

Network of Indigenous Partnerships

Member Profiles

Cat Kutay

Member and Chair



Cat Kutay is descended from the saltwater people of northern NSW (Bundjalung/Yugambeh or New Caledonian) and Celtic seafarers. Cat has worked in remote Aboriginal communities for many years as an engineer. She started her work in the Northern Territory in the 1990's training at the Centre for Appropriate Technology in the Aboriginal Technical Worker Program. She returned to Sydney to continue her studies to become a software developer and now develops resources for learning Aboriginal languages and knowledge online.

Cat is currently an IT lecturer in the College and does research in integrating First Peoples Knowledge into the curriculum and as community stories online.

Cat hopes this network will provide support for students, staff and alumni who are interested in advancing our communities in the technical area and provide a way we can develop relationships between community, technology and professionals to develop innovations in this space.

Danielle Choveaux

Member and Secretary

Danielle Choveaux is an Executive Assistant to the CEITE (College of Engineering, IT & Environment) Dean and provides secretariat to the Network.

Danielle is a descendant from the Garawa/Yanyuwa people in the Gulf of Carpentaria from her mother's side. Danielle spent her younger years in Burketown and other places in QLD before moving to the NT. Danielle started working at CDU in 2010 in various areas and has been with the College since its inception in 2018 and has helped in establishing the first College Indigenous Network.

John Hoskins

Member



John Hoskins was born and raised in Darwin. John is studying a Certificate IV in Computer Systems and expected to finish mid next year and hopes to commence the Diploma of Information Technology.

Taimur Rind (Tam)

Member

Tam Rind is a part time external student enrolled in XENG – Associate Degree of Network Engineering. Tam resides in Paraburdoo WA (a small mining town in the Pilbara), and is a Badimiya Yamtji man from Mount Magnet WA, however Tam grew up in Perth and spent most of his childhood and now adulthood in the Pilbara.

Tam's mother's side is Yamitji (descendants of Afghan Cameleer) and his father's side is Baloch Afghan, this proud mix keeps me grounded in my identity.

Tam has always had a keen interest in high performance engines & practical insight, this interest is what inspired him to undertake an apprenticeship with Qantas as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer gaining his Cert IV in Aero skills and also achieving a Postgrad Certificate in Aviation Management with UNSW at the same time.

For the past 9 years Tam has been working with Rio Tinto in the technology space as Mining Systems Technician and now in a leadership position and has aligned his tertiary studies to suit the field of his employment – Network Engineering.

Tam's goal is to engage with ATSI and support in the STEM professional space.

Deirdre Lechleitner

Member



Deirdre Lechleitner is originally from Central Australia (Alice Springs) and currently living in Katherine NT.

Previously employed with Wurli Wurlijang Health service as an IT system support officer, predominately most of Deirdre's work experience is within Aboriginal Medical Services.

Deirdre recently enrolled in the undergraduate certificate of (Information Technology). Deirdre is passionate about exploring Information Technology and adapting her knowledge and experience in innovation technology for the community and therefore have interest in completing a Bachelor in IT.

Cynthia Coyne

Member



Cynthia Coyne is currently writing her thesis for the Master of Environmental Management Program with Charles Darwin University which she is completing. Cynthia is a local Darwin Aboriginal woman with cultural and kinship connections to the Yawuru-Djukun people of Broome, and Jaru people of East Kimberley. Cynthia has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology), Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) and Bachelor of Environmental Science (Natural, Cultural Resource Management) through Charles Darwin University. Cynthia's recent employment experiences include working as a research associate placement (CDU), graduate environmental scientist (GHD) Indigenous women project coordinator (KLC) and land management coordinator (NLC). Cynthia is keen to increase her knowledge about Northern Australian Indigenous enterprise development and the economics of ecosystem service delivery by Indigenous Australians.

Paul Williams

Member



Paul is Lecturer/Workplace Assessor with Maritime in the VET Automotive, Transport and Civil Team. He is a descendant from the Bundjalung/Yugambah people of Northern New South Wales right on the Queensland/NSW border. Paul has a long family history in fisheries and boating.

In the early 90s Paul move to the Northern Territory (Tenant Creek) to work with the federal Department of Employment, Education and Training, looking after Indigenous apprenticeships as a Senior Employment and Training Officer. Paul then moved to Darwin to get close to the sea and his love of fishing and boats while continuing his work in education and employment. After a three-year stint at Fisheries as technical officer, Paul joined CDU in 2011.

Paul has a passion for Indigenous learning and recognises Indigenous students' ability with technology; as such, would like to increase the use of technology on training delivery. Paul would like to tap into the expertise and diversity of the Network to look at ways to also improve remote teaching outcomes.

Kamaljit Sangha

Member



Dr Kamaljit K. Sangha has gained skills and knowledge in a trans-disciplinary field of Ecological Economics over the last 20 years since her Master of Science (MSc) from Panjab University, Chandigarh, India. In 1999, she moved to Australia and completed her PhD from Central Queensland University, Rockhampton on “*Evaluation of the effects of tree clearing over time on soil capability, pasture composition and productivity*”. After finishing PhD in 2003, she worked as a Natural Resource Economist and subsequently as a Lecturer, teaching subjects on Ecological Economics, Agro-ecology, Indigenous Ecology and Culture at James Cook University (from 2004-2010), Queensland. Over the past 15 years, she has been extensively working with the Indigenous communities across northern Australia, especially on linking ecosystem services from rainforest and savanna ecosystems with the well-being of remote communities. This work has led her to develop Indigenous-specific ecosystem services framework applying the Capability Approach, and to develop innovative methods to evaluate Indigenous peoples’ connections with land for informing policy decision making.

She is author of a book ‘*Ways to live in harmony with nature*’ published by JoJo Publishing, VIC, in which she outlines how to realise the importance of nature’ services in our daily living and to better manage our natural resources. She is co-editor of a book on ‘*Sustainable Land Sector Development in Northern Australia: Indigenous rights, aspirations and cultural responsibilities*’, published by the CRC Press.

She has published about ~80 articles in various national and international journals, and conference proceedings.

ResearchGate:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kamaljit_Sangha

Research interests

Ecological Economics, Understanding the value of natural systems - Evaluating ecosystem services and their links to human well-being - Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) - Sustainable management of natural resources - Mainstreaming local and Indigenous communities’ role in maintaining natural resources for policy decision-making.

Other Members

Beau Cubillo

Beau is a PhD student with Monash University, under the supervision of Natasha Stacey (CDU).

Savannah Pagel

Savannah is a VET student (apprentice) in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology.

Collaborators

David Young, College Dean

The College Dean's participation confirms our commitment to increase support mechanisms and develop initiatives to promote Indigenous leadership in the College. The Dean provides sponsorship and guidance to the Network and high-level engagement with the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership.

Jessica Marin-Ulloa, College Manager

As the College Manager for the College of Engineering, IT and Environment, Jessica's participation aims to provide additional leadership and governance support to the Network and the coordination of resources for its operations.

In addition, the following students have offered to collaborate with the initiatives of the Network as required:

Lok Wang Jens Cheung

Completing a Master of Information Technology (Software Engineering) .

Trevor Pinto

Completing a Master of Information Technology (Cyber Security) student.

Yajun (Liam) Ma

Liam is a Master of Information Technology (Information Systems Data Science) student.