

DR JUDITH CARROLL PARKER

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*)

Judith Parker was born in Inverell, eldest child of Sybil and Claude Parker. She was described by her mother “as always being a bright little button. Her father, a shearer and I recognised her talent from an early age”. As she grew up she acquired from her parents qualities of compassion and determination and an unshakeable commitment to social justice.

Judith excelled at school, was School Captain of Inverell High School and then went on to the University of New England where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English and History and a Diploma in Education.

Her first teaching appointment was to Cootamundra High School where her outstanding talents as a teacher were soon recognised. Indeed, the exceptional results of her Leaving Certificate English Honours class drew state-wide attention and led to her secondment to Wagga Wagga Teachers College as an English lecturer in 1967.

Judith is now in her thirty-second year as a member of staff of Charles Sturt University and its predecessor institutions. Over this time she has made a lasting impact on the thousands of students she has taught and on her colleagues throughout the institution.

This impact extends far beyond the confines of this institution. She has had a significant influence on the teaching of English and teacher education in New South Wales, Australia and internationally, through her membership of the Board of Studies English Syllabus Committees, conference presentations and key note speeches throughout Australia, North America and the United Kingdom, her published works in books and refereed journals, her externally funded research, her outstanding presidency of the New South Wales Teacher Education Council and as a highly respected and influential member of the New South Wales Minister of Education’s Advisory Council.

Many thousands over the years have had the privilege of being in one of Judith’s classes or being a member of an audience where she has given a keynote speech. All will attest to her incomparable skills as a teacher. She challenges, stimulates, provokes and is breathtaking in her intellectual grasp of her subject matter and the passion and commitment she brings to the profession of teaching.

Since the formation of Charles Sturt University and Judith’s appointment as the foundation Head of the School of Teacher Education, it would be fair to say that nobody has been more dedicated to the success of this institution than Judith Parker. She is now the longest serving head of school at Charles Sturt University and has contributed to the University’s growth and development in many ways — through her vigorous contribution to Academic Senate, a range of policy developments, Aboriginal education, the charring of working parties and, for the past five years, her tireless efforts in supporting and encouraging new staff from across all faculties of the University as they adjust to the role of academic life at Charles Sturt University.

In recognition of her outstanding service to the University and its predecessor institutions, to the development of the Faculty of Education and to teacher education the Board of Governors has to-day conferred the degree Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*) on Judith Carroll Parker.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Eight