

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR PETER ROUSCH, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF SIR RODEN CUTLER TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS *HONORIS CAUSA* 9TH AUGUST, 1985.

Chancellor, I present to you Sir Roden Cutler.

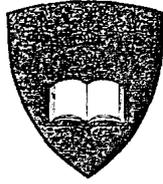
Born in 1916 Roden Cutler was educated at Sydney High School and subsequently The University of Sydney where he gained the degree of Bachelor of Economics.

His early employment from 1935 to the early stages of World War II, was with the Public Trust Office of New South Wales. Still in his early twenties, Roden Cutler joined the Australian Infantry Forces that fought in the historic desert campaigns of 1941. In mid-1941 he was cited for displaying exceptional courage in the field of battle. One month later at Damour he led an attack under heavy fire and subsequently lost his leg as a result of severe wounds. It was in November of that year that he was bestowed with the ultimate award for bravery — the Victoria Cross.

Despite this singular honour it would be in the field of public service that Roden Cutler would distinguish himself. Very quickly he came to be acknowledged as a person of intellect and considerable administrative skills. Accordingly he became Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand shortly after the conclusion of World War II, and subsequently High Commissioner to Ceylon. Other distinguished appointments followed in rapid succession.

It was in recognition of his achievements in these appointments that Roden Cutler received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1957, to be followed over a period of two decades with the awards of a series of knighthoods — Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order; Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; and Knight of the Order of Australia.

It was, therefore, as Sir Roden Cutler that he put the seal on a brilliant career when he was made Governor of the State of New South Wales in 1966, a role he administered with outstanding success over a fifteen year period. As Governor, Sir Roden became the Foundation Visitor of The University. This position is a key one in universities which have provision for that position. Our own Act of Incorporation describes the Visitor as having "full authority and jurisdiction to do all such things and entertain such causes as may pertain to or be exercised by visitors as often as he thinks fit".



## THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The role and authority of the Visitor have been canvassed in several legal cases: essentially, the view is that expressed in the case of *Thomas v. University of London* (1864) that "whatever relates to the internal arrangements and dealings with report to the Government and management of the house, of the Domus, is properly within the jurisdiction of the Visitor and the Court will not interfere in those matters..." Fortunately, during Sir Roden's term of office as Governor he did not have to exercise his authority as Visitor in regard to the internal management of this University!

Since his retirement from the governorship in 1981 Sir Roden has been a director of several Australian companies, and is currently Chairman of Air New South Wales and of the State Bank of New South Wales.

Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you Sir Roden Cutler, an eminent Australian, whose contribution to his country and its people has been marked by great personal courage and sacrifice, and dedication to the highest ideals of service for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, *Honoris causa*.