

## **MR DONALD JOHN ELDER**

### **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*)**

Don Elder was born in 1939. He was educated at Tumut Intermediate High School, Fort Street Boys' High School and the University of Sydney.

In 1962 he graduated with the degree Bachelor of Laws and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1962. In that same year, he came to Goulburn and practised law with Baker and Kennedy as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the ACT. He is now a partner at Galland Elder Lulham, solicitors. He has held the offices of President and Secretary of the Southern Tablelands Solicitors Association - a regional society of the Law Society of New South Wales.

Don Elder has long been connected with the provision of higher education in Goulburn.

He was invited to join the Interim Board of Goulburn Teachers College in 1970 and, on its establishment, was confirmed as a member of the Board. He was appointed as a member of the Interim Council of the Goulburn College of Advanced Education in July 1973. He was a member of the College Council from 1975 to 1981, serving principally on its Legislative and Personnel Committee, which he was eventually to Chair. He was Chairman of Goulburn College Council in 1982.

After the amalgamation of the Riverina and Goulburn Colleges of Advanced Education, he continued to serve as a community representative on the governing body. He was Chairman of the Goulburn Advisory Committee from March 1982 to October 1984, and served, until 1988, on the Council of Riverina College of Advanced Education and several of its committees, including the Finance and Personnel, Property, and Rule Drafting Committees.

As Chairman of the Goulburn Advisory Committee he was heavily involved in deliberations about the future direction of the campus, with the phasing out of primary teacher education. This was a time of great change and the Advisory Committee had responsibilities in reshaping the course offerings and, in effect, the nature of the institution at Goulburn. Don Elder was involved in discussions and negotiations related to courses including, amongst other things, policing, corrective services and air traffic control. He was directly involved, in this testing time, in dealing with staff, student and community concerns as a member of the Goulburn Campus Transition Committee, which operated in 1982.

Don Elder provided leadership and effective community liaison through his connections with the Goulburn CAE and with the Goulburn Campus of Riverina CAE. He was energetic in representing the community to the institution and the institution to the community. The initial exploration, which he and others undertook with regard to moving the operations of the New South Wales Police Academy to Goulburn did eventually have effect, and helped lay the foundation for the fruitful alliance between the Academy and the University which exists today. He has always been an advocate of a strong higher education presence in Goulburn and supportive of the endeavours made first by Goulburn CAE, and then by the amalgamated Riverina CAE to meet community expectations.

Don Elder was an active member of Rotary for nearly thirty years, serving as President of the Goulburn-Mulwaree Club. He was involved in Club, in District and in international projects, including trips overseas to offer support, as stores officer, to building projects in developing countries – Papua New Guinea and Nepal – and to speak at a Youth Exchange World Conference in Philadelphia in 1988.

He has been a member of the Goulburn Rostrum Club for over twenty years. He has held all offices with that Club and has been awarded the honour of life membership.

Don Elder has been actively involved in supporting many sporting organisations and has served as President of the Goulburn United Rugby League Football Club, and Honorary Solicitor for the Goulburn & District Cricket Association and the Goulburn & District Lawn Tennis Association. He is a member of the judiciary of the Goulburn & District Cricket Association.

He has served as either President or Secretary of the Goulburn Mental Health Association Inc, since its formation in 1966. Since its inception the Association has conducted 'half way houses' for disadvantaged persons. He is a Director of Challenge Foundation Inc, which conducts two hostels and runs a bus service for disadvantaged people.

For his services to Rotary and for his outstanding service to the community, he received the honour of a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship in 1995.

Don Elder has demonstrated the attributes of mind and spirit of a scholar who seeks to contribute for the public good and the University is delighted to confer on him the award Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).

**Dated this Twenty First Day of May One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine**