

RMIT UNIVERSITY

NGARARA WILLIM CENTRE

Developed by Worungjerri artist Mervyn Nepean
FOR ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

ISSUE 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

NGARARA WILLIM NEWSLETTER

**RUSU's
New
Indigenous
Officier**



Congratulations, Shylicia!

Significant and important dates

- 18th October – SWOTVAC Week Begins
- 22nd October - Last day to apply to Graduate & confirm attendance for Melbourne 2021 Graduation Ceremony
- 25th October – Assessment Period
- 2nd November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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Womin Djeka! Welcome to the July edition

Womin Djeka (Welcome)! September marks the beginning of porneet (tadpole) season on Kulin country. It means rising temperatures and much welcomed sunshine, but with regular rain. Myrnong and flax-lillies are flowering and the loud calls of the pied currawong can be heard often.

We're nearing the end of semester two now with many students busy with final assessments and starting to think about exams. If this is your last semester before graduation, we'd like to remind you that October 22nd is your last day to register your attendance for the Melbourne 2021 Graduation Ceremony. Ngarara Willim will keep you up to date about graduation celebrations and how they will take place in the coming months.

September has been another month of connecting online at Ngarara Willim. We've run lunch catch-up sessions with Aunty Carolyn as well as one-on-one chats with individual students. We also had the pleasure of joining Nornie Bero from Mabu Mabu for an online damper making class for students.

Multiple job opportunities have also been shared in this month's newsletter, head to page 8 for details, we look forward to all applications.

As always, we encourage students to get in touch with the team if you need any support or want to yarn, and we encourage you to take some study breaks to enjoy to the sunshine.

On the cover

This Month We're sending out a massive congratulations to Shylicia Mckeirnan, the new Indigenous Officer for RMIT University Student Union.

Shylicia is currently studying a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours). Get to know Shylicia a bit more on pages 6-7 in this issues' student spotlight.

Koorie Youth Summit 2021



Registrations are now OPEN for the 2021 Koorie Youth Summit! Every year, the @KoorieYouthCouncil hosts the largest gathering of young mob in Victoria. In a time when we need connection and community more than ever, this year's Summit is coming to you, anywhere with an internet connection.

Held online across 3 weeks in November, the Summit is a chance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 16-28 living in Victoria to come together and connect, learn from one another and hear the inspiring stories of deadly mob from First Nations communities. Jam-packed with panels, workshops and interactive yarns and guided by this year's theme 'Barring Djuwima (Sharing Journeys): Heal, Grow, Thrive', the Summit is an experience you don't want to miss!

Register now!
[Korieyouthsummit.org.au](https://korieyouthsummit.org.au)
#OurSummit21

If you're aged 16-25 and are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander you're eligible to attend. Ngarara Willim will provide financial support to any Indigenous Students wishing to attend. For more information email Ngarara.willim@rmit.edu.au

Yalinguth App Launch

Community and collaboration are at the heart of Yalinguth, a new First Nations augmented reality app that takes users around Ngár-go/Fitzroy, Melbourne guided by stories from members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



The Yalinguth App launched earlier this month. It is the result of a partnership between Dr Chris Barker, Kate Cawley and Max Piantoni from RMIT's Masters of Animation, Games and Interactivity (MAGI), the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Storyscape, Yarnin' Pictures, Melbourne Community Indigenous Film Collective and University of Melbourne.

Told completely through storytelling and sound scapes, the App tells the story of Aboriginal Fitzroy, supported by the voices of elders such as Uncle Archie Roach and Uncle Jack Charles.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)



Student Spotlight: Shylicia Mckiernan

Ngarara Willim would like to congratulate Shylicia Mckiernan on her appointment to the RUSU Indigenous Officer role. Get to know Shylicia in this month's student spotlight and find out what inspired her to get involved with RUSU.

Whose your Mob?

I am a proud Kulkalaig woman from Kulkagal Nation of Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait).

What are you Studying?

I'm studying my Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours), but I also completed my Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation (Engineering) as I didn't complete high school.

What made you interested in joining the RUSU team?

I think I've always been an outspoken person, especially when it comes to topics such as First Nations justice and rights so when I learnt the Indigenous Officer Role would be up for grabs for 2022, I was really eager to learn more about what to position looked like. I went along to the student general meeting to get a bit of taste how motions are presented and the process of it all, and after that I was hooked.

I noticed a lack of First Nations presence which pushed me to run for the role, as I strongly believe there is no better representation of First Nations people than First Nations people.

What are you most looking forward to about your role as Indigenous RUSU Officer?

The last two years have been so incredibly tough on everyone, but I think especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that may have been disconnected from their country and family. I'm eager to get mob at RMIT reconnected, to really build those strong relationships and empower our voices at RUSU. I'm also really optimistic that 2022 will be a year of a return to some form of normality, so I really want to intensify the presence of First Nations people within RUSU.

I think the isolation we've all had to endure has really highlighted the social injustices for First Nations people, so I think I have the perfect opportunity to educate non-indigenous people on deeper cultural engagement and safety.

Tell us about yourself?

I'm 24 years young and grew up in Cape York, Queensland (all the way at the very top). For the last 10 years, I've slowly made my way further south and further away from my country – Zenadth Kes. I actually couldn't conform to the constructs of high school, so I joined the workforce at a young age where I was able to help supporting my family, up-skill in the workplace but also learn more about topics I'm really passionate about like social and environmental issues and justice, but also horticulture and crafts like crocheting and painting. Despite not completing high school, I was always adamant on studying at university and continuously searched for that degree, in both a theoretical and metaphorical way.

What/Who inspired you to study at RMIT?

Honestly, it was kind of like an epiphany. One day I was browsing the course guides and lists available on the RMIT website, and I was reading the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture course guide which allowed me to stumble onto the Bachelor of Urban & Regional Planning course guide. Just reading the course guide excited me because it all cleared up in a way and I realised the answer to what I wanted to study was right in front of me – the whole array of topics I'm so passionate about it combined into a degree and here it is. My older sister, Tishiko King, has also been a huge inspiration to study at RMIT – she definitely made it seem really fun to my teenage self.

What was it like transitioning to university?

It's definitely been a journey. I took my time settling into Melbourne before starting at RMIT and unfortunately was only about to start studying at RMIT 6 months before everything came crumbling with COVID. Other than the common obstacles from COVID, I've thoroughly enjoyed the transition. I don't know, I'm grateful of the assurance I feel in what I'm studying and knowing that it can really provide a future for myself and First Nations people to have a just future that recognised and understood for all its' knowledge and beauty, so that has definitely made it as easier process for me.

What do you enjoy most about engaging with Ngarara Willim?

The genuine sense of community I feel being part of and even just inside the Ngarara Willim Centre building. Being so far away from my country and most of my family can make me feel really disconnected at times, but the reciprocal respect between mob is so heart-warming and Ngarara Willim really provide a space for that to take place.

What's your proudest moment/achievement while studying at RMIT?

Completing the equivalent certificate for high school. It has really encouraged me that anything is achievable, and it doesn't necessarily have to be done in the 'normal' or most common way to guarantee success.

What is your message to community members considering studying at RMIT?

You can do it!!! Anything and everything is possible, and myself, Ngarara Willim and RUSU are here to make it a safe place for First Nations people to learn and be part of. Have questions or uncertainties? Reach out!!! Ngarara Willim has been extremely supportive of my educational endeavours since the beginning and the future will only make this support even stronger and present.

COME WORK WITH US AT NGARARA WILLIM



At Ngarara Willim we're hiring for multiple positions. We encourage you to share these opportunities with friends, family and professional networks if you know someone who might be great in these roles. Current opportunities include:

2x Indigenous Student Education Officers

The Officer, Indigenous Student Education (x2) will work with the Ngarara Willim Centre and is a pivotal role to ensure engagement and support is provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate and Vocational Education students.

(<https://rmit.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/.../Officer...>)

Indigenous Careers Officer

The position of Indigenous Careers Officer involves the provision of support services to prospective and existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students during their career journey. The position is responsible for the delivery of one-on-one careers counselling advice and involves the preparation of career action plans into each student's individual learning plan. The position will also manage team reporting requirements, school and industry career events and drive engagement activities with employers and industry partners.

(<https://rmit.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/.../Indigenous-Careers...>)

Indigenous Administration Trainee

The Indigenous Administration Trainee is responsible for providing administrative support and assistance to the Ngarara Willim Centre staff and students, and the Manager, Indigenous Student Education.

The role will support a range of activities including but not limited to coordination of meetings, maintenance of financial records, ordering supplies and stationery, liaison with students and general upkeep of the Ngarara Willim space.

(<https://rmit.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/.../Indigenous...>)

Making Damper with Mabu Mabu



This month we got together online with current students for a cooking class with chef Normie Bero from Mabu Mabu. Normie walked us through each step and helped us create dampers flavoured with native ingredients like wattleseed.

We had a lot of positive feedback from the students who participated so we're holding another event in October! Registrations have closed for students wanting to cook alongside the class, but we encourage students to tune in and have a yarn and catch up while we cook.

If you have any suggestions for future online events to bring us all together, we'd love to hear them! Send an email to ngarara.willim@rmit.edu.au.





Meet our Staff



Nicole

Arabana
Manager
Indigenous Student Education



Evander

Gunditjmara, Wemba Wemba
Indigenous Student Education
Officer
Indigenous Education



Carlie

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[Join our Mailing List](#)

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Our Artists

Leaves of Change - Louisa Bloomer
Leaves (watermark) — Alanna Sandy
Ngarara Willim logo — Mandy Nicholson

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Building 5, Level 1, Room 5
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Bundoora Campus
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Brunswick Campus
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