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# AAUT Director's Update

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the AAUT Newsletter.

Last month, we celebrated the achievements of the 2025 AAUT recipients. If you were unable to join us, you can catch up by watching the announcement video and viewing the recipient booklet. Universities Australia hosted a formal ceremony to present the Program Awards, Teaching Excellence Awards, Neville Bonner Award, Australian University Teacher of the Year Award and the Career Achievement Award, and photos from the event are now available. Congratulations once again to all recipients (see links below).

We also acknowledge the substantial time and effort invested by all nominees in preparing their applications, supported so generously by their Institutional Contact Officers (ICOs) and institutions. By the end of this month, all nominees will have received comprehensive feedback letters. Several recipients have noted that this feedback helped them refine their work and strengthen their successful applications.

This month marks the launch of a new collaborative initiative between AAUT and HERDSA, with the first webinar in the national series: **Indigenous Knowledges in Action: Transforming Higher Education from the Ground Up**. This series aims to elevate teaching excellence across Australasia and increase the visibility of innovative teaching practices. We look forward to seeing many of you at the session on 26 March (details below). The **HERDSA 2026 Annual Conference** will also take place from 6-9 July in Singapore; see below for further information.

We are also delighted to confirm the return of the **AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series** (now in its third year of collaboration). This

partnership will once again showcase AAUT recipients and highlight innovative teaching practices. Further details will be shared in upcoming editions.

The celebrations continue with state-based ceremonies commencing in April in Western Australia, hosted by Murdoch University. Our sincere thanks to **Murdoch University**, **The University of Queensland** and **Western Sydney University** for hosting this year's state-based events and for your ongoing commitment to recognising AAUT recipients and the importance of this national teaching awards program.

Finally, this issue features the 2025 **AAUT Career Achievement Award** recipient, **Professor Geoffrey Crisp** from Adelaide University—we invite you to watch his full video below—as well as the **Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education – Citation** recipient, **Ms Ellie White** from The University of Melbourne.

Regards,
Professor Angela Carbone
**AAUT Director**

**2025 AAUT Nominee Feedback Letters will be circulated by Tuesday, 31 March 2026.**

# WHAT'S NEW?

## 2025 AAUT Awards Ceremony

The 2025 AAUT Awards were announced at the Universities Australia Solutions Summit in Canberra on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

You can watch the official 2025 AAUT video announcement here, and view the full list of recipients and their award-winning work in 2025 AAUT Recipients Booklet, along with ceremony photos.

## AAUT and HERDSA Webinar Series

AUSTRALIAN AWARDS FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING

HERDSA

# Webinar Series

**THURSDAY, 26 March 2026 | 1pm to 2pm AEDT**

## Indigenous Knowledge in Action: Tranforming Higher Education from Ground Up

PROF CORRINNE SULLIVAN, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

PANEL CHAIR

A/PROF JESSICA RUSS-SMITH, AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

PANELLIST

A/PROF BEJAMIN WILSON, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

PANELLIST

DR CAT KUTAY, CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

PANELLIST

This panel is the first session in the 2026 AAUT & HERDSA National Webinar Series, which celebrates and amplifies the outstanding contributions of the 2024 Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) recipients. The series showcases innovative and impactful teaching practices across the Australian higher education sector and provides a platform for award recipients to share insights, strategies, and outcomes from their award-winning work.

Chaired by Prof Corrinne Sullivan (WSU, 2017 Citation recipient), this panel features A/Prof Jessica Russ-Smith (ACU - 2024 Citation), Dr Cat Kutay (CDU - 2024 Citation), and A/Prof Benjamin Wilson (UTS - 2022 Teaching Award).

Together, they will discuss what it means to move beyond simply including Indigenous content toward meaningfully embedding Indigenous Knowledges in curriculum, pedagogy, and institutional practice.

Panelists will share practical examples from their teaching and program design, reflect on institutional opportunities and barriers, and discuss respectful partnerships with Indigenous communities, Elders and Knowledge Holders. The discussion will also explore the roles and responsibilities of non-Indigenous academics, including examples of constructive allyship and common pitfalls to avoid.

Participants will gain practical insights and ideas for supporting Indigenous Knowledges in teaching, learning, and university culture. The session will conclude with reflections on what universities might look like if Indigenous Knowledges genuinely shaped academic life from the ground up.

**Register** HERE

# HERDSA 2026 Annual Conference - Singapore

The Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) invites you to the **2026 Annual Conference**, to be held **6–9 July 2026 in Singapore** – HERDSA's first conference outside Australia in over five years.

The event will be jointly hosted by six Singapore Institutes of Higher Learning and two Australian universities with campuses in Singapore, under the theme **Re-envisioning Higher Education for Tomorrow's Learners**.

Find out more here and **register** here.

# AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series Returns!

Now in its third year, the breakfast series between AAUT and Adelaide University (previously UniSA) is back. In response to strong positive feedback, we are again partnering with the Teaching Learning Innovation to showcase AAUT recipients and share innovative teaching practices and programs with the academic community.

Stay tuned for more details in upcoming issues.

# AAUT State-Based Ceremonies

We are pleased to confirm that the following institutions will host the 2025 AAUT state-based ceremonies, recognising the achievements of award recipients in their regions. Please note that these events are by invitation only.

There is still an opportunity for a Victorian institution to host the VIC/TAS ceremony. If your

institution is interested in hosting, please contact us for further information. Further details will be shared in upcoming communications.

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# RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

## Get to know Career Achievement Award Recipient: Professor Geoffrey Crisp

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Crisp has held senior academic positions, including DVC Academic and PVC Education roles, in several Australian universities. He has provided strategic thinking and leadership to a wide range of learning and teaching, student experience and academic development areas, including online education, assessment and peer review of teaching. He has been a sought after speaker at conferences both nationally and internationally and has presented workshops and academic development sessions at most Australian universities and many overseas institutions.

Watch video here

## Get to know 2025 Neville Bonner Award - Citation Recipient: Ms Ellie White

For leading transformative health education that celebrates Indigenous ways of knowing, shaping emerging health professionals to be strong advocates for health equity.

Profile: Ms Ellie White

# AAUT RESOURCES

**For the 2025 AAUT video announcement and Recipients Booklet, visit AAUT-UA website.**

**For latest AAUT news, please visit the AAUTN website.**

## 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.

LEARNING & TEACHING REPOSITORY

- Universities Australia - AAUT website
- AAUTnetwork
- Universities Australia
- AAUT-Network website
- IFNTF
- YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director
- Email the Awards team

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