

Koolark Newsletter

Makuru 2025



Makuru

Makuru is one of the six seasons in the Noongar seasonal calendar, observed by the Noongar people of the southwest of Western Australia. Occurring during the months of June and July, Makuru marks the coldest and wettest time of the year, and is known as the season of fertility.

During Makuru, the landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation. The skies darken with heavy clouds, and the first major rains of the year begin to fall. These rains are vital, replenishing the land and preparing it for new growth. The cooler temperatures and increased rainfall signal a time of abundance and renewal in the natural world.

This season is also a time of pairing and nesting for many native animals. Birds such as the djidi djidi (willy wagtail) and wardong (crow) begin to build nests and prepare for breeding. The appearance of certain flowers, like the Moodjar (WA Christmas Tree), also signals the shift in season.

For the Noongar people, Makuru was traditionally a time to move inland, away from the coast, to take advantage of the changing food sources. Hunting became more prominent, with kangaroos and other animals more easily tracked in the wet earth. Tools and weapons were also crafted during this time, as the cooler weather made for ideal working conditions.

Makuru is deeply connected to the cycles of the land and the wisdom of living in harmony with nature. It reminds us of the importance of observing and respecting seasonal changes, and of the deep knowledge held by the Noongar people about their environment.

NAIDOC 2025:

The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy

In 2025, NM TAFE is celebrating the resilience and strength of our First Peoples through our 2025 NAIDOC celebration which honours the theme “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy”. This year’s celebration is to be held at our Balga campus and will run from 9am-12pm on June 11th. The celebration will bring together Indigenous artists and entertainers, explore some of Noongar Nation’s incredible local produce, explore 50 years of NAIDOC celebrations, and look ahead to the future of reconciliation and our mob.

Event details:

- Date: June 11th 2025
- Time: 9am - 1pm
- Location: Balga Campus
- Cost: Free!

Koolark Booking System

You can now book a session with our Mentors online! As part of Koolark's commitment to Digital Technologies, we have introduced our new Koolark

Booking System. You can now book 30-minute catchups with a mentor to discuss:

- Mentoring
- Advice on courses and scholarships
- Community information and orientation sessions
- Study facilities and study groups
- Access to indigenous specific educational programs

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to book a session.

<https://outlook.office.com/book/KoolarkMetors@tafewa.onmicrosoft.com/?ismsaljsauthenabed>



Koomba Birdal – Semester 2 Expressions of Interest

The Koomba Birdal (Big Spark) program is designed to reduce the barriers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders may face in mainstream education and is designed to provide accessible, customised, supported training.

EOIs for our Semester 2 Koomba Birdal offerings are now live – contact our Enhance Aboriginal Engagement (EAE) team for more information.

Course offerings scheduled for Semester 2 include:

- Automotive Servicing Technology
- Creative Industries (Live Production)
- Health Support Services
- Tourism
- Rail Infrastructure

Contact EAE@nmtafe.wa.edu.au for more information.

Enhanced Aboriginal Engagement

The Enhanced Aboriginal Engagement Team at North Metropolitan TAFE (North Metro TAFE) plays a crucial role in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This team is part of the broader Koolark Centre for Aboriginal Students, which provides a welcoming and culturally safe environment for Indigenous students.

The Enhanced Aboriginal Engagement Team focuses on assisting disengaged Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 25 years. They offer a range of services, including career and course guidance, job search assistance, and general mentoring. The team works closely with schools, communities, and industries to help Aboriginal youth become job-ready.

The team provides specialised services such as resume writing, interview preparation, and ongoing study support. One of their key initiatives is the Koomba Birdal (Big Spark) program, which aims to ignite the potential of young Indigenous students by providing them with the skills and support needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

By offering these tailored services, the Enhanced Aboriginal Engagement Team helps bridge the gap between education and employment for Aboriginal youth, ensuring they have the tools and confidence to pursue their goals and contribute positively to their communities.

If you have any specific questions or need more details, feel free to ask!

Our Mentors

Balga:

Tim Gilbertson - tim.gilbertson@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Map: Balga campus

Joondalup (Kendrew, McLarty, Clarkson):

Lee West - lee.west@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Tamara Garlett - tamara.garlett@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Map: Joondalup (Kendrew) campus map

Leederville & Mt Lawley:

Heidi Bell - heidi.bell@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Leilani Ngeru-Hall - leilani.ngeru-hall@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Map: Leederville campus map

Midland:

Shania Hunter - shania.hunter@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Map: Midland campus map

Perth & East Perth:

Jesse Wynne - jesse.wynne@nmtafe.wa.edu.au

Map: Perth campus map

If you would like employment support, scan the QR code below to sign up for EAE Team support. Alternatively, you can email EAE@nmtafe.wa.edu.au for more information.

