

Lorraine Lesley Victorina Williams

Lorraine is a proud Larrakia woman and an emerging elder in the Larrakia Nation, the Traditional Owners of land in the Darwin region. From a young age Lorraine has had a passion for the environment, Larrakia language, plants, fighting for land and native title rights, helping her people and her culture.

It was this passion that began her lifelong journey to understand the relationship between plants, culture and people; ethnobotany across the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Throughout her academic and career journey Lorraine has gained exceptional Indigenous ecological knowledge and western land management and enterprise development practices. Her ability to work between both Indigenous and non-Indigenous systems and practices, integrate Indigenous ecological knowledge, guide projects through necessary cultural procedures, have been invaluable to the many projects she has worked on across the Northern Territory.

In 1997 Lorraine began her journey with Charles Darwin's University's predecessor University of Northern Territory where

she began sharing her knowledge as a tutor for First Nations students and a lecturer to mainstream students, in Lands Parks Wildlife Management and Tour Guiding courses.

In 2001 she became a Research Associate, at Charles Darwin University undertaking archaeological research with Larrakia people in developing and sustaining Indigenous tourism activities at Larrakia cultural heritage sites across Darwin.

Lorraine has worked with Greening Australia, Aboriginal Bush Traders, CSIRO, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation, Northern Land Council and with Indigenous Ranger groups across the top end. Lorraine has been instrumental in supporting Indigenous Women Ranger groups and has worked with many cultural elders across the NT.

Lorraine's work has protected Indigenous knowledge's and has raised the profile of Larrakia attachment to Country and the impacts of environmental change. Her current work with the Aboriginal Research Practitioners Network and the Australian Centre for International Research is in Timor Leste and Arnhem Land promoting Wildfoods.

Her research has been published in over 10 publications and she has presented at numerous conferences across Australia and internationally.

In recognition of her commitment to land management, ethnobotany and cultural and community conservation through research and innovation, Charles Darwin University council awards Lorraine Lesley Victorina Williams the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa.