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### 12 deadly Indigenous Australian social media users to follow

Bronwyn Carlson

*University of Wollongong*, bcarlson@uow.edu.au

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## 12 deadly Indigenous Australian social media users to follow

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## THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair



### 12 deadly Indigenous Australian social media users to follow

October 17, 2016 2.35pm AEDT

Overpass Light Brigade

From a battle over an oil pipeline in the American mid-west to small Australian communities fighting for survival, Indigenous people are harnessing social media to take their stories global. Joe Brusky/Flickr, CC BY-NC

*Social media has revolutionised how we communicate. In this series, we look at how it has changed the media, politics, health, education and the law.*

Author





**Bronwyn Carlson**

Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies,  
University of Wollongong

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In many countries around the world, Indigenous people make up only small percentages of the population. But at a time when “news no longer breaks, it tweets” – with information travelling faster than the mainstream media can keep up – social media has become an increasingly powerful way to make our voices heard.

I’m currently in the United States, working on a special issue of the *Australasian Journal of Information Systems* on Indigenous people and social media activism. While here, I’ve been able to closely follow one of the largest Native American protests in modern US history.

Social media has helped the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe attract national and global support in their fight to protect sacred sites and water supplies from a 1,900 kilometre pipeline, expected to carry 470,000 barrels of oil a day just north of their reservation. (Follow the latest #NoDAPL developments on Twitter, YouTube, Medium, Instagram or see the Aboriginal flag flying at the Sacred Stone Camp via its Facebook page.)



The Aboriginal flag flying in solidarity at the Sacred Stone Camp, North Dakota, USA. Sacred Stone Camp, Facebook

Social media is also crucial to #SOSBLAKAUSTRALIA – a campaign against the closure of remote Aboriginal communities that took off after a single Facebook post from the Bieundurry family, residents of the remote Aboriginal community Wangkatjungka.

Within a week of that first Facebook post, thousands of people across Australia were in the streets. Then came international media coverage to the issue, as well as support from Indigenous groups overseas.

I’ve written about the #SOSBLAKAUSTRALIA campaign as an example of the nexus between political activism and Indigenous people’s use of social media in Australia for a chapter of a new book, *Negotiating Digital Citizenship: Control, Contest and Culture*.



 **SOS BLAK AUSTRALIA**  
@sosblakaust

Follow

We've made history, now let's make change!! People power all the way! [#SOSBLAKAUSTRALIA](#)

7:45 PM - 31 Dec 2015

70 101

There are some challenges. While social media can provide significant benefits to Indigenous people, we have yet to fully understand the health impacts of constantly being connected and subject to violent and oppressive content. This is something my current research is focused on.

Indigenous Australians have always been early adopters of technology, and information and communication technologies are no exception. I'd expect that to continue as new media platforms continue to emerge. As Jason Glanville notes:

*what the longest continuous unbroken thread of human history points to is an extraordinary level of capacity and resilience, innovation and adaptability*

There are too many strong Indigenous people on social media to list here. But if you want to tap into the latest in Indigenous Australian news, politics, research, culture and more, these deadly dozen will steer you towards more accounts to following.

### **Dameyon Bonson**

About the Black Rainbow Living Well Foundation.

Dameyon Bonson is the 2016 Dr. Yunupingu award for Human Rights recipient and founder of Black Rainbow, Australia's peak suicide prevention group for Indigenous lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. He's also the managing director of Indigenist and an advocate of Indigenous genius, Indigeneity and wellbeing.

**Follow Dameyon on Twitter and LinkedIn, or Black Rainbow on Twitter and Facebook.**

### **Leesa Watego**

Leesa Watego talking about Taking Ownership and Building Platforms.

Leesa Watego started Deadly Bloggers in 2009, a directory of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers posting on everything from business to pop culture. She is the director of Iscariot Media, a niche media enterprise focusing on creative, online and educational projects. Leesa is an outstanding educator and deep thinker.

**Follow Leesa on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and more, or Deadly Bloggers on Twitter or Facebook.**

### **Joe Williams**



A short film about champion boxer and former rugby league player Joe Williams' fight with depression.

Joe Williams works hard to inspire youth and individuals through motivational speaking workshops,

run through his charity The Enemy Within. He is impassioned by the high rates of suicides in Indigenous communities – speaking and writing powerfully about his own experience of surviving a suicide attempt – as well as the continued discrimination Indigenous people face in mainstream media.

**Follow Joe on Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook.**

### Amy McQuire



Amy McQuire leading a video panel on police brutality featuring Leon Petrou's case.

Amy McQuire is a journalist with 98.9FM in Brisbane, the first Indigenous radio station in a capital city. Amy has a history of being vocal about the injustices faced by Indigenous people, including talking about hard issues like Indigenous deaths in custody and police brutality.

**Follow Amy on Twitter, LinkedIn or Medium and 98.9FM on Twitter, Flickr and Facebook.**

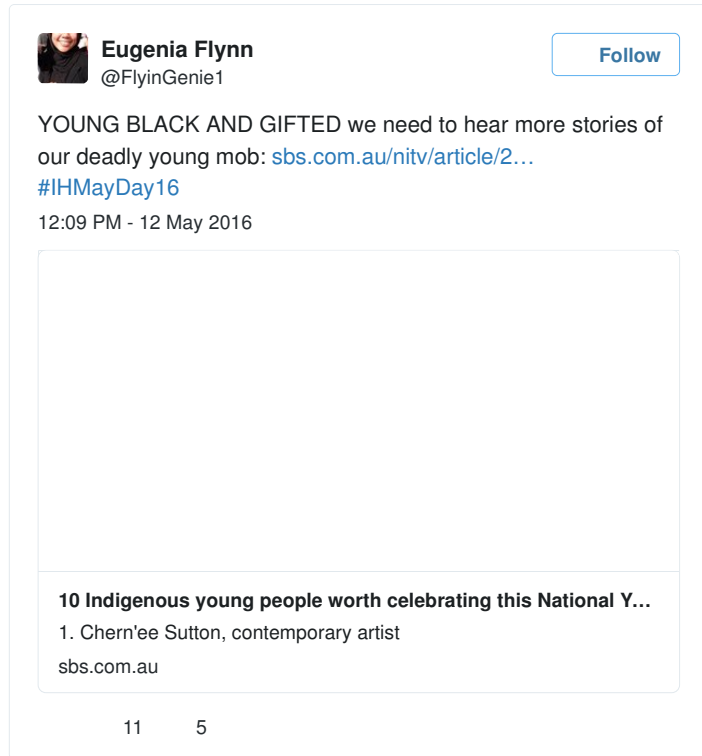
### Jack Latimore

Jack Latimore hosting a 2015 panel on New Media and Indigenous Reporting

Jack Latimore is a researcher and journalist with The Guardian Australia, writing on Indigenous affairs, politics, culture, tech, media and journalism. He is involved in the development of several projects aimed at improving the quality of Indigenous representation and participation in the mainstream media.

**Follow Jack on Twitter, Medium or Facebook.**

### Euginia Flynn



A screenshot of a Twitter post from Eugenia Flynn (@FlyinGenie1). The post is dated 12:09 PM - 12 May 2016. The text of the tweet reads: "YOUNG BLACK AND GIFTED we need to hear more stories of our deadly young mob: [sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2...](https://sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2...) #IHMAYDay16". Below the text is a large empty rectangular box, likely a placeholder for an image or video. At the bottom of the tweet, there is a link to an article titled "10 Indigenous young people worth celebrating this National Y..." with a sub-heading "1. Chern'ee Sutton, contemporary artist" and the URL "sbs.com.au". The tweet shows 11 retweets and 5 replies.

**Eugenia Flynn**  
@FlyinGenie1 [Follow](#)

YOUNG BLACK AND GIFTED we need to hear more stories of our deadly young mob: [sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2...](https://sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2...)  
[#IHMAYDay16](#)

12:09 PM - 12 May 2016

**10 Indigenous young people worth celebrating this National Y...**  
1. Chern'ee Sutton, contemporary artist  
[sbs.com.au](https://sbs.com.au)

11 5

Eugenia Flynn is a blogger who writes from her viewpoint as an Aboriginal, Chinese, Muslim woman living on Kulin Country in Melbourne. Eugenia is a thoughtful, poised and strong Indigenous woman.

**Follow Eugenia on Twitter and Facebook.**

### **Bronwyn Fredericks**

We have some wonderful academics researching issues that are important to Indigenous Australia. Often referred to as “Blakademics”, many of them are enthusiastic social media users – such as Professor Bronwyn Fredericks, one of Australia’s few Indigenous Pro Vice-Chancellors.

Bronwyn promotes issues of health and wellbeing, race/racism, regional development and more. She is also a fantastic supporter of Indigenous students.

**Follow Bronwyn on Twitter or LinkedIn.**





**Bronwyn Fredericks**

@BronFredericks

Follow

Torres Strait Islander woman Kea Lewry graduated today from [#CQUni](#) [#Cairns](#) with a Bachelor of Environmental Science!  
Congratulations Kea! 🎓

5:18 PM - 28 Sep 2016

26

66

### Summer May Finlay

Summer May Finlay on [#JustJustice](#)

Summer May Finlay is a public health professional, PhD candidate and an avid social media user. She is passionate about Australian politics, Aboriginal issues, health, music, art, films and blogs on a variety of other topics.

Follow Summer on [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

### Lynore Geia

Lynore Geia speaking about Close the Gap 2016.

Dr Lynore Geia is an impressive advocate for Indigenous Health. She is the founder of Indigenous Health May Day – or [#IHMayDay](#) – Tweetfests, which have been successful in gaining national

support over three consecutive years and getting Indigenous health trending on Twitter.

**Follow Lynore on Twitter or LinkedIn.**

### **Celeste Liddle**

Celeste Liddle at Communities in Control 2016.

Celeste Liddle is the National Indigenous Organiser of the National Tertiary Education Union, freelance opinion writer and social commentator. She blogs at Rantings of an Aboriginal Feminist. Celeste is a strong voice on social media and an advocate for Indigenous-controlled media, as well as the value of having more Indigenous commentary in the mainstream media. As Celeste recently wrote:

*Social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter... allowed us to connect and organise over vast distances. They also gave us platforms to discuss matters which had long been denied within the mainstream press.*

**Follow Celeste on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.**

### **Sandy O'Sullivan**

Dr Sandy O'Sullivan is one of our wonderful academic bloggers. She is a great example of the way Indigenous people are making global connections. She is currently in the United States promoting Batchelor Institute's Centre for Collaborative First Nations Research.



### The Institute of Global Indigeneity

Is Proud to Host: **Crossing Borders: International Teaching and Research Collaborations on Indigenous Issues**

November 8, 2016: Standish Room, 9:00am to 12:00pm

#### Collaboration Across Borders



Dr Sandy O'Sullivan, Director, Centre for Collaborative First Nations' Research, Batchelor Institute. Sandy is a proud member of the Wiradjuri Nation. She has a number of accolades including, Enduring Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow and Australian Research Council Fellow. Her research focus includes First People's Museum Studies, Creative Arts, Interactive Media, Curatorship and Higher Education.

#### International Research Collaboratives and STEM



Professor Peter Radoll, Dean, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy, University of Canberra. He is a descendant of the Anaiwan people of NSW Australia. He has been a member of the Canberra Institute of Technology Council, an Indigenous community representative on the ACT Community Information Technology Advisory Group and is committed to increasing Indigenous participation in STEM.

#### Internationalizing Indigenous Studies



Professor Harvey Charles, Dean and Vice Provost for International Education and Global Strategies, UAlbany, SUNY. He has a long career in international education and has published widely on issues including global learning, internationalizing the curriculum and comprehensive internationalization. Harvey serves on a number of Boards, frequently consults and gives addresses on international education issues in the US and around the world.



Follow

Crossing Borders: International Teaching & Research Collaborations on Indigenous Issues [@sandyosullivan](#) [@peterradoll](#) [@ualbany](#)

3:27 AM - 10 Oct 2016

11 9

Follow Sandy on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) or the [Centre for Collaborative First](#)

**Nations' Research on Facebook.****Luke Pearson and IndigenousX****Pearson In The Wind**

@LukeLPearson

Follow

I hereby claim Twitter on behalf of @IndigenousX... all your tweets are belong to us.

3:46 PM - 7 Jan 2016

226

414

No list of Indigenous Australian excellence on social media would be complete without Luke Pearson – founder of the highly influential Indigenous media organisation IndigenousX. Luke is also currently a senior digital producer for NITV.

@IndigenousX started in 2012 as a rotating Twitter account, hosted by a different Indigenous Australian every week, and has since expanded into other social media. Luke has a great sense of irony, which is often evident in his tweets (like the one above).

**Follow Luke on Twitter or LinkedIn and IndigenousX on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.**

That's just a snapshot of how Indigenous Australians are using social media to connect, debate and advocate to make a difference, as are so many other Indigenous people internationally. As Luke Pearson has said:

*digital technologies, and in particular social media, can be a significant tool for connection, empowerment, education, employment, the ongoing struggle for social justice, and Reconciliation. In fact, whatever issue is being addressed (or is not, as the case may be), I believe the digital world can assist.*



**Australian politics** **Indigenous** **Social media** **Indigenous culture** **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples** **The social media revolution**