

# Aboriginal Education Centre

Biannual Newsletter

Edition 1 | June 2017

The Aboriginal Education Centre, Federation University Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands 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 Nation peoples of this land.

## Introduction

Welcome to our first 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 is reintroducing a Newsletter with an objective 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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## Individual Learning Plans

The purpose of an individual learning plan is to establish a student's academic needs and requirements, and to identify any barriers that may affect the student's studies. The individual learning plans are also a means to identify and assist students with employment and career aspirations, as well as to provide cultural support as necessary.

Students are not eligible for tutorial assistance, if they do not have an individual learning plan in place.

## Tutorial Assistance

The Aboriginal Education Centre administers tutorial assistance for both Higher Education and VET students. Students are eligible to receive up to 2 hours, per subject, per week of free tutorial assistance.

To be eligible to receive tutoring, students must:

- Be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or VET course at Fed Uni.
- Have completed an individual learning plan with an Aboriginal Education Centre staff member

## Current Initiatives

### 2017 National Indigenous University Games

In 2017, the National Indigenous University Games was held in Geelong from the 25th of June until the 29th of June. This year will be the first time in history that FedUni has ever entered a team to compete in the National Indigenous Uni Games.



The Aboriginal Education Centre would like to thank the following organisations for their contributions and sponsoring of our students to attend:

- Central Highlands Local Aboriginal Network
- Grampians Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group
- Aboriginal Community Justice Panel
- Federation University Australia



During National Reconciliation Week, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, FedUni Student Connect in conjunction with the Aboriginal Education Centre held the official launch of the uniforms for the 2017 Indigenous University Games. The launch was a huge success, with many internal and external attendances, who we would like to thank for showing such great support.

## Clinton Pryor



Clinton Pryor, a Wajuk, Balardung, Kija and Yulparitja man from Western Australia has been on his Walk For Justice, since leaving Perth in September last year. He arrived in Ballarat on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. Clinton is walking from Perth to



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Canberra to protest against the forced closures of Indigenous communities. Clinton's walk is about working together and building mutual respect between all Australians. We in the Aboriginal Education Centre wish Clinton all the very best on his endeavours in creating a better future for all people.

## New Vice-Chancellor

Federation University Australia and the Aboriginal Education Centre have welcomed their new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Helen Bartlett, who commenced on 1st May and undertook a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Uncle Bryon Powell and Peter Lovett at our Mount Helen Campus.



## Graduations

One of the oldest Indigenous Australian Elders has graduated with a Masters of Visual Arts from Federation University Australia's Gippsland Campus in May 2017. At the age of 86, Uncle Edward (affectionately known as Dennis), is the oldest Indigenous Australian to graduate from FedUni's Gippsland Campus and is proof that you are never too old to learn.



This is not his first graduation. Uncle Dennis earned a place in the local history books when he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Aboriginal studies) in 2014 – a degree he completed at the age of 82.

**Congratulations** to Alison McRae on graduating her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. The Aboriginal Education Centre and FedUni are very proud of your amazing achievements!



## Student Profile Paige Roy

Paige is a Higher Education Student at our Mount Helen Campus. Paige is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, she is in her final year, with one semester until she completes her degree. Paige has been studying at FedUni since 2012, she has always utilised the Aboriginal Education Centre to provide her with support during her studies. Paige believes the Aboriginal Education Centre has not only helped her in completing her studies but has contributed to her developing friendships whilst studying at FedUni. Paige said that, "The Centre is a type of humble sanctuary where our people can go and study without feeling uncomfortable. It helps form relationships with other Indigenous students and also connects me with external Aboriginal resources". Paige is a Mentor with AIME, as she loves to be able to support the younger generation to further their education. Thanks for being a part of the Aboriginal Education Centre Paige, we are lucky to have such a great student!



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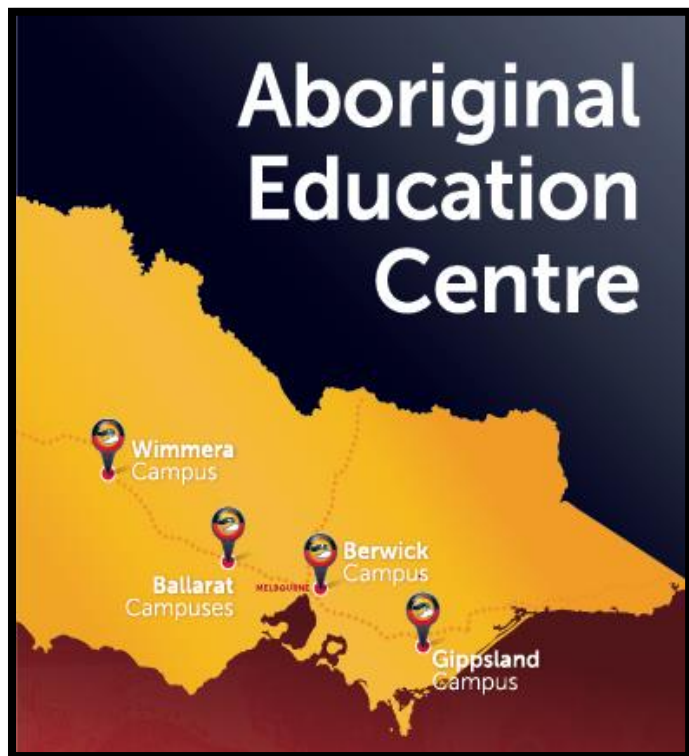


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## Contact Us:



**Nicholas 'Nick' Johnson |  
Aboriginal Education  
Liaison Officer, Gippsland  
and Berwick Campuses**

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Nick is a Gunai Kurnai, Monero Ngarigo and Wurundjeri man. Born in Carlton, Nick has now resided in the Gippsland region for the past 29 years. Nick is the Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer for Higher Education students at the Gippsland and Berwick Campuses and has worked with the Aboriginal Education Centre for the past 2 and half years.

## Welcome to our new Manager!



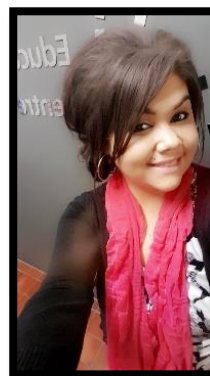
**Jasmine Graham |  
Manager, AEC, All  
Campuses**

PH: 03) 5327 6605

[jl.graham@federation.edu.au](mailto:jl.graham@federation.edu.au)

Jasmine Graham is a Wirangu, Barnjarla, Kokatha woman from South Australia and has studied, lived and worked in both Victoria and South Australia.

Jasmine started with FedUni at the end of March this year, as the Aboriginal Education Centre's Manager.



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

PH: 03) 5327 8471

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Ashlee Rodgers is the Aboriginal Liaison Officer for Fed Uni TAFE. Currently located at Fed College, S Building, Level 2 on Grant Street Ballarat. Although she was raised in Horsham, she is a proud Yorta Yorta woman. Ashlee has a strong focus on youth and community engagement. Ashlee is also an active member of the Aboriginal Community Justice Panel, AIME mentor and she co-leads the weekly local Aboriginal youth group 'KAOS'.



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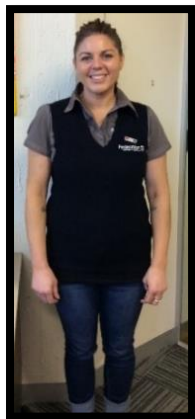
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**Rhianna Milliken | Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer, Ballarat Campuses and online students**

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Rhianna is a Gamilaroi woman that resides in Ballarat. Rhianna is the Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer for Higher Education students at the Mt. Helen Campus. Rhianna has worked for the Aboriginal Education Centre for the past 4 years and works on a part-time basis.

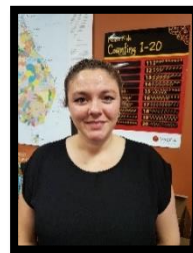


**Shanaya Sheridan | Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer, Ballarat Campuses and Online students**

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Shanaya is a Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Boonwurrung woman. Shanaya was born in Melbourne and has resided in Ballarat for the past 18 years. Shanaya is the Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer for Higher Education Students at the Mt. Helen Campus and has now worked with the Aboriginal Education Centre for 2 years.

To have your details added to our new stakeholder mail list please call: 03) 5327 9648 or email [et.milliken@federation.edu.au](mailto:et.milliken@federation.edu.au)



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

PH: 03) 5327 9438  
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Emma is the Administrative Officer working in the Aboriginal Education Centre, based at the Mt. Helen Campus. Emma also provides Administrative Support to the Aboriginal Education Centres across all campuses. Emma is a Gamilaroi woman who loves to help and support our Aboriginal community.



**Ellen 'Topsy' Milera | Trainee Administrative Officer, All Campuses**

Topsy Milera is a Narungga and Ngarrindjeri woman from South Australia. Topsy is currently on a traineeship with the Aboriginal Education Centre and is studying her Certificate III in Business Administration. Topsy was previously based in the FedUni International Admissions Office from September 2016 until end of May 2017.

## AIME Mentoring



Federation University Australia is a proud sponsor of AIME. AIME is a dynamic educational program supporting Indigenous students through high school and into University, employment or further education, at the same rate as all Australian students. The program operates from the University's Mt. Helen and Gippsland Campuses.

For further information, please visit the AIME website: <https://aimementoring.com/>

Alternatively, contact the AIME, FedUni Mentor and Senior Program Manager:

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