

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

CITATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF  
EDGAR BEALE TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS HONORIS CAUSA

6TH MAY, 1977

Deputy Chancellor, I present to you Edgar Beale.

Edgar Beale is a descendant of one of the Illawarra's oldest families. In 1818, one great, great grandfather, Charles Throsby Smith, one of the first settlers in Illawarra, was granted by Governor Macquarie a large tract of land in what is today the centre of Wollongong. In the early 1830's another great, great grandfather, Dr. John Osborne, a naval surgeon, received a grant of land in what is today West Wollongong. Edgar Beale's family has been associated with this region ever since.

His association with the University dates back to its earliest days when the then New South Wales Institute of Technology established a Division at Wollongong. Edgar Beale was one of that group of Wollongong citizens who in 1959-60 showed their interest in the establishment of a University by giving generously of their time and efforts to support the Mayoral Appeal Fund.

In 1962 he served on the then Wollongong University College Advisory Committee which was set up to advise the Council of the University of New South Wales on the operation and development of the College. He served on that body for seven years and was then appointed to its replacement body, the Wollongong University College



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Council. During this time he served on a number of committees. He was a foundation member of the Union Board of Management and continued to serve on this body until the end of last year.

Edgar Beale was appointed a member of the Council of the University of Wollongong on its inception on 1st January, 1975. He was elected Deputy Chairman of that first University Council. Today he continues to serve on Council; he is also the Chairman of Council's Ceremonials Committee and its Buildings and Grounds Committee and a member of its Legislation Committee.

Edgar Beale has given generously of his time and professional knowledge in the service of the University; he has also won esteem for his historical studies. His life of the Australian explorer Edmund Kennedy has been acclaimed as an important contribution to the body of Australian history. Further, he is acknowledged as one of the leading authorities on the history of the Illawarra region on which he has published many papers and articles. Indeed, he speaks with conviction on significant aspects of local history. Those who are aware of it will recall in particular his spirited explanation of the origin of the name "Wollongong". He has been a member of the Illawarra Historical Society Council for about thirty years. During that time he has had papers published in several historical journals as well as in the Australian Encyclopaedia and the Australian Dictionary of Biography. He recently wrote the text for Rigby's Illawarra



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Sketchbook which was released late in 1976 and has already sold out.

Edgar Beale has long been active in many community and cultural activities. He is a member and past President of Legacy; he is the President of the ABC Concert Subscribers' Committee; President of the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra Management Committee and Honorary Secretary of the Illawarra Grammar School Council.

Deputy Chancellor, it is with pleasure that I present to you Edgar Beale, a man who has given unstintingly of his time and energies in the service of the now University of Wollongong, a man who is an acknowledged historical authority particularly of this Illawarra region which his family helped in no small way to settle, and a man who has worked for the social and cultural advancement of this area, for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa.