



Indigenous Knowledge Institute

Annual Report 2022



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From the Inaugural Director

The Indigenous Knowledge Institute (IKI) was established in 2020 to advance and build new interdisciplinary capabilities in Indigenous knowledge research and engagement in collaboration with internal and external partners to address emerging global challenges for Australia and the world. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and its aftermath made such challenges starkly apparent. The pandemic ushered in sweeping global changes that compelled us to adjust to new ways of living and working, which endured well into 2022.

Despite these steep challenges, 2022 was a year of immense growth for IKI in partnership with our Host Faculty, Science, and other close colleagues across the entire University. Ms Kirsten Clark, Ms Brittany Carter, Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher and I continued in our respective roles as Manager, Project Officer, Director of Research Capability and Inaugural Director. However, IKI also welcomed 10 new colleagues. Professor Diane Kerr OAM, Professor Brian Gumbula and Professor Wanta Pawu were appointed through a rigorous selection process endorsed by the University Appointments and Promotions Committee (UAPC) to become our first cohort of IKI Fellows. A similarly rigorous process was undertaken to confirm IKI's three Research Themes, Healthy Country, Culture & Heritage, and Health & Justice, which are respectively led by Associate Professor Fletcher, Professor Barry Judd, and Associate Professor Shawana Andrews and Dr Eddie Cubillo. Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran and Dr Samuel Curkpatrick also joined IKI in respective roles as Senior Research Fellow and Research Associate, while Professor Patrick Nunn was appointed with UAPC endorsement as an Honorary Fellow. Finally, Ms Nola Turner-Jensen joined the University as a Senior Research Fellow in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) through IKI's existing co-investment in the Ngarrnga curriculum project. A similar co-investment was made in Professor Brian Gumbula's IKI Fellowship by University Museums & Collections. It is also greatly encouraging that IKI's broader Community of Practice across the University nearly doubled in size to 104 members in 2022.

At this point, I take pause to congratulate Ms Kirsten Clark and Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher on their well-earned career achievements in 2022. Ms Kirsten Clark was renewed in her role as IKI Manager, completed the Asialink Leaders Program, and was awarded the Faculty of Science Dean's Award for Excellence in Professional Staff Support. Michael-Shawn Fletcher was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, taking effect in 2023.

IKI's 2021 efforts in bidding of the tenders and grants from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and Australian Research Council (ARC) resulted in the University being selected to join the NIAA Panel of Indigenous Evaluation and Research Services and contributed to the University's ARC grant success as a participating organisation on CE230100009 and IN230100005. CE230100009, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures, was funded at \$35,175,001 over seven years with Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher as Deputy Director and is shared with James Cook University, Monash University, Flinders University, the Australian National University (ANU), the University of New South Wales (UNSW), and the University of Western Australia (UWA). IN230100005, 'Fine Tuning: A Reconciliation of Indigenous and Western Musical Traditions', was funded at \$1,032,900 over three years as an Indigenous-led project that I share with colleagues at the University of Adelaide.

As severe COVID restrictions against travel and public gatherings gradually lifted in 2022, IKI's program of public events flourished across both live and online platforms with a total of 6944 attendees combined. IKI's key events included our regular Community of Practice meetings, book launch for *The First Astronomers* by Associate Professor Duane Hamacher with Elders and Knowledge Holders, Melbourne Design Week lectures on fire and water management, Indigenous Knowledge Film Festival for Melbourne Knowledge Week at the State Library Victoria Village Roadshow Theatre, Reconciliation Week lecture in partnership with the Faculty of Science and the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership in Melbourne Business School, NAIDOC Week lecture at Parliament Victoria, National Science Week lecture, two-day International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Symposium, and Intersections Symposium in partnership with the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) and the National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia (NRPIPA). Nearly all these events have been podcasted via the IKI playlist on the University's YouTube channel, which attracted a total of 6242 views in 2022.

IKI engagements with domestic and international partners also deepened and expanded in 2022 as travel restrictions eased. Often, for the first time, we were able to meet in person with many Indigenous partners in Northeast Arnhem Land, the Goulburn Valley and Melbourne, which are established regions of strategic interest to the University. We received visiting international researchers from the University of Taipei, Sinica Academia, Te Whare Wānanga o

Awanuiārangi, the University of British Columbia, Manchester University and the University of Hokkaido, and were able to travel internationally for the first time since the pandemic's onset for meetings with the University of Arizona in the United States and the 1st Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Indigenous Knowledges Workshop in Mexico. The latter workshop was hosted by Tecnológico de Monterrey and involved delegates from Simon Fraser University, the University of Auckland, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the University of Oregon, the University of the Philippines and Universidad San Francisco de Quito. These engagements proved highly beneficial to building our global reach and led to firm plans for IKI to visit partners in Taiwan and APRU in Hong Kong, collaborate in a workshop at the University of Hokkaido, and host the 2nd APRU Indigenous Knowledges Workshop at the University of Melbourne in 2023.

2022 saw the full operationalisation of IKI's complete biennial cycle of funding schemes with the overall standard of applications having risen markedly since 2020. As work started on our Research Themes in 2022, we funded our third round of Seed Funding grants, our second rounds of both PhD Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships and Indigenous PhD Bursaries, and first rounds of both IKI Fellowships and Community Engagement grants. Overall, in 2022, IKI allocated \$802,782 to research enabling initiatives through funding schemes and other activities at 1.3 times our total operating expenditure. These funding schemes also had significant influence in how Faculties sought to build their own Indigenous knowledge research capabilities. The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) sought direct IKI involvement in designing and adjudicating its own Indigenous Research Grant, which was modelled after our Seed Funding grants, while the Faculty of Science decided to adopt our approach to recruiting IKI Fellows as a means of attracting its own Indigenous research fellows in 2023.

2022 was also marked by Academic Board's approval of IKI's new flagship course, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Indigenous Knowledge, after an extensive two-year process of consultation and development across the entire University. With the flexibility to be undertaken in any Faculty across the University, this new distinctive PhD course will be open for Expressions of Interest in 2023. It has been designed to activate new research into Indigenous knowledge as an explicit interdisciplinary subject area and deepen reciprocal learning with Indigenous communities. While open to applications from all prospective students domestically and internationally, its design has been calibrated to meet the needs of Indigenous PhD students with existing experience of collaborating in research and academia. All PhD students affiliated with IKI will be supported through our annual Doctoral Academy program, which has been funded to launch in 2023 by the Agilent Foundation.



2022 was an extraordinary year of activity, achievement and growth, following the worst of the pandemic, that saw the University's key investment in IKI deliver outstanding returns. I gratefully thank our wonderful IKI staff, many colleagues across the University, and many partners around Australia and the world for engaging so enthusiastically and generously with IKI to make all our important work possible. We look forward to working with you all again in 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'A. Corn'.

Professor Aaron Corn, Inaugural Director



Bill Bainbridge, Kate Harriden and Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher at the 'Science and Culture on Country' panel for NAIDOC Week at Parliament House, Melbourne.

About us

IKI is a Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institute funded via Chancellery Research and Enterprise that advances and builds Indigenous knowledge research and engagement in collaboration with internal and external partners. While charged with collaborating and seeding new research opportunities across the entire University, IKI's Host Faculty is Science for all operational matters. All research undertaken and funded by IKI is guided by our Charter for Research with Indigenous Knowledge Holders, which promotes global best practice in Indigenous knowledge research and benefit sharing between Indigenous knowledge holders and universities.

Our purpose

IKI's unique purpose is to advance and build Indigenous knowledge research and engagement. We support and promote research and collaborative engagements with Indigenous knowledge holders that aim to strengthen research capabilities in this field.

Our aims

1. Document, maintain, disseminate, and progress Indigenous knowledge through research in partnership with Indigenous knowledge holders.
2. Recognise and respect Indigenous knowledge innovations through collaborative engagements that address global challenges for Australia and the world.
3. Create new avenues for enquiry and learning in partnership with Indigenous knowledge holders that aim to generate mutual benefits.

Our team

Directorate

Professor Aaron Corn, Inaugural Director

Professor Aaron Corn holds three decades of experience in Indigenous knowledge research collaborations with Indigenous colleagues and communities. Spanning many publications, productions, research projects and teaching initiatives with Indigenous knowledge holders and partners, his work engages with intellectual traditions that remain fundamental to Indigenous cultural survival and considers new strategies for strengthening human cultural diversity in the Digital Age. He is Director of the NRPIPA and a Board Director of the ICTM Study Group on Indigenous Music and Dance, and previously served on the ARC College of Experts and directed the National Centre for Aboriginal Language and Music Studies at the University of Adelaide. In 2022, he convened the 1st ICTM Symposium on Indigenous Music and Dance with Dr Anthea Skinner in Faculty of Fine Arts & Music (FFAM), featuring presenters from 32 universities and other organisations across 14 countries, and authored the book, *Law: The Way of the Ancestors*, with the University's Associate Provost, Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO, for publication by Thames & Hudson in 2023.

Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher, Director of Research Capability

Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher is a Wiradjuri man and IKI's Director of Research Capability. He is a physical geographer and also serves as Assistant Dean (Indigenous) in the Faculty of Science. His interests are in the long-term interactions between humans, climate, disturbance and vegetation at local, regional and global scales. His current work involves developing and integrating high-resolution palaeo-environmental records from across the Southern Hemisphere using multiple proxies, including microfossil, charcoal, geochemical and isotopic analyses to provide comprehensive reconstructions of environmental change. In 2022, his book, *Plants: Past, Present and Future*, with Zena Cumpston and Lesley Head was published by Thames & Hudson, and he was named as Deputy Director on the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures.



Professor Aaron Corn



Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher



Kirsten Clark



Brittany Carter

Ms Kirsten Clark, Manager

Ms Kirsten Clark is a Yidinji woman from Queensland and IKI's Manager. In 2022, she was renewed in this role, completed the Asialink Leaders Program, and was awarded the Faculty of Science Dean's Award for Excellence in Professional Staff Support. Prior to 2021, she worked as a research administrator in Faculty of Science and previously worked in industry in human resources, training development, and Indigenous employment.

Ms Brittany Carter, Project Officer

Ms Brittany Carter is a Wiradjuri woman and, as IKI's Project Officer, coordinates all our events, communications, and marketing. Before 2021, she worked as Outreach Coordinator for the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. She holds a Master of Science (Zoology) from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Science Communication from ANU. She is passionate about science communication and STEM accessibility and is Chair of the ACT National Science Week Coordinating Committee.

Research affiliates

Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Senior Research Fellow

Dr Sangeetha Chandrashekeran is a Senior Research Fellow on the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course, who became affiliated with IKI in 2022. She is an economic geographer with focuses on the political economy of environmental change. Her research is motivated by the challenge of deep decarbonisation and the political-economic complexities of changing large socio-technical systems. She focuses on the energy sector, where she has researched the evolution of demand management, the impacts of marketisation on social equity and environmental outcomes, and the consumer and citizen benefits of metering roll-outs.

Ms Nola Turner-Jensen, Ngarrngga Senior Research Fellow

Ms Nola Turner-Jensen is a leading Wiradjuri knowledge holder, who joined the University as a Senior Research Fellow in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education through IKI's existing co-investment in the Ngarrngga curriculum project. She is Principal Director of Crackerjack Education, an Indigenous education business that has developed Australian Curriculum resources, is a preferred supplier for TAFE Queensland, and is an accredited professional development provider for certified teachers in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. She has written primary and secondary textbooks for Education Queensland, been selected to be a Tranby College Community Changemaker, and been recognised by NAIDOC as a leading Indigenous female entrepreneur. Her current research considers the linguistic and geographical dimensions of Wiradjuri connections to land by interpreting important literary records and oral histories with respect to traditional Wiradjuri social organisation and land tenure systems.

Dr Samuel Curkpatrick, Research Associate

Dr Samuel Curkpatrick became affiliated with IKI as a Research Associate in 2022, while completing a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Divinity. His research spans issues of music, culture and theology, specifically focusing on Indigenous Australian song and philosophical issues of language and epistemology. He has collaborated extensively in producing public performances with Indigenous musicians and the Australian Art Orchestra, and was an inaugural Fellow of the Commonwealth Intercultural Arts Network at Cambridge University.

Research fellows

Professor Diane Kerr OAM, IKI Fellow

Professor Kerr is a Wurundjeri elder of the Ganun Willam Balak clan, who was appointed an IKI Fellow in 2022. She is one of the most senior Kulin nations elders and ceremonial leaders, who holds comprehensive Indigenous knowledge of the Melbourne region. As a matriarch of her family, she has devoted much of her life to her community as a mentor and foster carer. She works passionately on the social and emotional wellbeing of First Nations communities through her engagements with community and government across health, childcare, education, native title, Stolen Generations support, and environment and waterway protection. Her current research considers the impacts of Indigenous medicine and healing knowledge on infection management and antibiotic use.

Professor Brian Gumbula, IKI Fellow

Professor Brian Djangirrawuy Gumbula-Garawirtja is a Yolŋu ceremonial leader of the Gupapuyŋu clan alliance, who was appointed an IKI Fellow in 2022. He is one of the most senior Yolŋu elders, having been appointed as a Dalkarramirri ceremonial leader in 1997 and promoted to Dilak (Elder) in 2015. Alongside his long career as an artist and educator, he has long engaged in culture, language and heritage research and holds a Master of Indigenous Knowledges from Charles Darwin University. He works closely with University Museum & Collections, as his current research considers vital links between present Yolŋu practice and vintage cultural heritage items held in University collections that can inform future strategies for Yolŋu cultural survival.

Professor Wanta Pawu, IKI Fellow

Professor Wanta Pawu is a Warlpiri elder and ceremonial leader, who was appointed an IKI Fellow in 2022. He has long been engaged in education and research and, in 2012, became the first Warlpiri person to lead a funded Australian Research Council project. Highly sought as an educator and policy advisor, he is Creative Director of the Milpirri Festival at Lajamanu and recently sat on the Indigenous Voice National Co-design Group. Informed by traditional Warlpiri methods of tracking and hunting, his current research investigates how traditional Indigenous songs and designs relate to kangaroo across Australia and how the ancestral trade connections they describe can deepen our understanding of responsibility to community and country.

Research theme leaders

Professor Barry Judd, Culture & Heritage Theme Leader

Commencing as an IKI Research Theme Leader in 2022, Professor Barry Judd is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Director of Indigenous Studies in the Faculty of Arts. As an Anangu man, his Culture & Heritage research interests stem from his work to examine pathways towards sustainable employment in remote indigenous communities through cultural enterprises and tourism.

Associate Professor Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher, Healthy Country Theme Leader

Commencing as an IKI Research Theme Leader in 2022, Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher is a Wiradjuri man and IKI's Director of Research Capability. His Healthy Country research interests lie in his work to examine long-term interactions between humans, climate, disturbance and vegetation at local, regional and global scales.

Associate Professor Shawana Andrews, Health & Justice Theme Co-leader

Commencing as an IKI Research Theme Leader in 2022, Associate Professor Shawana Andrews is a Trawlwoolway Palawa woman and Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Her Health & Justice research interests stem from her long history of working in Indigenous health in both clinical and academic roles.

Dr Eddie Cubillo, Health & Justice Theme Co-leader

Commencing as an IKI Research Theme Leader in 2022, Dr Eddie Cubillo is Associate Dean (Indigenous) and Director of the Indigenous Law and Justice Hub in the Melbourne Law School. As a man of Larrakia, Wadjigan and Arrente descent, his Health & Justice research interests stem from his long history of working in anti-discrimination and Indigenous legal services.

Honorary fellow

Professor Patrick Nunn, Honorary Professorial Fellow

Professor Patrick Nunn joined IKI as an Honorary Professional Fellow in 2022. He spent more than two decades in the Pacific Islands, researching its geology, climate and cultural histories. His research highlights the depth and longevity of oral traditions, especially of memorable and catastrophic events like volcanic eruptions and post-glacial sea-level rises.



Maddison Miller, Enterprise Professor Bruce Pascoe, and Tammy Gilson speaking at the Landscape Construction Through Fire panel for Melbourne Design Week on 18 March 2022.

Our activities

Key goals and achievements

Our key goals in 2022 were to:

- increase IKI's research contingent and have new Fellows appointed at appropriate levels via UAPC (**Research contingent**),
- deepen our collaborations with internal stakeholders to attract co-investment in our Indigenous Fellowships (**Fellows co-funding**),
- tend to join the NIAA Panel of Indigenous Evaluation and Research Services (**NIAA Panel**),
- contribute to developing Indigenous researchers by securing new ARC project grants (**ARC**),
- complete and release key research publications (**Outputs**),
- expand the scope and reach of IKI's public events in collaboration with external partners and conferences (**Events reach**),
- move from primarily delivering IKI public events online to hybrid delivery (**Events delivery**),
- grow IKI's numbers of newsletter subscribers and YouTube views (**Audience reach**),
- prepare the IKI website to be refreshed (**Website**),
- advise internal partners on research and related policy matters as required through committees of the University (**University committees**),
- deepen and expand IKI's domestic and international partnerships across government, industry, higher education, community and philanthropy by moving from primarily meeting online to travelling for meetings in person (**External partners**),
- fully operationalise our complete biennial cycle of IKI funding schemes with expanded opportunities for applicants from a broader array of experience levels in Indigenous knowledge research (**Funding cycle**),
- see the overall standard of funding applications to IKI rise (**Applicant quality**),
- encourage Faculties across the University to use IKI fundings schemes as models for building their own Indigenous knowledge research capabilities (**Faculties guidance**),
- design and approve via Academic Board the IKI's new flagship course, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Indigenous Knowledge, as a central pillar of our Doctoral Academy (**PhD course**).

Against these goals, our key achievements in 2022 were:

- **Research contingent:** IKI's research core contingent increased from four staff to 13 staff and one Honorary Fellow. New staff comprised two Senior Research Fellows and one Research Associate as our Research Affiliates, three IKI Fellows appointed as Professors, and one Professor and two Associate Professors as our three Research Theme Leaders. We worked to ensure that our first cohort of three IKI Fellows were approved by UAPC to be

appointed as Professors in keeping with their demonstrated expertise as outstanding indigenous knowledge holders with commensurate research experience. IKI's broader Community of Practice nearly doubled in size, growing to 104 members.

- **Fellows co-funding:** Professor Brian Gumbula's IKI Fellowship was co-funded by University Museums & Collections given his core research interest in their holdings. Ms Nola Turner-Jensen's Senior Research Fellowship in MGSE was funded through IKI's existing co-investment the Ngarrngga curriculum project.
- **NIAA:** IKI successfully tended for the University to join the NIAA Panel of Indigenous Evaluation and Research Services.
- **ARC:** IKI contributed to the University's ARC grant success as a participating organisation on CE230100009 and IN230100005. CE230100009, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures, was funded at \$35,175,001 over seven years with Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher as Deputy Director and is shared with James Cook University, Monash University, Flinders University, ANU, UNSW, and UWA. IN230100005, 'Fine Tuning: A Reconciliation of Indigenous and Western Musical Traditions', was funded at \$1,032,900 over three years as an Indigenous-led project that Professor Aaron Corn shares with colleagues at the University of Adelaide. IKI delivers an annual series of information sessions for Indigenous applicants to ARC funding schemes.
- **Outputs:** IKI and its Community of Practice completed and released several key research publications. including the books, *The First Astronomers* by Duane Hamacher with Elders and Knowledge Holders; *Plants* by Zena Cumpston, Michael-Shawn Fletcher and Lesley Head; *Post-capitalist Futures* edited by Alexander, Samuel, Sangeetha Chandrashekeran, Brendan Gleeson; and *Ontologies and Epistemologies of Indigenous Music and Dance* edited by Yuh-Fen Tseng and Aaron Corn. National reports included work by Professor Patrick Nunn on *A National Strategy for Just Adaptation* for the Australian Academy of Science and Ms Bronte Gosper on *Above and Beyond Broadcasting* for First Nations Media. The forthcoming book, *Law*, was written and submitted by Marcia Langton and Aaron Corn for publication in 2023.
- **Events reach:** IKI collaborated with various external partners to expand the scope and reach of its public events, including Allen & Unwin, Melbourne Design Week, Melbourne Knowledge Week, Parliament Victoria, National Science Week, and Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School. IKI collaborated with the NRPIPA to convene the 1st ICTM Symposium on Indigenous Music and Dance led by Professor Aaron Corn with presenters from 32 universities and other organisations across 14 countries. ICTM is a non-governmental organisation in formal consultative relations with UNESCO.
- **Events delivery:** Almost all of IKI's public events were delivered in a hybrid format and attended both live and online.
- **Audience reach:** IKI's newsletter subscriptions grew from 428 to 676. Nearly of IKI's our public events are available via the IKI playlist on the University's YouTube channel and attracted an increased total of 6242 views.
- **Website:** The IKI website was prepared for refreshing on the University's new template.
- **University committees:** IKI advised internal partners on research and related policy matters through various University committees, working groups and communities of practice, including the Indigenous Strategy Reference Group, Committee of Associate Deans & Delegates (Indigenous), Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Oversight Committee, Northeast Arnhem Land Advisory Academic Group, Indigenous Graduate Community of Practice, IKI Community of Practice, Melbourne Climate Futures Research Cluster, Ngarrngga Project Steering Committee, Indigenous Data Network Operational Stream Activity Group, Faculty of Science Executive Committee, and Contemplative Studies Centre Reference Group.
- **External partners:** Following the worst of the pandemic, IKI's engagements with domestic and international partners were greatly deepened and expanded in 2022 as travel restrictions eased. We met in person with many Indigenous partners in Northeast Arnhem Land, the Goulburn Valley and Melbourne, in line with University strategic interests, often for the first time. We received visiting international researchers from the University of Taipei, Sinica Academia, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, the University of British Columbia, Manchester University and the University of Hokkaido, and travelled internationally for the first time since the pandemic's onset for meetings with the University of Arizona in the United States and the 1st Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Indigenous Knowledges Workshop in Mexico. The latter workshop was hosted by Tecnológico de Monterrey and involved delegates from Simon Fraser University, the University of Auckland, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the University of Oregon, the University of the Philippines, and Universidad San Francisco de Quito. These engagements proved highly beneficial to building our global reach and led to firm plans

in 2023 for IKI to visit partners in Taiwan and APRU in Hong Kong, collaborate in a workshop at the University of Hokkaido, and host the 2nd APRU Indigenous Knowledges Workshop at the University of Melbourne.

- **Funding cycle:** IKI fully operationalised our complete biennial cycle of funding schemes. As work started on our Research Themes, we funded our third round of Seed Funding grants, our second rounds of both PhD Research Training Program Scholarships and Indigenous PhD Bursaries, and first rounds of both IKI Fellowships and Community Engagement grants. Overall, IKI allocated \$802,782 to research enabling initiatives through funding schemes and other activities at 1.3 times our total operating expenditure.
- **Applicant quality:** It was clear that the overall standard of funding applications to IKI had risen markedly since 2020. Our Seed Funding grant and IKI Fellowship rounds received more fundable applications than anticipated, warranting the number of Seed Funding grants we allocated to rise from five to seven and compelling us to seek alternative research fellowship opportunities in the Faculty of Science and MGSE for an additional two IKI Fellowship applicants. While three IKI Fellows were appointed as advertised, five exceptional external Indigenous researchers overall were identified and ultimately appointed as research fellows by the University as an outcome of our recruitment process.
- **Faculties guidance:** IKI's funding schemes significantly influenced how Faculties sought to build their own Indigenous knowledge research capabilities. FEIT sought direct IKI involvement in designing and adjudicating its own Indigenous Research Grant, which was modelled after our Seed Funding grants, while the Faculty of Science decided to adopt our approach to recruiting IKI Fellows as a means of attracting its own Indigenous research fellows in 2023.
- **PhD course:** Academic Board approved IKI's new flagship course, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Indigenous Knowledge, after our extensive two-year process of consultation and development across the University. With the flexibility to be undertaken in any Faculty across the University, this distinctive new PhD course will be open for Expressions of Interest in 2023. It has been designed to activate new research into Indigenous knowledge as an explicit interdisciplinary subject area and deepen reciprocal learning with Indigenous communities. While open to applications from all prospective students domestically and internationally, its design has been calibrated to meet the needs of Indigenous PhD students with existing experience of collaborating in research and academia. This new course is a central pillar of the IKI Doctoral Academy, which has been funded by the Agilent Foundation to launch in 2023.

Seed funding

IKI allocated \$139,033 to seven research projects through our annual Seed Funding scheme. Proposals were invited from eligible researchers at the University for innovative interdisciplinary Indigenous knowledge research projects addressing an identified need or gap in this field. Successful projects were selected by an invited panel of expert researchers against five criteria: 1. Advances research in Indigenous knowledges, 2. Commitment to external partnerships, 3. Feasibility and impact, 4. Interdisciplinarity, and 5. Early-career researcher development. The seven grants funded are:

Two-way knowledge sharing for native bee climate adaptation in Arnhem Land

Australian native bees are important pollinators and a long-used source of medicinal products and food by First Nations peoples. However, little is known about how vulnerable Australia's 2,000 native bee species are to extreme weather and climate change. Yolŋu people in Northeast Arnhem Land have a long with native bees. All clans and traditions within the Yolŋu two-moiety system of law are connected to two bee species: *Austroplebeia* which is Dhuwa and *Tetragonula* which is Yirritja. Yolŋu people usually harvest honey from wild nests of these bees, but have been unable to in recent years, noting a lack of bees and certain flowers, possibly due to climate change. This project addresses Western and Indigenous knowledge gaps about climate change adaptation for native bees through research with Yolŋu rangers from the Lajnhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and advance Indigenous knowledge research by co-developing a phenological bee forage calendar with Yolŋu people.

Investigators: Professor Margie Mayfield (CI), Dr Rachele Wilson (RA), Professor Brian Gumbula (RA); Partners: The University of Queensland, Lajnhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation.

Djaara-led, djandak wi (cultural firing practices) for healthy Djandak (Country)

In Southeast Australia, improved fire governance is urgently required to manage the detrimental effects to people and ecosystems of catastrophic fire resulting from the settler fire governance systems. Dominant approaches to understanding the impacts and outcomes of fire management are based in either Western scientific ecological or asset

protection terms, and do not generally account for the full value and contribution of Indigenous ‘cultural firing’ and governance. Indigenous peoples have processes for accounting for cultural firing practices can improve and transform current fire governance arrangements as well as address their own goals for community and country. This project aims to develop criteria, indicators and methods to account for the contributions and effectiveness of Indigenous-led firing practices in Dja Dja Wurrung Country in Victoria, Australia. Similar to much of Southeast Australia, cultural firing practices (*djandak wi*) in Djandak (Dja Dja Wurrung Country) have become more limited since colonisation. Evidence of the contribution and effectiveness of cultural fire for healthy Country (Djandak) will support Djaara in self-determination and sustainable management of Djandak (Country).

Investigators: Dr Margaret Ayre (CI), Dr Stephanie Lavau (CI), Ms Ella Plumanns Pouton (RA), Ms Freya James (PI), Ms Levi Jessen-Fennell (PI), Mr Rodney Carter (PI), Dr Nathan Wong (PI); Partner: Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

MGSE and Laynhapuy Homelands School: A critical friendship approach to documenting Yolŋu pedagogy

This project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between MGSE and the Faculty of Science with Laynhapuy Homelands School in Northeast Arnhem Land. Keeping kids on country to complete their secondary schooling needs to be a valid option for the many Yolŋu families living across the nine homelands of the Laynhapuy region. Secondary schooling in these homelands has declined since the opening of a boarding facility in Nhulunbuy in 2015. However, many Yolŋu families have long called for a valid choice for their children to complete a quality secondary education on country. The newly named Makarrata program at Laynhapuy Homelands School allows students from surrounding homelands to attend school during the week to gain an education. The project will: 1. support Laynhapuy Homelands School to document and collate existing strengths in pedagogy and curriculum into research-informed and culturally responsive policies and frameworks through a critical friendship approach, 2. help articulate what Yolŋu pedagogy means in the context of learning on country and contribute to the sustainability of current practices at Laynhapuy Homelands School, and 3. Provide an evidence base that has the potential to support the homelands education movement in other Australian contexts.

Investigators: Dr Jeana Kriewaldt (CI), Dr Margaret Ayre (RA), Ms Bern Murphy (RA), Ms Haidee Dentith (PI), Ms Abi White (PI), Ms Sophie Grambeau (PI), Ms Stephanie Valcanis (PI); Partners: Laynhapuy Homeland School, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation.

Kupungarri on country printmaking project

This project focuses on how remote women develop their art careers and develop new skills to further their careers. It attends to the transmission of intergenerational Indigenous knowledge through artmaking and learning through developing printmaking skills in the remote community of Kupungarri, Western Australia. It will address needs in the field by supporting remote women’s opportunities to advance cultural knowledge in the areas of artmaking, particularly in printmaking. There are few, if any, opportunities for learning new art skills like printmaking without leaving the local area and going to the Art Centre at Mowanjum or further afield. For young women, practicing and producing art could be an income-generating opportunity, as well as a way to research, build and maintain Indigenous knowledge. An ecosystem approach to the health and sustainability of Indigenous material arts practices in Australia is urgently needed. Indigenous arts practices across Australia are classed and recognised on international scales as critically endangered.

Investigators: Dr Megan McPherson (CI), Mr Tiriki Onus (CI), Associate Professor Sally Treloyn (CI), Ms Rona Charles (PI), Ms Mary Lou Divilli (PI); Partners: Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre, Australian Print Workshop Inc.

Yolŋu team teacher exchange program with Yirrkala School

This project will support existing strategies of Yolŋu teacher education at Yirrkala School. As a bilingual school, classroom teachers at Yirrkala School work in tandem with Yolŋu team teachers speaking Yolŋu-matha. Yolŋu team teachers also support emotional wellbeing strategies, behavioural concerns, and classroom engagement. The school is based in both-ways learning that recognises the relevance of both Western and Yolŋu ontologies to Yolŋu pedagogy. Professional development is often targeted at non-Indigenous teachers who may only stay in the community for a short period of time. Yolŋu team teachers, on the other hand, are a part of the school community and remain for many years. Building their local capacity will therefore have longer-term outcomes for the community.

Investigators: Associate Professor Melitta Hogarth (CI), Ms Bern Murphy (RA), Dr Annie Gowing (RA), Ms Anne Farrelly (RA), Ms Katrina Hudson (PI), Ms Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs (PI), Ms Yalmay Marika-Yunupingu (PI), Dr Kristen Smith (RA); Partners: Yirrkala School, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation.

Revival and cultural renewal of Gunditjmara seasonal knowledge

The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is a dynamic living place of deep learning. In 2019, Budj Bim was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List and was the first-ever Australian place nominated solely for its Aboriginal cultural values. The Gunditjmara have a profound connection to country, and the interrelationship between people and place is expressed in their philosophy of Ngootyoong Gunditj, Ngootyoong Mara (Healthy Country, Healthy People), which is enacted through the integration of traditional knowledge associated with the six seasons identified by the Gunditjmara. However, while the Gunditjmara seasons have been identified, only a limited number of seasonal events have been mapped, with little elaboration of the dynamic interconnections between physical cultural phenomena. This project will support the Gunditjmara people in their aspirations to revive and renew traditional seasonal knowledge of country. The team will work to elaborate the seasonal calendar, so it reflects the complexity of the seasons and the rich cultural interrelationships between people and places. It will also enable and empower greater community participation in biodiversity information management and evaluation through the development of new tools and protocols.

Investigators: Associate Professor Juliana Prpic (CI), Ms Denise Lovett (PI), Dr Greg Wadley (CI), Dr Lisa Godinho (CI); Partner: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Sustaining relations between Makassans and Yolju: Remembering trade and kinship

This project brings together scholars who are experts in both Indigenous Australian and Indonesian culture, including senior Indigenous ceremonial leaders from both regions, to better understand cultural and trade relations between Yolju and Makassan communities from the 1700s until the early 20th century. It will focus on this trade relationship as it was understood by Yolju and Makassans at the time by recording and analysing Yolju manikay (song) series relating to Makassan contact and examining collections held by museums and at heritage sites around Makassar. The team will explore modern recollections of Yolju–Makassan trade through interviews conducted in both Arnhem Land and Makassar. They will also conduct workshops in Makassar with staff and students from Universitas Hasanuddin and local Makassan cultural leaders to share and exchange findings. Investigating how this trade was seen and received by both Makassan and Yolju populations will inform a better understanding for this historical trade and its significance to Australia–Indonesia relations into the future.

Investigators: Dr Anthea Skinner (CI), Professor Brian Gumbula (CI), Associate Professor Lisa Palmer (CI), Professor Marcia Langton (CI), Mr James Pilbrow (RA), Mr Joseph Brady (PI), Dr Muhlis Hadrawi (PI); Partners: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre, Universitas Hasanuddin.

Research themes

Commencing in 2022, IKI has committed \$400,000 across three research programs through its biennial Research Themes scheme. All three programs are led by Indigenous investigators. These innovative interdisciplinary research programs were devised in response to four identified priority areas — Country, Law, Culture and Futures — against five criteria: 1. Indigenous knowledge research advancement, 2. Commitment to external partnerships, 3. Interdisciplinarity and approach, 4. Impact and researcher development, 5. feasibility and budget. The three Themes funded are:

Healthy Country

Led by Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher in the Faculty of Science, this theme is providing a qualitative and quantitative understanding of what constitutes 'Healthy Country', develop appropriate benchmarks and metrics to measure the efficacy of management approaches, and facilitate/contribute to the development and implementation of cultural mapping and Healthy Country management plans. It is working to empower Indigenous people to influence and govern decisions that shape their country. The multi-scalar focus of this project will result in emergence and elucidation of what constitutes 'Healthy Country' at scales ranging from local landscapes to intra-community regional ones.

Investigators: Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher (Theme Leader), Ms Maddison Miller (Deputy Theme Leader), Dr Joe Greet (CI), Dr Andrea Rawluk (CI), Professor Rodney Keenan (CI), Dr Cathy Oke (CI), Dr Jack Pascoe (PI), Mr Matt Shanks (PI), Mr John Clarke (PI), Mr Daniel Miller (PI), Uncle Dave Wandin (PI), Mr David Roberts (PI); Partners: Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Corporation, Conservation Ecology Centre, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Culture & Heritage

Led by Professor Barry Judd in the Faculty of Arts), this theme is providing mechanisms to support and grow Indigenous knowledge, so it can be applied in contemporary Australia and beyond in the critical areas of culture, land, and heritage. It is further investigating how this knowledge can be adapted with the guidance of Indigenous knowledge holders to meet social, environmental, and economic challenges of global significance.

Investigators: Professor Barry Judd (Theme Leader), Associate Professor Lisa Palmer (Deputy Theme Leader), Professor Rachel Nordlinger (CI), Professor Rachel Popelka-Filcoff (CI), Ms Jennifer Ganske (PI), Ms Lynette Ross (PI), Mr Joe Morrison (PI), Ms Stephanie Rogers (PI), Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão (PI); Partners: NBN Co, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Boon Wurrung Foundation, Indigenous Business Australia, Alola Foundation.

Health & Justice

Led by Associate Professor Shawana Andrews in the Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and Dr Eddie Cubillo in the Melbourne Law School, this theme is examining the intersection of the health and justice systems to articulate how Indigenous knowledges are recasting deficit-based, siloed health and justice practice models and championing innovative approaches and outcomes. This research is building an evidence-based foundation for the work occurring in and through Indigenous organisations. Drawing from initiatives in the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector and the Yoo-rook Commission, it will show how Indigenous knowledges inform the development of strengths-based and future-oriented health justice practice models for the benefit of Indigenous people and the broader Australian community.

Investigators: Dr Eddie Cubillo (Theme Co-leader), Associate Professor Shawana Andrews (Theme Co-leader), Ms Odette Mazel (CI), Mr Warwick Padgham (CI), Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine (PI); Partners: Health Justice Australia.

IKI fellowships

IKI allocated \$165,000 to three IKI Fellows and their research projects through our biennial IKI Fellowship scheme. Three Indigenous Professors were appointed with UAPC approval and commenced through this process. These positions offer a unique opportunity for Australian Indigenous knowledge holders to be supported as IKI Fellows to lead a two-year research project. Applicants to this scheme were asked to address their cultural backgrounds, leadership responsibilities, research interests, proposed research projects, and anticipated project benefits and outcomes in response to four identified priority areas: Country, Law, Culture, and Futures. Successful applicants were selected by an invited panel of expert researchers against these criteria. The three fellowships funded are:

Professor Diane Kerr OAM: Realising the impact on treating infections through First Nations healing and medicine

This project considers knowledge and approaches concerning infection management and antibiotics in First Nations medicine and healing in Victoria. It will facilitate new exchanges among First Nations people regarding medicine and healing, examine the possible benefits for First Nations people of antimicrobial stewardship, and scope the potential accessibility of First Nations antimicrobial treatments in Victoria's current health services.

Professor Brian Gumbula: Singing the Gupapuyngu legacy back into our collections

This project examines links between the Yolngu manikay tradition of song and dance and Gupapuyngu holdings within the Donald Thomson Collection and related collections at the University of Melbourne. It will raise broader and deeper awareness of manikay's centrality to making and understanding Yolngu material culture, and work towards building new strategies for Yolngu cultural survival into the future by expanding the vocabulary of Gupapuyngu creative expression and artistic practice in ways that are accessible to our heirs in the future. The fellowship and project are co-funded by University Museums & Collections.

Professor Wanta Pawu: Cooking the kangaroo: Discovering responsibility and identity through songlines

This research explores narratives and artwork related to cooking the kangaroo, as found across Australia, that substantiate a focus on songlines as a way of exploring connections between diverse people and places. It utilises traditional Indigenous methods of intellectual enquiry to examine narrative connections between diverse Indigenous groups, especially where engagements with such songlines are declining. These connections will be enlivened through

performance and curatorial events in select communities, allowing critical reflection on songlines as a strategy for shaping shared identities and mutual responsibility between diverse peoples in Australia.

Community engagement grants

IKI allocated \$12,000 to four research projects through our new Community engagement scheme. Proposals were invited from eligible researchers at the University for innovative interdisciplinary Indigenous knowledge research projects addressing an identified need or gap in this field. Successful projects were selected by an invited panel of expert researchers against three criteria: 1. Indigenous knowledge research advancement, 2. Commitment to partnership, and 3. Interdisciplinarity and approach. The four grants funded are:

Connections on country: Working together to understand and protect Adnyamathanha rock art in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges

In Glass Gorge in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges, a series of rock etchings are present in the Wockera Wirra Limestone. The age of the etchings is unknown. The project team has been asked by the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) to investigate these rock etchings to understand their age and assess their vulnerability to geomorphic and climatic risks. The team will co-design a research program with ATLA that aligns with the objectives of the community and the corporation, including advancing Indigenous knowledge and informing risk mitigation strategies that may serve to inform healthy Country management plans.

Investigators: Dr Helen Green (CI), Professor Mark Quigley (CI), Dr Alissa Flatley (CI), Mr Kristian Coulthard (PI); Partner: Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association.

Indigenous voices in the collection and sharing of ecological data

Transparent collection and sharing of data are becoming the standard for best practice in ecological research worldwide. However, these processes are based on Western scientific practices and rarely include Indigenous peoples and knowledge systems. Marine ecological research is no exception, with limited progress in integrating different knowledge systems. Vast amounts of data collected from marine and coastal systems are already publicly available through online databases such as Estuary Watch and the Integrated Marine Observing System. However, it is uncertain if this information is useful or of interest to the Indigenous communities and Traditional Custodians of the land and sea country where the data is collected. The project team will begin conversations with Indigenous communities in the places where they undertake fieldwork and marine research. The team will discuss this problem and explore ways to gather and share ecological data that is respectful and of interest and benefit to communities.

Investigators: Dr Allyson O'Brien (CI), Dr Rebecca Hull (RA), Dr Elisa Bone (RA); Partner: Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Aboriginal rock art: Connecting country and community

The Engineering and Information Technology Cultural Collection holds a significant collection of photographs of Aboriginal rock art sites taken in the 1970s and 1980s. The photographs document the conditions of the rock art sites and are an important archive, as rock art is subject to constant deterioration and sometimes major destruction. This project will first identify the Traditional Owners of these images. The team will then work with them to enable access and respond to their priorities for these images, which may include digitisation, interpretation, documentation, and/or repatriation.

Investigators: Associate Professor Martin Tomko (CI), Dr Richard Gillespie (CI), Associate Professor Kourosh Khoshelham (CI), Dr Brian Armstrong (RA); Partners: Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, Western Yalanji Corporation, Jarramali Rock Art.

Reviving Dhudhuroa language for language teaching in schools and kindergartens

The Dhudhuroa language is taught across a number of schools and kindergartens in Northeast Victoria. The language is being spoken, taught and developed based on archival resources. However, there is little support for teachers to access and use these linguistic resources to their fullest extent. This provides a great opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration between educators and linguists. This project will support the goals of language educators and enable the Dhudhuroa language to be revived further through linguistic analysis and community consultation.

Investigator: Dr William Forshaw (CI); Partners: Dhudhuroa Waywurru Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Dhudhuroa Language Teacher Network

PhD student support

IKI awarded its second annual round of Indigenous PhD Bursaries and PhD RTP Scholarships in 2022 to Ms Darcy Wallis and Ms Erin Matthews respectively. Overall, three students were supported by Indigenous PhD Bursaries in addition to their guaranteed Indigenous PhD scholarships. They were:

Ms Darcy Wallis

Topic: 'Queer mob in the archives: Factors for Aboriginal LGBTIQ+ wellbeing' (Faculty of Arts).

Mr Josh Cubillo

Topic: 'Learning on Country pedagogy in Narrm' (Melbourne Graduate School of Education).

Ms Caroline Williams

Topic: 'Who is responsible for my health? A study of complementary medicine, traditional Aboriginal remedies, and other holistic natural therapy use in modern-day healing' (Melbourne School of Population and Global Health).

PhD students who received RTP Scholarships from the Institute were:

Ms Erin Matthews

Topic: 'Come back to country: The return of native title and research materials to the Pama of Lockhart River' (School of Culture and Communication).

Ms Claire Dixon

Topic: 'Embedding Indigenous knowledge in engineering education to drive sustainable engineering practices' (School of Electrical, Mechanical and Infrastructure Engineering).

Ms Sarah Stoller

Topic: 'Perceiving Indigenous values in collaborative policy design' (School of Social and Political Sciences).

Doctoral academy

Academic Board approved IKI's new flagship course, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Indigenous Knowledge, after our extensive two-year process of consultation and development across the University. With the flexibility to be undertaken in any Faculty across the University, this new distinctive PhD course will be open for Expressions of Interest in 2023. It has been designed to activate new research into Indigenous knowledge as an explicit interdisciplinary subject area and deepen reciprocal learning with Indigenous communities. While open to applications from all prospective students domestically and internationally, its design has been calibrated to meet the needs of Indigenous PhD students with existing experience of collaborating in research and academia. This new course is a central pillar of the IKI Doctoral Academy, which has been funded by the Agilent Foundation to launch in 2023.



Kirsten Hausia, Margot Eden, Brittany Carter, Kirsten Clark, Professor Adrian Little, Dr Cameo Dalley, Professor Michael Wesley and Professor Aaron Corn at the 1st Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Indigenous Knowledges Workshop in Mexico.

Where to next?

2022 was an extraordinary year of activity, achievement and growth, following the worst of pandemic restrictions, that saw the University's key investment in IKI deliver outstanding returns. Our successes in 2022 leave us well placed to advance IKI's activities and impacts in 2023 and beyond. The IKI's immediate goals heading into 2023 are to:

- maintain our core research contingent and grow our Community of Practice,
- scope how to broaden funding and co-funding opportunities for the IKI Fellowships scheme,
- bid for tenders through NIAA Panel of Indigenous Evaluation and Research Services as appropriate,
- deliver information sessions for Indigenous applicants to ARC funding schemes and apply for ARC grants as appropriate,
- complete and release key research publications,
- collaborate with external partners to expand the scope and reach of our public events,
- build our numbers of newsletter subscribers and YouTube viewers,
- refresh the IKI website,
- advise internal partners on research and related policy matters through University committees, working groups and communities of practice as required,
- host and attend more meetings and events with international partners in person,
- review our biennial cycle of funding schemes and refresh them as required,
- continue working across the University to improve Indigenous knowledge research quality and capabilities across all Faculties,
- recruit students into the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Indigenous Knowledge and deliver the IKI Doctoral Academy program,
- plan and prepare for IKI's Establishment Phase review in 2024.

Financial statement

Total Income	\$1,200,000
Core University Funding	\$1,200,000
Total expenditure	\$1,404,683
<i>Operating expenditure</i>	\$601,901
Directorate salaries	\$485,345
Admin	\$2,580
Events and communications	\$113,976
<i>Research enabling expenditure</i>	\$802,782
Research enabling salaries	\$262, 088
PhD Scholarships	\$15,000
Seed funding and partner development	\$525, 694
Net surplus/deficit	- \$204,683



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Cover image: Installation photography of Ancestral Memory exhibition, Old Quad, 2019. Photograph: Christian Capurro. Image © the artists.