



AAUT Director's Update

Dear colleagues,

I hope you had a restful Easter break.

It has been a energising start to the year for the AAUT community. Our new **AAUT & HERDSA National Webinar Series** is off to a strong start, with the opening session on Indigenous Knowledges generating rich discussion and excellent feedback. I will be chairing the next webinar, **Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Building Sustainable Collaborative Partnerships**, on 30 April, and I encourage you to register and share the details with colleagues engaged in WIL and partnership work.

We have also relaunched the **AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series**, now in its third year. The first session, delivered by Citation recipient **Ms Georgia Cam (Macquarie University)** on enhancing student learning with GenAI, set a high bar for the series; I invite you to watch the recording and keep an eye out for upcoming sessions featuring AAUT recipients from across the country.

State-based ceremonies are now underway, with **Murdoch University, The University of Queensland, Flinders University, Western Sydney University** and **The University of Melbourne** hosting events that celebrate the achievements of 2025 AAUT recipients in their regions. I am very grateful to these institutions for their continued leadership and support of this national program.

At the same time, we are deepening our international connections. As part of the AAUT–[IFNTF](#) collaboration, I was honoured to be a keynote speaker at the 2026 IFNTF “Symposathon”, presented on *“In a world of collapsing models, rising automation, shifting trust, and intensifying metrics — what does it mean*

to “optimise” education?”

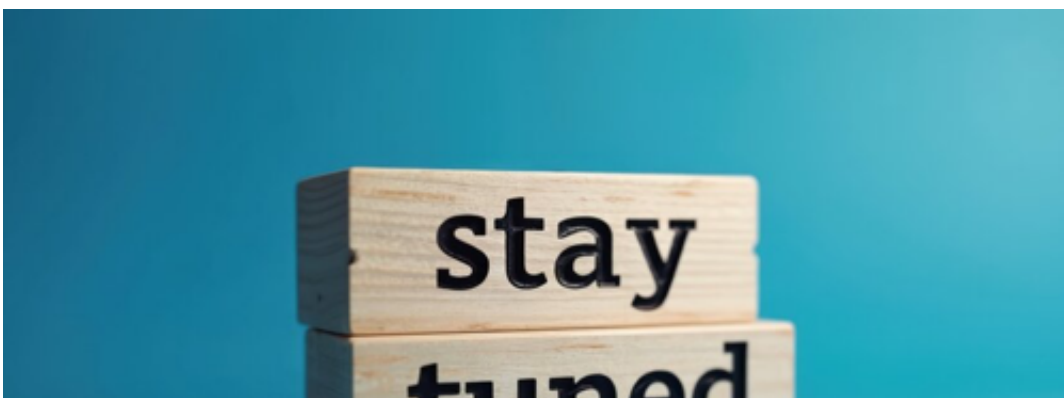
This issue also highlights a thoughtful HERDSA article by **Dr Hasti Abbasi** on the human, relational side of AAUT nominations, and features our **2025 Australian University Teacher of the Year, Associate Professor Roma Forbes (The University of Queensland)**. Together, these pieces remind us that behind every nomination is an educator whose work is sustained by care, reflection and a deep commitment to students.

Thank you for your ongoing support of AAUT, and for everything you do to champion teaching excellence across the sector.



Warm regards,
Professor Angela Carbone
AAUT Director

TIMELINE & KEY DATES



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WHAT'S NEW?

AAUT and HERDSA Webinar Series



Webinar Series

THURSDAY, | 1pm to 2pm
30 April 2026 | AEST

Work Integrated Learning (WIL): Building Sustainable Collaborative Partnerships



PROF ANGELA CARBONE,
RMIT UNIVERSITY

PANEL CHAIR



A/PROF FAITH KWA
SWINBURNE
UNIVERSITY

PANELLIST



DR JESSICA AMY SEARS,
CHARLES STURT
UNIVERSITY

PANELLIST



DR WAYNE READ,
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

PANELLIST

REGISTRATION

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhfwcde>



✉ AAUT: aaut@rmit.edu.au

HERDSA: Office@herdsa.org.au

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhfwcde>

Join us for the second session in the **2026 AAUT & HERDSA National Webinar Series**, showcasing the innovative practices and insights of **2024 Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)** recipients.

This panel will explore **Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)** and **Collaborative Educational Partnerships**, focusing on how universities and industry can work together to design meaningful, sustainable, and scalable WIL.

experiences.

Chaired by **Prof Angela Carbone (RMIT, 1998 AAUT Award recipient)**, the panel features **Dr Wayne Read (Deakin University – 2024 Citation)**, **Dr Jessica Amy Sears (Charles Sturt University – 2024 Citation)**, and **A/Prof Faith Kwa (Swinburne University – 2024 Citation)**. Panelists will share practical strategies for building and sustaining partnerships, co-designing WIL experiences, and addressing common challenges such as scaling, quality, and equitable access.

This session will provide valuable insights for educators, academic leaders, and professional staff involved in WIL and partnership development.

Save the dates for upcoming sessions in 2026 (1pm to 2pm Melbourne time):

- Thursday, 28 May 2026
- Thursday, 27 August 2026
- Thursday, 24 September 2026

Watch the recording:

- [Indigenous Knowledges in Action: Transforming Higher Education from the Ground Up](#) (26 March 2026)

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.

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](#). **Be quick - Early Bird registration closes 15 May 2026.**

AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series: 23 April

The **AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series** runs **monthly from April to November (except July), 8am – 9am (Melbourne time)**. Now in its third year, this collaboration with the **Teaching and Learning Innovation Unit at Adelaide University** showcases AAUT recipients and highlights innovative teaching practices and programs across the sector.

The first session, presented by **2025 Citation – Early Career recipient Ma Georgia Cam (Macquarie University)**, explored “*Enhancing Situated Learning in the Classroom with Generative AI Simulations*”. The session was both insightful and engaging – you can watch the recording [HERE](#).



Enhancing Situated Learning in the Classroom with Generative AI Simulations

Presented by Ms Georgia Cam
Macquarie Law School, Faculty of Arts, Macquarie University

It is one thing to mandate attendance through participation marks, it is another thing entirely to foster deep engagement with course content. The restraints of the archetypal classroom risk reducing tutorials to transactional exchanges rather than transformative learning experiences. When convenors and tutors embrace Generative AI, students can engage in simulations that transcend the four white walls of the classroom, transporting them to a whole world of simulated scenarios that motivate and inspire their future careers.



Georgia Cam, Macquarie University

Details for the next session will be posted on the [AAUTN](#) webpage and emailed to all ICOs.

Save the dates for upcoming sessions throughout 2026

23 APR

MS GEOGIA CAM (MQ)
CITATION - EARLY CAREER RECIPIENT

21 MAY

MS ELLIE WHITE (UOM)
CITATION - NEVILLE BONNER AWARD RECIPIENT

25 JUN

PEARSON, LE BUSQUE & RICHARDSON TEAM (AU)
CITATION RECIPIENT

20 AUG

DR MIAO LI (CSU)
CITATION RECIPIENT

17 SEPT

SPENCER & JONES TEAM (RMIT)
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

15 OCT

DR AMANDA GIGLIOTTI (UOW)
CITATION RECIPIENT

12 NOV

TBC

8am - 9am (Melbourne time)

AAUT State-Based Ceremonies

Thank you to the institutions hosting the **2025 AAUT state-based ceremonies**, celebrating the achievements of award recipients across their regions. **Murdoch University** has kicked off the WA ceremony this month, and in May **The University of Queensland** will host the Queensland ceremony, while **Flinders University** will host the SA/NT ceremony. Please note these events are **by invitation only**.

WA Ceremony - [Photo Gallery](#)

- To view the photos, select 'Enter as Guest' and then enter your email address.
- To download images, use the PIN: 2986.



WA Ceremony: 14 April 2026



QLD Ceremony: 13 May 2026



SA/NT Ceremony: 20 May 2026



NSW & ACT Ceremony: 1 June 2026



VIC & TAS Ceremony: TBC



2025 AUSTRALIAN AWARDS FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING STATE-BASED CEREMONY

2025 AAUT Article

HERDSA Connect titled [“The Human Side of Australian Awards for University Teaching \(AAUT\) Nominations: A Relational and Reflective Journey.”](#) by Dr Hasti Abbasi, Deakin University ICO and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA)



Wednesday 21 January 2026



Get to know Australian



University Teacher of the Year Award Recipient: Associate Professor Roma Forbes

Roma Forbes is a health education leader whose work is shaped by her lived experience as an outsider to higher education, growing up in rural Ōpōtiki, Aotearoa, and later becoming hearing impaired. Now based in Australia, she uses this personal and intercultural lens to reimagine belonging and success in health education, challenging narrow, Western-centric assumptions about readiness, knowledge and student contribution. Grounded in relational strength and community, her innovations foster learning environments where students feel seen, valued and confident, and have been adopted nationally and internationally through widely used resources and community-centred practices. With over 100 educational studies and guidelines to her name, Roma's work has shaped the education of thousands of health students and educators worldwide.

Read profile [here](#)

Watch video [here](#)



For the 2025 AAUT video announcement and Recipients Booklet, visit [AAUT-UA website](#).

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](#).

For latest AAUT news, please visit the [AAUTN](#)



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 - [!\[\]\(18a430fad4445223720b3b803f3b536f_img.jpg\) AAUTnetwork](#)
 - [!\[\]\(1c11dbbf2503e3c9d2827247bd88426e_img.jpg\) Universities Australia](#)
 - [!\[\]\(9eb6c1a2eada466bca2ded03920971c1_img.jpg\) AAUT-Network website](#)
 - [!\[\]\(73eda314bad974637d24eef496f820b4_img.jpg\) IFNTE](#)
 - [!\[\]\(378e14efe0ecf64a082fd0a08fec965f_img.jpg\) YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director](#)
 - [!\[\]\(eb118ff96cf5e928f8f5a19c55ba788f_img.jpg\) Email the Awards team](#)

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