

DR DONALD MORRISON GRANT

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Applied Science (*honoris causa*)

Don Grant is currently the New South Wales Surveyor General and Executive Director of the Geoinformation Infrastructure and Management Program of the Department of Land and Water Conservation.

His career began with the Victorian Forests Commission before being commissioned into the Royal Australian Engineers. Following eight years in the Regular Defence Force he entered private practice and then accepted an appointment as Chief Surveyor and then Corporate Planner with Adelaide City Council.

Between 1980 and 1986 Don Grant was the Assistant Surveyor General and then Deputy Surveyor General with the Department of Lands, South Australia. During this time he was personally responsible for the introduction of a surveying process which led to less costly surveys. He was also responsible for the introduction of the first digital cadastral data base in Australia and the first use of global positioning techniques for the geodetic coverage of South Australia.

In 1986 Don Grant was appointed as Surveyor General of New South Wales with responsibility for the management of the Land Information Centre at Bathurst. The Centre has led Australia and much of the world in the spatial information industry. Highlights include the construction of the state digital cadastral data base, the use of global positioning techniques for aerial photography, the development of national mapping coverage for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the creation of the Australian Institute of Spatial Information Sciences and Technology, and substantial technology transfer to the private sector. These developments are due significantly to Don Grant's personal efforts.

One of his particular achievements has been the Public Sector Mapping Agencies Consortium. He is the leader of the Consortium which has been responsible for revolutionising mapping in Australia, and provided the 1996 census with much more detailed and accurate mapping than ever before. In carrying out the project Don Grant and the Consortium overcame formidable political, economic and jurisdictional concerns across Australia. The Consortium was originally formed in relation to the 1996 census. However, significant wider applications have now been identified in both the government and private sectors.

Don Grant has advised in many countries on both organisational issues and land reform and is recognised as an international leader. The adviser to the American Vice-President considers Don Grant to be, and I quote "one of perhaps no more than half a dozen individuals in the English-speaking world who have both the depth of understanding and the breadth of experience needed to examine the potential role of government surveying and mapping organisations in the next decade". End quote.

In his international roles Don Grant has been able to widely promote the professional and technical capabilities of the Australian spatial information industry.

Don Grant has a particular association with Charles Sturt University. Between 1993 and 1996 he was a Professorial Associate with the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. During this time Don was instrumental in the development of a new degree in geographic information systems which commenced at the University this year. Don was also extremely helpful in establishing co-operative research and consulting between the University and the Land Information Centre. He was also very active in the joint efforts by the University and the Land Information Centre in the tendering, development and offering of short courses both in Australia and overseas.

Between 1987 and 1990 Don served on a postgraduate course advisory committee with Mitchell College of Advanced Education, one of the two institutions from which Charles Sturt was created.

In his long and distinguished career, Don Grant has been a member of a wide range of boards both national and international. These include Chairman of the New South Wales Remote Sensing Council, Chairman of the New South Wales Geographical Names Board, member of the Australian Land Information Council, President of the Board of Surveyors of New South Wales, Commissioner of the New South Wales State Electoral Districts Redistribution Commission, Commissioner of the New South Wales Federal Redistribution Commission, member of the University of New South Wales Advisory Committees to the School of Surveying and the Centre of Remote Sensing, Inaugural Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee on Surveying and Mapping, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Australian Institute of Spatial Information Sciences and Technology, Chairman of the Australian Public Sector Mapping Agencies, Technical Associate of the Path to Property Association of the Institute of Liberty and Democracy, Pen, member of the Board of Advisors of the GIS Law and Policy Institute, Harrisonburg, USA and Member of the Olympic Coordination Authority Names Committee.

Although Don Grant's formal military service ceased in 1962 he continued in the Army Reserve where he reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He holds the National Medal and the Reserve Forces Decoration.

Don Grant has written over forty publications and papers, provided consultancies in twelve countries and is currently advising in Greece, Zimbabwe and Malaysia. He holds a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Adelaide. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, United Kingdom, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Chartered Practising Engineer and a Chartered Surveyor, United Kingdom.

Such is Don Grant's standing within the Australian spatial information industry, he was appointed as the Australian delegate to Federation Internationale des Geometres Commission Seven. His contribution to advancing the interests and professional standing of Australian surveying and mapping was recognised through the 1994 Queen's birthday honours list, when he was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

It is with pleasure that Charles Sturt University recognises the contribution of Donald Morrison Grant to Australian and international surveying, mapping and spatial information, and confers on him the award Doctor of Applied Science (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Ninth Day of May One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven