

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, Richard Glyn Kimber, Member of the Order of Australia.

This award will recognise outstanding community service and notable achievement in the fields of Aboriginal studies, history, anthropology, environmental studies, education and sport.

Dick Kimber, as he is best known, was born at Freeling, in country South Australia, in 1939. His rural upbringing instilled in him a sense of the value of community and of the obligation to make the best possible contribution to the community. He went to school in the Riverland area and Brighton, then to Adelaide University and Adelaide Teacher's College. During those years he indulged, in approximately equal measure, his passions for football, surf lifesaving and history.

In 1970 he came to Central Australia to teach at the Alice Springs High School. Apart from two short breaks, he taught English, History and Social Studies for ten years. In 1974 he was appointed the Territory's first Sacred Sites field officer and then he worked within the Education Department as its first Aboriginal Studies curriculum development officer. He was also keenly supportive of the Papunya Tula arts movement from its inception in 1971 and for a time acted as co-ordinator for the Papunya Tula Artists Company.

Through this busy period he made time to pursue his interest in football, while maintaining his lifelong attachment to surf lifesaving. He was foundation captain – coach of Melanka Football Club, now Wests. He is a life member of the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club and of his football club, Wests, and of the Central Australian Football League. It was through football that he began to develop his vast network of friends and informants among Aborigines and other Australians. In 2005 he received the Central Australian Football League Legend Award.

In 1975 Dick married Margaret Friedel, a Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO. In 1980 he resigned from his teaching position in order to take care of their children and to undertake independent research and writing. He has pursued this arduous vocation with singular commitment and continues to do so, while remaining absolutely devoted to his family. The outcomes of his work so far have included one major book, *Man From Arltunga*; hundreds of articles, chapters for books, reviews and scholarly papers as well as many broadcasts and film and television appearances. The focus for this work has been the people and places of Central Australia, especially its pre-history and history and its physical environment.

In addition, he has continued to teach through the medium of lectures and talks to students at all levels, to community groups and to tour groups. He also responds to an average of ten

letters each week from people who seek information or his comment or advice about all kinds of matters relating to Central Australia. His sense of community motivates him to accept an obligation to freely share the knowledge and experience he so richly possesses.

CHANCELLOR

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Northern Territory, in particular to the law and local government, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of letters, *Honoris Causa* – Richard Glyn Kimber, Member of the Order of Australia