



AAUT Director's Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the October edition of the **AAUT Newsletter**. I hope you are enjoying the energy of spring as we move through the busy assessment period.

This month, our 129 appointed assessors are deeply engaged in reviewing applications, supported by targeted resources and our recent briefing sessions. I want to extend my sincere thanks to our guest presenters - including past AAUT recipients and long-standing assessors - who so generously shared their expertise and insights during these sessions:

- Professor Jessica Vanderlelie (Deakin University)
- Professor Jo McKenzie (University of Technology Sydney)
- A/Professor Jack Wang (The University of Queensland), 2020 Australian University Teacher of the Year
- A/Professor Christian Moro (Bond University), 2018 Teaching Excellence Award - Early Career

It was wonderful to see such strong engagement, with nearly 150 assessors participating across our sessions. Their commitment and enthusiasm truly reflect the strength and collegial spirit of our AAUT community.

Our **AAUT and UniSA Breakfast Series** continues to grow, attracting almost 1,700 registrations across the last six sessions. I encourage you to join our final session of the year, featuring **Mr Paul Van Opdenbosch** (Queensland University of Technology) on 13 November.

In this edition, we also feature reflections from **Associate Professor Christian Moro**, who shares his journey since receiving his AAUT award in 2018 and

continued contribution as an assessor, .

We are proud to highlight the achievements of previous recipients, including the **STEM WIL Program Team (Flinders University)** and the **Kujarra Mapu Muwarr Wakajku Team (University of Notre Dame)**. Their works exemplifies the transformative power of inclusive, passionate, and student-centred education.

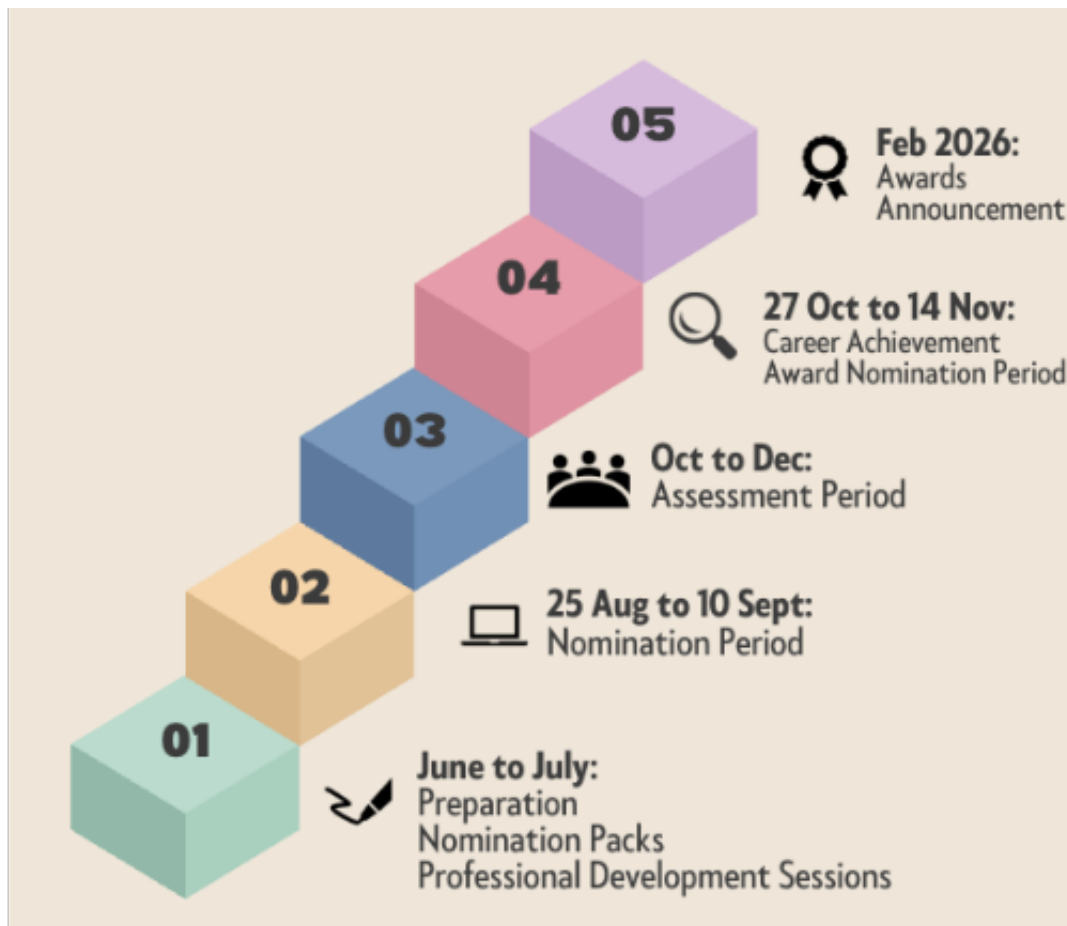
Finally, please stay tuned for further details on the **Universities Australia Solution Summit 2026** and the **AAUT Awards Ceremony** - exciting opportunities to celebrate excellence and collaboration across our sector.



Regards,
Professor Angela Carbone
AAUT Director

A banner with a dark blue background featuring a pattern of light blue gears. A green triangle is in the top left corner. The text "TIMELINE & KEY DATES" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

TIMELINE & KEY DATES



WHAT'S NEW?

2025 AAUT Career Achievement Award: Nominations Now Open

Celebrate an outstanding academic from your institution who has made a significant and lasting contribution to higher education. Each institution is invited to submit one nomination, recommended by the Vice-Chancellor.

Nomination period: Monday, 27 October to Friday, 14 November 2025

The nomination form link will be sent to all institutions on the opening day.



2025 AAUT CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Celebrating Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) honour the outstanding contributions of educators who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and innovation throughout their careers.

The AAUT Career Achievement Award recognises an individual who has:

- Made an outstanding contribution to learning and teaching;
- Been recognised for the impact they have had on the higher education sector;
- Achieved accomplishments that have had a major influence and left an enduring legacy; and
- Served in higher education for at least 25 years.

PAST RECIPIENTS



Professor Tracey Bunda
2024 Recipient
The University of Queensland

A formidable force in Indigenous education, she has driven transformative change across nine tertiary institutions over a 35-year career. She has reshaped the narrative on Indigenous education and established a sustainable global model for integrating Indigenous knowledges.



Emeritus Professor Denise Chalmers
2023 Recipient
Edith Cowan University

An outstanding leader in L&T, renowned for her scholarship, collegiality and contributions to professional associations. She is passionately committed to mentoring the next generation of leaders, both nationally and internationally.

HOW TO NOMINATE



Vice-Chancellors are invited to nominate one individual who meets the above criteria.



Each nomination must include:

- Nominee's details
- Curriculum Vitae
- Summary (max 500 words) outlining the nominee's recognition, achievements, contributions, and impact on higher education



The nomination link will be sent to each Vice-Chancellor in late October 2025.



Nomination Period:
Monday, 27 Oct - Friday, 14 Nov 2025

universitiesaustralia.edu.au/aaut

aaut@rmit.edu.au

AAUT Assessor Briefing Sessions

Thank you to all presenters and attendees for participating in this year's sessions. Your engagement and contributions are greatly appreciated.

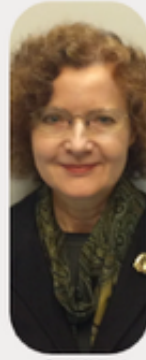
THANK YOU



Prof Jessica Vanderlelie
Deakin University



A/Prof Jack Wang
The University of Queensland



Prof Jo McKenzie
University of Technology
Sydney



A/Prof Christian Moro
Bond University



AAUT & UniSA Breakfast Series - Final Session

We're proud to continue our partnership with UniSA's Teaching Innovation Unit, now in its second year. This series highlights the achievements of AAUT recipients and promotes innovative teaching practices across the sector. It's a wonderful opportunity to share insights, celebrate excellence, and inspire educators throughout Australia.

November Feature Presentation

We're delighted to announce that Mr Paul Van Opdenbosch, a 2024 Citation recipient from **Queensland University of Technology**, will be delivering a presentation soon.

Details on the topic and the registration link will be available shortly on the [AAUTN website](#)—stay tuned!



Mr Paul Van Opdenbosch, QUT

WATCH THE RECORDING

April: Indigenising the Curriculum recording

May: From Small Things, Big Things Grow recording

June: Effective Mastery Learning in the Era of Generative AI

Aug: Using Universal Design for Learning principles and evidence-based strategies to build academics

Sept: Broadcasting dust: Innovative online learning experiences and process-based assessment in the creative arts

Oct: An immersive and long-standing model of Work Integrated Learning, meeting both Academic and Professional Accreditation requirements

SAVE THE DATES

Teaching and Learning Breakfast Series	
	
10 APR	PROF TRACEY BUNDA (UQ) CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT
8 MAY	A/PROF JOSEPHINE PAPARO (MQ) CITATION RECIPIENT
26 JUN	A/PROF CLAUDIA SZABO (UNI OF ADELAIDE) TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT
14 AUG	THE COMMENCING STUDENT SUCCESS PROJECT (UNE) CITATION RECIPIENT
11 SEPT	DR BILL PLATZ (GRIFFITH UNI) CITATION RECIPIENT
9 OCT	STEM WIL PROGRAM (FLINDERS UNI) PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT
13 NOV	MR PAUL VAN OPDENBOSCH (QUT) CITATION RECIPIENT

Share your AAUT story - A/Professor Christian Moro, Bond University



It was an absolute honour to have received the AAUT Teaching Excellence award in 2018, after taking quite the journey to get there! The award's requirement to gather evidence for teaching excellence was one of the first times that I really stopped to critically evaluate my teaching practices - *Did that intervention actually work? How did those portions of my revised curriculum enhance learning?; In what ways did the students really benefit?* Answering these questions required taking a step back, and examining where, and if, I had truly helped students on their educational journeys with my teaching. This also required me to consider whether some of the unique teaching approaches introduced were simply because I'd wanted to (always a temptation!), or whether they had been grounded in theory, evidence, and best practice.

The first year that I was nominated for the award, rapidly identified that I didn't have the necessary evaluation skills fully evolved yet, and chose not to apply. Attending workshops, training sessions, reading literature, and more helped upskill various teacher reflection abilities and contributed to the development of critical evaluation strategies. It meant that the next time I was nominated, felt more prepared and did submit the application form. Importantly, this was not the end of it. The developed skills from the application process, and ability to: critically appraise my teaching practices; evaluate student feedback; and pivot my practices to accommodate student learning; were all stimulated by working through the initial application and remain proficiencies that I still employ to this day. This is why I highly recommend all academics consider applying for one of the AAUT awards. It's not just the award itself, but the process, and the chance to develop new skills as part of the process. Skills that you will carry alongside you and that will be of benefit throughout the rest of your academic teaching career.

UA Solution Summit 2026

The 2026 Universities Australia (UA) Solution Summit will take place from 24 - 26 February 2026 at the National Convention Centre Canberra.

The AAUT Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#)



RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



Get to know Program Award Recipient: STEM WIL Program

Flinders University's STEM Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program is nationally recognised for exceptional graduate employability, student learning, and satisfaction rates, outperforming trends despite being a smaller South Australian university. This program offers students up to 100 days of industry placement—the longest undergraduate core placement in Australia—and has grown from 20 to over 300 students across all STEM disciplines, including non-traditional areas like mathematics. Commended as a national gold standard and recipient of awards and international recognition, Flinders' WIL program sets the benchmark for best practice and is led by a dedicated team supporting both industry partners and students.

Read: [STEM WIL Program](#)



Get to know 2020 Neville Bonner Award Recipient: Kujarra Mapu Muwarr Wakajku Team

For a transformative 'third space' cultural learning experience – immersion on Yawuru and Karajarri Country in the course, Aboriginal People: The Silent History.

Read: [Ms Anna Dwyer](#) and [Ms Gillian Kennedy](#)



2025 AAUT Launch on [AAUT-UA website](#) for:

- Nomination Packs
- Nominees' Resources
- Past newsletters
- Past awards ceremony booklets
- Past recipients' video series



Check out the [AAUTN website](#) for information about:

- [Latest news](#)
- [Australian University Teacher of the Year Profile Booklet](#)
- [AAUTN Mentor Scheme](#)
- [Advice for recipients](#)
- [Resources for nominees](#)
- [2024 AAUT State-based Ceremonies photos and recordings here.](#)

[Learning and Teaching](#)



Repository.

A collection of higher education learning and teaching research valuable to any university academic. Access topical resources and news, or contribute a new resource.

-
-  [Universities Australia - AAUT website](#)
 -  [AAUTnetwork](#)
 -  [Universities Australia](#)
 -  [AAUT-Network website](#)
 -  [IFNTF](#)
 -  [YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director](#)
 -  [Email the Awards team](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to aaud@rmit.edu.au
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
AAUT · RMIT University · 110 Victoria Street · Carlton, Vic 3053 · Australia

