Welcome to the third edition of Jumbunna’s Excellence in Indigenous Education and Research.

At Jumbunna we’re committed to nurturing the next generation of Indigenous thinkers, creators and leaders.

In 2015, we’ve enjoyed growth and success in many areas.

We continue to facilitate mature age and regional access to UTS through our new Bachelor in Primary Health Care, an away-from-base course that is an important pathway for Aboriginal health workers to pursue tertiary studies and career progression – one that hasn’t been available until now.

The depth of our Indigenous outreach model continues to grow. We pride ourselves on not only building relationships with future students, but with their family, community, teachers and schools.

Due to the success of our Galuwa program, a five-day residential experience for Indigenous high school students in the Faculty of Engineering and IT, Jumbunna partnered with additional faculties at UTS to offer similar programs in the disciplines of Science, Health, Animation and Visual Communication.

Our academic support services are now second to none. In 2015, our students could access a maths tutor and a communications tutor five days a week. With specialist peer tutors also available in health, design, law, business and science, we provided approximately 2700 hours of tutorial assistance.

Our International Experience program continues to flourish with our fourth cohort of students engaging in an immersive cultural experience in Aotearoa. The UTS target is for 25% of students to have an international experience and I’m pleased to announce 33% of our students have undertaken an international experience this year.

Jumbunna’s innovative Academics of the Future program entered its second successful year. Not only are our undergraduate students benefitting from peer support, but our tutors are gaining opportunities for progression into higher degree research.

Applications for undergraduate study at UTS are increasing, as are retention and success rates while Indigenous employment at UTS is also on the rise.

We’re proud to share our whole-of-university approach to Indigenous education with you and hope you enjoy reading about our students and our work.

Written and directed by Professor Larissa Behrendt, Director of Research at Jumbunna, Innocence Betrayed forms part of her advocacy work to support the families in their fight for justice.

The documentary follows the victim’s parents in their 23-year-long battle. Aunty Muriel, Aunty Rebecca and Uncle Thomas share their tragic stories of loss and their determination to never give up.

Larissa became involved five years ago when Aunty Elaine Walker, a community elder and Colleen’s aunt, invited her to meet the victim’s parents. The idea for the documentary came from the community themselves as a vehicle to capture what they’d been through and raise awareness.

"The events are still really traumatic for the parents," says Larissa. "So we worked with them to negotiate what they felt comfortable doing.

Consultation with the families was paramount. It was agreed the film would only proceed if all families participated. They didn’t relive the murders on camera, but instead talk about how their lives have been affected – in their own words.

"They talk about hearing their kids’ voices, seeing them in ghost form and in their dreams," says Larissa. "I get teary now thinking about it. It’s so powerful to see what they gave of themselves for the film."

Innocence Betrayed also features interviews with Detective Inspector Gary Jubelin who since 1997, has fought alongside the families for justice. Gary believes they were let down by the system and the unsolved case should have been closed 24 years ago.

"One of the exceptional things about this story is it starts out as a failure of justice compounded by the poor relationship between the police and the community," says Larissa. "But Gary’s involvement turns it into a story of hope, of the police and families working together."

Innocence Betrayed was used in the NSW Legislative Council enquiry into the murders. It had a powerful effect with the committee unanimously recommending a review of the section of the Crimes Act that prevents these cases being retried.

Written and directed by Larissa Behrendt and produced by Jason de Santolo and Craig Longman, Innocence Betrayed screened on NITV on 10 August, 2014. It won the UTS Vice-Chancellor’s Social Justice/Human rights Award for Staff, 2014.
Usually you need to complete the entire degree before you’re awarded an accreditation. It’s important to recognise student’s achievements throughout the course,” says Rachel.

Initially we thought the course would appeal to students who are working in primary health care from home. “We can’t just do this寄 from Sydney-centric, we can offer this degree to a wider range of people,” says Rachel. “Students from regional, remote and rural areas can engage with UTS and share knowledge about their experiences in their community.”

For any number of reasons students may be unable to continue with their studies so they can exit with a formal qualification after 12 months, 24 months or three years.”

Rachel believes some students will complete the degree and continue working at the front line of Aboriginal health care while others may want to take on a leadership role. “Our students will be the change that ensures the health system provides culturally competent care for Aboriginal people,” says Rachel. “The program will also equip them with skills in project management, program planning and policy development.”

Leading academic Professor Juanita Sherwood has played an important role in the development of the degree. With some 30 years experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and education, Juanita has already worked closely with UTS Health to ensure the faculty acknowledges the effects of colonisation on Indigenous Australians – all staff and students are trained to be culturally competent.

The idea is perpetuated that Aboriginal health is problematic because Aboriginal people are problematic,” says Juanita. “These ideas are a direct result of colonisation. We need to shift our perception and be respectful of many ways of knowing and doing in health. Health isn’t just one path. It has many paths.”

Juanita believes the Bachelor of Primary Health Care is further evidence of UTS Health’s Indigenous leadership. “This degree will help our students achieve fantastic wellbeing not only for Indigenous Australians, but also for non-Indigenous Australians.”

Enrolments are now open. More info email: atsirecruitment@uts.edu.au
Learn more about UTS Health’s commitment to Indigenous health:

www.utsindigenoushealth.com

Inspirational ideas emerging from the summit included leader-to-leader meetings, visits to communities, creating a Facebook page to share issues of common interest, developing case studies and training nation building facilitators who can conduct workshops on their own country and within other communities.

Dr Richard Lurake, former governor of Lagun Pueblo, a US based Nation nation, and Angela Wesley, former Constitution Chair from Huu-ay-aht First Nation, a Canada-based Indigenous nation, were keynote speakers.

“Dr. Lurake gave an inspiring speech about Laguna pre-invasions, through an imposed governing structure, it is a direct result of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation. They underwent an exhaustive process of community engagement to understand how the values Laguna people learn from childhood could frame their government and constitution.”

Like Australia, British Columbia is the only other territory considered “terra nullius” so Angela Wesley’s address was keenly anticipated – especially given the Canadian government has started a “modern treaty” process where First Nations can negotiate to self-govern.

“Angela was a driver for the Huu-ay-aht First Nation and told us how they formed government through community meetings, focus groups and home visits so every citizen could be heard,” says Alison. “Angela also emphasised the need to review processes. It was a deliberate strategy not set our constitution in stone for a few years so it could be tested.”

While the Australian delegates learnt from their Northern American counterparts, Alison and Richard also learnt from the Australian experience.

“One comment we frequently heard was that although the political and historical structures in North America and Australia are different, the colonial experience was incredibly similar,” says Alison. “So many stories applied on either side of the world. There’s enormous potential for fruitful ongoing relationships across the board.”

The Indigenous Nationhood Linkage Project brings together the Gunditjmara People, the Nipperadjen Nations and the Wandyjirr Nation with UTS, University of Arizona, University of Melbourne, Flanders University, CSU, RMET and ANU.
NSW, charts the enthralling process towards achieving legal recognition of land rights.

There are no other books that explore the successes, disappointments and continuing effects of two hundred years of colonisation in the most densely populated state in Australia?

"New South Wales received the full brunt of colonisation," says Heidi. "It was the a very different landscape. When it came to New South Wales, compared to the rest of the country, land rights was

a wide land rights conference and from that, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council was born.

In 1977 South Coast Elders, Jack Campbell and Ted 'Gaboo' told the young activists that

The Black Defence Group were an alliance of young Aboriginal people who were helping

and the 1972 Tent Embassy. But this was a new generation. People like Kevin Cook and

"It was an incredible time," says Heidi. "It came on the back of the 1965 Freedom Ride

academics to get involved in research like this.

"This kind of research is so much fun," says Heidi. "Field work, in-depth interviews, years

for the book and speaks passionately about the research process.

A descendant of the Gomeroi people of north-western NSW, Heidi interviewed 30 people

if they could achieve land rights, they could achieve anything.

"Frank was trying to manage a political fall out," says Heidi. "He called it 'the art of the

Aboriginal people felt they were left with scraps.

We felt that land rights was a wave that would wash over us and uplift our lives," says

The committee wanted to make significant change.

"I'm also working on two other projects," says Allan. "Associate Professor Sara Wilkinson

allowed him to travel to Vancouver, Canada and Portland Oregon for research.

wasn't aware of my cultural heritage until I turned forty. That's when my wife researched

Allan was born in Dubbo and lived in many locations in Western NSW before finishing his second year in the UTS Faculty of Health.

"I believe UTS has a genuine desire to involve and nurture Aboriginal people in the fabric of

"The challenge is hard, but the rewards are great," says Allan. "If I can do this then any-

I want to be able to give the people

I actually get to work in the field and have a laboratory experience interacting with

"I recently got to work in the field and have a laboratory experience interacting with

Tanikka’s ultimate goal is to be in a rural Indigenous community helping

"I want to be able to give the people

In a 2012 Federal Government review of higher education access and outcomes for

In response, UTS implemented a key multi-year initiative to build a pipeline to grow and

Wingara designed the pipeline initiative as a way to grow academics from the amazing

we've been greatly supported by the staff at UTS and Jumbunna. The journey may not have been without their support.

Allan is also a member of the Vice Chancellor's Indigenous Strategies Committee and

"It was at Jumbunna when one of the staff asked me if I'd considered being academic,

"We felt that land rights was a wave that would wash over us and uplift our lives," says

The challenge ahead will be negotiating our increasing entanglement with modernity,

"It's too early to see the full benefit of land rights, but the time will come.

But translating that need for change into law is a very different story.

"Heidi spoke with Frank Walker, the man who developed the laws as the inaugural minister for

fieldwork, and many academics to do that kind of work." Heidi recalls a pivotal moment in her life when as a 17-year-old office girl she witnessed a rally against the Greener Government, which was trying to repeal the Land Rights Act put in place by the former Labor Government. Since that moment, she’s yearned to put things in place, to fully understand what the movement was about and what it meant for Aboriginal people.

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HIGHER DEGREES OF RESEARCH IN THE PIPELINE

WINGARA EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

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Tanikka is a first-year Nursing student who received a Wingara cadetship this

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While Tui’s time at UTS isn’t over, finishing his Masters has caused him to reflect on the past two years. “It’s about machine learning,” says Tui. “You watch a computer learn over and over. You load data through the computer, and it learns from the data by itself. The computer keeps making mistakes, but it learns from them and each time it gets closer and closer to the true value.”

“Tui worked on two forms of data approximations for his thesis. The approach that makes mistakes and builds on them is a variation of that approach which simplifies the behaviour of the data making it easier to understand how to help my students,” says Tui. “I’ve learnt that I have to improve as a teacher!” says Tui. “It’s quite challenging teaching someone. I’ve had to take myself back a few years and remember what the gaps in my knowledge were as a way of understanding how to help my students. Already the program has ensured higher retention rates for Indigenous students and encouraged Tui to pursue further education – he’s just applied for his PhD.

“The students gained an understanding of how deeply rooted art is in these artists lives,” says Cara. “They really appreciated the generosity of the Aboriginal artists who shared their processes and techniques as well as discussing their personal journey towards becoming an artist.”

Tempering his time at UTS wasn’t as bad as expected about. The more knowledge they gained, deeper meanings were revealed. It encouraged them to respond spontaneously to the art works. Responses that at first seemed outrageous were shaped into original and thought-provoking art works in their own right.”

We welcomed all ages from grade six students to high school students to adults,” says Cara. “We worked with Kirrawee High School, Darlington Public School and Aboriginal students from The Chapel School in East Marrangro. Thirty-five Masters of Project Management students developed their stories in the gallery and the Faculty of Health celebrated their Indigenous Cultural Respect initiative with a session facilitate by Jennifer Newman.

“The sessions were two to three hours long so students could settle in and explore new ideas and practices. ‘If only they could’ve stayed longer!’ says Cara. ‘The students discovered there were no wrong answers when it comes to art. The workshop leaders encouraged the students to respond spontaneously to the art works. cinnamon that at first seemed outrageous were shaped into original and thought-provoking art works in their own right.”

Led by Aboriginal high profile mentors who were artists, designers and writers, the workshops series emphasised the importance of sharing cultural knowledge. Primary and high school students experienced hands-on activities in art making and writing and created their own responsive artworks.

We all stared at the sky and watched the clouds pass as we’ve dreamt big. It’s a universal experience that continues to make Michael Riley’s 3D cloud series the most popular works in UTS ART’s collection.

“They certainly are our hero images,” says UTS ART Education and Outreach Coordinator Cara Macleod. “These images connect students with their own childhoods as well as to the artist’s childhood growing up in Wondjari country. In Michael’s images of a cow, local and familiar, there’s a specific reference to Wondjari and Gamilaroi culture. These objects are suspended, yet heavy in the sky. They refer to the impact of colonisation on country, community and culture.”

“Art is in a great medium for all of us to share stories, make connections with others and build confidence in our own creativity,” says Cara. “These contemporary Indigenous artists provide new perspectives and challenge our preconceptions about history, identity, country and culture.”

Galwa means ‘to climb’ in the Gadigal language, and that’s exactly what these students will do.
Reece Griffiths is an outdoors man. When he was growing up in Gunnedah in north-eastern NSW, he dreamed of becoming a Rugby League player. Reece left school after completing his Year 10 certificate – it wasn’t for him. So for Reece, the idea of going to university was never on the cards.

Now at 21 years of age, Reece has just completed Jumbunna’s Unistart program and completely changed the direction of his life.

Reece first heard about Unistart through his cousin Heath who was studying a Bachelor of Business at UTS. News of the program came at a time when Reece was asking big questions about what he wanted from life and how he could secure himself a brighter and healthier future.

Unistart is one of Jumbunna’s flagship student-centred programs that eases students into campus life. Unistart students study faculty-based elective subjects alongside core subjects offered by Jumbunna.

“Unistart is a great way to find your feet and really understand what university is all about,” says Reece. “It provides you with a clear understanding of where you want to go in life.”

Reece chose to study sport and exercise management in the Faculty of Health and absolutely loved it.

“The environment at UTS is truly amazing,” says Reece. “The teachers are fantastic, especially the ones at Jumbunna. They were always there for me. From financial support to essays, without them I wouldn’t have finished the program. I hope the Jumbunna staff are on the big bucks because they do a wonderful job!”

For Reece, studying at UTS has offered him a lot more than academic success. Reece has made strong life-long friendships, learnt time management and self-presentation skills as well as the value of hard work.

“I’ve learnt how to communicate with others in a professional yet polite way,” says Reece. “I’ve learnt how to write correctly and my research and problem-solving skills have increased dramatically. I’ve become more open-minded. I guess you could say I’ve matured from a man with teenager ways to a man with big plans for the future.”

And that future is already knocking on the door.

Reece is in the final round of interviews for a four-year apprenticeship working for Masters Building Association and Mullane Plumbing in Newcastle.

“I’m ready to start working in the real world,” says Reece. “Working in a trade is exactly the type of work I love. It’s hard, it’s a good income and it takes a lot of sacrifice to achieve the end result. At this point in time, I feel like this is the right step in my journey.”

Reece was homeless for a year when he was a teenager so it’s important to him that he has job security. He has plans to own a home, a business and have a family. But his dreams don’t stop there – he wants to use his life experience to help others.

“I just love all three areas – sport, education and having a trade,” says Reece. “After I’ve finished my trade, I plan to explore a uni degree which will help me develop programs that support Australian children and young adults who are struggling. They may be involved in criminal activity, drugs or come from a poor environment. I want to help them gain education, health and fitness and ultimately a happy and healthy future.”

Reece feels Unistart helped him realise his long-term goals, “It’s a beneficial program for all aspects of your life.”

**KICK STARTING A NEW CAREER PATH**

**UNISTART**

I love how you learn at your own pace and I really value the tutoring Jumbunna provides. It’s one-on-one and so accessible. The best bit about UniStart is I’m enjoying the opportunities study is bringing me and I’m meeting so many new people from all different parts of the world.

Mikasa Donald, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science

**UNISTART JUMBUNNA PATHWAY**

Whether you’re a current school leaver (with or without an ATAR) | a recent school leaver or mature aged, you can apply for the Jumbunna Pathways Program to enter UniStart and Insearch courses at UTS.

Our Pathways Program offers you an opportunity to show your capability for higher education through a testing, assessment and interview process.

Contact our Outreach Officers for more information: atsirecruitment@uts.edu.au or call (toll free) 1800 064 312