

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you Terry Underwood OAM, who Council has determined should be awarded the title of Companion of the University.

Terry Underwood moved from Sydney to the Northern Territory in the mid 1960s after meeting her husband through her job as a trainee nurse. After nursing him back to health, the couple moved to Riveren Station, 600 kilometres southwest of Katherine.

Terry Underwood embraced the rural life, and has become one of its most passionate ambassadors. In her multiple roles of wife, mother, cattle woman, nurse, book-keeper, cook, counsellor and gardener, she has seen Riveren grow from its humble beginnings to a major cattle property extending over three thousand square kilometres, supporting twenty thousand head of Brahmin cattle. As a noted author she celebrated her way of life through her award-winning photography and her best-selling autobiography, "The Middle of Nowhere", which is currently in its 19th reprint.

Terry is committed to telling the story of rural people and rural life as it unfolds, ensuring that those living an urban lifestyle understand the importance of primary producers, working the land and contributing vitally to our food chain. She has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people in rural and remote Australia and to tackle the immense isolation that often accompanies this way of life. She has always sought creative solutions to address this isolation, beautifully illustrated when organising a charity theatre production and arranging for rehearsals to be done over a two way radio.

In 2006, as ambassador for "The Year of the Outback" Terry both initiated and coordinated a major fund raising venture to provide the bronze statue of the "Stockman's Tribute", which was cast by outback sculptor Archie Clair, and is a lasting tribute to those working tirelessly in the pastoral industry.

Terry Underwood has been a winner of the Northern Territory Telstra Businesswomen's Business Owner of the Year, and a finalist for the Northern Territory Rural Woman of the Year. She has held positions on the Isolated Children's and Parents' Association and the Katherine School of the Air Council, and is a former member of the Northern Territory University Council, the University's predecessor institution. In addition to this, she is a life member of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association.

Terry Underwood was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australian in 2005 for services to the community and the cattle industry.

CHANCELLOR

In recognition of her outstanding contribution and dedication to community service, particularly through literary endeavours and the promotion of the cattle industry in the Northern Territory, Terry Underwood has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the title of Companion of the University - Terry Underwood OAM