

QUT CARUMBA INSTITUTE



'The Point of the Spear' by Judy Watson (courtesy of Milani Gallery)

**Advancing Black Knowing
for real-world research impact,
foregrounding Indigenous
sovereignty and centering
an Indigenous humanity.**



ABOUT US



The Carumba Institute provides a world-class Indigenous research and educational environment that foregrounds Indigenous sovereignty. We recognise the centrality of land to Indigenous Australian culture, identity and spirituality and the significance of intellectual work that affirms Indigenous Australian rights to country and the criticality of Indigenous Australian knowledges to a sustainable future.

Meaning of 'Carumba'

Carumba means *great/outstanding/significant* in Yuggera language.

Our values



QUT Carumba Institute insists that Indigenous knowledges are living, embodied, excellent and essential to real world change.



QUT Carumba Institute extends the gift of belonging to the community, Indigenously and intellectually.



QUT Carumba Institute believes Indigenous knowledges provided unlimited opportunities for solving real world problems, securing a just and sustainable future.



QUT Carumba Institute embraces the full range of emotions found in the expression of Black knowing, including the centrality of joy to Indigenous life worlds.



QUT Carumba Institute recognises that Indigenous peoples and communities have long been powerful in their knowing—a knowing that is found in the hearts and homes of our people.



QUT Carumba Institute prioritises knowledge production, which is courageous in the pursuit of justice, grounded in truth-telling and of service to Indigenous and Black resistance struggles, locally and globally.



WHAT WE DO



Our research

Carumba Institute research is grounded in innovative, Indigenous-led approaches that generate new knowledge and foster meaningful collaboration across disciplines. This work is committed to creating lasting impact by strengthening communities and contributing to positive change at both local and global levels.

Research environment

- Indigenous-led research
- Support for postgraduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- University-wide contributions in research, teaching and engagement
- Manage major research grants

Research impact

- Community-driven transformative scholarship
- Local, national and global Indigenous networks
- Research collaborations with community organisations

Higher Degree Research (HDR) Student Services

We provide holistic support throughout your research journey, from enrolment to completion. As part of a strong Indigenous-led research community, HDR students can access:

- individualised case management and milestone support
- mentoring and peer support
- professional development opportunities
- scholarships, research funding and bursaries
- financial assistance for conferences, equipment and research activities.

Facilities

- 24/7 access to HDR study spaces at Kelvin Grove (D Block) and Gardens Point (B Block)
- Research and collaboration spaces
- Secure computer access
- Lockers, printing services, kitchen and support staff

Research training and support

Current HDR students have exclusive access to a supportive research environment designed to strengthen their scholarly development and advance their research journeys.

- Reading and writing groups (weekly)
- Focused writing sessions (weekly)
- Writing retreats (annual)
- Black Knowing Seminar Series: Showcasing Indigenous Scholarship (monthly)

Our team

The Carumba Institute brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and allied staff dedicated to advancing Indigenous sovereignty through research, education and community engagement. Our team fosters transformative learning environments, supports Indigenous student success, and champions the power of Indigenous knowledges to shape a more sustainable future.

Teaching and learning

Carumba Institute teaching staff play a leading role in delivering Indigenous-led education across QUT through teaching, unit coordination and curriculum development. Our work strengthens culturally safe, inclusive learning environments and enriches student learning through Indigenous knowledges and perspectives. For more information about offerings, visit our website.

Undergraduate engagement programs

Vacation Research Experience Scheme (VRES)

The Carumba Institute Vacation Research Experience Scheme (VRES) offers paid research placements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students during the winter and summer breaks. Gain hands-on experience in culturally grounded, Indigenist research, build valuable skills and explore pathways into postgraduate study.

Program duration

- Winter: 4 weeks
- Summer: 6–10 weeks (project dependent)

We also engage with collaboration programs with Oodgeroo Unit such as Pre-Orientation Program (POP)—a series of academic and cultural activities designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as they transition into university life.

Carumba Institute events

Join us for the Black Knowing Seminar Series, the annual Meanjin Oration and other events that celebrate Indigenous scholarship and community engagement. Follow our Humanitix page for upcoming events, registrations and updates.





Connect with us

- ✉ carumbainstitute@qut.edu.au
- 🌐 qut.edu.au/research/carumba-institute
- 📱 Instagram | LinkedIn | X
- 📍 Kelvin Grove campus (D Block) and Gardens Point campus (B Block)

