



Bangamalanha Conference

14 September 2022



We look forward to welcoming you to connect, share and grow at 2022 Bangamalanha Conference.

The conference brings together stakeholders to engage in meaningful conversations aimed at creating real and lasting improvements in education, training and employment for Aboriginal peoples.

This year's virtual conference features a deadly line-up of keynote speakers, complimented by inspiring workshops.

Bangamalanha Conference Keynote Speakers

■ Thomas Mayor

Thomas Mayor is a Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man. A wharf labourer for sixteen years and an official of the Maritime Union of Australia, Thomas is the author of four books as well as essays and articles published in the Griffith Review, the Sydney Morning Herald, and The Guardian.

His present works cover both historical and contemporary First Nations struggles, biographical narratives, fatherhood, masculinity, love, and race.

■ Hayley McGuire

Hayley is a proud Darumbal and South Sea Islander. She is a passionate advocate for Indigenous social justice and ending education inequality. She is the National Coordinator and Co-Founder of the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition, focused on asserting Indigenous rights to education. She is a firm believer of authentic youth engagement and representation and is a former member of the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative Youth Advocacy Group.

■ Joe Williams

Wiradjuri, First Nations Aboriginal Joe Williams forged a successful professional sporting career. Joe battled the majority of his life with suicidal ideation and Bipolar Disorder. After a suicide attempt in 2012, Joe felt his purpose was to help people who struggle with mental health and wellbeing.

Joe is also an author, having contributed to multiple books as well as his very own autobiography, *'Defying the enemy within'*.

■ First Nations Entertainer Mitch Tambo

Mitch Tambo is one of Australia's most unique and electrifying First Nations entertainers, hailed by Natalie Bassingthwaighe as "the new voice of our generation".

Mitch, a Sony Music recording artist, has become an international sensation. His debut album 'Guurrama-Li' raced up music charts within Australia, the UK, US, Europe, Asia and New Zealand.

In February 2020, Mitch performed his single 'Together' as part of Eurovision Australia Decides and closed out the historic Fire Fight concert, singing 'You're the Voice' with John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and Queen's Brian May in a performance for the ages. Not slowing down, he also released 'LOVE', an upbeat anthem sung in Tambo's Gamilaraay language, and his electro-pop Gamilaraay language version of Vanessa Amorosi's 'Absolutely Everybody'.

The acclaimed First Nations entertainer is also an ambassador for UNICEF Australia, raising awareness of the issues affecting children across Australia, the region and the world through focussing on early childhood education and mental health awareness.

2022 Bangamalanha Conference Program

Workshop Session 1

■ Girls @ the Centre

In the workshop, The Smith Family showcases their Girls @ the Centre model which aims to improve attendance and wellbeing by supporting our girls educationally and personally in their journey through school.

■ Voice of Success: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Experience

Presentation of research proposal by Natalie Gardam. The research aims to understand how and why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students experience success in VET.

■ Cooking with The Black Olive

A storyteller with a love of music, we are delighted to have 'The Black Olive' showcase his unique style and passion for cooking through this workshop.

■ Walking Slowly: Lessons from the Journey

As a partner alongside Aboriginal colleagues, Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal community members who are striving to improve educational outcomes - what are the lessons for non-Aboriginal people?

Kate Baxter will share some of what she has learnt on the journey and will seek input from workshop participants about what they have learnt on their journey.

■ First Nations Cultural Safety

An Aboriginal researcher perspective into cultural safety and how it relates to the work environment. In the workshop Jake Gordon, a proud Ngemba/Gamilaraay man, will explore what literature is telling us and examine what needs to change.

Workshop Session 2

■ How Engaging Aboriginal Students Leads to Successful Outcomes

TAFE NSW Aboriginal Student Support Officers explore how supporting Aboriginal students enhances aspirations and priorities for Aboriginal peoples and Communities.

■ Defying The Enemy Within

Wiradjuri, First Nations Aboriginal Joe Williams forged a successful professional sporting career. Joe battled the majority of his life with suicidal ideation and Bipolar Disorder. After a suicide attempt in 2012, Joe felt his purpose was to help people who struggle with mental health and wellbeing.

Joe is also an author, having contributed to multiple books as well as penning his autobiography, 'Defying the enemy within'.

■ Walking in Two Worlds – Fostering Black Excellence

Join Alanah Scholes, NRL RAP Program Manager, and Rebecca Harcourt, Program Manager Indigenous Business Education at UNSW Business School, for a workshop that will share insights and experiences across education, corporate and community sectors on how working together can create future leaders, and a new generation of Indigenous Excellence.

Workshop Session 3

■ Evolve Communities

Join Aboriginal Elder and Educator Aunty Munya Andrews, and Award-Winning Learning Designer and Facilitator Carla Rogers for this engaging workshop, 'Being a confident ally to Aboriginal Australians'.

■ BlackFit Fitness

The mission of BlackFit Fitness is to assist in closing the gap with our health, meaning educating and promoting all that a healthy lifestyle has to offer. We aim to motivate, educate and empower all Australians on not only improving their physical health, but also their mental health.

■ TAFE NSW Pride Network | Authenticity, Intersectionality and Inclusion

Join co-chairs, Ben James and Renee McBride of TAFE NSW's Pride Network, in a thought-provoking discussion of intersectionality and how through connection we can build the most inclusive place to study, work and be our authentic selves.

■ ID Know Yourself

Isaiah Dawe turned his negative experiences in care to a positive, founding 'ID Know Yourself (IDKY)', the Aboriginal not-for-profit mentoring organisation supporting Aboriginal children in out-of-home care.

IDKY is an Aboriginal-led organisation that aims to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and systemic disadvantage by supporting Aboriginal children living in the out-of-home care system.