

# Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship Newsletter

OUR 2025 WINNER: RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE

## Christian Miller-Sabbioni

*University of Western Australia*



My name is Christian Miller-Sabbioni, I am a Whadjuk, Ballardong Noongar man from Perth, Western Australia. I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship for 2025. Being this year's recipient made me exceptionally proud. It strengthened my self-belief and proved to be a testament to previous sacrifices and hard work throughout my prior studies. This year has been the

most gruelling yet, intellectually stimulating and satisfying year in my academic journey so far. The Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship bursary has made my pursuit of Honours study financially possible. Additionally, as I've elected to do my Honours on a part-time basis, the bursary will enable me to conduct research in Canberra at the National Archives. The monthly check-in email from Megan, the scholarship administrator is always nice too.

I'm pleased to announce that I am on track to achieving a First Class Honours as year one ends. My thesis is titled: "The effects of Australian settler-colonial strategic culture on Australia's defence and security postures in northern tropical Australia" – a mouthful, I know. With aspirations to continue into post-graduate study (MPhil in International Relations), I'd like to expand on my current research interests and interrogate 'How settler-colonialism and imperialism interact to influence the development of racialised strategic policies across the Anglosphere.' As the second year is fast approaching, I aim to sustain the momentum to achieve this goal.

This year far exceeded any expectations I had of it. In the same week I was awarded the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship, I took on my first academic position as an Associate Lecturer at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. While managing my academic role with my student commitments has at stages, been tiresome and difficult, I believe it has resulted in a significant evolution of my character and intellectual capability.







I'm writing this while I await to depart from London back to Perth after participating in the 2025 Aurora Study Tour. The Study Tour afforded me the opportunity of visiting world-leading universities in the United Kingdom, namely: the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Bringing me one step closer to achieving my goal of continuing my research abroad.

APPLY TO BE THE NEXT WINNER

