
Campbelltown Campus

Building 30
Narellan Road
Campbelltown

Thursday 4 November

5:30pm – 7:30pm

University of Western Sydney
Penrith Campus

Building DG
Second Avenue
Kingswood

To register your attendance visit: www.uws.edu.au/indigenous or call 1300 897 669.

