

8 August 2022

**Vale Gaynor Macdonald**

The AAS Executive was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr Gaynor Macdonald, Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney.

Gaynor is remembered by friends and colleagues in the AAS as a supportive and encouraging teacher and a passionate researcher and advocate, who has made insightful contributions to the discipline of anthropology over many years.

Gaynor began her career in anthropology in the 1980s, and conducted her fieldwork with Wiradjuri communities in western New South Wales. She contributed to a number of early native title claims in that region and elsewhere, including the claim of Wellington Common, the first mainland Australian native title claim made under the Native Title Act 1993. Her first book, *Two Steps Forward, Three Steps Back: A Wiradjuri Land Rights Journey*, explored the history of the Wiradjuri Regional Aboriginal Land Council's pursuit of land justice over twenty years. She remained a passionate advocate for First Nations land rights throughout her career, and taught and published on Indigenous cultural history, political movements, anthropology of the state, and economic anthropology.

More recently, Gaynor's research and advocacy focused on dementia and dementia carers. Working as a dementia care consultant, Gaynor wrote, researched, and advocated for a more caring society in which all people, regardless their age, ethnicity, vulnerabilities and circumstances, are understood and supported.

The AAS expresses its condolences to Gaynor's colleagues, friends and family.

Vale Gaynor Macdonald.

AAS Executive Committee.