

CHANCELLOR,

Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Waymamba Gaykamangu, who Council has determined should be awarded the degree of Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa*.

Waymamba Gaykamangu was born and grew up on Milingimbi Island in East Arnhem Land, where her father was both a strong leader and peace maker for people throughout the Yolngu lands. She undertook her schooling at Milingimbi and became a teaching assistant at the Millingimbi Bilingual school, working there from 1973 until 1987. In 1987 she also received an Associate Diploma of Teaching from Batchelor College.

Waymamba worked as a visiting teacher for Homeland Centres throughout 1988 and 1989, while continuing her studies at Batchelor College in Remote Area Education. She was then employed by the NT Education Department to work in their Curriculum Development Unit. In 1994 she became the inaugural lecturer in Yolngu Languages and Culture at CDU's predecessor institution, the Northern Territory University and continued working with this program until 2008. The program was established and continues under the authority of Yolngu advisers, and began with the first students learning Gupapuyngu – Waymamba's language.

In her fourteen years employed as the Yolngu studies lecturer, Waymamba has taught many hundreds of Yolngu studies students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels as well as in short courses. She has been intimately involved in the development of the Yolngu syllabus, text books and extensive audio-visual learning materials. She has also presented guest lectures in education, anthropology and linguistics, and has undertaken supervision of higher degree students.

Waymamba worked with other Yolngu elders through the Yolngu Aboriginal Consultancy Initiative on a range of research and consultancy projects, bringing traditional Yolngu practices of knowledge production and agreement making to emerging Indigenous research methodologies. Through this work she participated in significant trans-disciplinary research, for example, in the governance of Aboriginal housing after all NT remote Aboriginal housing was compulsorily acquired by the government as state housing.

Her other research has included

- working with the Department of Justice in understanding the history and culture of Aboriginal gambling and gambling-related harm;
- issues of health literacy and health communication;
- the education of future leaders in Aboriginal schools;
- the teaching of mathematics as a community practice; and
- remote-urban migration among Yolngu women, children and family groups.

In 2005 Waymamba and together with colleagues received the Prime Minister's Award for University Teacher of the Year, and in 2007 she received the Vice- Chancellor's Award for Exceptional Performance in Research. In 2010 she was presented with the National Elder of the Year award by the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council.

Some twenty years after establishment, the Yolngu studies program is still going strong and is Australia's only program teaching a full course of studies in an Aboriginal language at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Now living in retirement at Milingimbi, Waymamba continues to work part-time as a Yolngu bilingual, bicultural consultant to the University on:

- indigenous remote area education;
- governance and leadership programs;
- the development of the Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages; and
- Yolngu Radio.

Waymamba remains an active advisor and educator in a range of teaching and research programs through CDU.

Chancellor,

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to advancement of education, particularly in the field of Indigenous knowledges, language and culture, Waymamba Gaykamangu has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa*