

2008

The University of Melbourne

**ANNUAL ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The Annual Ordinary Meeting of Convocation of the University was held at Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton, on Wednesday 30 April 2008 at 6-30pm.

Present:

The President of Convocation, Ms Lesley Boston, in the Chair
Laureate Professor Peter Doherty (Guest Speaker)
Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Relations), Professor Warren Bebbington
Past President of Convocation, Dr Robin Condron
Past President of Convocation, Mr Justice Ray Northrop
Senior Vice-Principal, Mr Ian Marshman
Dean, Veterinary Science, Professor Ken Hinchcliffe
University Secretary, Ms Janet White
Vice-Principal, Property and Campus Services, Mr Chris White
Minute Secretary, Mr Steve Halliwell

Members of the Committee of Convocation and guests:

Mr AW Abbott, Ms AM Ada, Mr E Bellchambers, Dr C Close, Mr BFB Dance, Mr D Ford, Dr A Gibbs, Dr T Gould, Dr JK Harcourt, Mr G Israel, Mr F Lees, Mrs F Lees, Dr R McMillan, Dr V McRae, Mr J Meehan, Dr JR Nelson, Dr B-A Rodan, Dr J Stillman, Mr GH Thomas, Mr M Warwick, Ms M Weston.

Past Members of the Committee of Convocation:

Mr D Dodd, Mr J Humphrey, Ms M Neal-Adam, Mr N Ramsey, Ms A Rusden

Members of Convocation:

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Mr Ian Renard, Justice Alex Chernov, Professor Glyn Davis, Professor Dick Strugnell, Professor Sue Elliott, Professor Lyn Yates, Professor Frank Larkins, Professor Peter McPhee, Professor John McKenzie, Professor Pip Pattison, Dr Tim Latham, Ms Barbara Hamer, Mr Harry Wragge, Mr Peter Dawkins, Mr David White, Ms Lynne Landy, Ms Rosa Storelli, Ms Elizabeth Alexander, Professor Margaret Abernethy, Professor Iven Mareels, Professor James Angus, Professor Peter Rathjen, Professor Cathy Falk, Professor Tom Kvan, Ms Gillian Luck, Ms Linda O'Brien, Mr Allan Tait, Ms Liz Baré, Mr David Percival, Mr Nigel Waugh, Mr Richard Frampton, Ms Colleen Wait, Ms Elizabeth Capp, Ms Suzanne Parker, Dr Anthony Grigg, Ms Jillian Crowe, Ms Clare Cummins, Mr Brian Fitt, Dr Juliet Flesch, Mr Leslie Rowe, Dr Laurence Simpson

2. Minutes – Annual Ordinary Meeting, 18 April 2007

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Convocation of the University held on 18 April 2007 were confirmed.

3. Annual Report of the Committee of Convocation 2007

The meeting received the 2007 Annual Report of the Committee of Convocation, copies of which were distributed at the meeting. The President of Convocation, Ms Lesley Boston, spoke briefly to the Report and drew attention to activities of the Committee and noteworthy matters considered by the Committee during the year. She drew attention particularly to the fact that 2007 was the 140th anniversary of the establishment of Convocation. To commemorate the anniversary, Convocation presented to the University a replica plaque of the Foundation Stone. The plaque is now affixed to the east wall of the Old Quad. Ms Boston thanked Mr David Dodd and the Foundation Stone working group for their efforts. The Committee was also delighted that University medals were presented at the end of 2007 to Messrs Condon, Handberg, Latham, and Nicholas in recognition of their long and valuable service. The “12-year rule” applied to members of the Committee in 2007 with the result that there were several retirements. Although the Committee has lost a deal of experience and knowledge in these retiring members, it has gained new expertise and a new perspective from the new members elected to the Committee in 2007.

The Committee has continued to implement its Strategic Plan, and Ms Boston noted the increasing interaction with graduates over issues such as the Library, carbon neutrality and Bio21. The Committee has also continued its sub-committee structure, and the Libraries sub-committee has just completed a submission to the Information Futures Commission. Ms Boston thanked Mr Gary Israel and the members of the sub-committee for their hard work. Sub-committees will continue to be established and disbanded according to need.

In closing, Ms Boston urged members to read the full Annual Report. She thanked all members of the Committee for their continued interest, support and hard work. She also thanked the University Secretary’s Department for continued support to the Committee.

4. Matters Arising from the Annual Report of the Committee of Convocation

There were no matters arising.

5. Motions on Notice

No motions were received.

6. General Business

No new matters were raised.

7. Guest Speaker

Laureate Professor Peter Doherty addressed the meeting as guest speaker. He noted that although he himself was not a Melbourne graduate, he was particularly impressed by the strong collegial feel of the University achieved partly by its large central campus, and partly by its being closely linked with the City of Melbourne through such developments as the “Parkville Precinct”. The University of Melbourne was based originally on the Scottish model rather than the Oxbridge model. The recent development of the “Melbourne Model”, however, is based more on the US system of University education and Professor Doherty considered this an excellent move for the University. He noted that there is a tendency in Australian education for school students to specialise too early and the Melbourne Model will help to prevent this.

Professor Doherty noted that in the current political climate, Australian universities need the help of their alumni and graduates more than ever. Many American universities, for example, have well developed support networks of alumni and graduates. This is partly helped by the well developed sporting infrastructure that is a feature of many American universities. It is also helped by the American tradition of students leaving home to go to university, and this in turn helps students to

bond with their peers and with their institution. Professor Doherty suggested that Australia should consider increased funding for rural universities to give Australian students similar opportunities.

In closing, Professor Doherty thanked Convocation for the invitation to attend and speak at the Annual Ordinary Meeting, and thanked members for their efforts on behalf of the University.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm and was followed by an informal reception at Graduate House.

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Ms Lesley Boston, President of Convocation

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Date