

Citation for Adjunct Associate Professor Monica Viviene Oliphant AO,  
MSc (Physics)

Wednesday 11 April, 2018 at 10:30am

**Officiator:** Mr Jim McDowell

**Award recipient:** Adjunct Associate Professor Monica Viviene Oliphant AO MSc (Physics)

**Award being conferred:** Honorary Doctor of the University (DUniv)

**Citation delivered by:** Professor Julie Mills, Head of the School of Natural and Built Environments

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**Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Adjunct Associate Professor Monica Viviene Oliphant AO for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.**

Adjunct Associate Professor Monica Oliphant is a research scientist who has worked tirelessly, much in her own time, in promoting the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency to the public, to the research community and to all levels of government in Australia and around the world. She has done this through her involvement at the management level with renewable energy societies, committees and boards at the local, State, National and International levels and promotions to the public as well as working with local and international researchers.

She was a foundation committee member of the South Australian branch of the Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society formed in 1979 when, for most people, solar energy was a novelty. Her involvement with the society has been continuous since then on local, national and international levels, including Chairperson from 1992 to 1996. She took the position of Australian representative on the Board of the International Solar Energy Society, in 1997 and was President from 2008 to 2010. She is currently still serving on the board as Immediate Past President.

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She has also sat on the board and provided advice to a number of bodies including Renewables SA, The Premiers Roundtable on the Sustainability of South Australia, the CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship and the State Energy Research Advisory Committee. She also served as a member of a four-person Federal Government high level panel which reviewed Australia's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target in 2003 – 2004.

Associate Professor Oliphant has demonstrated outstanding achievement at a high level in her professional roles and voluntary activities in the field of renewable energy over the past 35 years. Her major achievement is playing an important catalyst in mainstreaming the use of solar and wind energy locally, nationally and globally. She has been devoted to communicating the benefits of harnessing the sun and the wind to all levels of society including the general public, professionals, researchers and decision makers. Her scholarship work has focussed on providing a research evidence base of available solar and wind resources as well as monitoring patterns of energy use and the positive contribution of energy efficiency and renewables. For her efforts, she has been recognised with the following awards:

- Senior South Australian of the year (2016);
- Officer of the Order of Australia (2015);
- World Renewable Energy Network Pioneer Award (2012);
- Ecogen Award (2011) for “Most outstanding contribution to the clean energy industry”;
- SA Great Environment Award (2002); and
- the Conservation Council of South Australia's “Unsung hero award” (2000).

Associate Professor Oliphant's contribution in supporting research and researchers at UniSA has contributed to our success in research and securing research funding as well in the career development of many of our early career research staff and students. It has also provided a number of links to government, industry and international partners.

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