

*Final (amended)  
version*



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

**CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KEN MCKINNON, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF BRIAN SOMERVILLE GILLETT TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA, ON 12 OCTOBER 1989.**

Chancellor, I present to you Brian Somerville Gillett.

Brian Gillett has dedicated his working life to education as a practising teacher, an administrator and a policy maker. As part of this effort, for 15 years he has played an important part in the development of university education in Wollongong.

Following his education at Fort Street High School and Sydney University, where he graduated in Arts and Education, Brian Gillett specialised in Commerce teaching for fourteen years before becoming Inspector of Schools for Commerce in New South Wales, at the age of 36, in 1966. He then became an Area Secondary Inspector, an Assistant Director, and, in 1972, the Regional Director of Education for the South Coast Region.

In the regional role, Brian Gillett was both a strong and innovative leader; projects which could have been dismissed as too far ahead of their time, were initiated and followed through to the benefit of education. His understanding of systems and networks led to the development of influential views on educational decentralisation and regionalisation. He applied his analytical mind similarly to other complex issues, quickly perceiving key factors and their important inter-connections.

An administrator of such quality was obviously a candidate for higher things. In 1983, Brian Gillett was appointed Assistant Director-General (Resources) and subsequently, in 1988, Deputy Director-General of Education. These roles enabled him to develop further his skills as an innovator and as a negotiator, particularly in discussions with the Teachers' Federation. He activated, on a broader stage and with more authority, developments directed toward quality and diversity in the education system. In the last decade he has often had to play a steadying role in a period of sustained change and reform in education in this State.





Brian Gillett has been involved in the development of the University since his appointment to the Region. He became a member of the University College Council in 1972 and later served on the Council of the former Wollongong Institute of Education. In 1975 he became a member of the first Council of the University and has been a continuous member ever since - through autonomy, development, merger and more expansion. In 1988 he was elected unopposed as the University's third Deputy Chancellor. As Deputy Chancellor, he chairs the Administrative Committee of Council and the Council Committee of Appeal.

Mr Gillett has brought to the government of the University considerable managerial and analytical skills. He has also been able to give timely advice, based on his considerable knowledge of the State Government. Brian is a quietly self-confident man, not prone to idle chatter or being sidetracked by the trivialities of personality and position. He has a great ability to grasp the central issues in arguments and to discern a constructive way forward. His input on University policies has always gained Council's attention and respect. He has been the very model of an educated intellect working in the interests of the University.

The University is privileged to have benefited from the experience and clear-thinking of this educator and administrator. The University honours his achievements and his services to education.

Chancellor, it is a great pleasure to present to you Brian Somerville Gillett for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa.