

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

AWARD OF A GOLD MEDAL TO ROBERT MCKAY

The University awards this gold medal to one of its graduates, Mr Robert McKay, who has provided service of exceptional distinction to the University as a whole.

The University has an important role in the development of the community in which it is located. In the role of Chair of both the Ian Potter Museum of Art and Melbourne University Publishing Limited, Mr McKay has played an important role in the cultural life of the University by clearly understanding the potential of and greatly contributing to the outreach of the University with the wider community. Mr McKay has displayed a strong understanding of the cultural diversity of the University and his connection to the world of arts and publishing has provided a conduit for collaboration and mutual respect. Mr McKay's influence traverses the local interests of the University community with both the wider community and the museum sector. He has fostered strong linkages to philanthropic partners and has solidified and nurtured those relationships to further the interests of the University.

Presiding at the helm of the Potter since 1998, Mr McKay has chaired 50 Board meetings. His outlook has been strategic, with a strong emphasis on governance and compliance. The development of a vision and strategy, setting clear priorities and implementing steps to achieve the vision has seen the Potter evolve from a "cottage industry" to a museum of national importance. Mr McKay has balanced a connection to tradition and value with a great respect for academic freedom. The Potter staff have been licensed to explore possibilities and to allow the museum to be the best possible art museum it wanted to be without censorship.

A strong sense of standards has been applied to the artistic, operational and physical aspects of the museum. Under Mr McKay's stewardship the Ian Potter Museum of Art has progressed to the point of being the best University museum in Australia and amongst the best of the Asia Pacific region.

The University welcomes this opportunity to accord Robert McKay deserved recognition for his exceptionally distinguished service to the University of Melbourne.