

## Another inclusive initiative

**A**NDREW IACUONE shares the outcome of La Trobe University's Borchardt Library engaging the local Indigenous people to appropriately acknowledge the Wurundjeri community as the custodians of the land on which the library is built.

As you walk into the Borchardt Library on the Melbourne Campus of La Trobe University, the glass entrance doors are now decorated with Indigenous artwork. The artwork depicts the strong circle of connectedness that we find in learning and teaching for Indigenous peoples and shows the collaboration that is necessary to increase Indigenous participation in higher education, empower Indigenous communities, and be culturally appropriate. It also highlights finding a balance between the competing obligations in life and study, looking after our emotional, spiritual, physical and psychological wellbeing.

The artwork is adapted from the Ngarn-gi Bagora Indigenous Centre logo. Both artworks are by Nellie Green, a Badimaya artist living and working on Wurundjeri Country. 'As Indigenous people in mainstream institutions, we are constantly

reaffirming who we are, where we are from and what we are doing, and where we fit in', Nellie wrote in her artist statement. 'The provision of culturally safe learning and meeting places on campus is critical to Indigenous student access, retention and success'. The project is a collaborative partnership between the Ngarn-gi Bagora Indigenous Centre at La Trobe University and the library. We are all in this journey together.

An acknowledgement statement has been placed at the entrance of the library beside the artwork, recognising the Wurundjeri community as the custodians of the land on which the library is built and paying respect to their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region. We are now planning a similar installation at the Albury-Wodonga library for semester one, and at the Bendigo library later this year, working in collaboration with local Indigenous artists at each region. 🌐

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