

## Caroline Jones AO

The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon Caroline Jones by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a special honorary award ceremony in celebration of excellence in journalism in Australia at 5.00pm on 5 August 2017.

### Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Caroline Jones AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

Caroline is a writer and an Australian radio and television journalist and has worked at the ABC for more than 50 years. She first joined the ABC in Canberra in 1963, and later became the first female reporter for *This Day Tonight*, Australia's first national current affairs program. She then became the first woman to anchor *Four Corners* from 1972 to 1981, whilst concurrently broadcasting on Sydney morning radio.

As her career developed, Caroline's work increasingly became dedicated to listening to her fellow Australians and drawing out their stories. Over the course of her career she has travelled widely to facilitate community gatherings, with sharing of experience as their focus.

For eight years, on ABC Radio National, Caroline presented *The Search For Meaning* programs, in which hundreds of Australian men and women told accounts of their lives. Four books were published by ABC books from transcripts of those programs, and tapes of the conversations were widely distributed around Australia.

The success of *The Search For Meaning* radio series provided inspiration for the *Australian Story* program on ABC TV. Caroline contributed to and presented *Australian Story* for twenty years following its inception in 1996.

In addition to her work in broadcast media, Caroline is a published author. All of Caroline's books have been used as resources in secondary and tertiary education. Her book *An Authentic Life: Finding Meaning and Spirituality in Everyday Life* became one of the best-sellers of 1998. In 2009, ABC Books published Caroline's diary *Through a Glass Darkly: A Journey of Love and Grief with my Father*. This book was selected in the 2009 Books Alive campaign as 'One of the 50 books you can't put down'.

Alongside her work in the media, Caroline has held positions on a number of government organisations. In 1971, Caroline was a foundation member of The National Films Board of Review, and in 1973 Prime Minister Whitlam appointed her as a foundation member of the Australia Council for the Arts. Caroline became Associate Director of The Centre for Communication Studies at Bathurst in 1982, and with Hugh Mackay, she produced *The Better Communication Tapes*.

A driving force in Caroline's journalistic career has been making opportunities for disadvantaged groups in society to have a chance to tell their stories. During 1988, Caroline worked alongside indigenous broadcasters at Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association in Alice Springs as they produced their first cultural and current affairs programs for television. In 1998, she was appointed an Ambassador for Reconciliation by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Caroline is also an Ambassador for the Mary MacKillop Foundation which, among other activities, provides Tertiary Indigenous Scholarships across Australia.

In 2013, Caroline was appointed the inaugural National Patron of Women in Media, a nationwide networking and mentoring initiative to support and nurture women working in all facets of the media – from journalism and media advising to public relations and corporate affairs.

Caroline's contribution to journalism and Australian society has been recognised with a number of awards. She has won numerous media awards, including a Logie in 1972, a Gold Sammy Award, several Media Peace Prize Gold Citations, an Excellence in Broadcasting Award from 'Friends of the ABC', and a Walkley Award in 2013 for her outstanding contribution to journalism.

Caroline was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1988, and in 1989 was awarded the Archbishop of Sydney Citation in recognition of her contribution to Christian ideals in radio and television.

The National Trust of Australia voted Caroline one of Australia's Living Treasures in 1997, and in 2007, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Chancellor, I present Caroline Jones AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*), and I invite you to confer the degree upon her.