

Volume 1 - 2018  
FEBRUARY

# Indigenous Education & Research Centre eNewsletter



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our Community Newsletter. We will endeavour to write bi-monthly newsletters to keep all of our students, prospective students and families updated with the wonderful things our students are doing at University and in the Community.

The Indigenous Education and Research Centre (IERC) has dedicated and credible researchers who are continually working towards developing an understanding of what impacts Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, social and emotional well-being, criminal justice engagement, and the development of academic persistence, and we will keep you updated on the wonderful research and findings throughout the year.

We aim to give you informative and relevant information, so please, give us your feedback and ideas of what you want to hear about so we can make this an exciting newsletter that you cant wait to read in the future.



Professor Martin Nakata  
Pro Vice Chancellor,  
Indigenous Education and Strategy

## Highlight story

The Indigenous Education and Research Centre in Townsville will be relocating February 2018 to the newly refurbished building 301, near the IGA. The Cairns IERC moved to A21 late last year and already has positioned itself as a popular place for our kids to come and seek advice, support or just say hello. This is a great opportunity to be in the heart of both campuses and play a part in the broader JCU community. You can read more over the page of how the move went.

James Cook University (JCU) is committed to building strong and mutually beneficial partnerships that work towards closing the employment, health and education gap for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our students come from many backgrounds, promoting a rich cultural and experiential diversity on campus.

*We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters where we operate our business. We honour the unique cultural and spiritual relationship to the land, waters and seas of First Australian peoples and their continuing and rich contribution to James Cook University and Australian society. We also pay respect to ancestors and Elders past, present and future.*



Kassandra Savage (JCU Alumna), 'Coming Together and Respecting Difference', acrylic on canvas, 2014, 90cm x 90cm.



## IERC on the move in Townsville

The Indigenous Education and Research Centre has moved to their new location on the Townsville campus. We are now in Building 301, the old School of Creative Arts.

The office space and student space is uniquely designed to promote collaboration between staff and students. The modern decor allows students to meet with peers, support staff, use computers and printers, or come in to just have a yarn. There is a communal kitchen for everyone to use and the Centre is available 24/7 with card access.

The new Centre provides a place of belonging for our students so they can come and be motivated by others and stay focused on doing the best they can to achieve their goals.

The Centre will also be a place of gathering for our graduation celebrations, welcome BBQ's, campus visits from high school students and much more.

The official opening date is yet to be announced, however, we will ensure our students, Alumni and community are made aware of when this will take place.

If you are in Townsville, come on down and say hi, take a look around or make yourself a cuppa. Our friendly staff are always here to greet you and show you around.





From left to right: Nuarna Yow-Yeh, Josh Fitzgerald, Grace Reid

## IHCAP Orientation Ready, Set, Go!

The Indigenous Health Careers Access Program (IHCAP) is a pathway for Indigenous students to gain entry into health degrees at JCU. It is the only one of its kind in tropical QLD, and offers a 3 week orientation held on campus in Townsville.

### What our students did

On 22nd January, we saw 13 Indigenous students, who came from all over Qld, attend a 3 week orientation program. They were given an introduction to their chosen course, gained skills such as academic writing, problem solved and developed critical thinking skills.

### What one student said

*"IHCAP gave us the opportunity to study in our desired courses. It's allowed us to meet new people from the same cultural background and progress into our future studies".*

Grace Reid, pictured above

## Welcome to our new students starting in 2018

Every year, the Indigenous Education and Research Centre welcomes new Indigenous students by putting on a BBQ. This is an excellent time for them to meet other new students, check out their classrooms, get their ID card and meet our support team members.



### Cairns BBQ

The Cairns Indigenous held their meet and greet BBQ on Wednesday 14th Feb to welcome all the new Indigenous students. There was a good turnout of about 50 students. Some continuing students also came along to welcome our new students to the university environment. Bama Ngumba-barra Indigenous student association president greets first year Bachelor of Environmental Practice student, Jayden Crump



### Townsville BBQ

Joshua Niesler (Bachelor of Arts-Criminology) and Erin Lovegrove (Bachelor of Information Technology) are excited to start their studies at JCU this year. Both students enjoyed the meet and greet session, and were thrilled to meet other first year students.

## New IERC video



Hear what Professor Martin Nakata, JCU's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Education, has to say about guiding kids into uni and helping them get through their courses.

**Visit:** [www.jcu.edu.au/ierc](http://www.jcu.edu.au/ierc)

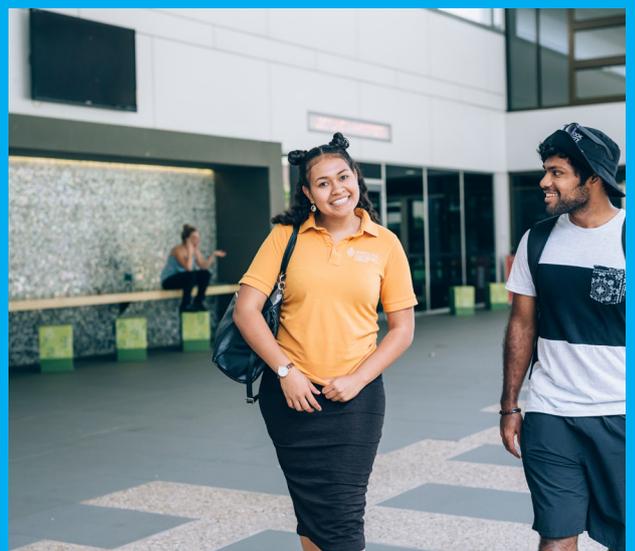
Then click on 'Thinking about Uni' tab, or if you are viewing this newsletter online, click the play button

## 'Pathways to Success' - Empowering families to help support each other while learning

On 12 February, JCU's Domestic Recruitment and Engagement team, in partnership with Bently Park College, hosted a 'Pathways to Success' event which aims to provide a holistic view to education and how a positive support network at home impacts in developing aspirations of students into tertiary education.

Families and guest speakers were invited to share their experiences with how they have seen change in their son/daughter from attending university, the impacts to the rest of the family and what sort of pride they now have of their son/daughter achieving their goals. There were more than 80 guests in attendance, and Ivy Hodges (pictured right), one of our Indigenous Student Ambassadors, shared her experience of how important it is to have a family support network while furthering her education.

'Thank you for the inspiring speakers you organised, your staff who was brilliant, they were just fantastic last night with their friendliness and welcoming greetings', one guest wrote in a follow up email after the event.



# Awards Dinner 2017



List of Award winners, from left to right: Phillip Obah, Irene Robinson, James Leftwich, Prof Cadet-James, Joanne Kaczmarek, Shenade Muller, Corey Quinlan, Prof Low, Prof Whittaker, Prof Nakata, Jaime Ahwang, Pam Stronach, Liam White, Dr Geia, Clarissa Marrinan, Prof Alloway, Kate Sheppard, Prof Lane, Dr Watkin-Lui.

JCU honoured and celebrated the academic achievements of Indigenous students at the Inaugural Indigenous Undergraduate Student Awards night held 31 October 2017.

The academic awards were presented to students from each of JCU's six Colleges and the Diploma of Higher Education. Two 'Spirit' awards were presented to students who had shown exceptional strength and resilience to overcome setbacks and persist with their studies.

These awards are designed to reward and encourage Indigenous students' efforts to persist and succeed. The celebration provides an inspiring showcase to other Indigenous students and to our many supporters across the JCU community, the Indigenous community, across education, industry and government sectors, and the community at large.

We congratulate the 2017 recipients of the Student Awards:

#### College of Arts, Society and Education

- Irene Robinson – Bachelor of Arts
- Jaime Ahwang – Bachelor of Social Work

#### College of Business, Law and Governance

- Ben Toborek – Bachelor of Business
- Kylie Arlidge – Bachelor of Laws

#### College of Science and Engineering

- Shenade Muller – Bachelor of Science
- Hetty McLaughlin – Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)

#### College of Healthcare Sciences

- Clarissa Marrinan – Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery
- Jefferson Mobbs – Bachelor of Exercise Physiology

#### College of Medicine and Dentistry

- Sapphire Watkinson – Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

- Liam White – Bachelor of Dental Surgery

#### College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences

- Nicole Quin – Bachelor of Veterinary Science

#### Diploma of Higher Education

- Joanne Kaczmarek
- Corey Quinlan

#### Spirit Award

- Phillip Obah – Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Business
- James Leftwich – Bachelor of Business



## Student in the Spotlight

Michale Chandler  
JCU Graduate

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

My name is Michale Chandler and I am an Aboriginal and Australian South Sea Islander woman from Juru country in the Birri Gubba nation of Bowen.

I graduated from JCU with my Bachelor of Physiotherapy in 2017. I really enjoyed my placements while studying, some of which were really interesting, like the Acute Neurology Rehabilitation Ward at Townsville Hospital, and the Surgical Ward at the Cairns Base Hospital. I have been employed as a full-time school based physiotherapist with the Department of Education in Townsville. I will be working with a team of therapist visiting local schools and helping students from 5-17 years of age.

Eventually, I would like to start my own practice in my hometown of Bowen.

## JCU Winter School for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students.

### Applications now open!

James Cook University Indigenous Student University Preparation Program is a fully supervised residential program designed to provide Indigenous students in year 10, 11 and 12 with an opportunity to experience university life first hand.

**Apply now!** Hurry, applications close 20 April 2018

Visit the IERC website to download the application form



### Upcoming events

#### March

- 19th - Year 11 Day, Cairns
- 20th - Year 11 Day, Townsville
- 21st - Year 11 Day, Mackay

#### April

- 16-20th - Uni Experience Day Cairns

#### May

- 3rd - Atherton Information Evening
- 24th - Cairns Career Expo

Visit [www.jcu.edu.au/events](http://www.jcu.edu.au/events) for more information

# Congratulations to our recent Graduates

## Sean Taylor

Doctor of Public Health  
CAIRNS CAMPUS

## Gerraldine Polovich

Graduate Diploma of Social Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Sarah Songoa

Graduate Diploma of Education  
(Secondary)  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Leonard Hodges

Graduate Diploma of Education  
(Secondary)  
CAIRNS CAMPUS

## Renee Hunter

Graduate Diploma of Education  
(Secondary)  
CAIRNS CAMPUS

## Melissa Henaway

Bachelor of Nursing Science / Bachelor  
of Midwifery  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Peta Sunai

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
CAIRNS CAMPUS

## Sarah Robertshaw

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Tah-Leah Bakker

Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of  
Surgery  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Zachary Bond

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Shani Lavender

Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of  
Surgery  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Belinda Ott

Bachelor of Life Sciences  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Ashleigh McKellar

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Reece Singleton

Diploma of Higher Education  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Samantha Brown

Bachelor of Veterinary Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Joanne Kaczmarek

Diploma of Higher Education  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Samara McNeil

Bachelor of Medicine / Bachelor of  
Surgery  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Michale Chandler

Bachelor of Physiotherapy  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Sarah Klots

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Mathew Surha

Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Azariah Gutchen

Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Corrine Knack

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Anthony Nicholls

Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Lisa-Marie Hilton

Bachelor of Nursing Science  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Jade Newman

Bachelor of Nursing Science / Bachelor  
of Midwifery

## Kelly Higgins

Bachelor of Laws  
CAIRNS CAMPUS

## Richard Benson

Diploma of higher Education  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Joanne Kaczmarek

Diploma of Higher Education  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Kirra Kelly

Diploma of Higher Education  
TOWNSVILLE CAMPUS

## Tertiary Access Course

## Briarne McLoughlin

Jessica Barlow  
Ronnie Collyer  
James Leftwich  
Patricia Purcell

# *Have you got an exciting story to share?*

Whether you are a graduate of James Cook University and landed that perfect job, a current student who has just aced an exam, a proud parent, grandparent or caregiver, a teacher or educator who just wants to share how passionate they are about seeing our kids strive for excellence, or a community member who is doing wonderful things to bring everyone together to learn and grow with each other, then we would love to hear from you. Our community is important to us and your input, conversations and feedback will help us continually grow and improve.

## Contact

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### Indigenous Education and Research Centre

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[Find us on Facebook](#)



CAIRNS



TOWNSVILLE

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