

JAMES FULTON MUIR

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Mr James Fulton Muir.

Over a long career in finance and commerce, Fulton Muir held senior management posts with the Westpac Banking Corporation, served as the NSW Government Commissioner for North America, advised the ACT Government on development matters and was associated with the St George Bank. To this day, he remains actively engaged in business through company directorships and senior advisory roles to enterprises engaged in the law, entertainment and manufacturing.

In the service of society he has been generous and active over many years and for his "services to commerce and the community" Fulton Muir was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1992. He continues to contribute his skills and expertise to both local and national organizations, including the Australian Academy of Science, CSIRO, the Australian Institute of Sport and Canberra Girls' Grammar School.

Fulton Muir joined the Council of the University in 1986 as a member appointed by the Governor-General and, apart from a short break, his service on Council has been uninterrupted. In 1989 he was appointed by Council as a member of its Finance Committee. Council subsequently appointed Fulton Muir as Chair of Finance Committee, a position he has held continuously from 1993. It would not surprise anyone familiar with Fulton's desire to use his skills for wider and useful purposes, that he served on other Council and University bodies, including the Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Board of the ANU Union.

The foregoing is a recitation of long and dedicated service to the University community. There are, however, two particular aspects of Fulton Muir's work for ANU that mark his contributions as outstanding.

ANU has been conducting world class research for many years. Fulton Muir was one of the key figures here in recognising the need for, and obligation on, the University to engage actively in the commercialisation of its research, to the benefit of ANU and the nation. The ANU Enterprise building bears his name in recognition of his salient contributions to the commercialisation of our research. Though Fulton Muir's terms as Councillor and Chair of Finance Committee concluded on 30 June this year, he continues to assist the University in this ongoing activity.

In addition, Fulton Muir has made notable contributions to ANU as a member of Finance Committee, and particularly as its Chair since 1993. During a period of change for ANU, efficient financial systems and sound finances have underpinned our ability to plan and develop. Finance Committee is charged with the task of providing advice to the Council and the Vice-Chancellor on matters of finance and of financial management.

In such an environment, Council and the Vice-Chancellor must have confidence that the advice it receives from Finance Committee is relevant and informed. As Chair of Finance Committee, Fulton Muir has worked with senior finance officers of the University to develop and maintain close collaborative cooperation between those officers and the Finance Committee. His efforts have been notably successful. The collaborative relationship between the Committee and University officers has enabled Finance Committee to work from a broad and coordinated view of developments relevant to its remit, and this has enhanced the quality and utility of its advice.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you James Fulton Muir that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*, on the ground of his sustained and outstanding service to the University.

Professor Ian Chubb AC
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
11 July 2006