

# **Curtin University**

## **Investiture of Chancellor Dr Andrew Crane**

### **Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia**

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

Thank you to Professor Simon Forrest, Curtin University's Elder-In-Residence for your warm Welcome to Country.

Curtin continues to excel year-by-year as a leading global university with many achievements to be proud of and many more to come in the years ahead.

Dr Crane will lead an extraordinarily complex institution. Local campuses here and in Kalgoorlie. But also Curtin Malaysia, Curtin Singapore, Curtin Dubai and Curtin Mauritius. The first non group-of-eight university to rank in the top 200 universities world-wide. 56,000 students here this year are putting their faith in this institution to fit them for the workforce and for life. Last year's number included 94 year-old great-grandfather David Bottomley, now Australia's oldest PhD graduate after graduating from Curtin on Tuesday with a Doctor of Philosophy – an incredible achievement. In the case of Dr Bottomley less an opportunity for fitness for life than educating the rest of us on what that means.

It is excellent to note that Curtin is embracing our new challenge of the fourth industrial revolution – what has been described as the new global renaissance of creativity and design. I look forward to visiting your newly launched Space Science and Technology Centre, which I understand represents the largest planetary research group in the Southern Hemisphere. You also lead the WA Data Science Innovation Hub and have established the Future of Work Institute, as well as heading up a new national Training Centre for Data Science in Mine Maintenance, the Centre of Excellence in AI and the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre.

Our community and State are in good hands.

Our universities are precious institutions. When we debate education issues our focus, not unreasonably, concentrates on school education.

State elections focus on the performance of public schools and the resourcing of the system. Federal on that but heavily support the private sector which in a sense has become the Commonwealth education system.

The problem is focus on the tertiary sector. Not the same political saliency but on its success our future depends.

These institutions are the focus of our national innovation. At an international level they are the drivers of civilisation, at the national level they are drivers of survival.

Their health as research and teaching institutions drives our wellbeing and prosperity.

Our universities here in WA are powerful institutions.

It is a pleasure to be here today to formally invest new Chancellor Dr Andrew Crane, to lead the university with his extensive experience into this exciting new chapter.

I remember when I was Chancellor of ANU, Vice Chancellor Ian Chubb jokingly said to me, "What use is a Chancellor", to which I replied, "No Chancellor no Vice Chancellor."

The position of Chancellor is one that requires leadership, resourcefulness, innovation and imagination in meeting the increasing challenges that universities face. This is especially pertinent now, with increasing changes in technology and learning expectations.

It requires someone who is able to inspire excellence at all levels of a university's operations and foster cohesiveness.

As Professor Deborah Terry outlined, Dr Crane is a man well fitted to leadership.

He has the global experience, local perspective and topmost professional endorsement with which to lead Curtin successfully into the future.

With an honours degree in environmental science and a PhD in agriculture, he has had a distinguished career in agribusiness for the past 30 years and is widely regarded as one of WA's most influential business leaders.

Andy was CEO of the CBH group, Australia's biggest grain co-operative, for 8 years up until October 2018.

He has since joined the boards of SunRice and RAC, as well as the Boards of two Macquarie Agriculture Funds.

Andy was a member of the Curtin Business School Advisory Council from 2009 and 2015 and appointed to the Curtin Council in 2015, prior to being unanimously elected by Curtin Council last year to succeed Mr Colin Beckett as Chancellor.

I congratulate and thank Mr Beckett for his drive, commitment, vision and enormous contribution to Curtin University during his time as Chancellor.

It is now my great pleasure to invest Dr Andrew Crane as Chancellor of Curtin University and I invite him to come forward.

*Dr Crane:*

*As Chancellor, you are a member of the University Council, and will preside at all meetings of the Council. You have the responsibility for ensuring that the performance of the Council, as governing body, meets both its legislative obligations and its fiduciary responsibilities. Your role is to ensure that the Council makes decisions that are well-informed and always in the best interests of the University.*

*I charge you to:*

- *carry out diligently and faithfully your responsibilities under the 'Curtin University Act';*
- *assist Curtin in achieving its vision of becoming a recognised global leader in research, education and engagement, and;*
- *support the University in contributing to the global community.*

*Dr Crane, I now formally invest you as Chancellor of Curtin University, and wish you every success in your important and demanding role.*

*I now invite you to come forward while you are formally robed and then we look forward to your response.*

*Congratulations*