

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you Helen Garnett whom Council has determined should be made an Emeritus Professor of the University.

Helen Garnett stands and acknowledges the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor and remains in her place.

This honour is made in recognition of her distinguished leadership of the University, outstanding contribution to the development of tertiary education, and commitment to the advancement of the people of the Northern Territory, has been made an Emeritus Professor of the University.

As the inaugural Vice-Chancellor of the new Charles Darwin University, Helen's leadership was instrumental in helping to establish Northern Territory University, Centralian College, Katherine Rural College and Menzies School of Health Research as the new single institution.

Those days were challenging, yet there were many opportunities available to be pursued. Under Helen's leadership the new institution began to take shape and take advantage of the many opportunities that were presented to serve the tertiary education needs of the people of the Northern Territory.

From those early days the new University has grown to where we are today with over 6,300 higher education students, more than 12,300 vocational education and training students and more than 1,300 staff. We deliver education and training across 8 campuses, at over 170 drive-through locations and via distance education.

Under Helen's leadership the University has grown to become a viable and sustainable institution serving the post-secondary education needs of the Northern Territory and beyond. Its reputation too has grown around the Nation and around the world.

Helen also pursued the development of the social fabric of the Northern Territory through her commitment to the arts.

The relationship between the University and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra flourished. Many of us have enjoyed the orchestral performances over many years.

In the soon to be completed administration building we are developing a new Art Museum, which will become a cultural asset not just for the University but for the wider Northern Territory community. It was Helen's vision that such a space be included in the new building.

As patron of the University Art Collection, Helen oversaw its continued growth both in number and depth. The new museum will help to showcase the ever expanding University art collection, together with works and exhibitions from artists from across the region.

Working with the Yothu Yindi Foundation, Helen help establish a strong relationship around the Garma Festival. Under Helen's leadership the University has been assisting YYF in preparing the Key Forum at each festival. The Garma Festival has grown to become an important national event focusing on Indigenous culture and knowledge.

Much was accomplished throughout Helen's tenure as Vice-Chancellor tonight we have but only briefly touched on her outstanding contribution to the University and the people of the Northern Territory.