

CITATION FOR GOLD MEDAL

MARY ROSE EMISON

The University awards this gold medal to Dr Mary Emison, who has provided service of exceptional distinction to the University as a whole.

Dr Mary Rose Emison graduated with a PhD in Plant Systematics from Smith College, Massachusetts. Before coming to the University of Melbourne, Dr Emison had been employed in both academic and administrative roles in the United States.

From 1973 to 2006, Dr Emison held a number of senior positions at the University of Melbourne which she has performed, without exception, with an outstanding level of commitment, dedication and loyalty.

From 1973 to 1981 Dr Emison was employed at the University as Assistant to the Dean of Science and was responsible for co-ordinating all administrative activities related to undergraduate students in the BSc and BSc (Optometry) courses and providing advice to students on the academic aspects of their courses. She sought a change in role and in 1981 was given the challenging role of Assistant Registrar in the Faculty of Science. In this role she acted as secretary to various Faculty committees, liaising with all levels of academic and administrative staff as well as the general public on matters of University regulations and Faculty policies and procedures.

Dr Emison became a highly valued member of staff in the Faculty of Science and had become well appreciated by both staff and students. She demonstrated her dedication to the aims of University education and her capacity to work amicably and productively with academic and administrative staff. In 1984, she took up the position of Assistant Registrar (Research) in the Office for Research. In this position, Dr Emison was responsible for the implementation of the University's policies on research administration.

As the Director of University Planning from 1994 – 2005 (previous position title was Associate Registrar (Academic Planning)) Dr Emison was responsible for establishing and then managing the University's first integrated unit responsible for whole of University planning and quality assurance. One of the Dr Emison's major achievements in that role was the development and promulgation of the University's Accountability Structure, a sector-wide best practice model for co-ordinating and integrating internal and external requirements in the related areas of planning and budgeting, reporting and quality assurance programs. Development of institutional performance indicators that included international benchmarking at the institutional level and a systematic approach to internal evaluation processes were an integral component of Dr Emison's position. Dr Emison was also responsible for providing expert policy advice and analysis relevant to the development of the University's Strategic and Operational Plans, the monitoring of performance against plan and the annual program of faculty and departmental reviews

In 2005, Dr Emison's broad knowledge and experience in both academic and administrative policies made her the obvious choice to fill the vacant position of Academic Registrar until the position was filled on an ongoing basis. During the same period Dr Emison served as the senior professional officer coordinating the visit by the Australian University's Quality Agency audit panel and in so doing contributed significantly to the successful outcome for the University of the AUQA audit.

In 2006, Dr Emison was invited to undertake the position of Director, Melbourne Curriculum Project. The role was strategically important for the University in facilitating the implementation of Growing Esteem and required a particular combination of skills and institutional knowledge. Her outstanding contribution to this role assisted the University to progress the Melbourne Model to the current phase.