

Dean Yibarbuk,

Chancellor,

I have the pleasure of presenting Dean Mununggullumurr Yibarbuk with an Honorary Doctor of Letters today.

He is a highly revered leader and elder across central and western Arnhem Land. He is Gurgoni speaker, his country is Nanark, his clan is Andirridjalaba, his subsection is Bulanj.

Over the years his remarkable commitment to bridging scientific knowledge with traditional burning techniques has influenced researchers, organisations and government policy including the development of the world first savannah burning methodology.

The Savannah Burning Method is a nationally and internationally recognised research methodology that assisted in the development of the Commonwealth Carbon Farming Initiative which produces around 10% of Australia's greenhouse gas reductions from more than 80 projects right across northern Australia.

Mr Yirbarbuk has published numerous academic articles with various researchers and is cited more than 50 times. He has collaborated, shared knowledge and assisted various researchers and organisations including Charles Darwin University (CDU), the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) Project, the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)

movement, founding of the Nawarddeken Academy, Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and Aboriginal Researcher Practitioners Network. He has also collaborated with First Nations people in North American, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Yibarbuk was involved with setting up one of Australia's first Aboriginal ranger groups the Djelk Rangers in Maningrida western Arnhem Land and more recently establishing the Manwurrk Rangers and Warddeken Land Management.

In 2018 Mr Yibarbuk's dedication to conservation and land management were formally recognised when he received the Territory Natural Resource Management Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Yibarbuk's holistic approach to land management, First Nations ecological knowledge and support for future generations has had lasting impact on the Northern Territory and beyond.

Chancellor,

In recognition of his outstanding contributions in conservation, land management and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge while creating education and employment opportunities for First Nations people, Charles Darwin University council awards Dean Yibarbuk the title Honorary Doctor of Letters, *Honoris Causa*.