

# Batchelor Institute honours strength through culture

“Too deadly”, Batchelor Institute’s CEO, Leon Yeatman, is new to the job but is already crystal clear about what makes the historic institution real deadly.

“Batchelor Institute has a long, rich history in recognising strength through culture,” he said. “That strength comes from our two ways approach to learning, our communities, family and identity.

“The Institute’s history was born from the Northern Territory Indigenous community experience and aspirations.

“Our early leaders recognised the education gap and initiated steps to create a tertiary institution to cater for community needs and education options that aligned our beliefs, respected and valued our difference and fosters students’ pride in being Indigenous.”

Mr Yeatman, whose people are the Gunggandji of Yarrabah, describes his hometown as a place proud of its tradition, united in our quest for equal rights, strong views about self-management and committed to self-determination.

The leadership in his community shaped his approach to management and he is honoured to be leading the Batchelor Institute management team.

“In Yarrabah, I have strong role models who have done marvellous

things in their lives. Their achievements have helped develop pride and confidence.

“We use the sea hawk as one of our modern totems. Apart from being majestic, it soars high and can see things from many angles; it’s also a force to be reckoned with.

“They are good attributes that I try to embody, and I see in Batchelor’s esteemed alumni, strong men and women who are proof that we have capacity, capability and commitment to lead social change and community development.

“At Batchelor Institute, we talk about our both-ways learning pedagogy and philosophy, which can be a complex concept to communicate easily. When you live it, you understand it. I think about my experience as an Indigenous man in work and my learning journey. The ‘both ways’ philosophy kept me grounded, allowed me to thrive away from home. We draw power from our cultural strength and like many I am confident in my skin. Thriving, not just surviving.

“At Batchelor we continue to offer our students a framework that includes cultural safety. It is a great place to learn, and we are committed to honouring our past while embracing opportunities for a brighter future.”



Batchelor Institute CEO, Leon Yeatman is a descendent of the Gunggandji people of Yarrabah.



**Study in a supportive and culturally safe learning environment for First Nations people.**

**Batchelor Institute’s nationally accredited courses include Certificate level and Post Graduate and Research opportunities.**

Classes are delivered at our campuses located at the Desert Peoples Centre in Alice Springs and at Batchelor, and in a number of communities. Some courses also have online offerings.

**COURSES OFFERED INCLUDE:**

- > visual arts
- > screen media
- > broadcasting
- > construction
- > business and
- > resource industries and infrastructure.

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