

Graduation Ceremony

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 2026
Desert Peoples Centre Campus



**Batchelor
Institute**



Notice to Readers/Viewers

This publication may contain the name of a recently deceased person which is indicated with a † symbol. It is at the reader's discretion to continue or discontinue viewing this publication.

ABORIGINAL FLAG

Designed by Harold Thomas

Black represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.
Red is the ochre colour of the earth and a spiritual relation to the land.
Yellow represents the sun, the giver of life and protector.

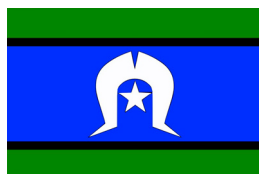


<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/aboriginal-flag>

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAG

Designed by Bernard Namok

The two green lines represent the mainlands of Australia and Papua New Guinea.
The blue between these two continents is the blue of the Torres Strait Island waters.
The black links represent the people of the Torres Strait.
White represents peace.



<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/torres-strait-islander-flag>

Order of proceedings

Graduation Ceremony Commencing 10am

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ms Angela Pwerle Ross

ARRIVAL OF ACADEMIC AND GRADUAND PROCESSION

MINUTE SILENCE

In honour of our elders, staff and students who have passed

ADDRESS BY CHAIR

Ms Bess Price

WELCOME BY CEO

Ms Renee Long

CONFERRAL OF AWARDS

Higher Education and Research
Dean, Higher Education and Research, Professor Curtis Roman

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Dr Lexine Bronwyn Solomon

Vocational Education and Training
Acting Director, VET Business Operations, Karen Nicholas

SCHOLARSHIPS

Beryl Price RTP Top-Up Scholarship

STUDENT RESPONSE

CLOSE OF CEREMONY AND DEPARTURE OF ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Cover artwork by Takoda Johnson, reproduced courtesy and © the artist

The graduation ceremony

Traditionally, universities and other tertiary institutions hold graduation ceremonies to formally confer awards on students who have successfully completed a program of study.

At Batchelor Institute, graduation ceremonies combine European traditions with the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, graphically demonstrating the Both-ways philosophy of Batchelor Institute.

Among the most obvious elements derived from the European tradition of academic graduation is the distinctive academic dress worn by graduating students and others entitled to do so because of their position within the Institute or their academic qualifications.

The gowns, hoods and stoles worn by many of those at the ceremony have their origins in patterns which have changed little since the Middle Ages. Traditionally, the design, colour and decoration of each have come to indicate the status of its wearer by denoting the academic level achieved. The guide to academic dress that is located in the back of this booklet will provide you with more details.

Integral to the ceremony are elements that reflect the traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from which students come. In particular, graduating students are encouraged to combine traditional decorations and regalia of their culture with their academic dress, emphasising the Both-ways significance of the occasion.

Dance also forms a part of the overall ceremony, including its opening and closing moments when the academic procession arrives and departs. In addition, individual students are often 'danced up' to receive their awards by family and community members.

Even when students are not accompanied by dancers, they are often escorted to receive their awards by family members, reflecting recognition of the shared and collective importance of each student's achievements.

PLEASE NOTE:

A large number of students whose names appear in this program will, by choice, receive their awards either in absentia, at the DPC Campus graduation ceremony in Alice Springs, or at community celebrations held later in the year.

Message from the CEO

Today is a day to celebrate how far you have come.

This achievement reflects your hard work, determination, and commitment, as well as the encouragement of the families, communities, Elders, educators, and supporters who have walked alongside you.

As graduates you bring unique strengths into every space you enter. You carry the knowledge of the world's oldest living cultures, connections to Country, and perspectives that enrich workplaces, communities, and society.

Your graduation is more than a personal milestone. It is part of a wider story of resilience, opportunity, and progress. Every step you take helps create pathways for future generations and contributes to stronger communities.

As you move forward, stay connected to your culture, values, and the people who support you. Be proud of who you are, confident in what you have achieved, and inspired by the opportunities ahead.

Congratulations on your graduation. Walk forward with pride, purpose, and the strength of your community behind you.

Ms Renee Long
Chief Executive Officer

Conferral of awards

The following awards are conferred by the Council of Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education upon students who have completed an accredited course of study.

Higher Education and Research

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Lexine Bronwyn Solomon

Shepparton

Vocational Education and Training

DIPLOMA OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Amal Amer Hanafy Ahmed
Sarah McIntosh
Mikayla Rumpff

Haasts Bluff
Stuart
Larapinta

CERTIFICATE IV IN ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PRACTICE

Deslyn Lee Dodd
Janet Ann Forrester

Port Augusta
Araluen

CERTIFICATE IV IN SCHOOL BASED EDUCATION SUPPORT

Jodie Bailey
Leanne Robyn Bull
Byanka Hayward
Carly Ross
Jodie Marie Scholz
Jian Tian
Qiang Xiong

Alice Springs
Sadadeen
The Gap
The Gap
Mount Johns
Sadadeen
Sadadeen

CERTIFICATE IV IN TEACHING AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATION'S LANGUAGE

Pamela Maria Lynch
Veronica Lynch

Alice Springs
Alice Springs

CERTIFICATE III IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Shalaylee Coombes

Alice Springs

CERTIFICATE III IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Micaela Arancibia
Giuliana Maria Cattaneo
Jonica Dhurrkay
Pelenatita Tatila Finau
Ashanti Garrawurra
Helen Harbour
Shelly Hunt
Manpreet Kaur
Prabhdeep Kaur
Bettina Brittany Lee Kenny
Kristine Kolacz
Nou Viva Irene Taii Milford
Felistus Mutanga
Shiwani Sanjini Nair
Esther Owens
Annisa Phiri
Lily Santoso
Valentina Seri
Ni Komang Setiyani
Yu Wang
Nadeen Williams
Mia Matilda Wiltshire

Alice Springs
Alice Springs
Galiwinku
Alice Springs
Galiwinku
Kaltukatjara
Galiwinku
The Gap
Alice Springs
Elliott
Gillen
Tennant Creek
Mount Liebig
Larapinta
Alice Springs
Larapinta
The Gap
Alice Springs
The Gap
Alice Springs
Wallace Rockhole
Yulara

CERTIFICATE III IN LEARNING AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATION'S LANGUAGE

Charlotte Flowers
Renee Gorey
Jane Marie Oliver
Nalita Palmer
Thecla Palmer
Catherine Wallace
Ernestine Williams

Santa Teresa
Alice Springs
Santa Teresa
Santa Teresa
Santa Teresa
Santa Teresa
Santa Teresa

CERTIFICATE II IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Justice Davison
Jared Ebatarinja
Kieran Malbunka
Shivani Sharpe

Gunbalanya
Hermannsburg
Hermannsburg
Hermannsburg

CERTIFICATE II IN CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Joseph Brown

Alparra

CERTIFICATE II IN VISUAL ARTS

Monica Ellis

Amoonguna

CERTIFICATE II IN CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Maitland Campbell

Mikaylah Deemal

Colleeta Drover

Shayley Elston

Greg Jimmy-Minniecon

Kirsten Jugadai

Maya Marriott

Alice Springs

Alice Springs

Alice Springs

Papunya

Alice Springs

Alice Springs

Alice Springs

Scholarships

Each year, the Batchelor Institute Scholarships Committee awards scholarships in recognition of students' outstanding achievements and/or to ensure students are encouraged to further their educational aspirations in their field of study.

Batchelor Institute takes this opportunity to proudly congratulate the award recipients.

BERYL PRICE RTP TOP-UP SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients: Patricia Torres and Margeret Friel

The Beryl Price RTP Top-Up Scholarship is intended to attract and support an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander woman into the Batchelor PhD program by offering a top-up scholarship over three years to a full time female candidate who has experienced a sustained break from study. This scholarship takes into account the financial hardship for many aspiring Indigenous researchers. The top-up scholarship will go a long way toward attracting and sustaining a mature aged candidate through the lengthy research journey. This scholarship awards \$10,000 per annum for up to 3 years.

Candidate Response

Dr Lexine Bronwyn Solomon

Lexine Solomon is a Torres Strait Islander woman from North Queensland, a distinguished singer, songwriter, performer and researcher whose creative practice spans more than 30 years. As the eldest of seven children, her work is deeply informed by family, cultural identity, belonging, history and the enduring legacy of her parents.

In 2002, Lexine released her debut album, *This is Woman*, creating a body of music that explored family connection, cultural knowledge, identity and the importance of women in sustaining stories across generations. Lexine has since released three albums: *This is Woman* (2002), *Strike a Pose* (2006), and supporting the exegesis 'Nough for Zura' (2026).

Following more than two decades of engagement in music research and identity, Lexine completed her Doctor of Philosophy in 2026. Her thesis, 'Nough for Zura': Cooking, Singing, Believing Matriarchal Narratives and the Making of Melanesian Identity Through Musical Exposition, extends her creative and scholarly practice, examining the role of music, matriarchal narratives and cultural knowledge in the making and expression of Melanesian identity.

An accomplished international performer, Lexine has presented her work across Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, Vanuatu and Europe. Her career includes performances at major cultural and community events, including the 23rd World Youth Day in Sydney, The Dreaming Festival, Survival Day, Sorry Day and Apology Day events, NAIDOC celebrations, and the Centenary of Canberra.

Through her music, research and performance, Lexine continues to honour the central role of women in cultural continuity, identity, history and storytelling. Her PhD represents a significant contribution to the intersection of creative practice, cultural knowledge and Melanesian identity.

Proud past learners



family through the sharing of stories and updates.

Gathering: Networking with fellow graduates and staff to open new doors and help guide those who are just beginning their walk.

Inspiring: Showing our current learners that they can hold fast to their identities while reaching the highest levels of their chosen profession.

At Batchelor Institute, graduation is not just a finish line; it is the moment you join a continuum of knowledge that has flowed for over 50 years.

Like the deep roots of the Ironwood that anchor it to this red earth, our Proud Past Learners stand firm in their identity while branching out into successful careers across Australia and internationally.

You are the living proof of “Both-Ways” learning. Your journey shows that when we walk in two worlds, we carry the fire of our identity into every room and workplace. Whether you are providing healing and wellbeing in health, teaching in schools, undertaking research or creating in the arts, your footprints create a clear track for the next generation to follow.

The Proud Past Learners Alumni Program is the woven thread that holds our community together. It is a space for:

Yarning: Staying connected to the Batchelor

Your story is a vital part of our tapestry.

By joining the Proud Past Learners, you strengthen the connection between those who came before and light the way for the leaders yet to rise.

Once a Batchelor learner, always a Batchelor leader.

Staying connected

Scan the QR code opposite or visit the website link below to enrol in our Proud Past Learners alumni program where you can stay connected through:

Mentorships—Guide the next generation;

Elder advisory—Bring your knowledge home;

Alumni gatherings—Come back to Country;

Scholarships—Give what was given to you

Link to enrolment form: <https://forms.office.com/r/9z8c4ErT2T?origin=lpLink>

PROUD PAST LEARNERS' ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Michelle Booth, the winner of our Proud Past Learners' Art Competition for a work that moved our judges deeply and which speaks with a powerful, distinct voice. Michelle's painting has been adapted for the Proud Past Learners logo design (opposite).

Michelle is a proud Butchulla/Wakka Wakka woman from K'gari and Cherbourg. She is both a student and staff member of Batchelor Institute. She is currently completing the Certificate IV in Business with Batchelor Institute, while also employed within the Student & Residential Services team as a Residential Officer.

Artwork-logo story

The bottom of the painting represents the beginning of the journey. The footprints symbolise all students' past, present and future walking their own paths. It can also represent that Batchelor sees all walks of life coming to study.

The river shows the pathway to success guiding students along their journey.

On the left side of the image is a meeting place circle representing learning on Country and the symbol below reflects male identity and presence.

On the right side is another meeting place circle representing learning at Batchelor Institute with the symbol above reflecting female identity.

The top section represents success and happiness for all students' past, present and future.

The mounds symbolise emerging graduates reaching toward success not only for their families and communities but most importantly for themselves.

Finally, the light of the sun represents hope, brightness and a strong future ahead.



About the Master of Ceremonies

Angela Pwerle Ross

Kaytetye, Arrernte, Alyawarr

A highly accomplished and respected Aboriginal leader and educator, with over 30 years' experience leading system-level reform and delivering strategic programs across education, health, and community sectors to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. A proud Kaytetye/Alyawerre/Eastern Arrernte woman from Mparntwe (Alice Springs), who brings both lived and professional expertise in navigating the complex interface between government systems and Aboriginal communities. Her leadership is grounded in cultural authority, strong community relationships, and a deep commitment to self-determination and equity. Having held senior and executive leadership roles across Australia, leading large multidisciplinary teams, complex portfolios, and high-impact initiatives focused on workforce development, population health, and education reform. She has successfully delivered programs at regional and state-wide levels, with responsibility for strategic planning, governance, financial oversight, and stakeholder engagement across government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and community.

She is recognised for her ability to influence and work effectively across sectors, engaging with senior government leaders, principals, and community stakeholders to drive sustainable change. She brings a strong track record in strengthening Aboriginal workforce capability, improving service delivery systems, and embedding culturally responsive approaches that lead to measurable outcomes.

She holds a Master of Education, and three specialised Graduate Certificates in Indigenous Education, Autism in Education, and Business in Public Service Management from the Queensland University of Technology; also a Bachelor of Education from the University of South Australia, and Highly Accomplished Teacher (HALT) status from the Board of Studies NT. She is committed to continued executive leadership development in Indigenous education for self-determination.

Guide to academic dress

The predominant black red and gold colours of academic dress mirror the colours of the Aboriginal flag, and the logo in these colours that adorns stoles and gowns is a design that represents four people sitting around a campfire telling stories to each other.

VET GRADUAND DRESS

A plain gold gown and a stole covered in ochre satin with one white logo.

HIGHER EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATE DRESS

A plain gold gown and a black hood lined in red satin.

POSTGRADUATE DRESS

Doctoral graduands can be distinguished by their red gown, gold satin yoke and red tudor bonnet. Since 2025 an Alternative Doctoral gown exists in the colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag. Masters graduands have a gold hood lined with maroon, and a black trencher with black, red and yellow tassels.

MILITARY MEDALS

Medals, both military or civilian, may be worn by both students and staff, however, must be worn on the garment/uniform under the Academic Regalia. Medals are not to be affixed to the Academic Regalia.

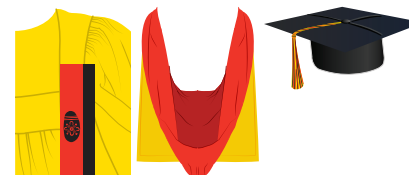
CERTIFICATE I - ADVANCED DIPLOMA



BACHELOR



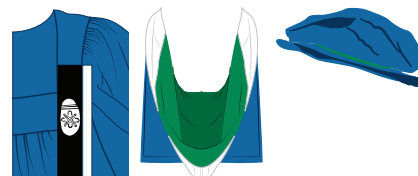
MASTERS BY RESEARCH



DOCTORATE - CLASSIC



DOCTORATE - ALTERNATIVE



HONORARY DOCTORATE





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