

## **Grace Miguyie Daniels (Gotjan)s**

Vice-Chancellor, I have the pleasure of presenting to you Grace Miguyie Daniels, (skin name Gotjan) who council has determined should be awarded the honorary Doctor of Letters.

Gotjan is to be commended for her significant contribution to Charles Darwin University, to her people, and to the Northern Territory.

A proud Budal woman, Gotjan has held key roles in community as a senior Elder, ceremony leader, educator and a champion for women and children in her community.

Grace is also a member of the Northern Land Council, a board member at Yugul Mangi Development Corporation and a case worker at Ngukurr Safe House. And she co-founded the Yugul Mangi Women's Rangers way before it became common to have women's groups active as rangers on country.

She is a longstanding promotor of Indigenous environmental and cultural rights, both in Arnhem Land communities and on the world stage. She is a key knowledge holder among her clan group, has a Certificate IV in Natural Resource Management from CDU and is co-author to various reports and international peer-reviewed publications.

Gotjan has also held key leadership roles with the Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre and in the development of the savanna burning emissions abatement industry.

Gotjan is one of the founding members and a co-chair of the Aboriginal Research Practitioners Network, or ARPNet, which is hosted by CDU's Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods. ARPNet is a self-supporting platform for community-based First Nations people to carry out participatory action research, evaluations and planning.

She has contributed extensively to research on some significant projects undertaken through ARPNet, and continues to advocate for stronger partnerships between communities and researchers working on Indigenous issues.

In ARPNet Grace famously defined partnership with CDU as a relationship where each is a leg supporting the other, two legs with equal responsibilities and roles for things to work in balance.

Gotjan continues to inspire First Nations young women in the community and continues to advocate for their involvement in research and land management.

Vice-Chancellor, in recognition of her significant contribution to the advancement of First Nations Peoples and to this University, Grace Miguyie Daniels is awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters.