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# Changing the narrative: Shoalhaven year 12 indigenous graduation ceremony 10 years on

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## **Abstract**

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Abstract  
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Changing the Narrative: Shoalhaven Year 12 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony 10 Years On

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Regional change, never mind regional development, does not occur without a change in the telling of the story. Such change needs reflection, celebration and analysis.

This paper considers the dynamics of the creation of the Shoalhaven Year 12 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony and the players there in.

This year, 2012, more than ten years since the first Shoalhaven Year 12 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony, there is evidence the story is changing in the Shoalhaven.

Guest speaker of the night Criminal Lawyer, Mark Douglass, noted that the possibilities for Aboriginal kids didn't appear to exist when he was growing up in Sydney's west. His speech was a call for a different story to be told. How we foster the delivery of this different story matters in any regional change process.

This paper draws on narratology and seeks to challenge the disciplinary boundaries of regional science while reflecting, celebrating and analysing the experience in this case study.