

ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY MS QUENTIN BRYCE AC
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AA3 ACCOMMODATION BUILDING
THURGOONA CAMPUS, CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
21 OCTOBER 2008

I acknowledge the traditional keepers of this beautiful place; and the custodial role of the university in preserving and nurturing its environment, and ensuring that our indigenous past is visible, in our present and our becoming.

My friends, thank you for your warm welcome to me this morning.

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to visit your Thurgoona campus while on my travels around the Murray-Darling Basin.

I have, in recent weeks, learnt a great deal about this remarkable river system:

- . the workings upon it over decades of drought, fire, flood, acid mud, and human action;
- . the complex issues surrounding irrigation, water allocation, and long-term water management;
- . and the serious consequences for life and livelihood, and the future of towns and communities in the region.

I know that my better understanding of these issues is due entirely to the top-level briefings and patient instruction I have received from specialists whose experience in scientific research, the field, and strategic policy making is second to none.

That expertise has its foundations in higher education at fine universities like this one.

Indeed, Charles Sturt:

- . is an exemplar of scholarship and research in social and environmental sustainability in our rural and regional areas,
- . enhanced by the innovative work you do with local communities through this campus's Institute of Land, Water and Society.

I am immensely proud to be an Honorary Doctor of the University.

Some years ago, I was invited by then Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Cliff Blake AO to chair the Board of Management for the CSU Diploma of Policing Practice, which is now an important part of the education of new police officers in NSW.

I was privileged:

- . to work with Professor Ross Chambers - a generous and extraordinarily capable man;
- . and to engage with students, teaching staff and serving police officers,

. in a rigorous review of operational and professional needs in NSW policing.

Such an interesting, challenging and rewarding time for me - one when I was also Principal of the Women's College in the University of Sydney.

Both at Women's College and many years earlier, when I was a teacher at The University of Queensland Law School, I was inspired by the young men and women who journeyed far from home to pursue their academic education.

They had great resilience and drive, and brought a fresh and different outlook to urban life.

Yet there are many others whose circumstances won't stretch to a big move; they must seek out the resources nearby, make the very best of them.

And Charles Sturt has the very best to offer.

This superb campus - its wetlands, native flora and fauna, environmentally sensitive design, and proximity to the Murray, the snowfields and Melbourne -

. make a wonderful mix for life, friendship and learning;

. allowing rich experiences of mentoring and caring, so vital in shaping our adulthood and professional pursuit.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased today to open many more doors into this marvellous offering.

Thank you.