

## MICHAEL ALEXANDER McROBBIE

### *CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE*

Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Professor Michael Alexander McRobbie.

Michael McRobbie has made outstanding contributions to research management and institutional leadership in higher education as a scholar, an educator, an innovator and a leader in academe and the wider community.

An alumnus of this University, Michael McRobbie was a research fellow in Philosophy in our Research School of Social Sciences and was awarded his PhD in 1979. He took up a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the School, and in a clear sign of the stellar career about to unfold, he led the Automated Reasoning Project, a project which lifted Australia's presence in the international quest for artificial intelligence and which in turn led to two outstanding University developments, the Centre for Information Science Research and the Cooperative Research Centre for Advanced Computational Systems. Michael McRobbie served as the foundation Director for both Centres. Their success rested on his creative drive and impressive management skills.

In these early career roles, Professor McRobbie was responsible for research management across a wide range of information science discovery and infrastructure projects. These projects were widely recognised for their ground breaking contributions to Australian leadership in computational science. They included major research collaborations between the ANU and Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer company and the development of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network, an international organization he co-founded whilst at the ANU to provide broadband connectivity between research communities in Australia, North America and East Asia. Throughout this period in his career, entrepreneurial achievements were paralleled by scholarly contributions to logic, computer science and information technology.

Professor McRobbie moved from the ANU to Indiana University as Vice President for Information Technology in 1997 and led the University to national leadership in the field of advanced information infrastructures and facilitated their uptake by other academic communities. He played a major role in the creation of the School of Informatics and founded the University's Pervasive Technology Laboratories by securing a \$30 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, at the time the largest Indiana University had received from a private organisation. Professor McRobbie's remarkable achievements in forging Indiana's presence in information technology were recognized by his inclusion among the Premier 100 IT leaders by *Computerworld* magazine.

In 2003, Professor McRobbie's responsibilities were broadened to include the Vice Presidency for Research and in 2006 they were broadened further through appointment as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In his Academic Affairs role he oversaw the Indiana University's development of a more highly selective campus at Bloomington, while ensuring that the University remained accessible and affordable to low-income and minority students. He also reinvigorated Indiana University's global relationships through cooperative agreements with premier universities in China, Japan, Korea, and Israel.

On 1 July 2007, Professor McRobbie was appointed the 18th President of Indiana University, a position he currently holds. In this role he is responsible for the University's eight campus system with over 5000 faculty, 11,000 staff, and 100,000 students.

In 2009, Professor McRobbie and this Vice-Chancellor agreed to form an Alliance between Indiana University and the ANU. The ensuing Memorandum of Friendship and Cooperation gives practical form to a long term vision combining complementary research and education strengths of the two Institutions. The ANU-IU Pan-Asian Institute was created last year under the Memorandum. The Institute promises deeper understandings of regional politics, international relations, political economy, religion and Islam than either institution could reach alone.

In 2007, Michael McRobbie's achievements were recognised by the State of Indiana with his appointment as a "Sagamore of the Wabash". He was elected as an honorary member of The Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2007 and this year he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for "distinguished service to tertiary education, particularly through administrative roles, and for contributions in the field of information technology and in developing international alliances between universities."

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present Michael Alexander McRobbie, a distinguished alumnus of the University, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on the ground of his outstanding contributions in the service of society and in particular for his achievements in research management and university leadership.

Professor Ian Chubb AC  
Vice-Chancellor  
The Australian National University  
16 July 2010