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## AAUT Director's Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the November edition of the AAUT Newsletter. This month has been buzzing with assessment activity, our dedicated group of 128 assessors have completed their assessments across all award categories. Our Awards Committees are now preparing for the final review phase.

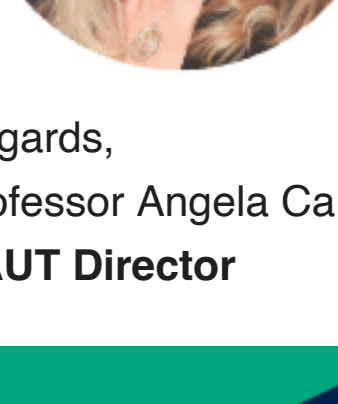
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the institutions that submitted nominations for the AAUT Career Achievement Award. We received 11 nominations this year, and the award recipient will be announced at the AAUT Awards Ceremony in February 2026.

I am also delighted to share a new collaborative initiative between AAUT and HERDSA aimed at elevating teaching excellence across Australasia and increasing the visibility of innovative teaching practices. Further details are provided below—stay tuned for upcoming joint activities.

Our AAUT and UniSA Breakfast Series has concluded for the year, with seven sessions attracting nearly 1,800 registrations. If you missed any of the presentations, recording links are available below for you to watch and share.

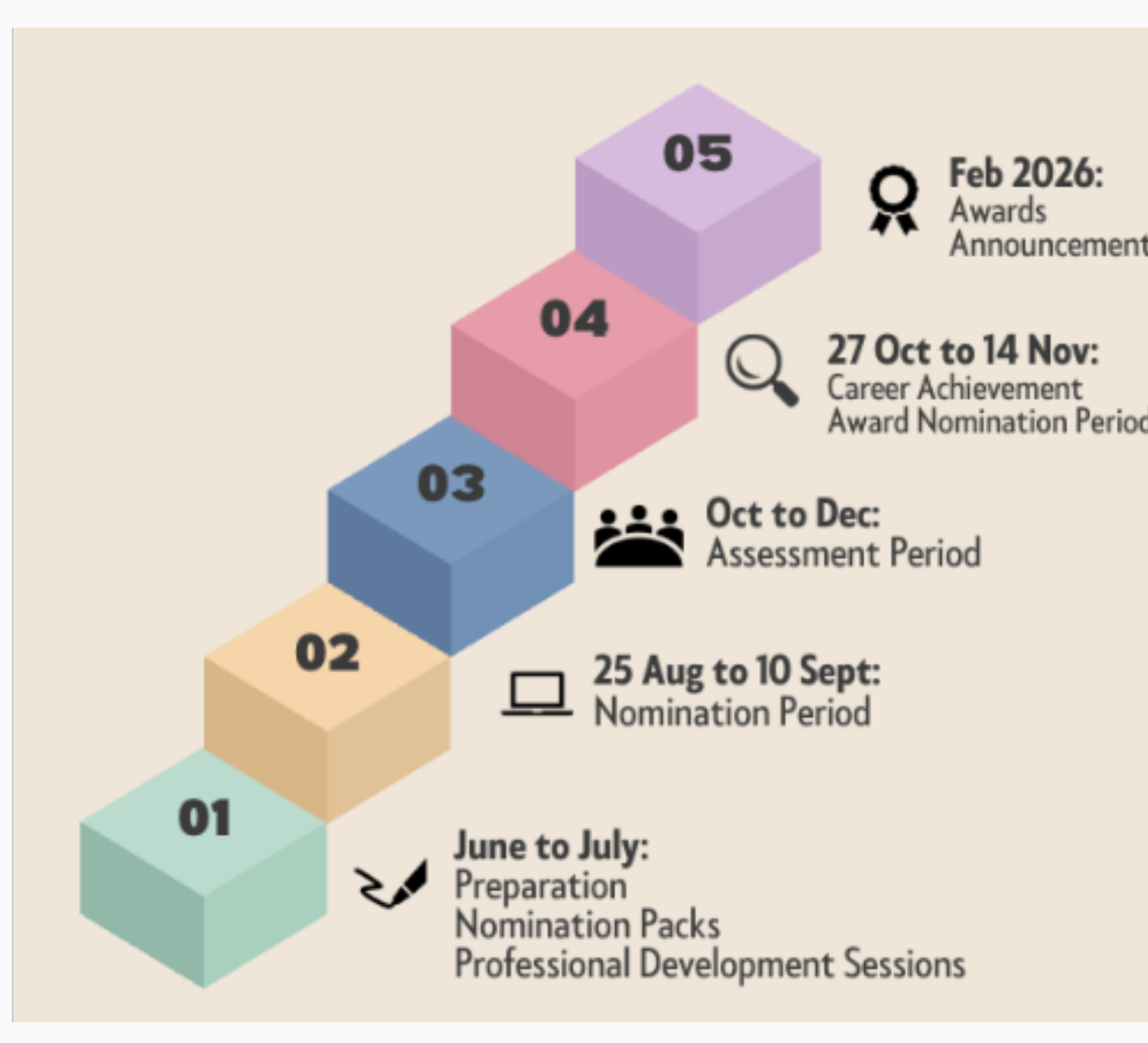
In this issue, Associate Professor Jack Wang reflects on his journey as a 2020 AAUT Award recipient and his ongoing contributions as an assessor and presenter at our briefing sessions. We also highlight the achievements of previous award recipients, including the UON Bachelor of Science Transdisciplinary Team (University of Newcastle) and the CAIK Team (University of Technology Sydney).

Finally, please keep an eye out for more information on AAUT Awards Ceremony, to be held as part of the Universities Australia Solutions Summit 2026 — I look forward to the celebration and connecting with academic leaders across the sector.



Regards,  
Professor Angela Carbone  
AAUT Director

## TIMELINE & KEY DATES



## WHAT'S NEW?

### AAUT Assessor Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the 128 assessors who dedicated their time and expertise to this year's AAUT assessment process. Your invaluable contributions are essential to recognising and promoting teaching excellence across Australia.



### AAUT and HERDSA Collaboration

We're pleased to share some exciting news: AAUT and HERDSA have formally partnered through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance teaching excellence across Australasia. This is a significant step forward in strengthening collaboration, recognising best practices, and supporting academic communities.

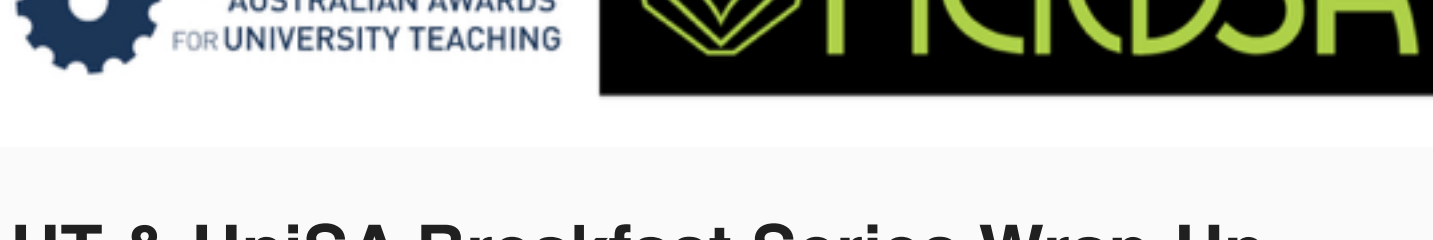
What does this partnership mean?

Together, AAUT and HERDSA are committed to:

- **Showcasing Excellence in Teaching** through webinars, conferences, and publications
- **Joint Activities and Promotion** that highlight achievements and initiatives across both networks
- **Professional Development and Capacity Building** for educators and future leaders
- **Shared Values and Strategic Visibility** to foster sector-wide conversations on teaching recognition and policy alignment

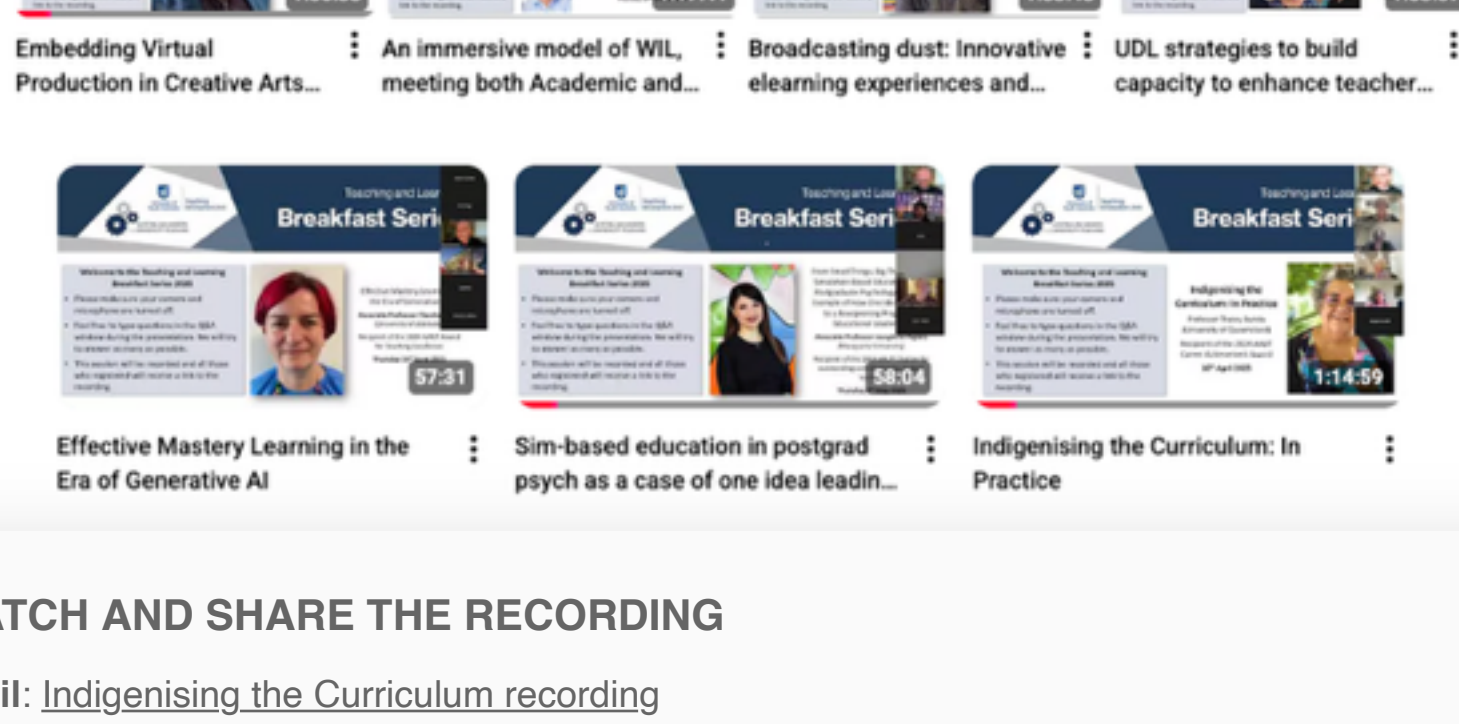
The MoU sets the foundation for joint initiatives, including a collaborative webinar series, shared resources, and future events. By working together, AAUT and HERDSA will amplify outstanding teaching practices and create new opportunities for academic engagement.

Stay tune for upcoming activities and ways to get involved in this exciting collaboration!



### AAUT & UniSA Breakfast Series Wrap-Up

Another year of Breakfast Series has wrapped up! Our sincere thanks go to Dr Stuart Dinmore (UniSA) for hosting and to all the presenters, 2024 AAUT recipients, for generously sharing their knowledge and inspiring educators.



#### WATCH AND SHARE 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](#)
- Nov: [Embedding Virtual Production in Creative Arts Education](#)

### Share Your AAUT Story - A/Professor Jack Wang, QUT



My work focuses on the power of online science communication to connect students across the globe, and winning the AAUT Award for Teaching Excellence and being named the Australian University Teacher of the Year in 2020 has been a transformative experience. It elevated the visibility of my approach to teaching and learning and provided me with opportunities to collaborate with leaders across the sector.

I established the largest international communication training program for researchers across my discipline, created a national workshop series on AI in Science Communication, and developed online courses and teaching accreditation frameworks in support of researcher development. As the Principal Practitioner of Teaching Excellence at the institution I mentor and influence the practice of other award-winning teachers, allowing me to impact the student experience at scale. None of this would have been possible without the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

### UA Solution Summit 2026 - AAUT Awards Ceremony

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, 5pm-5.30pm AEDT**.

Stay tuned for more details on the video announcement.



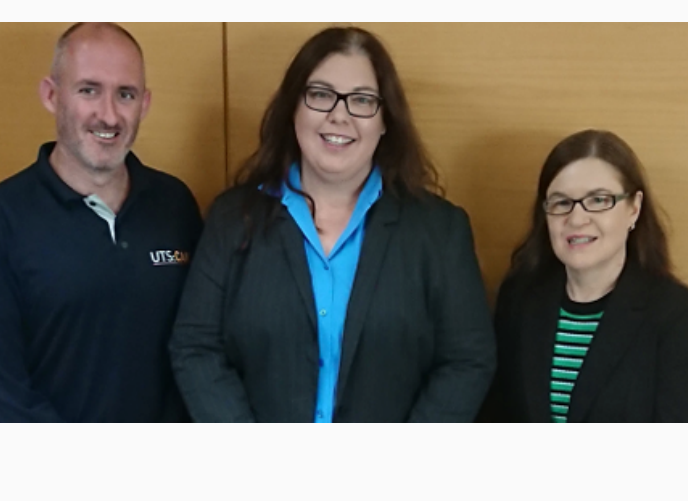
## RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



### Get to know Program Award Recipient: UON Bachelor of Science Transdisciplinary Team

In 2017, the University of Newcastle began a comprehensive redesign of its Bachelor of Science program to improve student engagement, skills, and interdisciplinary learning. Using Collaborative Curriculum Design (CCD) involving over 250 stakeholders, the new program emphasises transdisciplinarity, enabling students to tackle complex real-world problems. Five innovative core courses integrate industry relevance and practice-based learning, setting UoN's BSc apart from other science degrees nationally and internationally.

Profile: [A/Prof Liam Phelan](#) and [A/Prof Bonnie McBain](#)



### Get to know 2018 Neville Bonner Award Recipient: CAIK Team

At UTS, Professor Susan Page, Professor Michelle Trudgett, and Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews are championing the integration of Indigenous knowledge and practices across the university. Since founding the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK) in 2015, their work has enriched both teaching and research through initiatives like the highly successful Aboriginal Sydney Now subject, now boasting over 800 students, and a thriving cohort of Indigenous and non-Indigenous PhD candidates. Their efforts continue to build strong networks and drive the university's commitment to equipping all graduates with the expertise and respect to work alongside Indigenous Australian peoples and communities.

Read: [Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges \(CAIK\)](#)

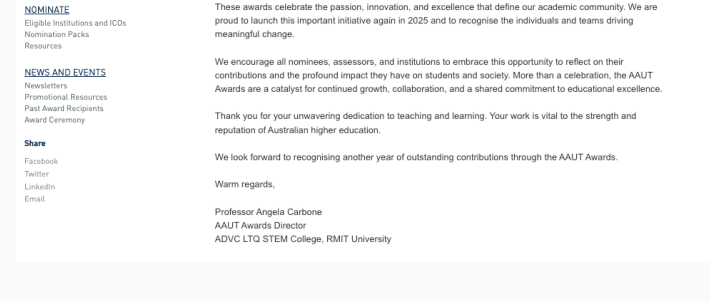
Profile: [Professor Susan Page](#), [Professor Michelle Trudgett](#), and [Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews](#)

## AAUT RESOURCES



### 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 assessors
- 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](#)
- [IFENTF](#)
- [YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director](#)
- [Email the Awards team](#)

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