

# Focus on Education

Your guide to what's happening in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education



This year's Batchelor Institute media students are with lecturers Patrick McKenzie and Gary Haslett.

## Students tuned in

**A**BORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander students have converged at Batchelor Institute in the Northern Territory to begin their studies in screen and media.

The next generation of Indigenous broadcasters are cutting their teeth at Batchelor, developing skills in radio programming and announcing, as well as film and television production.

The Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) stated in 2016 that ownership and management of Indigenous media is critical for the affirmation of Indigenous people, as well as for the maintenance of culture, language, stories and Indigenous histories.

The peak body also found that 73% of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and more than 50% of Indigenous people across Australia listen to an Indigenous radio station every month.

Batchelor Institute says it aims to assist in providing the industry with qualified and capable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasters through its educational programs.

Graduates of Batchelor's

media courses have gone on to shape the Indigenous and wider media industry, winning awards and taking up key roles as broadcasters across the country.

Batchelor offers three industry recognised qualifications in media, taught by lecturers with decades of experience as professional broadcasters and educators.

Students are often undertaking the course while also participating in community radio, working as filmmakers or as journalists within their own communities.

Student Heath Baxter came to Batchelor to improve his skills after volunteering in community radio since 1997. He has been working on getting back into filmmaking.

"I worked my way over to Larrakia Radio and I was there for a fair few years," he said.

"Then I left to do other things. I came back probably 2014 and decided to get back into filmmaking, trying to get into that area of media"

Mr Baxter has already seen his work broadcast nationwide while studying at Batchelor Institute.

"Last year, when I was doing

the training with certificate four, I put in a synopsis for a TV series called *Our Stories* on NITV," he said.

"I was one of the lucky ones that got chosen so I got my first TV credit and that was because of all the training and mentors here at Batchelor Institute, who passed on those skills and their knowledge of the industry and how it works."

### Making waves

Fellow student Maxwell Tasman also has been making waves in media, taking out two major awards at the National Remote Indigenous Media Festival last year.

"I've been doing remote community broadcasting back home," he said.

"First I started as a filmmaker and then I started doing radio broadcasting. Here at Batchelor Institute last year I did a Certificate III with Paul Tolley in radio broadcasting. And now I'm here with (lecturer) Patrick (McKenzie) doing film work.

"I really want to get back into doing film work because I started as a filmmaker with 8PAW Media a couple years back. Now this is

my 10th year working with media.

"For me, coming here, seeing all the family come down here studying at Batchelor is important.

"My mother came here to study a long time ago. This time, especially doing media courses, it is interesting to do more studies for myself."

Batchelor Institute lecturer Patrick McKenzie is a part of guiding the students in learning film and television production. As an Indigenous educator, he says he values being able to share industry knowledge in a culturally respectful environment.

"One of the things that I love about teaching at Batchelor Institute is being given the opportunity to be able to share the skills and knowledge that I have within the film industry with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Mr McKenzie said.

"My students come from all over Australia. All the way from the remote regions of Western Australia to the communities in Halls Creek, all the way down across the east coast.

"We have people from remote communities and urban places. There are Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander people from all different tribes and different language speaking groups.

"What is really valuable about learning here at Batchelor Institute is that they are developing skills at an industry standard but are also in a culturally appropriate environment."

More information on Batchelor Institute's media courses at <http://go.batchelor.edu.au/media>

● See page 42 for more on Batchelor Institute

### Don't miss our next feature

The next *Koori Mail* education feature will be published on September 20. It will be the ideal place for education institutions to highlight their courses for 2018. Keep an eye out for more details in coming editions, or call us on (02) 66 222 666.