

Mr Derek Pugh OAM,

Chancellor,

I have the pleasure of presenting Mr Derek Pugh OAM with an Honorary Doctor of Letters today.

Mr Pugh is an educator and award-winning author who has spent nearly 40 years living and working in the Northern Territory after moving from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Mr Pugh has spent over 35 years in education as a teacher and principal in various contexts from large urban senior schools to tiny remote homeland centre schools in Central Arnhem Land and several international schools.

His other passion is writing. He has written 18 books in several genres - including Northern Territory settlement history, science, adventure travel and Young Adult fiction.

He is most well-known for his history 8-book series on early European settlement of the Top End, *Tambora*, and the novels *Tammy Damulkurra*, and *Schoolies*. His book *Twenty to the Mile*, on the history of the Overland Telegraph Line, has recently been turned into a documentary film with Mr Pugh as its presenter.

Mr Pugh was the winner of the Territory Read Best Non-Fiction book for 2016 for *Tambora: Travels to Sumbawa and the*

Mountain of Change and was short-listed for the Chief Minister's book of the year in 2016, 2020 and again in 2021.

Mr Pugh was an integral part of CDU's Animal Ethics Committee from 2015-2021 where he helped ensure activities relating to the care and use of animals for specific purposes were conducted in compliance with Australian codes.

Mr Pugh holds a Master of Educational Studies and a Diploma in Educational Management from the Northern Territory University.

In 2020, Mr Pugh's endeavours in education were recognised when he received a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Chancellor,

In recognition for his outstanding contribution to education and to the preservation of Northern Territory's history, Charles Darwin University Council awards Mr Derek Pugh the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters.