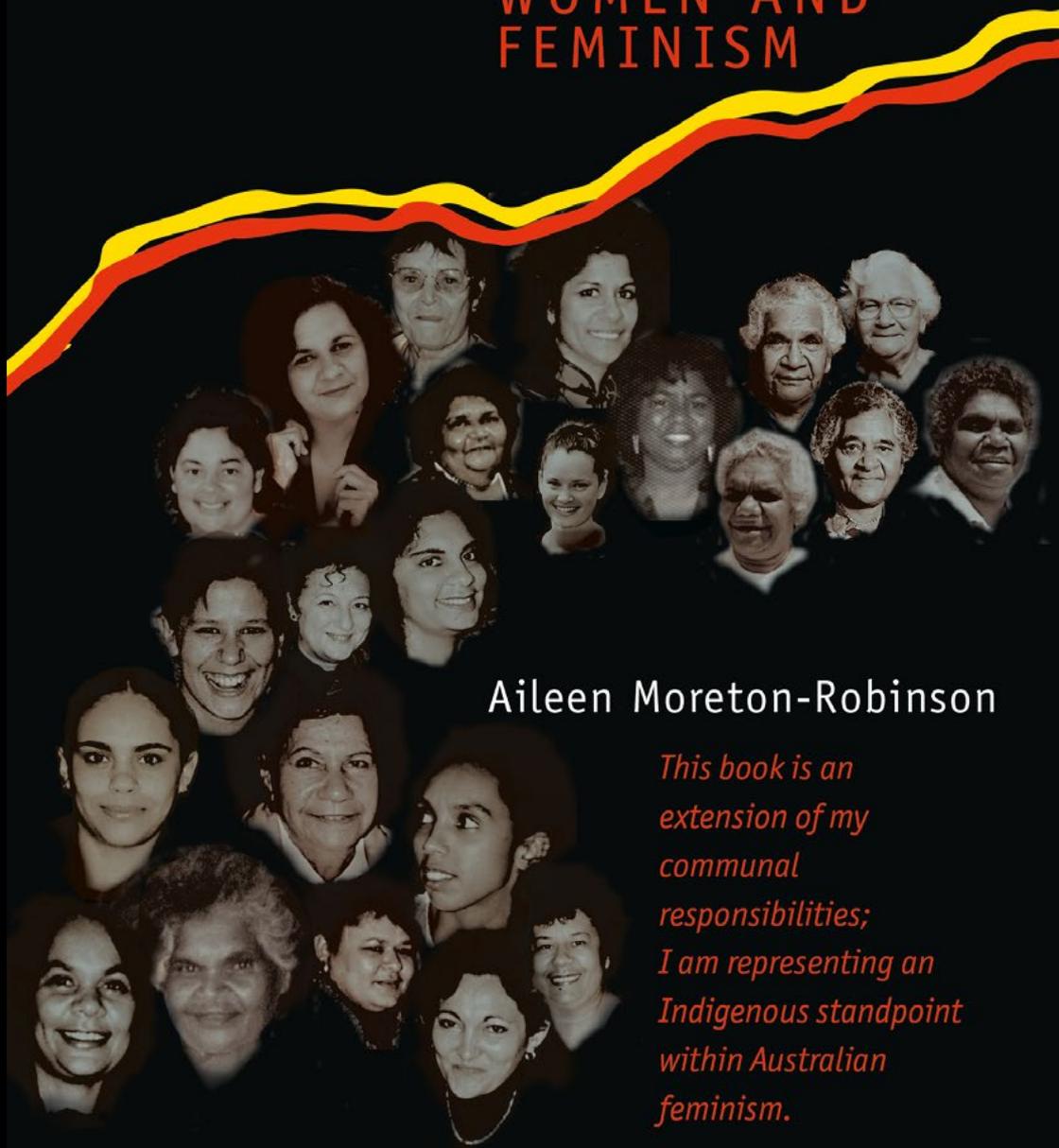




20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

TALKIN' UP TO THE WHITE WOMAN

INDIGENOUS
WOMEN AND
FEMINISM



Aileen Moreton-Robinson

This book is an extension of my communal responsibilities; I am representing an Indigenous standpoint within Australian feminism.



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Womin Djeka!

Welcome to the third edition

As we continue the year with the rainy, shorter days and colder nights of the Waring, or Wombat Season, the Ngarara Willim team are continuing to reflect upon and to respond to the injustices and upheavals that the first part of this year has thrown at us all. It has been quite a start to the year but as we head into Semester 2, those changes and impacts also bring us celebration.

Our most recent celebration here at Ngarara Willim is the completion of our mid-year graduates. The Ngarara team congratulate them all and let them know that we are extremely proud of their achievements and look forward to continuing to connect with them all through the Deadly Alumni initiative and their continued education.

The Deadly Alumni initiative continues our relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alumni Community. We encourage all Alumni to register and connect with us when they graduate.

We would like to congratulate Kimberly Lovegrove on her recent appointment as Indigenous Officer on the RMIT University Student Union. Kimberly has put a call out to all Ngarara students for support in this role so please contact her through Canvas if you are interested. You can read more about Kimberley's role in this issue.

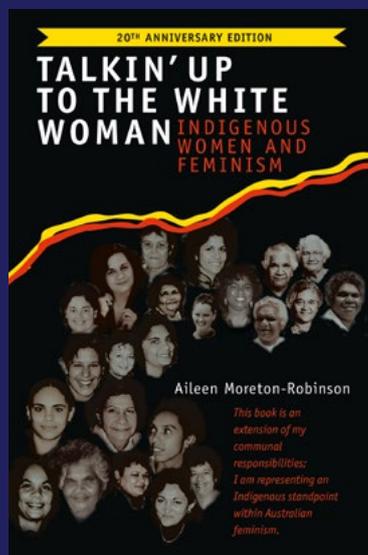
Womin Djeka to our new students. We welcome you to the Ngarara Willim Community and to online learning.

Ngarara Willim staff and students have been engaging in several activities with the Community since our last newsletter, including:

- VE and HE Gama-dji Orientation Online
- Clothing the Gap's RunRona
- NAIDOC Celebrations including a virtual 3km NAIDOC March
- Outreach programs with the Deadly Sista Girlz program at Wirrpanda Foundation
- CareerTrackers Work Shadowing program
- Getting community linked up with free education programs with RMIT Short Courses
- And connecting and sharing information with schools across Victoria

Don't forget RMIT Open Day is coming up on 8-9 August and this one is a 100% online experience. Take a virtual campus tour and sample university life. See what sets RMIT apart. Make sure you have a look at the Ngarara Willim section and have a yarn with our staff who will be available on the online chat. Applications for 2021 open on 3 August - if you are thinking about further study, get online and have a look at what is available.

You can read more about what we have been up to for the past few months in the following pages. We look forward to sharing our news and activities with you throughout Semester 2.



Research News

We are very excited that the Ngarara Willim Centres' own Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson's first book 'Talkin Up to the White Woman' has been republished to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its release. In this seminal book Prof shares an Indigenous women's standpoint as she 'talks up', engages with and interrogates western feminism in representation and practice. Chuck on your mask, or jump online and get a copy!

Future Students

Mid year

We have over 50 new Indigenous students commencing a program with RMIT mid-year across Vocational and Higher Education. With the start of semester comes the opening of applications for 2021! You can apply through VTAC or direct to the University from Monday 3 August.

For more information, visit the VTAC Website: vtac.edu.au



Open Day

This year, RMIT's Open Day will be a virtual experience held on the weekend of 8-9 August. Make sure you jump online to learn more about the different programs RMIT offers, check out our facilities, and chat with staff and students.

This Open Day will be a 100% online experience that you can personalise to suit the courses and careers that are most relevant to you.

- Explore our campus and facilities through immersive virtual tours
- Chat directly to our students and staff to find out what studying at RMIT is really like and get all of your questions answered
- Enjoy one of the many presentations to explore your course options
- Join live Q&A panels and information sessions
- Learn about industry placements and clubs that you can join when you become part of the RMIT community.

Register for Open Day: rmit.edu.au/openday

Short Courses

The Ngarara Willim team and RMIT Short Courses are pleased to offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members full scholarships for online short courses provided by RMIT University. This scholarship provides up to \$2,000 in tuition fees paid depending on the specific online short course.

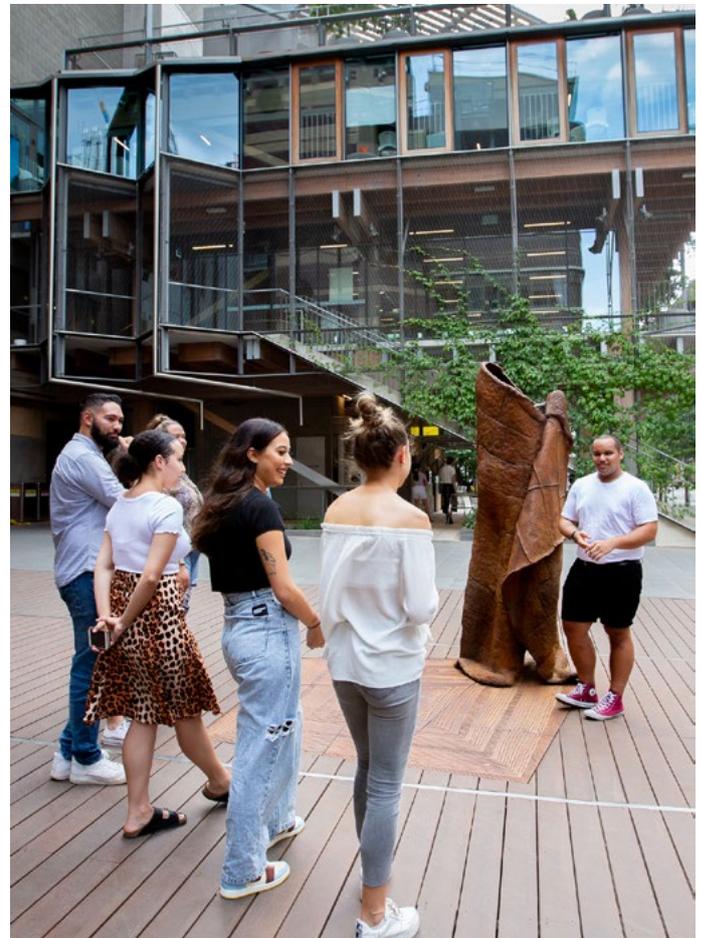
A short course will build upon your existing skills and enable you to

- Develop complementary knowledge in your current role or for new employment
- Build your resume
- Gain relevant experience through practical training
- Learn from professionals in your desired field
- Open up opportunities

There are a variety of online short courses available at RMIT, from business writing to social media marketing, game animation and even jewelry making!

For a full list of available short courses, click on the link here: https://shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/search_course.php...

For more information, contact Lewis Brown by email at lewis.brown@rmit.edu.au or 0419 839 183



Student Success

Congratulations to Kimberly on your new appointment!

Proud Ngarrindjeri woman, Kimberly Lovegrove, has recently been appointed as the Indigenous Officer at the RMIT University Student Union (RUSU). Kimberly will be responsible for ensuring RMIT University is a more inclusive and culturally sensitive space. Kimberly also aspires to put together a taskforce of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students to help create change with a collective voice rather than an individual perspective. Ngarara Willim are proud and look forward to the great things Kimberly achieves in her new position!



Bromley See Kee, Finalist for the 7News Young Achiever Awards

Ngarara Willim's, Bromley See Kee, has been nominated for the 7News Young Achiever Award's Yarn Strong Sista Indigenous Achievement Award and has now progressed to be 1 of 4 finalists! Bromley has been recognised for the deadly work they did whilst in the RUSU Indigenous Officer role. The Yarn Strong Sista Indigenous Achievement Award will be presented at the 7News Young Achiever's awards night in September.

Ngarara Willim wish Bromley and the other deadly finalists (Merinda Dryden, Samuel Muir and Sianna Catullo) the best of luck at the awards night!

Clint Hansen speaks about his story and being an Aurora Role Model

Recently, proud Iman Bandarr man Clint Hansen, joined the Aurora Education Foundation's Instagram live to speak about his educational journey and role as an Aurora Role Model. Ngarara Willim are proud of Clint for sharing his inspirational journey and you can listen to his story via the "[@auroraeducationfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/auroraeducationfoundation)" Instagram page.



Gama-dji Orientation - New Online Look!

(Gama-dji means 'emerge' in the local Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung languages of the Kulin Nations.)

In second semester, Vocational Education students kicked off the Ngarara Willim Gama-dji Orientation... but with a twist - it was delivered remotely through Collaborate Ultra Online! Students commencing VE programs were the first to participate in the online version of our Gama-dji Orientation.

Since March 2020, staff have been redesigning our support initiatives to ensure students continue to experience the community of our Centre, access the services that the university offers and remain engaged with their studies.

Students were welcomed and joined staff for a yarn while discussing their transition to university and individual journeys. It was great to hear about what students were going to be studying and why.

The main presentation started with introductions to staff who provide the services and support most used by students. One of the important aspects of Gama-dji Orientation is to introduce the Ngarara Willim team who will be supporting them throughout their studies. Carlie and Simon from Ngarara Willim, Elizabeth McKenzie from Study Skills, and Shannon Woodcock, an academic tutor, met with the new students and discussed further access to academic and studying support. Building relationships with staff helps our students feel welcome and connects them to the range of support available at RMIT.

We were also joined by current students Kelsey Woods and Kimberley Lovegrove who shared their experiences working remotely and telling the commencing students about some of the opportunities that they have been involved in.



Overall, the new format was a great success and students received a scholarship to assist their transition into studying.

It is a privilege to welcome all new student during these events and to build our Ngarara Willim family.

Wirrpanda Foundation

The Deadly Sista Girlz Program is a school-based program that aims to build proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls that thrive. The program is delivered by strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role models and mentors who offer a stable environment where they can discuss current events and personal issues they may be facing.

Recently, Ngarara Willim collaborated with the Deadly Sista Girlz program to host a yarning circle for young women who attend Thornbury High School. Ngarara Willim students Ariana Kikkert and Teigan Kyle-Taylor generously offered their time to mentor the young women and share their experiences about being RMIT students and their study journey so far.



Ngarara Willim are very grateful to the Wirrpanda Foundation's Deadly Sista Girlz program for the opportunity to work together on this amazing initiative and look forward to future collaboration.

More information about the Deadly Sista Girlz Program here: www.wf.org.au/programs/programs-education/33-deadly-sista-girlz

Our Graduates, Our Future

It's always a really special time of year when we as a team and a university get to celebrate the achievements of our Graduates. Not everyone completes their studies in December of any given year; we often have students who celebrate at the mid-year exit point. This year is no different.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are proud to celebrate their achievements!

We know how much work has gone into their studies, the sacrifices they have made along the way, the challenges they have faced. We have been there through the good times and tough times. We have watched their personal growth from

commencement to completion. We have watched them join in activities, influence their peers and inspire the younger generation in their communities.

As staff of the Ngarara Willim Centre we watch these students, these members of our Ngarara Willim family, accomplish their goals. They are the next leaders in our community, the next leaders around the world, the next generation to make a big impact.

Again we sit back, beaming with pride and say congratulations to our Graduates!



Israel Carter

Age: 29

Where are you from: Melbourne

Did you relocate to study? No

Program/s of study: (2017) Certificate IV in Music Industry (Sound Production), (2018) Advanced Diploma of Music Industry (Sound Production), (2019/2020) Bachelor of Design (Digital Media)

Why did you choose that program, and has it met your expectation? What did you enjoy about it?

I chose to study Sound Production because I have always had a passion for music and how it is made. I really wanted to keep learning and improving my skills and knowledge and eventually turn it into a career. What I enjoyed the most about this course was the collaborative projects working with other students and artists as well as one of my classes which was sound design which I really enjoyed and wanted to continue to pursue in the Bachelor of Design (Digital Media).

What were your biggest fears taking up study?

I hadn't studied at university for a while so I wasn't sure if I was able to cope with the workload and assignments and I was concerned that I might fail.

What activities did you participate in while at RMIT?

Study Tour-I went to Malaysia in 2019 over the semester break. This was a 3-week study tour learning about indigenous communities of Malaysia. This was an incredible experience as well as very challenging. I learned so much about this country and their culture and being able to go over there and live in these indigenous communities was an experience not many people get to do.



Check out Israel's music:
<https://spoti.fi/32EwSq5>



Michelle Gissara

My name is Michelle, I am 32 and I am originally from Adelaide but have called Melbourne home for the past eight years. My people are Kardu Diminin from Wadeye, Northern Territory.

I originally moved to Melbourne in 2012 to study Graphic Design and Advertising at an independent college, which I finished and started working freelance.

I realised that I enjoyed the arts more as a hobby and wanted to pursue my lifelong dream of studying psychology and crime. In 2016 I applied for and was accepted into the Bachelor of Criminology and Psychology here at RMIT University.

I have really enjoyed the course and learned so much about not only psychology and criminology, but law, human rights, ethics, and more. It has exceeded my expectations and allowed me to pursue avenues of further study. I have had opportunities to be involved in student life at RMIT, meet amazing people through Ngarara Willim, and be able to have chances to study overseas as part of this degree. I was fortunate enough to have a bit of extra time afterwards to travel to Finland and meet my favourite band, The Rasmus, backstage before their show at a music festival, which was a lifelong dream!

As a mature age student, I was nervous about returning to study full time and being able to meet new people and make friends and do well in my studies, with the responsibilities that come with being an independent adult. I actually was so shy, I kept to myself for the first year and did not really start making friends and opening up until second year. I also worked part-time throughout my entire degree and juggled that alongside volunteering for the MS Society as a community volunteer and my university studies.

I also have endometriosis, and was also recently diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, so have appreciated the support from the university in assisting with equitable learning.

I completed a two week study trip to Malaysia as part of the Comparative Criminology course. We were able to see what courtrooms and cases were like, meet with NGOs and understand the culture of Malaysia and compare it to the way crime is perceived and dealt with in Australian contexts.

I also had the amazing opportunity to do a month long study intensive at Aarhus University in Denmark, looking at Youth, Drugs, and Alcohol from a social-science approach. This intensive brought students from around the globe to Denmark to work together in understanding drugs and alcohol from varying perspectives, from sociology, to psychology, to criminology, as well as from varying cultural perspectives.

I was also an RMIT Global Ambassador and I used my first-hand experience of travelling for university study to guide and inspire fellow students considering a global experience alongside their degree at RMIT.

Also, during my degree, I was a SLAMS mentor, engaged in the RMIT industry mentoring program, complete the Future Edge Program, was vice president of the RMIT Psyched! Psychology Society in 2018 and modelled for the Campus Store.

At RMIT I was honoured to receive both the Inder Kaur Reconciliation Scholarship, as well as the RUSU Student Union Resilience Award for my studies and contributions for student life.

I also received a letter commending me on my GPA for semester 1, 2019 with a term grade average of 3.7.

Continued on page 10...

Outside of uni, I was lucky to get a job as an Indigenous Allied Health Cadet at Monash Health in 2017. I then went on to work as an Aboriginal Forensic Clinician with Monash Health from August 2018 until February 2020.

I have received two special awards from Graduate Women Victoria in both 2017 and 2020 and was also lucky enough to be nominated for Student of the Year for the 2019 National Dreamtime Awards. Going to Sydney to the Awards show with my husband was the highlight of the year. I did not win, but was so grateful for the opportunity and recognition of my studies.

Definitely give it a go! you have nothing to lose and so much support here at RMIT and especially with Ngarara Willim. They have helped me from the beginning with my application, helped me with scholarships and accessing tutoring and equitable learning for my studies, as well as being deadly people to hang out with and socialise to get away from studies when it was required! Had a lot of fun doing things like bowling, games night, going to NAIDOC ball and the march, and helping create some promotional materials for other events.

Do not let having a medical condition stop you from studying either, as there is so much support to help you achieve your best while managing chronic illness.

My tips for study are to be organised. have a planner and a calendar. Put all yearly uni dates in there, as well as assignment deadlines, quizzes, group work meetings etc

and hold yourself accountable. Take time to look after yourself as well and if you need a day off, take it. I know to listen to my body if it is calling for a break and know that I need to work through it so I can get stuck back into things travelling overseas, and just getting myself out there and getting my face known around the university.

Support, family, connection, fun, laughter and there to lift you up and get you to achieve the goals that you set for yourself by coming to university. They have always been there for me when I need any help and it is something I really treasure as a RMIT student. I am looking to continue further studies in Criminology. I have been offered a spot at RMIT for the Bachelor of Justice and Criminology (Honours) here at RMIT, as well as a Masters in criminology spot at Melbourne Uni, so I am really just trying to work out the route I would like to go down. Either way, I am excited to keep studying and further my knowledge within Criminology and work towards either a PhD or a career within the justice sector.

I would love to be an early career academic within the criminology field, and/or working within the justice sector while advocating for systemic change of the criminal justice system in Australia.

Deadly Alumni @ RMIT



The RMIT Alumni team in collaboration with the Ngarara Willim Centre have been working together to develop the Deadly Alumni initiative. Deadly Alumni celebrates our growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduate community. The initiative provides our Alumni with benefits and opportunities to empower them professionally and personally while supporting an ongoing relationship with the Ngarara Willim Centre and RMIT Community.

The Ngarara Willim team would like all Alumni to connect with us on our Facebook page 'Deadly Alumni - Ngarara Willim'.

If you would like to register as an Alumni or update your contact details visit <https://www.rmit.edu.au/alumni-and-giving/alumni-benefits/stay-connected>

facebook.com/DeadlyAlumni/



Deadly Alumni: Banok Rind

Can you tell us about your journey into University?

My name is Banok Rind. I'm a very proud Yamatji Badimaya woman from WA. I studied my Bachelor of Nursing at the RMIT Bundoora campus.

I did most of my schooling in Perth and moved to Melbourne 8 years ago.

I never thought I would finish years 10, 11 and 12 let alone get to university. Something that I had always been passionate about growing up was seeing my family, my elders, my community always sick and too shame to go to hospital. I used to think to myself, I will do something for my people's health and well-being, so the next generation doesn't have to see preventable illnesses turn into chronic [illnesses]. I didn't think I'd do nursing, but the path led me here and nursing opened up a lot of pathways and doors for me.

What lead you to study at RMIT?

I wasn't sure if I would study at RMIT but I had visited an Open Day hosted by RMIT and visited the old Ngarara Willim Centre. I met all the amazing blackfellas there who I maintained connections with, I shared my interest in studying in health and changing the narrative for our people's health and well-being. I explored other universities and found that RMIT was where I wanted to be. A huge part of that was because of the Ngarara Willim mob who supported me with enrolment, application and transitioning into university.

What did you enjoy most about engaging with Ngarara Willim throughout your study?

I was based in Bundoora so I wasn't able to see and visit the city Ngarara Willim Centre every day but I made sure I was visiting once a week or few times a fortnight because it felt like a family. As Aboriginal people, we are people of community and take care of one another. I loved our ability to look out for one another. Even when I finished studying at RMIT, I made sure I was in contact and visiting the mob at Ngarara because they played a huge role in my journey and career as an Aboriginal Nurse.

What are you up to now? Work and life?

Currently I am working as the Deputy Executive Officer at the Koorie Youth Council. I am also studying a Masters of Public Health at Melbourne University.

Amongst those two [roles], I was actively involved in teaching Indigenous Health across various universities such as RMIT, ACU and Melbourne Uni. My ongoing passion is to change the health system that supports holistic healing and the health and well-being of our people as well as embedding cultural safety that is practiced by all health professionals working with our mob.



Banok Rind
Deadly Alumni

**As Aboriginal people,
we are people of
community and take
care of one another.
I loved our ability
to look out for one
another.**

What would your message be to our mob who may be considering studying at RMIT?

If you are considering studying at RMIT, know that you have a community of amazing mob that will always be a part of your journey in supporting you to be the best you can be and achieve whatever you would like to achieve.

For myself, my university experience was challenging due to family, being away from home and balancing my life, but with the support of Ngarara and Auntie Kerrie Doyle, they really made me be the best I can be.



Meet our Staff



Nicole

Arabana

Manager, Indigenous Student Education



Jason

Tharawal

Senior Manager, Indigenous Education



Cathy D.

Irukandji

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Access and Engagement



Lewis

Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung

Coordinator, Indigenous Outreach



Carlie

Coordinator, Indigenous Vocational Education



Cathy L.

Arrente, Luritja

Coordinator Operations & Project Support



Simon

Birriah / Gurreng Gurreng

Coordinator, Indigenous Student Engagement



Charlotte

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Indigenous Student Engagement Projects Assistant



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Join our mailing list

Send us an email to be added to our mailing list

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Bundoora Campus

Building 202, Level 3, Room 21
225- 245 Plenty Road, Bundoora, VIC, 3083

Brunswick Campus

Building 514, Level 1, Room 3
25 Dawson Street, Brunswick, VIC, 3056

Post: GPO Box 2476, Melbourne, VIC 3001

Our Artists

Trees — Louisa Bloomer

Leaves (watermark) — Alanna Sandy

Ngarara Willim logo — Mandy Nicholson



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