

ROBYN WILLIAMS

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Mr Robyn Williams.

Robyn Williams was born in Britain, the son of Gwyn Williams and Rachel Davis. In Jewish tradition he was to be Rudi, but this was too Germanic for 1944, and instead he became Robyn, with a “y” to make it Welsh. Robyn went to school at the Stubenbastei Gymnasium in Vienna and later at Tooting Bec Grammar School in London. His was a multicultural, multipolitical and multiconfusing upbringing.

This problem was solved in 1964 with ten pounds sterling and a one way passage to Australia. After two years in Australia, Robyn Williams hitch-hiked from Sydney to London where he enrolled at the University of London. He graduated with a broadly based science degree that left him well-placed as a science communicator. Robyn Williams again looked to Australia.

He joined the ABC Science Unit in 1972 and was soon reshaping the intellectual ways of interpreting and presenting science. Australian science was placed in the context of international science, and scientists were viewed as people of interest.

Unique for its quality, depth and persistence, the *Science Show* is the public voice of communicating science in Australia. The public face of Robyn Williams was as President of ANZAAS (1992), President of the Australian Museum Trust (1985-93), Foundation Commissioner of the Commission for the Future (1984-), and Chairman (1990-94); serving on the National Commission for UNESCO (1984-1986); Reuter Fellow, University of Oxford (1994); Rostrum Australia Speaker of the Year (1993); and Humanist of the Year

His books include: *Outpourings* (1987), *Promise of Miracles* (1994) and *Different* (1994) and more written when Robyn Williams concerns the future of p Australia.

Read a magazine on science festival, turn on and new to add. His ex Council, arguing for A launched at the recent A

Mr Chancellor, it is may confer on him the distinguished creative co

Oxford (1994), Rostrum Australia Speaker of the Year (1993), and Humanist of the Year (1993).

Professional awards include the Radio Prize from the Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Media Peace Prize, the Michael Daley Award for Science Journalism and the Centre for Australian Cultural Studies National Award 1996 (Individual) for an outstanding contribution to the quality of Australian cultural life. Honorary Doctorates of Science have flowed from Deakin, Sydney, and Macquarie Universities, and he is the first journalist to have been made a Fellow of The Australian Academy of Science.

The ABC Australian Museum Eureka Awards for excellence in science communication and innovation have been crucial in raising the public status of science. These awards were a Robyn Williams' initiative.

Bachelor

Doctor of Science

Doctor of

Fellow of the Austral

I

has this

on the ground of h

