

Mrs Lynette Fern

For her outstanding service to the University of Sydney.

Honorary Fellow

Conferring ceremony: 15 May 2015

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mrs Lynette Fern to you for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Sydney.

An alumna of the University with a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Fine Arts in 1989, Lynette Fern has supported the Power Institute for Art and Visual Culture for over a decade, both as a Council member and as President of its Foundation.

Motivated by her deep personal interest in and commitment to the visual arts and culture, Mrs Fern's support for the academic goals of the University has been energetic and effective. In this she has forged a close working relationship with the Power Institute Director, providing strategic advice on prospective Council members, funders and partner organizations.

Mrs Fern has served as President of the Power Foundation Council since 2004. During this period, as the Foundation has actively supported the Power Institute for Art and Visual Culture, Mrs Fern has catalysed and enabled some key initiatives, including the beautiful and enduringly popular Schaeffer Library.

She remains a tireless advocate for the Power, consistently representing to a wider public the Institute's importance to Sydney and Australia, and its need for additional financial resources in order to support the growth and diversification of its work.

She has helped to plan and promote scholarly lectures, seminars and other activities, particularly when these have helped connect the Institute's academic work with an engaged and supportive cohort of alumni, friends and donors.

Mrs Fern has hosted functions at her home, to welcome and host visiting scholars, experts and artists from Australia and overseas; she has promoted the work of the Director of the Institute and made useful introductions to contacts within the arts and cultural sector in Sydney and beyond.

She has championed the role that philanthropy has to play, by promoting the value of the Institute's work for the community, seeking to engage prospective funders, and by setting an example through making personal gift contributions.

Mrs Fern's counsel, support and leadership have been appreciated by directors of the Power Institute, fellow Council members and deans present and past of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences alike.

Chancellor, I present Lynette Fern and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon her.