

MS ANNE BRASSIL

Citation for the conferral of a Companion of the University

Born in Wagga Wagga, Anne Brassil's (McDonough) early schooling was undertaken in Culcairn, only moving to Mount Erin High School to complete her 'leaving'. As a scholar Anne won an exhibition to Sydney University to read English/History before completing a twelve month Diploma of Education through Sydney Teachers' College.

On returning to Wagga Wagga Anne taught at the Wagga High School before moving to Warren. It was in Warren that she married Pat Brassil and began their family of nine children. After Warren the family moved to Canberra and finally back to Wagga Wagga.

Anne Brassil's involvement with Charles Sturt University and its predecessor institutions spans some twenty-two years, beginning in 1981 when, during her daughter's attendance at the South Campus Preschool, Anne became a member of the Campus Preschool Management Committee, a position she held until 1983.

In 1985 Anne became a member of the Council of the Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education, the governing body of the institution, then under the Chairmanship of Professor James Hagan. She remained a member of that Council until 1989 when the Institute evolved into Charles Sturt University and Anne was appointed to the then Board of Governors as *"one of four persons nominated by the Minister, being persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, have an association with western and south western New South Wales"*.

At her retirement in July 2003 Anne was the longest serving member of the Council, having been reappointed by the Minister on three occasions.

Her standing in Council was recognised by her peers when in 1999 they appointed her as Deputy Chancellor, a position she held until her retirement. In appointing Anne Brassil to the position, Council acknowledged her wisdom, commitment and total dedication to the furtherance of Charles Sturt University's goals and ambitions to become a leader in learning and research nationally and internationally.

As Deputy Chancellor, Anne Brassil was a fine ambassador for the University, officiating at a significant number of graduation ceremonies and other official functions.

Anne Brassil brought to those occasions an understanding of the importance of the University within the tertiary sector and its commitment to the regions served by its campuses.

Besides her involvement with the Council, Anne has held many other honorary positions with the University since its proclamation. The first of these was in 1989 when she was appointed as a Director and Deputy Chair of the Board of Management of Rivservices, the company responsible for cleaning and laundry services on the Riverina Campus. She retained both of these positions until July 2001.

Anne held the position of Presiding Officer of the University's Personnel Committee from 1999 until 2003, having been first appointed to that committee as Deputy Presiding Officer in 1996.

In the same year, 1996, the then Board of Governors requested that she accept their nomination as Presiding Officer of the Charles Sturt University Riverina Campus Advisory Committee. Despite her increasing workloads within and without the University, Anne Brassil accepted the nomination, presiding over that committee until Mr John Mahon's appointment in 1999.

From 1999 until July 2003 she was a member of both the Finance and Honorary Awards Committees.

With the impending retirement of the foundation Vice-Chancellor, CD Blake, AM, Anne Brassil was a member of the selection panel to appoint the University's second Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Goulter, and in 2002 as Deputy Chancellor she chaired the search and selection committee for the University's second Chancellor, Mr Lawrie Willett, AO, who succeeded Mr David Asimus, AO who held the position of Chancellor for some thirteen years.

Chancellor, Anne Brassil has had a long and distinguished involvement with the University and the former institution of Riverina Murray Institute of High Education. She has sat on a number of grievance committees and panels of review. Indeed, Anne Brassil chaired the then student exclusions committee of RMIHE, a post that she filled with wisdom and understanding, recognising that students confronted with expulsion on academic grounds were under enormous emotional stress, attributes which she was later to bring to the Academic Senate's Academic Appeals Committee as a Council member to that committee.

Despite all of this significant and long-lasting contribution, Anne Brassil continued to have a major impact on the local community, committing her time to the Board and steering committee to establish the Women's Refuge in Wagga Wagga and being a successful business person, notably through the operation of the Gateway Bookshop.

Mr Chancellor, Mrs Brassil has been, and continues to be, a major contributor to the University, being involved in scholarship funding to the Charles Sturt Foundation. Her commitment to the people of the region continues unabated.

I believe that Mrs Brassil has demonstrated, as the great quiet achiever, a commitment and dedication to this University and its region that makes her a worthy recipient of the inaugural award, Companion of the University.

Dated this Tenth Day of December Two Thousand and Three