

# THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



## CONFERRING OF AWARDS

Kensington • Friday 19 March 1999 • 2.30 pm

50TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY  
OF CONFERRING OF HONORARY DOCTORATES  
AND PRESENTATION OF JUBILEE MEDALLIONS



# THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



*Arms of  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES*

*Granted by the College  
of Heralds, London  
3 March 1952*

*In 1994 the University title was  
added to the Arms to create the  
University Symbol,  
shown above.*

## **HERALDIC DESCRIPTION OF ARMS**

Argent on a Cross Gules a Lion passant guardant between four Mulletts of eight points Or a Chief Sable charged with an open Book proper thereon the word SCIENTIA in letters also Sable.

The lion and the four stars of the Southern Cross on the Cross of St George have reference to the State of New South Wales which brought the University into being; the open book with SCIENTIA across its page reminds us of its original purpose. Beneath the shield is the motto "Manu et Mente", which is the motto of the Sydney Technical College, from which the University has developed. The motto is not an integral part of the Grant of Arms and could be changed at will; but it was the opinion of the University Council that the relationship with the parent institution should in some way be recorded.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

1949 - 1999



This year UNSW celebrates 50 years of academic achievement. In that time we have grown from a handful of students on a barren patch of sand at Kensington into one of the top ranking universities in the Asia/Pacific region, renowned for innovation in teaching and research.

The outstanding achievements of the first fifty years are only the beginning of a limitless and global future as UNSW continues, through its vitality and growth, to attract talented staff and students from around the world.

The Jubilee celebrations will be marked by more than 20 major events grouped in three festivals including a program of lectures, tours and entertainment designed especially for graduates, a series of international lectures, conferences and symposia and UNSW Expo, an expanded version of the traditional Open Day showcasing the University's innovations and achievements in science, technology and the arts. A particular highlight will be the opening of The Scientia, UNSW's new ceremonial and communal heart, dedicated to all the staff and students who have made UNSW a world-class institution.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations also give us the opportunity to honour those who have contributed to the University's reputation. Today, in the first of three Ceremonies of Conferring of Awards and Presentation of Jubilee Medallions, we salute the achievements of six outstanding members of our community by awarding them Honorary Doctorates: Lionel Bowen, Ian Burgess, Julian Disney, Dagmar Schmidmaier, Harry Seidler and Ronald Strahan. We also recognise the outstanding contributions which 24 individual members of the University community have made to the life of UNSW by presenting to them Jubilee Medallions.

# ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

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The Academic Procession proceeds to the dais,  
the Assembly standing

National Anthem: Advance Australia Fair

The Chancellor, the Hon. Sir Anthony Mason, AC, KBE, BA LLB *Syd.*,  
Hon.LLD *ANU, Syd., Melb., Monash and Griff.*, Hon.DCL *Oxon.*,  
extends a welcome to those present

Ms Crystal Condous, BCom MLib *UNSW*,  
Registrar and Deputy Principal

Professor John Niland, AO, BCom MCom *UNSW*, PhD *Ill.*, FASSA,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
presents the recipients of Jubilee Medallions and  
the candidates for Honorary Degrees

The Burgundian Consort directed by Associate Professor Patricia Brown  
*As Vesta was from Latmos Hill descending* by Thomas Weelkes

The Mace Bearer: Emeritus Professor E.C. Daniels,  
MArch *UNSW*, ASTC(Hon.), LFRAIA, Hon.MIES

The Academic Procession retires, the Assembly standing

Organ Music performed by Mr David Drury

# **JUBILEE MEDALLIONS**

**Betty Allman**  
**U Committee, UNSW**

As a longstanding member of the U Committee Betty Allman has offered UNSW tireless and devoted service, helping raise funds to support University projects and activities. Through the dedication of this group of volunteer workers and the success of their activities, the University has been the grateful beneficiary of donations exceeding well over \$1 million. Betty Allman has become synonymous with the U Committee Memorabilia Shop, serving as the Memorabilia Convenor, and has also served on the U Committee's executive as its treasurer.

**Helga Angyal**  
**Australia Ensemble Advisory Committee and U Committee**

Helga Angyal was one of the founding members of the U Committee, a group of devoted volunteers who helped in fundraising and in promoting the University. She was the U Committee's first Publicity Officer and is credited with launching the careers of Eric Minchin and the 'Brushman of the Bush' after she invited Minchin and his colleagues to exhibit their works of art at the University. Helga Angyal is also a long time member of the Advisory Committee for the Australia Ensemble, UNSW's resident chamber music ensemble.

**Yannick Aubrée, LLB Paris, MCJ Texas, MA UNSW**  
**Protocol Manager, Protocol Office, UNSW**

Yannick Aubrée has given over twenty years of dedicated service to the University, and his outstanding performance as Protocol Manager has contributed significantly to its public image, nationally and internationally. He organises graduation ceremonies on campus and abroad with cool efficiency, enthusiasm and style; his charm, good humour and personal attention make every graduand feel a special and important participant. Many other University functions benefit from his outstanding organising ability and his singular flair for managing activities for diverse groups of people.

**Maie Barrow, BSc Adel., BA Macq., MSc MIM-Archiv/Rec UNSW**  
**U Committee, UNSW**

Maie Barrow is a longstanding member of the U Committee and served as its Treasurer and President. As a member of this dedicated group of volunteer workers she has contributed significantly to the success of their activities and has helped raise enormous sums to support a wide range of University projects. Maie Barrow has been actively involved with the Book Fair, which is the U Committee's most successful and longest continuing fundraising activity.

**Eryl Brady****Senior Equity Officer, Equity and Diversity Unit, UNSW**

For 25 years Eryl Brady has served UNSW, its staff and students in matters concerning fairness and equity, especially in areas of Equal Employment Opportunity and industrial issues. She has worked in a number of general staff positions and is currently a major contributor to the work of the Equity and Diversity Unit. Eryl Brady represented general staff on the University Council from 1988 to 1994 and actively participates in debate on a wide variety of matters to enrich University life for all staff.

**Harold Brown, AM, BSc ME Syd., Hon.DSc UNSW****Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering**

Harold Brown was a farsighted and skilful contributor to the foundation of the University. With prodigious energy, enthusiasm and vision he assisted in the preparation of the University's enabling Act of Parliament, worked on the design of the first buildings, selected equipment and staff and organised the first courses. In 1949 he was appointed Foundation Professor of Electrical Engineering and Assistant Director of the University. He later became the first Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, continuing to play a vital role in the development of the University.

**Elizabeth Butcher, AM****Administrator, National Institute of Dramatic Art**

Elizabeth Butcher has been the Administrator of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) for 30 years. During that time, NIDA has operated from several different theatres, all at UNSW. Her work in recent years has secured for NIDA a magnificent permanent home adjacent to the western campus of the University. Over the years, Elizabeth Butcher has worked closely with three Vice-Chancellors and the University community to ensure that NIDA has a distinctive and autonomous identity, while at the same time benefiting from and contributing to the intellectual and campus life of UNSW.

**Neil Harpley, BA Syd,  
Lecturer, School of Philosophy, UNSW, UNSW Council Member 1975-1979, 1981-1985, 1988-1990, 1993-1996**

For over 30 years Neil Harpley has provided exceptional service to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and to the University, serving as the Presiding Member of Faculty and member of the Academic Board for over six years as well as serving four terms on the University Council. He has been president of the UNSW Staff Association and the Federal Council of Australian University Staff Associations. Neil Harpley is sought out by many for his wise counsel. He is known for his fairness, his persuasive abilities to bring divergent parties to an agreement and his overwhelming care for the University community.

**Kevin Horsell**

**Manager Zone Operations, Campus Services, Facilities Department , UNSW**

Kevin Horsell's name is almost synonymous with building maintenance in the University. He began as a junior carpenter in 1965 and progressed over the years to his present position of Manager Zone Operations in Campus Services, and has been outstanding in devoting his energy to maintaining and improving the working environment on campus. He is held in high regard for his commitment to the University, and for his loyalty to his department and his colleagues.

**John Kennedy, OAM, BSc Oxf., MSc UNSW, MFAIAS  
UNSW Council Member 1957-1959, Presiding Member of the Faculty of Applied Science 1986-1996 and member of the Academic Board**

In over 40 years at UNSW, John Kennedy's talent and dedication, both as a student and as an academic have been widely recognised. He was UNSW's first Rhodes scholar and still continues to provide encouragement and support to UNSW candidates for this prestigious award. John Kennedy provided long, dedicated and valuable contribution to the University, serving various periods as head of school and as the Presiding Member of the Faculty of Applied Science and member of the Academic Board.

**Laurie Lardner, GradDipAdmin *Kuring-gai* CAE, FAICD  
Director, Facilities Department , UNSW, 1990-1996**

Laurie Lardner joined the University in 1987 and three years later was appointed Director of the Facilities Department. Under his leadership the Capital Development Strategy was formulated, and it has since been the major planning tool guiding the campus improvement program. He positioned the Department so that it could implement successfully the ambitious developments of the 1990s. Another notable achievement was his successful management of the amalgamation of the St George and Paddington campuses with Kensington.

**Mavis Lawson**

**Administrative Officer, Student Information and Systems Office, UNSW**

Mavis Lawson has served Student Administration for over twenty years in a variety of roles. The most significant has been as the database expert for both the Student Information System and the complex system that preceded it, translating largely unstructured data into new coded and retrievable formats. Her encyclopaedic knowledge extends from the paper records of the University's earliest days, and includes academic programs, rules and changing practices. Outstanding ability and her calm methodical approach have positively enhanced the integrity and security of student information.

**Eileen Marstaeller**

**Facilities Department, UNSW**

Eileen Marstaeller recently retired after twenty years of loyal service to the University in the Facilities Department's Cleaning Service. She was known and respected not only for the quality of her work but also for her caring attitude to her colleagues and co-workers; she was always willing to assist those who needed help or support. Starting her working day at six am for two decades, she proved her strong commitment to meeting responsibilities; and she met them with good humour and regard for others.

**Ann Martin, BA Qld****Director, Aboriginal Education Program, UNSW**

Ann Martin has worked selflessly to improve the rights of Indigenous people. She has been the Director of the Aboriginal Education Program (AEP) since it was established in 1992. She is heavily committed to the needs of Indigenous students, and together with the staff of the AEP works tirelessly to ensure that the transition to University (and often to Sydney) is smooth. Through her efforts the numbers of Indigenous students studying at UNSW have increased and numerous preparation courses to assist school leavers have been established.

**Io Myers****U Committee, UNSW**

Io Myers represented the University at ceremonies and functions for more than a decade with grace and distinction. She was one of the founding members and the first President of the U Committee, a group of devoted volunteers who helped in fundraising and in promoting the University. A number of the U Committee's early fundraising activities were the inspiration of Io Myers and their success due to the enthusiasm and dedication of the U Committee's members. In 1982 the University's Io Myers Drama Studio was opened, built from funds donated by the U Committee and named in recognition of Io Myers' contribution to the University and the U Committee.

**Helen Page, BA DipEd DipT NE, MA Syd.****Head, English for Academic Purposes, Institute of Languages, UNSW**

Helen Page joined the University in 1988 to take up the position of the Foundation Head of the section of the UNSW Institute of Languages servicing the Foundation Studies Program. She is a highly committed educationalist and has seen the Foundation Studies Program grow from a prototype program to a widely respected mechanism for entry to UNSW for international students from many cultural backgrounds. Helen Page served as Director of Studies at the University's joint venture in Indonesia in 1997-98 and provided consistent wise advice on UNSW's onshore and offshore developments in this important area.

## **Ted Spence**

### **Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UNSW**

Ted Spence joined the University staff as a driver over thirty years ago, and later was appointed to drive the Vice-Chancellor's official car. For this, besides exceptional driving skills, he needed certain special qualities - reliability, tact, a calm manner, patience, and a true sense of discretion - all of which he possesses in full measure. He has given distinguished service to the University, and can be justly proud of having been official driver for three of the University's four Vice-Chancellors.

## **Elizabeth Spillane**

### **Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UNSW**

Elizabeth Spillane provided dedicated service to the University for over 30 years, working firstly as an Office Assistant/Typist in the Examinations and Student Records branch before serving in a variety of executive secretarial positions. She worked for most of her career as Secretary to the former Registrar and Academic Registrar, and more recently was Secretary to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor before becoming the Vice-Chancellor's Secretary. Elizabeth Spillane is renowned not only for her efficiency and devotion, but for the sense of humour she brought to the office environment.

## **Sandi Steep**

### **Head, Grant Support Section, Research Office, UNSW**

Sandi Steep joined the University in 1989 to take up the position of Head, Grant Support Section in the Research Office. Since that time, she has assisted countless UNSW researchers to apply for research grants and has quietly reminded them in timely fashion of reporting needs. She is regarded by her colleagues in the Research Office as the source of corporate knowledge and has consistently assisted them in their career development. She has been a continuous source of inspiration to her colleagues and an example to all in administrative positions within UNSW.

## **Kevin Tierney**

### **Custodian, Campus Services, Facilities Department, UNSW**

Kevin Tierney began work in the University's Cleaning Service in 1973. He became Theatre Custodian in 1978, and for the past ten years he has been the Custodian of the Clancy Auditorium. In this position he has been an exceptional ambassador for the University in his dealings with people, and his "customer first" ethic has received many accolades from hirers of the Clancy. He is well known for the excellent quality of his work and his commitment to the service of his clients.

**Daphne Toakley, SRN**  
**U Committee, UNSW**

As a longstanding member of the U Committee, Daphne Toakley has offered UNSW tireless and devoted service, helping raise funds to support University projects and activities. Through the dedication of this group of volunteer workers and the success of their activities, the University has been the grateful beneficiary of donations exceeding well over \$1 million. Daphne Toakley's involvement with the U Committee has included service on its executive committee, including two terms as President.

**Judith Tonkin, BA Syd.**  
**Deputy Registrar, Student Administration Department, UNSW**

Judith Tonkin joined the University staff in 1976, and for the past decade she has been Deputy Registrar, Student Administration. She has made major contributions to the development of policy across all student areas and has had significant impact on many achievements of the University's academic committees, her wise counsel ensuring that the highest professional standards are maintained in the interpretation and implementation of student policies and procedures. Her vision and leadership have placed UNSW at the forefront of Australian universities in the area of Student Administration, and have earned her the highest respect of her colleagues here and in other institutions.

**Joan Waghorn**  
**Office of the Vice-Chancellor, UNSW**

Joan Waghorn served the University for almost 30 years from 1963 to 1992, during which time she was Secretary to Vice-Chancellors Rupert Myers and Michael Birt. On her retirement she was described by Vice-Chancellor Michael Birt as a most devoted, effective and dedicated member of staff. In Patrick O'Farrell's portrait of UNSW's first 50 years, Joan Waghorn is described as 'the ideal secretary'. A fitting sentiment.

**Flora Weickhardt**  
**U Committee, UNSW**

Flora Weickhardt is the current President and longstanding member of the U Committee, a group of tireless and dedicated volunteer workers who help raise funds to support University projects and activities. During her term as President, the U Committee has continued to donate significant funds to UNSW, including a recent donation which enabled UNSW's resident chamber music ensemble, the internationally renowned Australia Ensemble, to purchase a Stuart piano.

# **HONORARY DOCTORATES**



DOCTOR OF LETTERS *honoris causa*

**Lionel Frost Bowen, AC, LLB Syd.**

In a most distinguished career in public service spanning over 40 years, Lionel Bowen established a reputation as a politician of honesty, integrity and decency. He has served in all types of government, local, state and federal, and was Deputy Prime Minister for seven years prior to his retirement from politics in 1990. For his outstanding services he was awarded Australia's highest honour, Companion of the Order of Australia.

Despite his achievements in political office, Lionel Bowen remained a low-key Labor leader, preferring to be judged by his performance in the Parliament than by his public profile. He has been called 'an outstanding example of a man who was not affected by the trappings of office', and was once memorably described as 'a plain man's plain man'.

His career is testimony to his belief in the combined effort of the team. He constantly upheld the belief that the party is greater than the man and it was this which enabled him to forge alliances across party factions. Lionel Bowen was also highly regarded on both sides of politics with Malcolm Fraser describing him as 'the shrewdest tactician and toughest politician in the Opposition ranks'.

Lionel Bowen was the longest serving Labor minister since Federation and the only minister who served throughout the entire Whitlam and Hawke periods. Although he held numerous ministerial responsibilities, he maintained a close association with the residents in the Randwick and Botany community – a community of which UNSW is part. Upon announcing his retirement, Randwick Council formally recognised the outstanding contributions he had made, as alderman and as Mayor, to improving the quality of life in the municipality. He is regarded with great affection and respect within the local community and has been described as 'Randwick's greatest ambassador for the past 50 years'.

In 1999 Randwick Council officially opened the Bowen Library in appreciation of the contribution he had made to the local community and to the Australian people.

Lionel Bowen is the Chair of the Board of the Cooperative Research Centre for Eye Research and Technology at UNSW, having taken up the position in 1996. In this position he has made an outstanding contribution to the Centre, to UNSW and to Australian science and technology through his wise counsel and expertise.



DOCTOR OF SCIENCE *honoris causa*

**Ian Glencross Radcliffe Burgess, AO,**  
BSc UNSW, FTSE, FRACI

Ian Burgess is one of Australia's most prominent and reputable business leaders. His involvement in industry spans over 45 years and he is universally respected for his intelligence, forthright opinions and strong leadership.

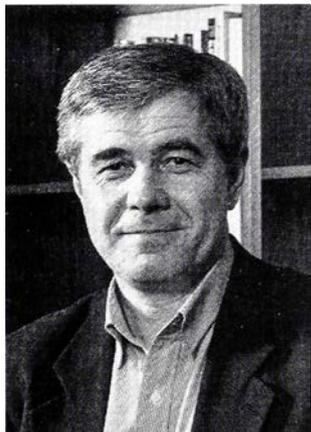
He became Chief Executive Officer of CSR in 1987, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1993. Under his direction, CSR enjoyed a boom period, described as 'years in which margins were fat and demand so strong that the biggest challenge was getting enough product out the factory door.' In recognition of his achievements he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1992.

Since retiring he has become a professional director highly sought after by the boards of Australia's largest companies. In 1993 he became a board member of Pacific Dunlop and of Western Mining. In 1994 Ian Burgess succeeded Sir James Balderstone as chairman of AMP and in 1997 became Chairman of CSR and Deputy Chairman of Western Mining. In announcing his appointment as Deputy Chairman of WMC, the mining corporation also announced that Ian Burgess would succeed Sir Arvi Parbo as Chairman in 1999.

At AMP Ian Burgess set up a special task force on demutualisation and in 1997 oversaw its introduction which was overwhelmingly carried by 98.3 per cent of the policy holders.

Ian Burgess is regarded as an unassuming man but his influence and authority are recognised in the corporate world where he has been called upon to resolve corporate governance disputes. He was instrumental in intervening in the Goodman Fielder case in 1994 and in the Coles Myer dispute in 1995.

Ian Burgess' considerable success has been achieved by confounding expectations. He describes himself as idiosyncratic and as an irreverent person. His unexpected quips can calm shareholders at annual meetings. In making business decisions he is anything but irreverent, acutely aware of his responsibility to shareholders.



DOCTOR OF LAWS *honoris causa*

**Julian Disney**, AO, LLB *Adel.*

Julian Disney has been President of the International Council for Social Welfare since 1996. Prior to this he was Professor of Public Law at the Australian National University and Director of its Centre for International and Public Law. Between 1985 and 1989 he was President of the Australian Council of Social Service, while simultaneously holding a number of other appointments including Co-ordinator of the Welfare Rights Centre of New South Wales, and membership of the National Board for Employment, Education and Training, the Economic Planning Advisory Council, Social Security Advisory Council, the Australian Language and Literacy Council, and the Administrative Review Council. Previously, he had been a Commissioner of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission.

This formal list of appointments and of scholarship conceals the vitality and achievement of a career spent in public service. That service has been marked both by scholarly innovation, law reform, and leadership of organisations advocating the interests of the powerless. That advocacy has been effected through a distinctive mixture of scholarship and communication with political and social organisations central to the implementation of structural change in social welfare, taxation reform, administrative law review, urban development, housing policy, employment support, income maintenance and fiscal policy.

Julian Disney has had a profound effect upon each of the institutions which he has led. Under his leadership, the Australian Council of Social Service moved from being a modest, possibly marginalised council for the organisation of welfare groups to assume a central role in the representation of the interests of a significant segment of Australian society. He ensured that the perspective of those on welfare and at the margins of Australian society were represented with tenacity, clarity and effect within Australian politics, at the highest levels of government, and in wider community discussion. He continues that work as President of the peak international body on social welfare. In this role, he exercises internationally a counterpart influence to that which ACOSS came to assume under his transformative leadership.

He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1994 in recognition of his outstanding contributions.



DOCTOR OF LETTERS *honoris causa*

**Dagmar Barbara Schmidmaier**, BA Syd.,  
DipLib MLib UNSW, ALAA

Dagmar Schmidmaier is State Librarian and Chief Executive of the State Library of New South Wales, one of Australia's leading research and information libraries. While at the helm of the State Library she has promoted the role that the public library network can play in the commercial, educational and social life of our communities and she has reaffirmed the provision and development of an innovative range of services and products to both onsite and offsite clients.

Dagmar Schmidmaier has worked as a consultant to national and international organisations and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1988/89. She has published widely and has been guest speaker at conferences both in Australia and overseas. She is also one of the judges of the Miles Franklin Award.

Dagmar Schmidmaier is one of the most successful graduates of the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies, having achieved the highest position in her field in this state. She maintains a close relationship with UNSW through the State Librarian's Metcalfe Scholarship and the Occasional Lecture Series held at the State Library.

Under her direction, the State Librarian's Metcalfe Scholarship was set up to advance the profession of Librarianship by providing financial support and public recognition to outstanding postgraduate students. The Scholarship is now in its third year and offers a minimum of \$2000 to a suitably qualified librarian seeking entry into Masters Coursework or Research programs in areas of librarianship, marketing or technology in appropriate schools and faculties at UNSW. The scholarship was named after one of the former Directors of the State Library, John Metcalfe, who coincidentally was the first UNSW Librarian and was Director of the School of Librarianship at UNSW.

She was instrumental in one of the major achievements of the State Library with the completion of the Sir Joseph Banks electronic archives, which consist of more than 10,000 pages of his letters, reports and drawings. It was the first major digitisation of a large archival collection in the world.



DOCTOR OF SCIENCE *honoris causa*

**Harry Seidler, AC, OBE,**  
BArch *Manitoba.*, MArch *Harv.*,  
Hon.LLD *Manitoba*, Hon.DLitt *UTS*,  
Hon.FAIA, LFRAIA, MRAIC, FTSE,  
Hon.FRIBA

Harry Seidler, probably Australia's best known architect, has played a vital role in international architecture. He has unwaveringly striven for high quality in both his commercial and domestic work within the modernist idiom and has attracted international attention.

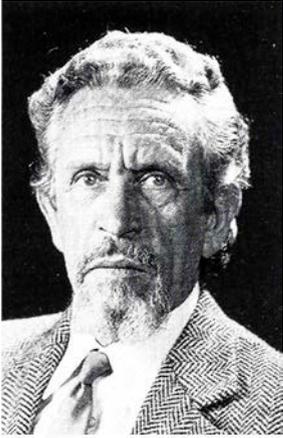
At home Harry Seidler has focused on the development of a modernist aesthetic in the Australian context, often inciting the ire of local Councils, but continuously testing the boundaries of aesthetic values and the complacency of Australians. His work has been widely published in journals and monographs and he has been the subject of architectural biographies written by world-renowned architectural historians.

He has received over forty awards for his work over the years, including five Sulman Medals, The Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Gold Medal of the City of Vienna and Austria's highest honour "The Cross of Honour for Arts and Sciences, 1<sup>st</sup> class". He was awarded Australia's highest honour, The Order of Australia, and was made an Officer of the British Empire.

Harry Seidler has taught and lectured extensively all over the world. He was Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard, the E.T.H. Zurich, as well as at many Australian universities. He was also Thomas Jefferson Professor at the University of Virginia. He has close links with UNSW as he taught high level studios in the former School of Architecture as Inaugural Visiting Professor during the 1980s and served on the University Council between 1977 and 1981.

Best known for his domestic work, apartments and high-rise offices, he built the Australian Embassy in Paris, the Hong Kong Club and Offices, Australia Square, Grosvenor Place, the MLC Tower and the newly completed Horizon in Sydney, and QV1 in Perth. He is presently designing the tallest building in the world, the 500 metre high Grollo Tower. In his native Vienna, he is building a self-contained community for 2,500 people along the Danube.

Harry Seidler's approach to design reflects his concerns about the way buildings are constructed, about the economies achievable by the use of repetitive elements, about simplicity and durability – but above all about architecture which is brought to life by expressing the art and technology of our time.



DOCTOR OF SCIENCE *honoris causa*

**Ronald Strahan** , AM, BSc MSc W.A.,  
FLS (*Lond.*), FISIH, FRZSNSW, FIB (*U.K.*),  
FAIBiol, FANZAAS

In 1962, when Ron Strahan was appointed as Senior Lecturer in the School of Zoology at The University of New South Wales, he was the world authority on the biologically significant and economically important agnathan fish.

When he was appointed as a Trustee to the Taronga Zoological Park Trust he became aware of the serious shortcomings of the Park and its administration and accepted the Directorship of the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales. Accepting the challenge involved putting his own research career on hold, just when it was coming into full form. But it also meant an opportunity to create a new and excitingly different Taronga, as well as many new career opportunities for other zoologists brought on board to help fulfil his vision.

He changed Taronga and brought the Western Plains Zoo into existence. He established, with the Trust and in practice, that a government zoo must be a cultural-scientific institution. Accordingly, he instituted education, research, conservation and high-grade animal care as essential features of the new Taronga system and as a consequence provided the vision for a massive upgrading of all zoos throughout the Australasian region.

Throughout his career, he has created and fostered a fascination with the Australian biota in students and lay persons alike. When he was not up front as president or executive officer of organisations focused on zoological research or exposition, he was behind the scenes making sure that his and related sciences in Australia constantly grew in scope and credibility.

Overall Ron Strahan has had at least three quite distinct and successful careers: a world authority on primitive fishes; a zoo activist and philosopher; and a writer and editor of books on Australian vertebrates and the history of Australian science. His services to the Australian community as a whole throughout his life, were honoured by the award of Membership of the Order of Australia.

