



Online study opens doors



Brendan Dhu is studying a Bachelor of Business via Swinburne Online.

NGARLUMA and Banjima man Brendan Dhu was well into his career when he decided to go back to school.

Overseeing the supply chain for WA mining giant, Rio Tinto, a series of restructures made Brendan realise he needed to upskill.

"I felt like I wasn't in control of my career," Brendan said.

Doing some research, Brendan came across the Try Online Scholarship, which opened the door to a Bachelor of Business through Swinburne Online. For the busy family man, it was the answer he was looking for.

"I can schedule my study around my work and family life so it doesn't feel like I am missing out in those areas," he said.

But it wasn't just flexibility that empowered Brendan in his studies – he also experienced a sense of community with other students.

"Having other people online studying the same unit doesn't [make you] feel like you are off-campus," he said.

For Brendan, study has opened up a world of possibilities and allowed him take control of his career.

"Doing the degree ... [has

given] me back my options to say what I would like to do, where I want to head to," he said.

Once completed, Brendan hopes to use his degree to further his career aspiration of going into a leadership role within the mining or public sector.

But the first thing he'll do? "Have a well-deserved break!" he said.

Based in Melbourne, Swinburne University of Technology has flexible study options, both online and on-campus. Find out more by visiting swinburne.edu.au

Katie hasn't looked back

BUNDJALUNG woman Katie Budgen is a long way from home. Originally from the Northern Rivers of NSW, Katie came to Melbourne to pursue a career in basketball.

Not long after her move, Katie enrolled in a Bachelor of Education at Swinburne University of Technology and hasn't looked back.

However, if she missed anything, it was her tight-knit community back home. When Katie heard Swinburne was participating in the Indigenous Nationals, she leapt at the opportunity.

"[I] think it's important for me to be around like-minded Indigenous students as I have found it is harder to find [those connections] in Melbourne," Katie said.

Katie emerged triumphant from the games, taking home the women's Most Valued Player (MVP) award for basketball.

But her highlight? Her new community.

"I made so many connections with people across Australia, people I'm happy to call my brother or sister even if we have no blood relation," Katie said.

When she's not playing sports or in class, Katie makes use of the Moondani Toombadool Centre on-campus, where she can find a quiet place to study, as well as access



Katie Budgen, basketball MVP.

support when she needs it.

The Moondani Toombadool Centre offers a range of services for Swinburne's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, on-campus and online. For information, phone (03) 9214 3326 or email Indigenoustudents@swin.edu.au

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