

ALEA Conference 2026 WA proposal

Creating culturally aware communities with ethical AI storying

This workshop showcases our localisation and indigenisation research that uses traditional Pacific Islander garland metaphor to foster authentic, purposeful learning. We foster student literacies and celebrate cultural understandings, enhancing cohesion, empowerment and diversity. This year, we share insights about AI use in critical literacy activities. We focus on traditional storying with a twist, sharing meaningful critical literacy tasks that require learners to use generative AI ‘for good instead of evil!’ via ethical use and analysis of bot outputs. Students learn to filter through the dearth of information available in this era of overwhelm.

We have found that many students struggle to provide a concise story of their histories, strengths and interests. They find it hard to identify or describe barriers to telling their stories, experiencing frustration and/or disengaging from these tasks. Here we showcase some initial data analysis and invite you to adapt our approach for your classrooms. We provide our framework and language for planning, implementation and assessment, supporting you in developing learning content that is more closely linked to their own day-to-day lives. We demonstrate how we foster tolerance of tensions as a valuable part of learning.

By attending our workshop and engaging with the materials and expertise provided, you will do more than share insights with one another about the strengths and limitations of a range of AI tools – you will receive and extend a shared library of prompts that you can use with your students. You will develop more nuanced ways of implementing contemporary literacy learning and critical thinking activities. This saves valuable future planning time and enhances assessment by teaching learners to use AI for idea expression refinements without stifling creativity or compromising ethics.

We conclude sharing the successes and challenges of the workshop, exploring the project’s implications and limitations.