

Honorary Doctorate Citation for Aunty Lynette Crocker

Aunty Lynette Crocker is a Ngangki Burka.

In the Kaurna language, Ngangki Burka translates to "Senior Woman".

But it means much more than this.

Ngangki Burka signifies someone who holds high status, cultural authority, and deep wisdom within the community.

If you've had the opportunity to spend time with Aunty Lynette, you'll understand why she's held in such high regard.

Aunty Lynette is a descendent of the Kaurna and Narungga peoples of South Australia, who have lived on these lands for thousands of years.

Over more than three decades, Aunty Lynette has played key roles in advancing reconciliation, truth-telling, and two-way knowledge sharing ... all part of her extensive community leadership.

Her significant and sustained voluntary work spans education, Native Title, reconciliation, cultural heritage, and environmental advocacy and conservation.

Aunty Lynette is a founding member of the Kaurna Elders Assembly, an advisory and cultural body representing the Kaurna people.

She was one of the eleven original claimants who lodged an historic Kaurna Native Title Claim in 2000, covering land parcels between the Mt Lofty Ranges, Gulf St Vincent, Redhill and Myponga Beach. Her persistent efforts over nearly two decades were part of the successful 2018 determination, the first such claim to be accepted in an Australian capital city.

The determination recognises Kaurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains and confirms the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation as the organisation responsible for managing these rights on behalf of Kaurna people. Aunty Lynette is an active member of that corporation.

Aunty Lynette empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their communities through representation, advocacy, and cultural leadership, to ensure that First Nations voices and stories are visible, present and heard.

In 2019, Aunty Lynette was the inaugural recipient of Adelaide City Lord Mayor's NAIDOC Award, in recognition of her contributions and impact in Native Title, reconciliation and government engagement.

She's an inaugural and current member of Adelaide University's Purkarninthe Elders Group, which was fundamental in the formation of the University's Act and, specifically, the inclusion of commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and education, and provision of an Aboriginal name. It's timely to reflect on the Aboriginal

name that has been gifted to this University, Tirkangkaku – meaning Place of Learning. Teaching young people has always been a central part of Aunty Lynette's contributions to education and a significant part of her journey in life. Through her work and personal example, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to nurturing and inspiring future generations.

Aunty Lynette made significant contributions to the development and implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan for UniSA, drawing on decades of experience to strengthen culturally informed, community-led approaches to reconciliation and institutional practice.

Aunty Lynette also helped a number of councils develop and deliver their own Reconciliation Action Plans, including the cities of Adelaide, Marion and Campbelltown.

You may be aware we're building an Aboriginal Knowledges Centre, just across the road from here, which will provide a supportive, welcoming environment for Aboriginal students, staff and community members, and a space to encourage discussions between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Aunty Lynette has been integral to the co-design of that centre, providing critical cultural expertise and guidance to ensure the space reflects Aboriginal knowledges, connection to Country, and embeds Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing.

In addition, and despite having been retired for many years, Aunty Lynette continues her role as an Elder on Campus, providing cultural mentorship, strengthening the wellbeing of and fostering a strong sense of cultural identity and belonging for Aboriginal students.

Today is the first time Adelaide University will award an honorary doctorate. Given her distinguished service and exceptional contributions to both the University and to the community, Aunty Lynette is a most worthy recipient.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present Aunty Lynette Crocker for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).