

Chancellor

I have the honour to present to you Daryl Manzie whom Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa.

The Honourable Daryl William Manzie is now a distinguished and prominent Territorian, having arrived here some 40 years ago. It was the sense of adventure that lured Daryl and his family to the Territory all those years ago. In his own words it was a land of unparalleled opportunities for anyone with the skills and capability and who was prepared to give it a go. Maureen, Daryl's wife, also was adamant that the family was moving to the Northern Territory.

The Territory was a very different place in the last 1960s than it is today. In 1969 Daryl joined the Police Force and served at various stations during his career that spanned some 15 years. He rose to the rank of Sergeant in 1974 and then officer in charge of public relations in 1977.

At the 1983 Territory election Daryl was elected as the Member for Sanderson, an electorate he was to hold until his retirement in 2001. It can be said that during this time Daryl made his greatest public contribution to the continued development of the Northern Territory. As a member of successive Country Liberal Party governments, he held many and diverse ministerial portfolios including Attorney-General; Education; Health and Community Services; Transport; Works and Housing; Correctional Services; Public Employment and Industrial Relations; Police, Fire and Emergency Services; Darwin Port Authority; Power & Water Corporation; and the Territory Insurance Office to highlight just some of the responsibilities over an 18-year career. From the time of his election to Parliament Daryl was immediately promoted as a minister and member of cabinet, never once sitting on the backbenches nor on the cross-benches.

While in Government in those early years, Daryl worked as part of a team to advance the Territory in areas as diverse as planning for the Darwin to Adelaide railway; land tenure; the construction of a terminal for the airport; air-conditioning for school halls; establishing an independent judicial system; developing relationships with near Asian neighbours. These are just a few of the policy initiatives undertaken at that time. In 1969 Daryl undertook police training in the Adult Education Centre, a tin shed in Cavenagh Street. As Minister for Education he helped to establish the University College of the Northern Territory at the old Myilly Point hospital site by having the hospital renovations undertaken.

Also during this time he initiated court action against Susan Ryan, the then Federal Minister for Education, to increase the allocation of tertiary education places to Northern Territory residents above 20 places.

Outside of politics Daryl is well known for driving his 1959 black Mercedes and his passion for vintage cars. He has a deep commitment to the aims and objectives of the Variety Club, the Defence Force Reservists and Dragon Boating. In 2006 he and the team paddled their way into the Bronze Medal position at the World Dragon Boating Championships. These are just some of the many hobbies and interests that Daryl actively maintains.

The Honourable Daryl Manzie may be most widely known as the presenter of Territory Talk, the daily morning current affairs radio show on 104.1 Territory FM.

Today, in recognition of his contribution to the people of the Northern Territory, in particular through his long career in public life as a minister of the Northern Territory Government, he has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa.

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