

GRADUATION CEREMONY, 2.30 PM, 10 MAY 1995  
CITATION FOR BARRY OWEN JONES - READING COPY

Chancellor, I present Barry Owen Jones

Barry Jones was born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1932 and educated at Melbourne High School and the University of Melbourne. He has since become one of Australia's most recognised and popular figures but perhaps it is the Welsh origins of Barry Owen Jones that can be heard responding, in their special way, to Dylan Thomas's call to "rage against the dying of the light". Barry Jones has fought the encroaching darkness created by greed, apathy and, above all ignorance. Through his writing and great talent for public speaking, he has shared a vision for the realisation of human potential in all its various forms.

Barry Jones became a high school teacher in Victoria in 1957. Teaching, the transmission of knowledge, has been a continuing passion. He was a lecturer at La Trobe University and was a Visiting Professor at the University of Wollongong. His role as broadcaster had some of the same motive, especially his production of television documentaries and his hosting of the first radio "talk back" program in Melbourne in the late 1960s.

The media, of course, is not only a source of information, it is a powerful force for cultural change. Barry Jones took a leading role in the revival of the Australian film industry from the late 1960s. He was Foundation Chairman of the Australian Film and Television School and Chairman of the Film Institute. In 1986, he received the Raymond Longford Award for his contribution to the Australian film industry.

Admitted as a barrister and solicitor in 1968, Barry Jones practised as a solicitor in Melbourne until 1975. In 1972, he began his political career as a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and in 1977 moved on to Canberra as an ALP member of the House of Representatives. He was appointed Minister for Science and Minister for Technology in the first Hawke Ministry in 1983. He has since held the Ministries of Small Business and Customs and is currently National President of the Australian Labor Party.

A visionary politician who must often experience the frustration of a prophet in his own country, Barry Jones was able to establish the Australian Commission for the Future in 1985 and he chairs the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Long Term Strategies. He is a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and a member of the UNESCO Executive Board.

In 1965, Barry Jones published his first work in what was to be a series of publications on historical, social and scientific change, culminating in his most famous book - *Sleepers Wake ! Technology and the Future of Work* - published in 1982. *Sleepers Wake* is now in its 18th impression and has been translated into four languages.

Since 1990, Barry Jones has given his time voluntarily to this University, first as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Science and Technology and later as Chair of the Faculty of Science Visiting Committee. It is this sort of generosity, a sharing of valuable time and extraordinary talent, that characterises Barry Jones. It is notable, in another sphere, in his work with Amnesty International and as the current Director of CARE Australia.

Chancellor, Barry Jones has been recognised by admission as a member of the Order of Australia and by honorary degrees from two other universities. This University is privileged today to honour his intellectual vigour, courage and generosity.

The philosopher Bertrand Russell once wrote: "The new powers that science has given to man can be wielded safely by those who, whether through the study of history or through their own experience of life, have acquired some reverence for human feelings and some tenderness towards the emotions that give colour to the daily existence of men and women" (Bertrand Russell, *The Scientific Outlook*, 1931, 1959). The University, and this nation, are fortunate to have in Barry Jones a person who truly fits this description of a leader for our age.

Chancellor, it is a pleasure and a privilege to present to you Barry Owen Jones for the award of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.