

IAN GORDON ROSS

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Emeritus Professor Ian Ross.

Ian Ross was appointed to a Chair in Chemistry in the then School of General Studies of ANU in February 1968. In due course, he became Dean of the Faculty of Science, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University. He is distinguished in his discipline, and has been honoured by his colleagues in appointments as a Fellow of The Australian Academy of Science and of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and also by being awarded that Institute's H G Smith Memorial Medal.

Parallel to the development of Ian Ross' purely scientific interests, his wise judgements, tolerance and sense of humour have propelled him through a series of evermore challenging administrative posts both within the University and in the service of the nation.

Ian Ross instigated a series of fundamental changes within the University. Early on, he sought to achieve the development of engineering within the ANU. His initial attempt envisaged the undergraduate teaching of engineering in the University. However as this approach did not gain support from the various government bodies that handled University matters at the time, he found another route via the Institute of Advanced Studies. The University gained its first engineering department in 1982, the Department of Systems Engineering, which was located in the Research School of Physical Sciences. This was the start of a very significant drive, with a number of key milestones behind which stood Ian Ross. The defences against the introduction of undergraduate engineering were subsequently overcome, and a highly innovative engineering program in The Faculties was established. Computer Science was resurrected in the Institute of Advanced Studies within the Research School of Physical Sciences, and promoted generally across the University, through another Ross-creation, the Centre for Information Science Research. Ian Ross thus caused to be laid the foundations for the formation of both a new faculty, the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology and a new research school, the Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering.

Ian Ross also recognised the need for outreach by the University. He was instrumental in the inception of Anutech, a later starter than some similar companies at other Australian universities, but nevertheless it is unquestionably true that Anutech is the most successful of its kind of companies. Outside the ANU Ian has played a significant role in science and technology policy in Australia. By way of example, he was one of the longest serving members of the predecessor of the Australian Research Council, the Australian Research Grants Committee, and also its Chairman for three years. He led government enquiries into government laboratories and facilities (1982-83), and higher education libraries (1990). From 1990 until 1995 as Chair of the Physical Sciences Panel of the Cooperative Research Centres Committee, he led four rounds of assessments of new proposals for Cooperative Research Centres in the Physical Sciences.

This record of public service both inside and outside the University was formally recognised in 1994 by his appointment as an Officer in the Order of Australia. But it is the significant changes that he has instigated that effectively constitute the lasting testament to his creative work.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Ian Gordon Ross, that you may confer on him the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, on the ground of his distinguished creative contributions in the service of society.

Professor R D Terrell
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
24 April 1997

IAN GORDON ROSS

Officer in the Order of Australia

Master of Science in the University of Sydney

Doctor of Philosophy in the University of London

Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute

Fellow of The Australian Academy of Science

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University

has this day been admitted, *honoris causa*, to the degree of

DOCTOR OF LAWS

on the ground of his distinguished creative contributions in the service of society

**Given under the Seal of
The Australian National University
this twenty-fourth day of April 1997**

VICE-CHANCELLOR

REGISTRAR