

[View this email in your browser](#)



## AAUT Director's Update

Dear colleagues,

As we move through 2026, it is inspiring to see the continued momentum across the AAUT community. Our state-based ceremonies have once again highlighted the outstanding contributions of educators who are transforming student learning experiences across Australia. I extend my sincere thanks to our host institutions and to all those who support and champion this work.

We are also pleased to deepen our collaborations with partners such as the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA), HERDSA and Adelaide University (AU). Initiatives such as the integration of AAUT criteria into discipline-based awards, the AAUT and HERDSA National Webinar Series, and the AU Breakfast Series are helping to build a more consistent, evidence-based and inclusive culture of recognition in higher education.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2026 AAUT.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement. I encourage you to stay connected, share these opportunities with your colleagues, and continue to celebrate and elevate teaching excellence within your institutions.



Warm regards,  
Professor Angela Carbone  
**AAUT Director**



# TIMELINE & KEY DATES

## 2026 Key Dates



# WHAT'S NEW?

## AAUT and HERDSA Webinar Series



## Webinar Series

THURSDAY, 28 May 2026 | 1pm to 2pm AEST

### Designing Inclusive Student Experiences: Advancing Diversity in Higher Education



A/PROF JANIS WARDROP,  
UNIVERSITY NEW SOUTH  
WALES  
HERDSA NSW BRANCH  
CHAIR  
PANEL CHAIR



PROF CREINA DAY,  
AUSTRALIA NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY  
PANELLIST



A/PROF ROSALIE  
GOLDSMITH,  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY  
PANELLIST



DR DIANA MENDEZ,  
JAMES COOK  
UNIVERSITY  
PANELLIST

REGISTRATION

<https://tinyurl.com/2pcck9kv>



✉ AAUT: [aaut@rmit.edu.au](mailto:aaut@rmit.edu.au)

HERDSA: [Office@herdsa.org.au](mailto:Office@herdsa.org.au)

**Register here:** <https://tinyurl.com/2pcck9kv>

How can universities design student experiences where all students feel they truly belong?

Join us for the next session in the **AAUT and HERDSA National Webinar Series 2026:**

#### Designing Inclusive Student Experiences: Advancing Diversity in Higher Education

Chaired by **A/Prof Janis Wardrop (HERDSA NSW Branch)**, this panel features **Prof Creina Day (ANU – 2024 Citation)**, **Dr Diana Mendez (JCU – 2023 Program Award)**, and **A/Prof Rosalie Goldsmith (UTS – 2022 Program Award)**. Panellists will discuss approaches to designing curriculum, assessment, and co-curricular experiences that foster belonging, equity, and student success.

The session will also explore institutional leadership, policy, and emerging innovations shaping inclusive practice across higher education.

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

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

**Watch the recordings:**

- [Work Integrated Learning \(WIL\): Building Sustainable Collaborative Partnerships](#) (30 April 2026)
- [Indigenous Knowledges in Action: Transforming Higher Education from the Ground Up](#) (26 March 2026)

# HERDSA 2026 Annual Conference - Singapore



Have you registered for the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) **2026 Annual Conference (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, the conference is themed "**Re-envisioning Higher Education for Tomorrow's Learners.**"

Find out more [here](#) and [register here](#).

## AAUT and Adelaide University Breakfast Series

The **AAUT and Adelaide University Breakfast Series** runs **monthly from April to November (except July), 8am – 9am (ACT)**. 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 second session was presented by **Ms Ellie White (The University of Melbourne)**, a 2025 AAUT Citation - **Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education** recipient.

## Advancing Cultural Advocacy in Health Education

Presented by Ms Ellie White

Melbourne School of Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne's Doctor of Physiotherapy program redesigned its First Nations curriculum and assessment by embedding and prioritising First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing. This initiative aimed to equip graduates to deliver more culturally responsive care and advance healthcare equity. The processes and key learnings offer transferable insights for universities across Australia.



Ellie White,  
The University of Melbourne

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

### Watch the recordings:

- [Advancing Cultural Advocacy in Health Education](#) (21 May)
- [Enhancing Situated Learning in the Classroom with Generative AI Simulations](#) (23 April)

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

**DR ALI ENRIGHT (FLINDERS UNI)**  
CITATION RECIPIENT

8am - 9am ACST

# 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. In May, **The University of Queensland**, **Flinders University** and **The University of Melbourne** hosted ceremonies recognising the outstanding achievements of recipients in their respective regions, with the **Western Sydney University** to host the final ceremony in New South Wales. Please note these events are **by invitation only**.

- **VIC & TAS Ceremony** - Photo Gallery (Coming soon)
- **SA & NT Ceremony** - Photo Gallery (Coming soon)
- **QLD Ceremony** - [Photo Gallery](#)
- **WA Ceremony** - [Photo Gallery](#) (to view photos: select 'Enter as Guest'; to download: use PIN: 2986).



## AAUT and ACDA

We are delighted that The Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA) Learning and Teaching Academy will be integrating AAUT criteria into its assessment framework.

ACDA established its Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2018. Now presented annually, the award has continued to evolve over time.

Recently, the ACDA Awards Committee, which includes former recipients and current AAUT assessors, recognised the value of the AAUT rubric in supporting consistent and transparent assessment. The Committee is now adopting the rubric for the agricultural disciplinary context, aligning the award with a nationally recognised framework. This change is expected to improve clarity and consistency for both applicants and assessors, and to help applicants to present stronger, evidence-based submissions.

“The AAUT rubric provides clear guidance for both applicants and assessors, and I’ve found it particularly helpful in supporting consistency across a committee,” said Professor Janelle Wilkes, Chair of the ACDA Learning and Teaching Awards Committee. “As I hand over the role of Chair to Dr Suresh Krishnasamy, we are seeking to bring that same transparency to the ACDA awards. A shared approach helps applicants present clear, evidence-based cases, with the aim of strengthening agriculture’s representation in AAUT awards.”

The revised approach will be implemented in the next awards round.  
For more information: click [here](#).

# RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



## Get to know the Teaching Excellence Award Recipient: Prof Michelle Spencer and Prof Oliver Jones

Professors Michelle Spencer and Oliver Jones teach chemistry in higher education, with >50 years combined experience. Their approach focuses on student-centred learning, socio-constructivism, and authentic work-integrated learning (WIL). This is combined with cross-disciplinarity and the incorporation/creation of digital technologies.

Read profile: [Professor Michelle Spencer](#) and [Professor Oliver Jones](#)

Watch video [here](#)

# AAUT RESOURCES



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  
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.

- 
- [!\[\]\(448bd415caa8b52d2aeb4d58499267b2\_img.jpg\) Universities Australia - AAUT website](#)
  - [!\[\]\(23be4c52910c50d5908bb101588c4f4e\_img.jpg\) AAUTnetwork](#)
  - [!\[\]\(5dc449795a3a9c8d29c257423584cf78\_img.jpg\) Universities Australia](#)
  - [!\[\]\(4b7fb8a3e9c3712ee79f95e386b5ecd4\_img.jpg\) AAUT-Network website](#)
  - [!\[\]\(348b5f08c0a9aee916460ca5f8ad2999\_img.jpg\) IFNTE](#)
  - [!\[\]\(5b1a514e7f27fbd3f661e6a3500c4f68\_img.jpg\) YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director](#)
  - [!\[\]\(2baf952763ad8c6fd37e6395b59f0aca\_img.jpg\) Email the Awards team](#)

---

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

