

# Busy time for Oorala

It has been a busy time for the Oorala Centre at the University of New England.

And it will culminate next month when the centre marks three decades.

Oorala has a range of entry pathway programs designed to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed in higher education and provide support in their journey.

Vice-chancellor Professor Annabelle Duncan says UNE's support for Indigenous people "is built into our social contract, and our curriculum".

Oorala is set for a major celebration next month to mark its 30th anniversary.

A month-long program that includes art and cooking exhibitions, and live music headlined by Isaiah Firebrace, the 2016 winner of Australia's *X-Factor*, is planned.

Celebrations begin on October 18 with the opening of the Oorala Art Exhibition, which consists of paintings, photographs, weavings and sculptures by local and regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The exhibition will also include three bark paintings from Milingimbi dating back to the 1960s.

A Sunset Opening Ceremony, on the lawns of Booloominbah,



Happy students in the Oorala Aboriginal Centre at the University of New England.

will be held on October 23.

And in the main event, the Oorala 30 Open Day will be held from 10am-3pm on October 31.

Isaiah Firebrace will perform, there'll be cooking demonstrations

with Clayton Donovan and the Duval Deadly Dancers will perform. Markets stalls, workshops including a weaving circle with Dolly Jerome, community canvas painting with

artist Lloyd Hornsby, didgeridoo performances by Christian Page, a flint-knapping workshop with UNE archaeologist Mark Moore and many more activities are also on the agenda.

Meanwhile, Oorala sent 14 Indigenous students, four staff and five other researchers to Toronto in Canada for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) in July.

They had the opportunity to choose from more than 800 presentations over five days focusing on the conference theme of Truth and Reconciliation.

The Oorala delegation had the opportunity to share culture and knowledge with nearly 4000 representatives from other First Nations.

Oorala director Greg Davison presented a paper on the implementation of a student engagement system tailored to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that provided timely culturally-appropriate support.

Oorala students also participated in the continuing discussion and development of reconciliation in Indigenous education.

Michael Kirk, a final-year education student at UNE, said that "developing a cultural awareness early in childhood allows it to then become part of a child's upbringing".

More details on Oorala at [www.une.edu.au/info-for/indigenous-matters/oorala](http://www.une.edu.au/info-for/indigenous-matters/oorala)

## Ignite your career with Oorala at the University of New England

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Nursing



Education

You've always believed you're capable. You just needed to find someone that values your culture and walks beside you to help you achieve your goals. At Oorala we have two university entry programs designed to help you succeed at university.

### Direct Entry to UNE

#### Internal Selection Program (ISP)

The Oorala ISP is a one day assessment program designed for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders with professional work or community experience and any formal qualifications.

#### Assessment Locations:

- Oorala Aboriginal Centre, UNE, Armidale
- Parramatta FutureCampus

### TRACKS Tertiary Preparation Program

Start in February 2018 - Apply now!

TRACKS is designed to prepare you for an undergraduate degree program at UNE. The team at Oorala will work beside you to help develop your confidence and academic skills. You will also have an opportunity to study an undergraduate unit in your area of interest that may help fast track your degree. TRACKS is available to study on-campus and online - best of all, it is free.



Join us to celebrate 30 Years

Oct 18 - Nov 9, 2017

A great opportunity for visiting our Centre and UNE Campus.

[une.edu.au/oorala30](http://une.edu.au/oorala30)

Image: Tom Djawa  
*The Diver Dance*, c1960s/70s  
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Apply now to start in October 2017 or February 2018

For more information visit [une.edu.au/oorala/courses](http://une.edu.au/oorala/courses)

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