

# tEN Virtual Learning Lunchbox #1, 2020

*Moving courses online: the experience of the BA  
from 2018*



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

***Four contributors today***  
***– Cathy, Clare, Michael and Annika***

- *Conversation and ideas*
- *Open for discussion after c. 30 mins*
- *Some slides with text and image*
- *Reflections on*
  - *how to go about designing for online delivery purposefully*
  - *investing in quality educational reusable digital assets*
  - *paying attention to the student experience*

## ***Moving the BA online***

### ***Reconfiguring the degree from 2017***

- *Introduction of an interdisciplinary core curriculum (2018)*
- *Streams, majors and core*
- *New courses – modular structure*
- *New online degree (2019)*
- *Learner experience focus: retention*
- *Making it happen: new ways of working*

### ***Pedagogical shifts***

- *Active learning (inquiry-based learning)*
- *Social learning (cohorts)*
- *Online teacher presence*

## **Considerations** *(side note)*

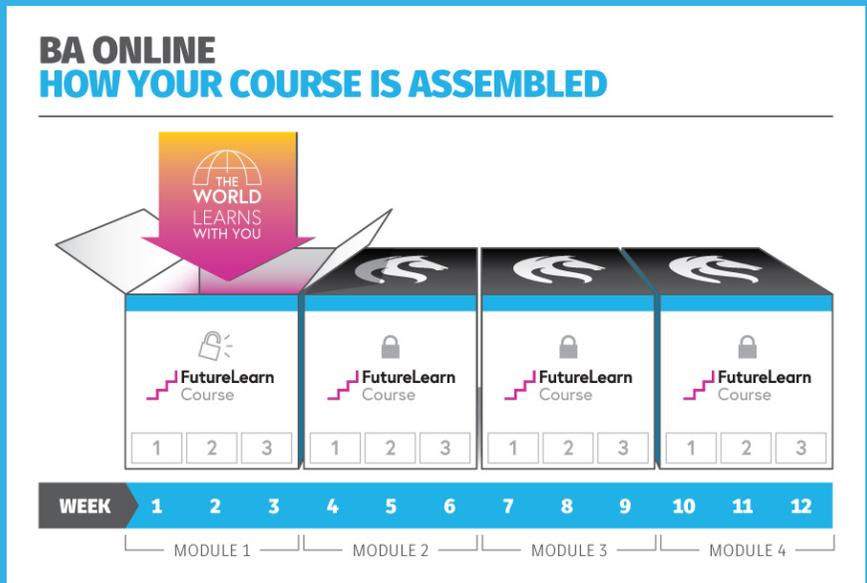
### ***The platform: FutureLearn***

- Strengths and limitations
- LMS or platform agnostic (as possible)

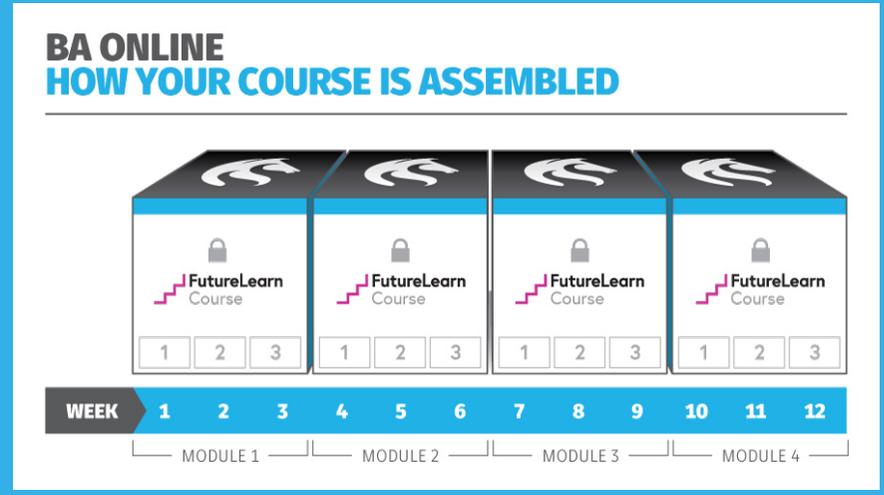
### ***Constructive alignment***

- Review of existing course
- CLOs, assessments and content
- Designed for multiple delivery modes
- Modularised

# 4 Module Structure



With an open course module



NO open course module

# Building blocks

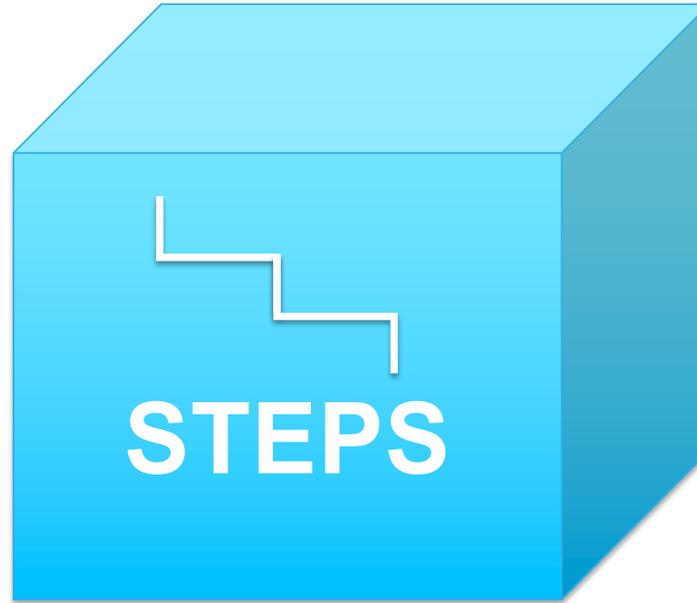


# Learning design considerations

Learning happens when students interact with a shared medium

Students need to be given the opportunity to discuss each major topic/theme/idea in their course

Learning needs to be varied



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**basic building block of FutureLearn**

# Step types

Article

Video

Audio

Discussion

Quiz

Poll

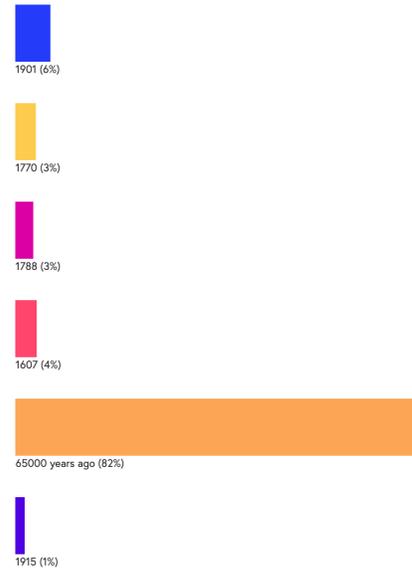
Exercise

Peer  
Review

Group  
Task

## What is the starting date for Australian history?

You selected 65000 years ago. See how your answer compares below.



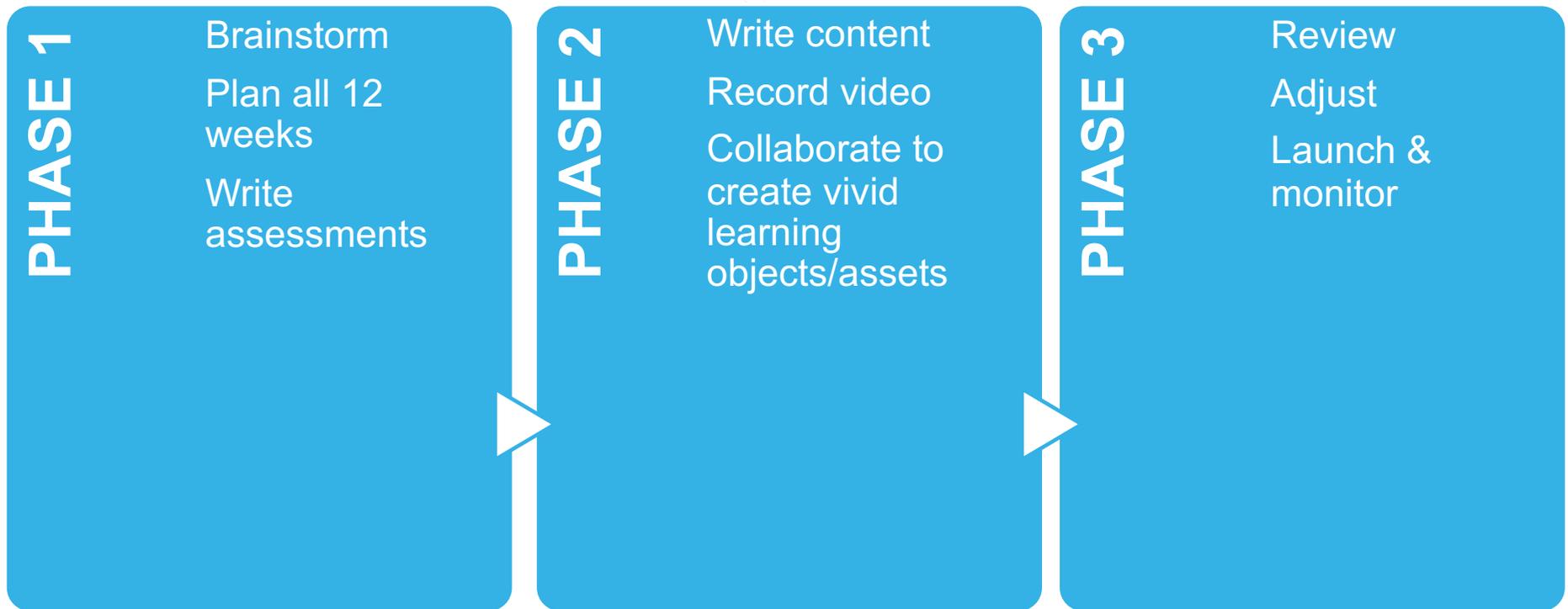
Kate Ariotti LEAD EDUCATOR

Until quite recently, Aboriginal history has not had a place in 'national' history, so it has been easy to point to other dates as the starting point for Australian history. Yet, we know from archaeological evidence that the Indigenous people of Australia have lived on the Australian continent for at least 65,000 years. Indeed, we need to begin before the British started their colonisation.

# Designing together



# Design process



# Planning

- Hands-on workshops
- Encourage academics to do a FutureLearn course
- Visualise the design process



# Boundaries and *opportunities*

- Not a 'drag and drop' exercise
- Concentrated development timeframe to undertake course development
- Regular communication essential
- *Opportunity to reflect and redesign courses*
- *Have fun with the process!*

# Facilitating (online)

- Setting expectations early: consistent engagement with students on FutureLearn, emphasis on self-directed learning and holding selves accountable
- Establishing facilitator/educator presence with check-ins, videos on Blackboard, and consistent engagement, encouragement, further prompts in discussions
- Utilising the tools of FutureLearn, e.g. following students and tagging in replies
- Emphasising the dynamic ways of learning, and flexibility through the tools available on FutureLearn and Blackboard—awareness of why some students are drawn to online learning
- Maintaining consistency across F2F and online cohorts in content, adapting to best utilise tools and mode of online learning

# Retention

- Early identification of at-risk students through FutureLearn and Blackboard tools, and employing subsequent intervention strategies
- A range of formal and informal ways to assess students at risk: tools on Blackboard and FutureLearn to check progress, assessment submission, last log in or access of material; general student engagement in discussion
- Developing a sense of cohort through larger discussions, tagging, liking posts; small group work; peer workshopping; encouraging active students to take on leadership roles in facilitating discussion
- Engagement as embedded assessment
- Checking in with students regularly, and at key dates via personalised emails, video, reminders
- Guide to retention strategies for online learning, including timeline, email templates, key tips

Questions?

