

# Engaging with culture

**A** NEW subject run by the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is giving all undergraduate students the opportunity to better engage with and understand Indigenous culture.

Hurrying through the UTS Tower foyer you might just miss it. But there, opposite the concierge desk, hanging proudly, is *Portrait of Aunty Joan Tranter*, a 2013 painting of UTS's inaugural Elder-in-residence.

It's this kind of easily-missed engagement with contemporary Indigenous culture that CAIK's Professor Susan Page wants students to take notice of in the new undergraduate subject, Aboriginal Sydney Now.

## Strategy

CAIK, established in 2015, focuses on the implementation of UTS's Indigenous Graduate Attributes, a strategy which aims to ensure all graduates understand and engage with Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing in their chosen discipline. Aboriginal Sydney Now, offered to undergraduate students in all faculties as an online subject, is the first step to achieving these outcomes.

The subject, says Prof Page,

**“(The course is) designed to be an introduction to Indigenous studies and we’re hoping that, ultimately, a significant number of undergraduate students will take it in their first year.”**

**– CAIK's Professor Susan Page**



“is designed to be an introduction to Indigenous studies and we're hoping that, ultimately, a significant number of undergraduate students will take it in their first year.”

It was launched last year and UTS says it has, so far, been well received, thanks in part to unique and authentic assessments and activities.

“The very first thing we did was to get students to look for something Aboriginal on campus,” Prof Page said.

“Students found all sorts of

things like flags, publications, and of course artworks like the portrait of Aunty Joan.”

Throughout the subject, students are encouraged to undertake walks around Sydney to find significant Aboriginal sites. They include Murawina childcare centre on Eveleigh Street, Redfern, the historic Bidura and Royleston children's homes in Glebe and the remnants of Lake Northam in Victoria Park, Glebe.

## Structure

They're guided by the City of Sydney's *Barani/Barrabugu (Yesterday/Tomorrow)* booklet which splits significant sites into four separate journeys. They also watch select episodes of the TV series *Redfern Now* which is used in the online lectures and discussions to structure and frame elements of learning.

Prof Page explains these activities all “have some emphasis on contemporary Indigenous Australia. “That's not to say that we forget about the past, and there are certainly parts of the subject that are about the past, but to remind students that there are Aboriginal people here now, and that even if we're in the city, we are on country,” she said.

More details on CAIK at [www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/](http://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/)

## Bachelor of Business Administration

Join an innovative degree for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals. Improve your knowledge, capabilities and confidence to become a business leader of tomorrow.

- Build on your existing work experience
- Study in small, supportive classes taught by world-class academics
- 6 intensive weeks per year over 3 years
- Balance work and other commitments with your study
- Open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Australia with travel, meals and accommodation support for eligible students
- Award-winning learning and support facilities in the heart of Sydney
- Direct entry via interview
- Enrolments now open to start in February 2018

To discuss your options and for more information on how to apply, contact Course Coordinator Gavin Mate on 02 9514 4020 or [gavin.mate@uts.edu.au](mailto:gavin.mate@uts.edu.au)

Read about our current students at [bba.uts.edu.au](http://bba.uts.edu.au)

20999

UTS CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00099F

48 THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017.

The Voice of Indigenous Australia