

Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa*

Mr John Moriarty AM, BA *Flin*

John Moriarty comes from the Yanyuwa people at Borroloola in the Northern Territory. He was a keen soccer player in his youth, is recognised nationally and internationally in the field of design, has been an active member of various Indigenous political organisations and is a well-known philanthropist.

John's story is truly inspiring.

He was part of the 'Stolen Generation' of Aboriginal children, separated from their families and their culture and placed in either government or church homes. At the age of four, he and his classmates were taken from the school they attended at Roper River and sent, via Alice Springs, to the Mulgoa Home at Mount Wilson in New South Wales. Later John was sent to the St Francis Home here in Semaphore, Adelaide; John finished his schooling at Le Fevre Boys Technical High School, and then went on to learn a trade as a boilermaker apprentice.

During these years John showed a great aptitude for soccer. He represented the State of South Australia 17 times and in 1960, was the first Indigenous Australian selected for the National Soccer team. He is now considered a 'soccer legend', and is a role model and mentor for Indigenous Australians through John Moriarty Football, established to nurture remote region Indigenous football talent.

In the late 1960's, John decided to return to study, and enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at Flinders University. He graduated in 1970, becoming the very first Indigenous person to graduate from Flinders.

In 1971, he received a Churchill Fellowship to study the world's First Nation people. In 1995, he was awarded an Advance Australia Award *for service to industry and commerce* and in 1997 an Honorary Doctorate from the University of South Australia.

In the year 2000, John became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) *for service to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through political advocacy and the promotion of Indigenous culture, and to business*, and in 2001, was awarded the Flinders University Convocation Medal.

John has worked as a public servant in various departments of Aboriginal Affairs, both state and federal and has held a number of high-level board appointments. Between 1994 and 2004 John served on the board of Indigenous Business Australia and has also served as Chairman of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council and the National Aboriginal Sports Corporation of Australia.

But John is most notably known for his cultural and artistic leadership resulting from the successful establishment, with his wife Ros Moriarty, of the Balarinji Design Studio in 1983. In 1994, Balarinji was commissioned by Qantas to design artwork for a Boeing 747-400 aeroplane. The finished result was the '*Wunala Dreaming*'. A second aeroplane, a Boeing 747-300 was painted in 1995 and is known as '*Nalanji Dreaming*'. The studio achieved a profile of national and international significance through Balarinji's designs for the *Dreaming* aircraft.

John Moriarty is an extremely worthy recipient of the award of the degree of Doctor of the University which recognises his significant contribution to sport, the arts, and Indigenous affairs.