

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you Dean Mildren, who Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*.

Dean Mildren retired on 13 February 2013 after 21 years as a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. He has given outstanding service to both the legal profession and the broader community from the time of his arrival in the Northern Territory in 1972. He retired as the longest serving judge in Northern Territory history with over 1,200 written judgements.

Dean Mildren attended the University of Adelaide where he graduated with degrees in Arts and Law in 1966. He was admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of South Australia in 1968 and the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 1970. In 1983 he was appointed Queen's Counsel.

Prior to his appointment as a judge, Dean Mildren had a diverse practice at the Bar. This included: conducting jury trials in criminal matters, being considered an expert in personal injury matters and acknowledged as the Territory's leading Queen's Counsel.

Dean Mildren was elected President of the Law Society on two separate occasions; Vice President and then President of the Bar Association between 1981 and 1991; Chair of the Northern Territory Planning Appeals Committee between 1979 and 1985; and in 1999 was appointed Chair of the Council of Law Reporting for the Northern Territory and continues in this role.

This University has benefited directly from Dean Mildren's extensive knowledge and experience of the law. As a part-time lecturer in Torts and Legal History, and Adjunct Professor, he taught many students who have since gone on to establish successful careers in the law in the Northern Territory, interstate and overseas.

Dean Mildren's interest in writings on the history of our legal system has added considerably to the body of law that the Territory has produced. He was responsible for the establishment of the *Northern Territory Law Journal* and has had numerous articles published in the Australian Bar Review and the Journal of Northern Territory History. He authored the comprehensive account of the Courts' history, entitled *Big Boss Fella all same judge*, which was published by Federation Press in 2011 to coincide with the centenary of the Court.

Throughout his long tenure as a judge Dean Mildren's particular focus was Aboriginal justice issues. His concern centred on the sensitivities to the difficulties that confront the Courts in attempting to meet the legitimate expectations and entitlements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people in their dealings with the legal system. To address this concern, in 1997 he formulated pro forma directions to a jury for cases involving Aboriginal witnesses. Those directions were designed to assist a jury in assessing the evidence of Aboriginal witnesses and/or an accused's record of interview. The application of those directions has significantly advanced the cause of Aboriginal participants in the justice system. Arising from out of this Dean Mildren was instrumental in the development and maintenance of an Aboriginal interpreter service for the use in the Courts.

Dean Mildren was the Northern Territory's longest serving resident judge and has contributed significantly to the community for over 40 years. His influence on the development of the law, the legal profession and the administration of justice in the Territory is unsurpassed.

He was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration Bar in 1995 in recognition of his service to the Army Reserves.

In recognition of his distinguished service as a Judge of the Supreme Court and outstanding contribution to the administration of justice in the Northern Territory, Dean Mildren has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*

CHANCELLOR

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Northern Territory, who Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*. I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa – I present to you Dr Dean Mildren