

Chancellor,

I have the honour to present to you Annette Burke who Council has determined should be awarded the honorary title of *Companion of the University*.

Annette Burke is a very well-known Territorian who participates in community life to the fullest. Prior to coming to the Northern Territory, Ms Burke studied at the University of Newcastle, completing both a Bachelor of Arts, for which she was awarded the University Medal and a Diploma of Education. She has subsequently achieved numerous other academic awards including a Master of Educational Studies at CDU. Many of us here today, however, know her as a former Mayor of Palmerston, a position she held for 10 years, being the longest holder of that office to date. During this time, she founded and chaired many committees and Boards, including Adopt-a-Park, the Seniors' Advisory Group, Crime Prevention, Safe Communities and City Image.

She is currently the Chair of the Top End Health Services Board, and was previously both the Curriculum Manager of the Centre for Excellence, and subsequently the Director of Executive Education, for the Abu Dhabi International Centre of Excellence within the United Arab Emirates Chamber of Commerce. While in the UAE, she was the Chair and Founder of the Women's Excellence Group UAE and has also held positions on the Beacon Palmerston Board and the YMCA Palmerston Board.

Today we are recognising Annette for her contribution to the advancement of the Charles Darwin University Foundation and, more generally, the University. The Charles Darwin University Foundation was established in 1993 to enhance the relationship between the University and the wider Northern Territory community and has continued to grow from a small base. From 2013 to 2015 Annette was the Chairman of the Foundation and during this time, worked with the Board to develop strong relationships, expand membership and increase donations to the University. Individual and corporate memberships have expanded and the level of donations has increased significantly to the point where in 2014 approx. \$2 million was raised.

Annette, through her leadership, has assisted with the fostering of valuable and enduring relationships with members of the Northern Territory community. Today, the Foundation provides a range of scholarships and prizes to support students and to recognise their academic achievements across a diverse range of activities - this would not have been possible without the fostering of community and business relationships and the commitment of generous donors.

The Foundation has also been able to undertake a number of large projects including the ongoing commitment to many established Foundation projects such as CDU Art Gallery and the University Art Collection, and the very significant and ambitious University Theatre Redevelopment Project which was completed earlier this year. There has also been continued commitment to the highly successful the Greek Guardians Program and the establishment of the Central Australia Chapter of the Foundation.

The Foundation that we have today; the generous support it receives from the Northern Territory community; and the benefit it generates for the University broadly, owes much to the efforts and commitment of Annette Burke.

Chancellor

In recognition of her outstanding contribution and dedication to the University Foundation and the advancement of the University, I present to you for the award of the honorary title of *Companion of the University*, Mrs Annette Burke.