



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Indigenous Research and Education Highlights

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work with and learn from Indigenous colleagues and partners every day.

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)

PROFESSOR BARRY JUDD

Indigenous research and education are deeply embedded at the University of Melbourne, where we celebrate a rich tapestry of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture and innovation.

Here we provide a snapshot of some of the outstanding work currently underway in the context of our Indigenous Strategy 2023–2027, *Murmuk Djerring* (Woi Wurrung words for ‘Working Together’). This Strategy expresses the University’s continuing commitment to Indigenous self-determination, and to honouring the knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have nurtured the lands and culture of this continent throughout millennia.

The Strategy is framed by 5 key priority areas – Leadership; Place, Heritage and Culture; Partnerships; Indigenous Knowledge; Truth-telling and Justice – and 21 Signature Projects (see back cover). Some of these are featured here along with other long-standing Indigenous lead initiatives.

Particularly of note, we continue to progress on our Truth-telling and Justice priority, with the 2025 publication of *Dhoombak Goobgoowana: A History of Indigenous Australia and the University of Melbourne Volume 2: Voice*.

This book, which follows on from *Volume 1: Truth*, highlights how Indigenous communities have both challenged and contributed to the University, particularly by pushing it to integrate Indigenous knowledge into academia.

In addition, the University’s new Centre for Truth-telling and Dialogue will open in 2026, with a focus on building partnerships, community engagement, and developing research and education programs that confront historical and ongoing injustices.

Through these initiatives, we continue the process of reckoning with our past, and begin to reframe our institutional relationship with Indigenous peoples in ways that are grounded in genuine partnership and guided by the values of humility, commitment, accountability, respect and reciprocity.

We also proudly showcase the University’s remarkable progress in advancing Indigenous representation: for example, since 2016, we have grown our Indigenous professoriate from eight to 25, and our commitment to Indigenous Knowledge is reflected in the 188 subjects with an Indigenous focus we now offer.

This extraordinary growth is a testament to the University’s unwavering commitment to Indigenous self-determination and to honouring the knowledge held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Senior Indigenous Leadership

MARCIA LANGTON

Associate Provost

Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO is an anthropologist and geographer, and since 2000 has held the University's Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies. She has produced a large body of knowledge in the areas of political and legal anthropology, Indigenous agreements and engagement with the minerals industry, and Indigenous culture and art. Her role in the Empowered Communities project under contract to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and as a member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians, are evidence of Professor Langton's academic reputation, policy commitment and impact, alongside her role as a prominent public intellectual.

→ **Read more:** <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/leadership/senior-leadership/provost/prof-marcia-langton>



BARRY JUDD

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)

Professor Barry Judd is a distinguished academic and accomplished leader, who is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Professor of Indigenous Studies in the School of Culture and Communication. As the DVC (Indigenous), he plays a crucial role in shaping institutional policy, strategy and guidance on all aspects of Indigenous higher education. Professor Judd collaborates with both the University community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities to lead the development and realisation of our Indigenous-focused aspirations. This includes cultivating a culture in which Indigenous knowledges, histories and perspectives are recognised, celebrated, advocated for and actively engaged in research and education.

→ **Read more:** <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/leadership/senior-leadership/provost/professor-barry-judd>



TIRIKI ONUS

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous)

Mr Tiriki Onus is a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung artist, academic and film maker who currently holds the roles of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development. He is also Co-Director of the University's Research Unit in Indigenous Arts and Cultures, and a successful visual artist, curator, performance artist and opera singer. Mr Onus's work fosters innovation both in the research, development, advocacy, representation and inclusion of Indigenous arts and cultural practices, and of their practitioners in the academy. He is also a board member of Melbourne Theatre Company and Vic Screen, the cultural advisor to Victorian Opera, and artistic and cultural advisor for the Shepparton Art Museum.

→ **Read more:** <https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/233294-tiriki-onus>

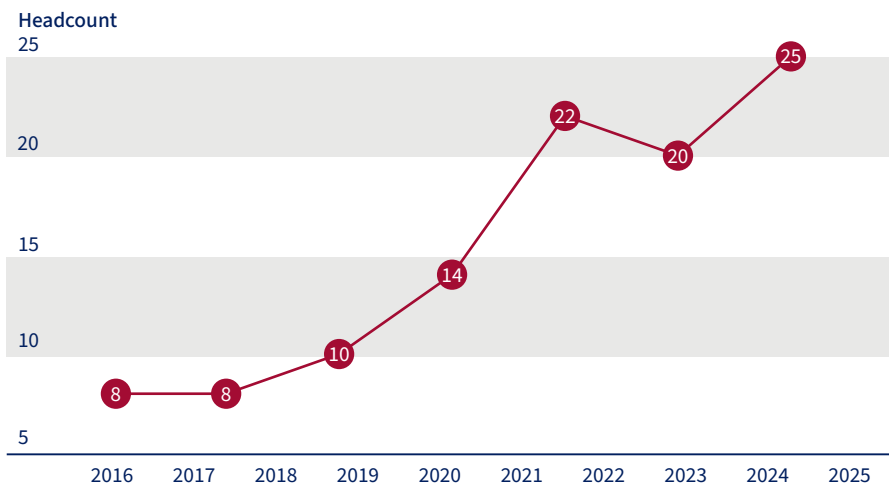


Research & Education

Indigenous professoriate

↑25

In the past 10 years, the number of Indigenous professorial staff has increased to 25



Publications

1718

publications on Indigenous topics since 2018, a **110% increase** over this period

688

publications by Indigenous researchers, a **245% increase** over this period

Subjects

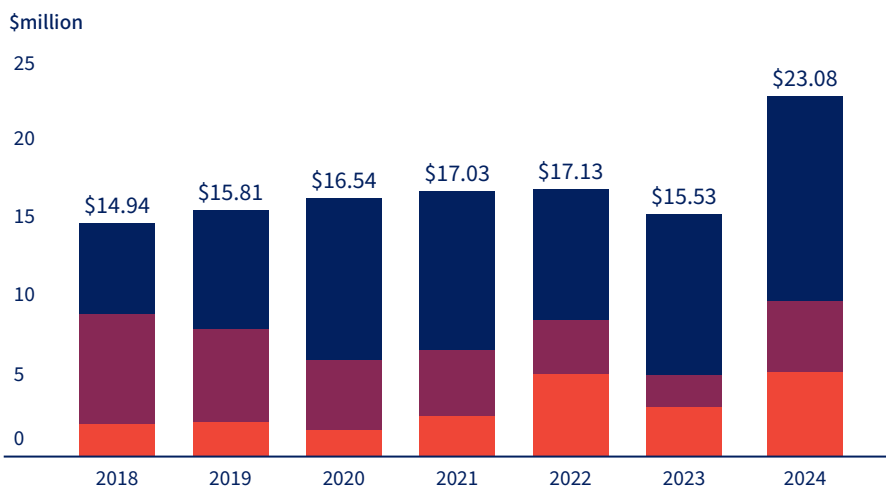
188

The University currently offers 188 subjects with an Indigenous focus

Research income (\$m) on Indigenous research topics

267%

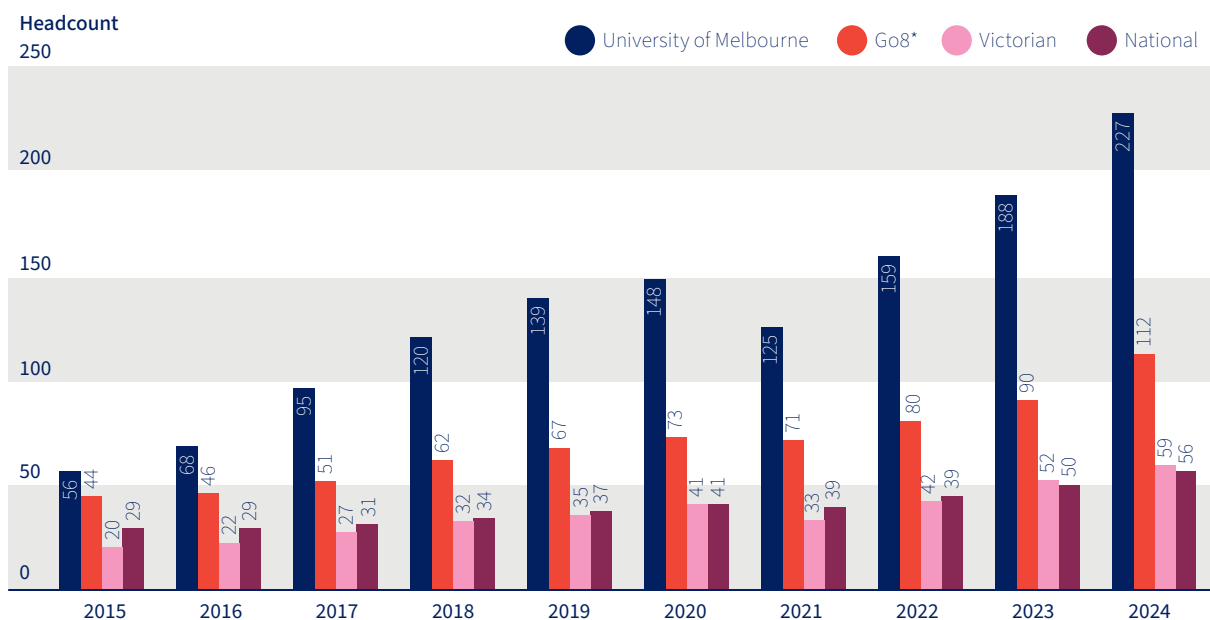
\$84.5 million awarded for research with Indigenous investigators, a **267% increase** over this period



● Cat. 1: Nationally Competitive Research Grants ● Cat. 2: Public sector ● Cat. 3: Industry

Benchmarking of University of Melbourne Indigenous staff

In the past 10 years, the number of Indigenous staff has quadrupled from 56 to 227.



* The Go8 or Group of Eight comprises Australia's leading research-intensive universities

Numbers of Indigenous students in undergraduate and graduate courses

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Graduate research	54	57	64	60	67	66	61
Graduate coursework	84	105	153	151	172	171	186
Graduate certificates/diplomas	73	59	73	66	94	85	88
Postgraduate total	208	212	284	270	323	317	272
Undergraduate	231	241	256	236	213	210	215
Indigenous total	438	452	539	504	533	526	541

Percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in graduate courses

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Indigenous	47.3%	46.6%	52.5%	53.1%	60.3%	60.4%	60.6%
Non-Indigenous	51.2%	51.4%	52.2%	51.9%	50.0%	48.7%	47.4%

Note: the data in the above two tables are current as of August 2025.

Leadership

Significantly expanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership capability within and beyond the University.

Developing Indigenous Research Leaders

The Faculty of Education offers two interdisciplinary graduate coursework programs that support the success of Indigenous PhD students and Early Career Researchers, and address the disparity in research higher degree completions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

These programs are the only ones of their kind in Australia that both explore research and develop research and leadership skills from an Indigenous

perspective. Underpinned by Indigenous knowledge, the courses offer unique opportunities for students to connect and network with other Indigenous researchers and build important research collaborations.

➔ **Read more:** <https://research.unimelb.edu.au/study/indigenous-researchers/indigenous-research-and-leadership-development-programs>

Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity

The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity (AFSE) program, hosted by the University of Melbourne, represents a significant investment in Indigenous-led social change. Each year, the program selects up to 20 emerging and established Indigenous leaders from Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.

Fellows undertake a foundation year, in which they develop a social change project and complete a postgraduate qualification. Upon completion, the Fellows graduate into the life-long global Atlantic Fellows community. The program is driving Indigenous social equity by amplifying the influence of social

change makers and connecting them with thousands of their peers around the world.

AFSE was established at the University in 2016 with funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, a foundation established by the late philanthropist Charles 'Chuck' Feeney. The foundation invested more than USD\$660 million to create a global network of seven interconnected Atlantic Fellows programs, with AFSE the only one dedicated to Indigenous-led social change.

➔ **Read more:** www.socialequity.atlanticfellows.org



Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership

The Dilin Duwa Centre's vision is to contribute towards an economically powerful Indigenous Australia by addressing the imbalance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through business, trust and inclusion. The name Dilin Duwa, Woi Wurrung for 'everlasting flow', was chosen to signify the convergence of the three streams of activity:

- **Programs** – to build capacity and capability in Indigenous individuals, business owners, managers and leaders to grow their businesses and organisations (individual impact)

- **Research** – to deliver evidence-based insights into, and data on, the Indigenous business sector for decision-makers and policy-makers (sectoral impact)
- **Engagement** – to build an Indigenous business ecosystem that enables systemic change leading to a self-determined future (systemic impact).

➔ **Read more:** dilinduwa.com.au

Associate Professor Michelle Evans: Leading the way in entrepreneurship



Professor Michelle Evans is the Director of Dilin Duwa, and Professor in Leadership and Associate Dean (Indigenous) in the Faculty of Business and Economics.

A specialist in Indigenous leadership and entrepreneurship, she co-founded the award-winning **MURRA Indigenous Business Program** at Melbourne Business School where she completed her PhD.

A masterclass for Indigenous entrepreneurs, MURRA has seen 284 First Nations students graduate from the program, 43 students enrol in postgraduate level studies, four students commence a PhD, and three students selected for prestigious fellowships. All 284 MURRA graduates came to the program from businesses that employ more than 3000 people, many of whom are Indigenous, indicating the flow-on effect of First Nations entrepreneurship.

Professor Evans was also the first Director of the highly respected Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, which has been connecting Indigenous artists to industry work for more than 20 years (see Priority 2).

➔ **Read more:** <https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/21479-michelle-evans>

Photographer: Leo Flander

Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

The Melbourne Poche Centre offers Indigenous-led programs that build Indigenous health leadership capital and create academic pathways for PhD and post-doctoral achievement and research impact. It hosts the **Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program**, the Tanderrum Visiting Scholars Program and the Indigenous Health Leadership Community of Practice. Together, these initiatives foster Indigenous health professionals' careers and provide opportunities for local, national and international engagement and networking.

➔ **Read more:** <https://poche.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/leadership>

The **Poche Dungala Kaiela Research Fellows**

Program – a partnership between the Department of Rural Health, Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, and Kaiela Institute – supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD students from Victoria's Goulburn Valley region with a salaried fellowship throughout their candidature. With a focus on on-Country study, community collaboration, and academic support, the program fosters future rural Indigenous leaders by sharing expertise between the University of Melbourne and rural Victoria.

➔ **Read more:** <https://poche.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/graduate-research-program/dungala-kaiela-research-fellows-program>

Place, Heritage and Culture

Improving the lived experiences of our Indigenous students, staff and partners by co-creating projects with them in the built and natural environments of our campuses, and by promoting cultural awareness and recognition of cultural heritage.

Indigenous Cultural Education Program – Gahgook

Gahgook, meaning ‘respect’ in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people, is a signature project under Murmuk Djerring. The program has been developed to strengthen cultural understanding, celebrate Indigenous contributions, and equip staff with the tools to support respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Gahgook delivers:

- an Indigenous Cultural Education Program to all staff across the University of Melbourne
- practical guides and learning materials to support cultural competence
- safe spaces for meaningful conversations about reconciliation and cultural respect.

Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development

The Wilin Centre works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to identify, recruit and support potential and practising Indigenous artists to study and refine their academic and artistic skills at the University’s Faculty of Fine Arts and Music. Situated at the heart of the Melbourne Arts Precinct, the Wilin

Centre fosters innovation in the research, development, advocacy and presentation of Indigenous arts and cultural practice.

➔ **Read more:** finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au/about-us/wilin



Image: Lighting the Wilin, Associate Lecturer Leah Avene at the Southbank campus, 2025. **Photographer:** Gregory Lorenzutti

65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art

The October 2024 launch of the scholarly publication *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art* marked a significant moment in recognising the depth and continuity of Indigenous Australian art and culture. Edited by Professor Marcia Langton and Senior Curator Judith Ryan, and published in partnership with Thames & Hudson Australia, this landmark volume celebrates the world's oldest continuing artistic tradition.

Spanning ancient rock art to contemporary practice, the book highlights the ways in which Indigenous artists have shaped and enriched Australia's cultural landscape. It also serves as an invaluable resource for

understanding the enduring connection between art, Country and identity.

The book was published in association with a major exhibition held between May and November 2025 at the University's revitalised Potter Museum of Art. Also titled '65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art', the exhibition curated by Professor Marcia Langton AO, Ms Judith Ryan AM and Ms Shanyssa McConville features more than 400 artworks celebrating the longevity and brilliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, despite a difficult history of colonialism and scientific racism.



Image: The landmark volume *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art*. **Photographer:** Astrid Mulder

Research Unit for Indigenous Arts and Cultures

‘Our vision is to centre Indigenous philosophies of practice in the academy and society through arts practice, arts research, research training and partnerships.’

An exciting initiative of the Wilin Centre and the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, the Research Unit for Indigenous Arts and Cultures:

- conducts and promotes research that produces knowledge about Indigenous arts practices and arts philosophies

- supports and grows Indigenous research and researchers in the arts, through postgraduate training, research activity and research networks
- informs and demonstrates world's best practice in intercultural arts research and arts research training
- leverages the potential of Indigenous arts knowledge in society, through partnerships with community, government and industry.

The Unit pursues these objectives through a graduate research training program with the Wilin Centre, staff and student research, and engagement and partnerships with community, government and industry.

➔ **Read more:** <https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/ruiac/>

Partnerships

Achieving social change and impact with and for the communities we serve by developing enduring partnerships with those communities and organisations on whose lands our campuses are located, and where we engage together in teaching, learning and research activities.

Goulburn Valley Partnership

The University's partnership with the Yorta Yorta Nation is built on many years of deep engagement with key Indigenous organisations and community leaders in the Goulburn Valley region of Victoria. The partnership:

- contributes to the revitalisation of Indigenous cultures and their recognition across the region
- develops genuine pathways to, and diverse opportunities in, education and employment in the region through the Academy of Sport, Health and Education
- supports, and learns from, the artistic, cultural and employment capability of individuals

- builds knowledge about Indigenous cultures in local industry and business.

A major component of the partnership is the new **Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence**, of which the University is a founding partner along with Munarra Limited, Rumbalara Football Netball Club and the Kaiela Institute. The Centre is an Indigenous-led pathways-based education facility for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students – the first of its kind in Australia. Upwards of 90 students annually are set to benefit from culturally responsive education, employment, health and wellbeing initiatives, with education programs set to grow in coming years.

Onemda: Building health research partnerships with community

Since 1999, Onemda's focus has been on research and teaching aimed at improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and other Indigenous peoples, through partnerships, collaborations and strong ethical foundations. Established in 1999 under the leadership of Professor Ian Anderson AO, now an Onemda Patron and the University's first Aboriginal Pro Vice-Chancellor, Onemda partnered with community-controlled organisations to undertake health research that Aboriginal communities had identified as a priority.

Onemda comprises three units.

The **Indigenous Health Equity Unit**, led by Professor Cath Chamberlain, is committed to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to produce innovative research and teaching that focuses on their strength and resilience to promote wellbeing. The work is underpinned by the principles of self-determination and has the support of community Elders.

The **Indigenous Studies Unit**, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO, conducts research to improve outcomes in Indigenous health, particularly in alcohol misuse and family violence, Indigenous data governance, cultural heritage, technology and resource management. It has also worked to ensure the return of Aboriginal ancestral remains to communities of origin, and to report on and negotiate with communities around cultural material held in museum and institutional collections, including secret or sacred items. The Unit collaborates with international researchers in nations including France, Japan, Canada, the US, Cambodia, East Timor and India.

The **Indigenous Eye Health Unit**, led by Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou, aims to Close the Gap for Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through world-leading research, policy formation, advocacy, technical support and implementation.

→ **Read more:** <https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/onemda>

Northeast Arnhem Land Partnership

The University's relationship with Yolŋu people dates back to the 1930s through the work of Donald Thomson, who accumulated an internationally significant collection of Yolŋu cultural material now under the custodianship of the University. This relationship was further developed from the 1980s through the work of Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton, which has resulted in long-standing research and teaching collaborations in education, health, land rights, and cultural heritage.

In 2015, the University of Melbourne established a significant partnership with the Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF) in Northeast Arnhem Land. This was forged in response to the *Maak* message sticks presented to the Vice-Chancellors of Australian universities by the late Dr Yunupingu AM, then YYF Chairman. The *Maak* – a message of profound importance that seeks an outcome and a way forward – challenged universities to build an understanding of Yolŋu intellectual traditions

and establish a firm basis for the sharing of these. The University has sought to honour the *Maak* messages through participation in, and support for, the Garma Festival and to work with YYF on its vision for Yolŋu-led education through the establishment of the Garma Institute.

Alongside the YYF partnership, the University has deepened its relationships with Yolŋu people by partnering with them to develop programs in education, oral health, research, veterinary science, and land and sea management. Partners include the Yambirrpa Schools (Laynhapuy Homelands and Yirrkala), together with the NT Department of Education, and the Yolŋu-led Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation and Dhumurru Aboriginal Corporation. There has also been an ongoing research partnership since 1995 with Arnhem Land clans and the Mulka Project centred on Indigenous music, dance and ceremony.

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Partnership

The University of Melbourne is strengthening its relationship with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as part of its strategic place-based partnership with Narm/Kulin Nations. Central to this partnership is reaffirming Wurundjeri presence across the University, and recognising that the Parkville campus stands on Wurundjeri Country.

Acting on a suggestion from Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson Jnr, the University has committed to creating a dedicated space for the Wurundjeri Education Program – a cultural classroom in the heart of the Parkville campus. The **Liwik Loorendegat** ('Ancestors guidance' in the Woi-wurrung language) Education Program now provides a place for learning on and from Country.

Complementing this initiative is the subject **On Country, On Campus: Wurundjeri**, co-designed and delivered by Indigenous Elders and the University's Indigenous Studies Unit in the Faculty of Arts. Offered since 2022 as a winter and summer intensive, it has been described by many students as the highlight of their undergraduate experience. From 2026, there are plans to widen the student group and potentially also offer the course to staff.

Together with existing programs, such as **Billibellary's Walk** (a self-guided experience that invites participants to learn about the Wurundjeri culture and knowledge), these initiatives strengthen opportunities for students and staff to learn, connect and work on Country.



Image: *On Country, On Campus: Wurundjeri* fieldtrip – Coranderrk, Healesville, 2023. **Photographer:** Greta Costello

Indigenous Knowledge

Promoting the recognition, curation and activation of Indigenous knowledge and value systems across the University.

Global Collaboration in Indigenous Knowledge Systems

The University has a commitment to ensuring that Indigenous voices are at the fore of our engagement with tertiary institutions and networks across the world, and that we continue to play a leading role in shaping and developing these global Indigenous research and education networks. To this end, we are working with Indigenous leaders, communities, partner institutions, governments and community groups to

deepen our mutual understanding and to foster further global connections. To support this work, the University has co-led the formation of the Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges Network (see below) within the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) as a mechanism for sharing knowledge, building researcher connections and enhancing teaching programs in First Nations studies.

Association of Pacific Rim Universities: Connecting and networking



As a network of leading universities linking the Americas, Asia and Australasia, APRU brings together thought leaders, researchers and policy-makers to collaborate and exchange ideas. With 2 million students and 200,000 faculty members from 60 universities and 19 economies across the Pacific rim, APRU's strategic priorities focus on high-level policy dialogue, exploring innovative solutions for a sustainable future, and supporting diversity, inclusion and minorities.

In 2023, the University hosted the Indigenous and First Nations Knowledges Network within APRU, showcasing Melbourne and the Goulburn Valley, and engaging with

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Yorta Yorta peoples and organisations. The workshop addressed opportunities for collaboration on Indigenous knowledge in research and research training, teaching and learning, and leadership and staff development.

➔ **Read more:** <https://www.apru.org>

Image: Mayan Fire Ceremony, welcome event of the 1st Indigenous Knowledge Workshop at the Center for Social Innovation of the Tecnológico de Monterrey in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. **Photographer:** Ana Lucía Aguilar / Tec de Monterrey

Narrm Oration

The annual Narrm Oration profiles leading Indigenous thinkers, from around the world and nationally, to enrich our ideas about possible futures for Indigenous Australia. In a landmark shift, the 2023 and 2024 orations – by Pinuyumayan leader Akawyan Pakawyan from Taiwan, and Professor Yalmay Yunupingu from Northeast Arnhem Land – marked the beginning of a tradition of presenting the oration in Indigenous languages, thereby celebrating linguistic preservation and cultural continuity.

Past Narrm orators have delivered lectures on decolonisation strategies, and the significance of truth-telling for the long-term prosperity of Indigenous peoples globally.

→ **Read more:** <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/reconciliation/engagement/the-narrm-oration>



Image: Professor Yalmay Yunupingu delivering the 2024 Narrm Oration. A Yolŋu leader from Northeast Arnhem Land, Yunupingu emphasised the importance of Indigenous peoples remaining strong in their language and cultural practices amid other forces.

Photographer: Peter Casamento

Indigenous Knowledge Institute

The University's Indigenous Knowledge Institute is a global hub for innovation and thought leadership in Indigenous knowledge research and engagement. Established in 2020, the Institute is home to the University's esteemed Indigenous Knowledge Professors and the ground-breaking course, the Doctor of Philosophy – Indigenous Knowledge.

To advance research and engagement in Indigenous knowledge nationally and globally, the Institute:

- documents and supports the maintenance of Indigenous knowledge in alignment with the priorities of its Indigenous owners

- elevates Indigenous knowledge systems and holders within the academy and beyond
- supports and promotes interdisciplinary research and engagement with Indigenous knowledge in partnership with Indigenous stakeholders
- addresses global and local challenges, translates research, shapes policy, and achieves outcomes that bring mutual benefits for all stakeholders
- develops the next generation of Indigenous research leaders.

→ **Read more:** indigenousknowledge.unimelb.edu.au

Ngarrngga – To know, to hear, to understand

The Ngarrngga Project supports the University's vision for Indigenous advancement through improving the ways in which all students – from kindergarten through to higher education – can learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and knowledge systems. It is a collaboration between the Faculty of Education, the Indigenous Studies Unit and the Indigenous Knowledge Institute

Ngarrngga, a Taungurung word meaning 'to know, to hear, to understand', has three core elements: expanding the resources available to support teachers; building teachers' confidence and intercultural competence; and embedding Indigenous knowledge curriculum resources within educational settings.

These teaching resources, which are rigorously tested and evidence-based, are created by Indigenous knowledge experts and teachers, and then piloted in classrooms and refined based on teacher feedback. This means educators can have confidence in the quality and integrity of the Ngarrngga resources, knowing that they directly link to curriculum outcomes.

The current generation of young learners will become the next generation of leaders. Their values and intellect will be enriched by gaining a deep understanding of, and respect for, the world's oldest continuous living culture.

→ **Read more:** education.unimelb.edu.au/ngarrngga

Truth-telling and Justice

With a crucial role in upholding truth-telling and justice for Indigenous Australia, the University commits to acknowledging and addressing historical and current injustices, and to fostering healing through open dialogue.

Indigenous Law and Justice Hub

The Indigenous Law and Justice Hub is an innovative, Indigenous-led research and teaching centre that provides a trusted and visible resource for the Indigenous community, the legal academy and the broader public on issues of justice and truth-telling. The Hub prioritises relationship building, cultural authority and community legitimacy, and brings together community leaders and legal experts to produce research and teaching outcomes in support of Indigenous advocacy and self-determination.

The Hub's work centres the authority of Indigenous law and of cultural authority in the Australian legal

landscape, alongside the need to engage with Indigenous epistemologies and experiences in legal pedagogy, practice and research. It is playing a key role in a review of the compulsory Juris Doctor curriculum to Indigenise and decolonise learning and teaching, as well as leading the development of an innovative offering of elective subjects on Indigenous justice. A growing research and law-reform program prioritises work with direct practical applicability to advocacy for Indigenous justice.

➔ **Read more:** <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/iljh>

Tyson Holloway-Clarke



Tyson, a Njamal man, is an educator, researcher and an emerging leader at the University of Melbourne. With a profound commitment to community service and Indigenous advocacy, Tyson has distinguished himself both as an undergraduate and postgraduate student.

In 2016, Tyson graduated with a BA (Hons) in history with his thesis 'Indigenous participation in Indigenous history: Guman's story'. This detailed his grandmother's experience as a member of the Stolen Generations and examined ways of attaining greater self-determination for First Nations peoples in history making. He earned his Juris Doctor in 2022 with a thesis entitled 'Manufacturing consent for Indigenous land destruction: How the bastards get away with it', which discussed the legal frameworks that facilitated the destruction of the Juukan Gorge and other controversies.

Tyson made history as the first Aboriginal Australian on University Council, elected by the student body for two consecutive terms from 2016 to 2020.

As President of the University's Student Union in 2016, and Indigenous Officer in 2015, he championed effective representation and a better offer for students. Amplifying Indigenous voices on campus through founding the student publication *Under Bunjil*, and working closely with the University's Indigenous student centre Murrup Barak to revolutionise student services, are two of Tyson's proudest contributions. He has also worked closely on the conception, design and planning phases of the University's Student Precinct, and championed changes to multiple student-facing policies in support of student equity and safety.

Tyson is currently pursuing a PhD in Law focusing on methods of advocacy and research, and concepts relating to decolonisation and the law. His involvement in the Indigenous History of the University of Melbourne Steering Committee underscores his commitment to illuminating Australia's Indigenous past, to truth-telling, and to fostering reconciliation. Since 2015, Tyson has tutored Indigenous students through the vitally important Indigenous Tutorial Access Scheme, and has been a lecturer for the Doctor of Medicine in the Wurru Wurru Health Unit. He is currently a lecturer at the Indigenous Law and Justice Hub.

Tyson has recently published the article, 'Impending Cataclysm', in the Spring 2025 edition of *Meanjin* (vol. 84.3).

Indigenous Data Network

Recognising that accurate data are relevant to self-determination and self-governance, the Indigenous Data Network (IDN) was established in 2018 to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to decide their own local data priorities, including how these data are utilised. Led by a Steering Committee of experts and stakeholders, and the founding partnership between the University, the Australian National University and the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, the IDN is a national network of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, university research partners, Indigenous businesses and government agencies and departments.

The IDN works to engage with and leverage internationally leading developments in the data sciences

to maximise the optimal collection, access and use of data resources for community empowerment. Functions of the IDN include providing Indigenous communities and organisations with access to research expertise to facilitate their data priorities; supporting access to data held by others; and to build data capacity within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. The IDN continues to form new partnerships and to grow the network nationally, connecting more Indigenous communities and organisations, universities, and government agencies and departments.

→ **Read more:** mbspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/onemda/research-group/indigenous-data-network

University Truth and Justice Project

This project is leading the University through an ongoing process of truth-telling, justice and transformation in response to its 170-year history of supporting injustices that were called progress, half-truths presented as facts, and prejudices pretending at objectivity. It is the first of its kind in Australian higher education.

While acknowledging the strength, resilience and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the project addresses the historical and ongoing injustices committed against them in the following ways:

- The establishment of a Truth-telling and Dialogue Centre, under the leadership of Travis Lovett, former Deputy Chair Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, to guide the work of repair and redress, and to support more research, teaching and learning in this vital area.

- The production of a two-volume scholarly work titled *Dhoombak Goobgoowana: A History of Indigenous Australia and the University of Melbourne*.
- Hosting academic symposia and public events to advance the truth-telling agenda within Victoria and across the nation.
- Embedding the Indigenous history of the University into curriculum across our campuses.
- Supporting community truth-telling events such as the Yoorrook Justice Commission's Walk for Truth.

→ **Read more:** Access both volumes of *Dhoombak Goobgoowana* here: <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/dhoombak-goobgoowana>.



Image: Travis Lovett (centre) leading the Walk for Truth, June 2025. Carrying message sticks collected along the 500-kilometre journey, he invited First Peoples and allies to join the Walk, an invitation taken up by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Emma Johnston AO (3rd left at front). **Photographer:** Cam Matheson

For more information

Murmuk Djerring: The University of Melbourne Indigenous Strategy 2023–2027

unimelb.edu.au/murmuk-djerring

Indigenous activity at the University of Melbourne

unimelb.edu.au/indigenous

All University of Melbourne Indigenous strategies

<https://about.unimelb.edu.au/reconciliation/governance/raps-indigenous-strategies-and-resources>

Murmuk Djerring Indigenous Strategy: Signature Projects

Priority 1: Leadership	1.1 Developing Indigenous Research Leaders	1.4 Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Collective
	1.2 Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership	1.5 Office of Indigenous Employment and Development
	1.3 Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity	
Priority 2: Place, Heritage and Culture	2.1 Place and Indigenous Cultural Recognition	2.3 Indigenous Cultural Education Program
	2.2 Place for Indigenous Art and Culture	
Priority 3: Partnerships	3.1 Relationships and Collaboration with the Traditional Owners of Narm	3.4 Indigenous Organisation/Community Secondment Program
	3.2 Goulburn Valley Partnership	3.5 Indigenous Procurement Strategy
	3.3 Northeast Arnhem Land Partnership	
Priority 4: Indigenous Knowledge	4.1 Indigenous Knowledge Institute	4.3 Ngarrngga Project
	4.2 Global Collaboration in Indigenous Knowledge Systems	4.4 Indigenous Teaching & Learning and Research Portal
Priority 5: Truth-telling and Justice	5.1 University Truth and Justice Project	5.3 Indigenous Law and Justice Hub
	5.2 Indigenous Student Campus Barometer Survey	5.4 Indigenous Data Network

About the Artist and the Artwork

Samantha Richards is a proud Indigenous woman from the Wurundjeri and Dja Dja Wurrung Tribes. The artwork featured here, *Murmuk Djerring – Working Together*, depicts the layers of the land, and the generations of

peoples who have lived on this land, and the rich cultures and history that lie under their feet. It is where all the pieces of the puzzle connect, and by working together how we can strive for a future of positive change.