The artwork *Circles of the Night Sky* is created by Professor Liz Cameron, Dharug woman and Macquarie University alumni. The artwork represents the Dharug sky systems depicting star maps of the Southern Cross lunar system, known as the Emu in the Sky in Aboriginal astronomy. The emu stretches across the Milky Way and is part of our creation stories.

Terminology

There is no universally agreed upon terminology for referring to the many diverse groups who comprise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. In this document, we use primarily the term ‘Indigenous’ to refer to all peoples and groups whose ancestors predate colonisation and who identify as such; ‘Aboriginal’ and ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander’ are also used where appropriate.

Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

Aunty Julie Janson delivering the Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony. Aunty Julie is of the Burruberongal clan of the Dharug Nation – Hawkesbury River people.

On behalf of the Dharug people, I welcome you to this Country of the Wattamattagal clan of the Dharug Aboriginal Nation. “Quai bidja, jumna paialla janwai – Come here, we speak together.” I pay my respects to the local Aboriginal Elders past and present and to the ancestors of the land, the knowledge and the culture. We welcome peoples of all nations and all faiths. We celebrate with you our ongoing attachment to and custodianship of this Country. Help us to respect the Aboriginal history and to protect the fragile environment.

Aunty Julie Janson

Burruberongal clan of the Dharug Nation

Hawkesbury River people

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The Macquarie University Indigenous Strategy 2016 – 2025 provides the foundation to take our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education to a new and exciting level. The Indigenous Research Plan 2020 – 2025 is a further step forward towards our commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, including our students and staff, in achieving high-quality outcomes in all areas of learning and teaching, and research, as well as in recruitment, retention and success.

The University has established an enviable reputation for research excellence. Our Strategic Research Framework World-Leading Research; World-Changing Impact charts an exciting course for our research over the next 10 years and is aimed at accelerating and propelling research performance to even greater heights. The Indigenous Research Plan creates a platform for excellence in Indigenous research and innovation at the local, national and international levels. The plan also recognises the unique perspectives, knowledges and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have sustained the survival of the longest-living culture in the world.

Our long-term reconciliation vision is to be a university that is characterised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander excellence, with established models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander success – from undergraduate pathways through to higher degree research (HDR) and beyond.

We look forward to a continued ethical, respectful and reciprocal relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the University and in broader communities.

The plan complements and responds to the following external frameworks:

- Universities Australia Indigenous Strategy 2017 – 2020 reinforces that the national priority of including Indigenous research as a priority area in core policy documents, including institutional strategic and business plans, ensures that implementation of these plans and policies are devolved through the university’s faculties, departments and units.
- The National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network’s vision is to develop skilled, informed and qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, who can address the urgent needs of Indigenous communities, through the delivery of culturally appropriate research on the premise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems inform and frame this research.
- The Australian Council of Graduate Research Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers play a crucial role in advancing Australia’s innovative research agenda. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers bring unique knowledges, experiences, identities and strengths that contribute to research that has widespread benefit nationally and internationally.

The four key priorities identified in our Strategic Research Framework will lead and guide the research objectives and goals of the Indigenous Research Plan.

1. Accelerate world-leading research performance
2. Prepare world-ready higher degree research candidates
3. Engage as a world-recognised research collaborator of choice
4. Deliver research with world-changing impact

The development and implementation of the plan is also aligned to the Macquarie University Indigenous Strategy 2016 – 2025, through its key pillars:
- Baduwa (Aspire)
- Manawari (Discover)
- Djurali (Evolve)

The plan is also aligned with the following internal frameworks:
- The Macquarie University - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Plan 2018 – 2021 reflects a whole-of-university approach to advance Indigenous education and research at the University.
- The Macquarie University Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research establishes a framework for responsible research conduct by our researchers.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and voice in research

To enhance Indigenous-led research at Macquarie, it is pivotal that we provide a culturally appropriate policy environment, where Indigenous people have a voice, to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and HDR students.

The following Macquarie Indigenous-led committees will provide strategic advice and guidance in the implementation of the Indigenous Research Plan:

**Wattamattagal Bunyuwal Aboriginal Advisory Committee**
- This all-Aboriginal committee, many of whom are from the local Dharug Community, is central to seeking informed decisions on Indigenous education at the University, providing a two-way dialogue between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and the University.

**Patyegarang Indigenous Strategic Committee**
- This overarching committee contributes to strategic planning and decision making for Indigenous education and research at the University. Membership includes key Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders from across the University. Chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy), this committee provides the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and the Executive Group with ongoing advice on emerging policy and implementation issues related to Indigenous strategy.

Accountability for championing the progress and outcomes of the Indigenous Research Plan will also be shared by the following roles and offices:
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Performance and Innovation)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Integrity and Development)
- Research Services

“My motivations [for my research] were my [Ngarrara] family, my grandfather who had always encouraged me to discover new understanding and develop my knowledge, and who encouraged me to be ‘me’ by building a trust in my own ability.

My Mum [Joyce] for her cultural foundation and connectedness to learning, inquiry, critical thinking and Gan’na and my daughters inspiring me with their resilience through the tough and joyous times.”

Dr Liesa Clague
PhD graduate, 2018

KEY RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

**01 ACCELERATE WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH PERFORMANCE**
- Support and extend the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers
- Engage Indigenous knowledges in cross-disciplinary research
- Develop systems, structures and processes that provide culturally empowering and responsive research environments
- Ensure the research needs of Indigenous Communities are met

**02 PREPARE WORLD-READY HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH CANDIDATES**
- Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR student enrolments
- Integrate Indigenous-led research knowledges and perspectives into the University curriculum
- Increase progression and completion rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR students

**03 ENGAGE AS A WORLD-RECOGNISED RESEARCH COLLABORATOR OF CHOICE**
- Pursue local, national and international partnerships that are mutually beneficial and authentic
- Build mutually beneficial, long-term engagement with institutional colleagues, locally, nationally and internationally

**04 DELIVER RESEARCH WITH WORLD-CHANGING IMPACT**
- Foster an environment that facilitates diverse forms of knowledge creation
- Strengthen existing partnerships to drive discovery and underpin innovation in Indigenous research
1. Accelerate world-leading research performance

“If research doesn’t change you as a person, then you haven’t done it right.”
Shawn Wilson, Opaskwayak Cree
Author of Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods

**BADAWA (ASPIRE)**

**GOAL AND TARGETS**

**STRATEGIES**

**SUPPORT AND EXTEND THE CAPACITY OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESEARCHERS**

- Decrease number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers
- Increase number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers publishing research and successfully applying for grants and scholarships
- Increase number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in academic or research positions

- Develop scholarships and funding opportunities for Indigenous research by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers
- Facilitate capacity building to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers’ grant and scholarship applications to external research and development institutes and programs, such as the Australian Research Council (ARC), the National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) and the Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA)
- Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers have access to external resources, including professional memberships and associations, in order to progress research.

**KPIs:**

- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers publishing research and successfully applying for grants and scholarships
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in academic or research positions

**DEVELOP SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES THAT PROVIDE CULTURALLY EMPOWERING AND RESPONSIVE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS**

- Provide appropriate academic professional development training in Indigenous research methodologies to ensure supervisors can effectively supervise both Indigenous candidates and non-Indigenous candidates undertaking Indigenous-related research
- Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers have access to external resources, including professional memberships and associations, in order to progress research.

**KPIs:**

- Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR progression and completion rates
- Positive feedback from Indigenous communities

**MANAWARI (DISCOVER)**

**GOAL AND TARGETS**

**STRATEGIES**

**ENGAGE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES IN CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**

- Continue to develop Byula (Let’s Talk), a University-wide Indigenous research cluster for Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers engaged in Indigenous research
- Identify key expert research areas for investment that will contribute to the University’s profile and reputation in Indigenous research
- Build the number of interdisciplinary Indigenous honorary academic appointments, such as conjoint and adjuncts
- Build the number of HDR cultural advisers

**KPIs:**

- Increased positive University-wide Indigenous research outputs
- Growth in Indigenous research income and investment

**DEVELOP SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES THAT PROVIDE CULTURALLY EMPOWERING AND RESPONSIVE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS**

- Provide appropriate academic professional development training in Indigenous research methodologies to ensure supervisors can effectively supervise both Indigenous candidates and non-Indigenous candidates undertaking Indigenous-related research
- Identify appropriate Indigenous supervisors, through honorary or conjoint academic appointments, for HDR students
- Complete compulsory module in HDR 30 ‘Orientation for HDR Supervisors’ – Djurali Cultural Safety Training for HDR Supervisors
- Provide Manawari Respect Reciprocity Relationship training to all staff engaged with Indigenous research and HDR supervision, including managers and supervisors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics
- Encourage the practice of including appropriately academically qualified Indigenous supervisors on supervisory panels and using appropriately academically qualified Indigenous examiners
- Evaluate the University’s ethics processes and guidelines in conducting ethical Indigenous research to ensure best practice in Indigenous contexts
- Review the PURE data management system to include fields and keywords that contribute to the collection of Indigenous-specific research data
- Aim to coordinate and centralise all Indigenous-related research undertaken by the University, across disciplines and departments

**KPIs:**

- Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR progression and completion rates
- Positive feedback from Indigenous communities
2. Prepare world-ready higher degree research candidates

“Be proud of your Culture – it is not a barrier to your aspirations, dreams and achievements, but it is the essence of who you are and the qualities that you have as a person.”

Honourable Ken Wyatt AM MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians
First minister in the Australian Government
3.

Engage as a world-recognised research collaborator of choice

“Indigenous methodologies are a vigorous and active field of knowledge production involving Indigenous peoples from around the world, including Australia, applying their own lenses, perspectives and understandings to social research and methodologies.”

AILEEN MORETON-ROBINSON AND MAGGIE WALTER
Authors of Indigenous Methodologies in Social Research
### MANAWARI (DISCOVER)

**GOAL AND TARGETS**

**STRATEGIES**

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<tr>
<th>Build mutually beneficial, long-term engagement with institutional colleagues, locally, nationally and internationally</th>
<th>Develop opportunities for local and international Indigenous HDR candidates to participate in the University’s cotutelle and joint PhD programs.</th>
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<td>Build participation of Indigenous research in the ARC College of Experts</td>
<td>Contribute to the University’s ARC engagement and impact assessments regarding Indigenous research impact studies.</td>
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<td>KPI: • Positive exposure of the University’s Indigenous research agenda both nationally and internationally</td>
<td>Contribute to national reviews on Indigenous research ethics through the NHMRC, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIASTIS), the Australian Medical Council (AMC), and others.</td>
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### BADUWA (ASPIRE)

**GOAL AND TARGETS**

**STRATEGIES**

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<tr>
<th>Foster an environment that facilitates diverse forms of knowledge creation</th>
<th>Participate in the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) and its associated affiliations: the World Indigenous Research Alliance (WIRA) and the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU).</th>
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<td>KPI: • Increased active research engagement in diverse forms of Indigenous knowledges</td>
<td>Increase co-authored publications and grant applications in the global arena.</td>
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### DJURALI (EVOLVE)

**GOAL AND TARGETS**

**STRATEGIES**

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<th>Strengthen existing partnerships to drive discovery and underpin innovation within Indigenous research</th>
<th>Work towards developing a multi-disciplinary University Indigenous Research Centre with a theme of ‘Indigenous knowledges, contemporary challenges and opportunities’, that seeks to produce critical insights into the politics, cultures and social practices of Indigenous peoples.</th>
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<td>KPI: • At least two major Indigenous research breakthroughs during the lifetime of this plan</td>
<td>Introduce Indigenous research streams aligned to a research centre that recognises Macquarie University as an expert cluster in:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Knowledge and cultural practices</td>
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<td>• Digital citizenship and innovation</td>
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<td>• Health and wellbeing of individuals and communities</td>
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<td>• LGBTQI+ politics and identities</td>
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<td>• Policy, governance, and political activism</td>
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Engage with Indigenous communities through existing Macquarie partnerships, such as the Wattamattagal Bunyuwal Aboriginal Advisory Committee, to identify where there is evidence for major impacts within Indigenous research.
MORE INFORMATION
If you would like to engage with Walanga Muru please contact:
T: (02) 9850 4239
E: walangamuruadmin@mq.edu.au

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