

MR JOHN KEVIN MAHON

Citation for the conferral of a Companion of the University

John Mahon graduated with a Diploma in Agriculture from the Wagga Agricultural College in 1962. He commenced employment as an Extension Agronomist with the NSW Department of Agriculture, a position that required him to travel across much of the state. He was then promoted to District Agronomist, and retained that position until he left the Department in 1979 to become a self-employed consultant agronomist and owner of a ground spraying contractor business.

In 1986 he accepted the position of Manager of IAMA Technical Services in southern NSW, and in 1997 became the Manager of IAMA Agronomy Services in southeast Australia, encompassing southern NSW and Victoria, with a team of 65 agronomists.

During this period he was also a consultant to the Government of the Province of Punjab, Pakistan, on the production of dryland crops.

In 1999 he became a consultant to IAMA Southeast and SGB Limited and held this position until 2002. Since that time he has been self-employed as an agronomist and director of his family company involved in the manufacture of biological seed inoculants and associated application equipment.

He has maintained his links with the Wagga Agricultural College through his involvement with the Wagga Agricultural College Old Boys' Union (WACOBU). He has been President and Secretary on several occasions, including during the turbulent period when the College was amalgamated with the Riverina College of Advanced Education. His positive and optimistic outlook provided guidance for the WACOBU during a period when uncertainty and low morale threatened to spell its demise.

He was the main instigator of the fundraising effort for WACOBU cottage, the postgraduate accommodation complex which was opened in 1996, the centenary year of agricultural education at Wagga Wagga.

John's expertise on the WACOBU committee and his wide industry knowledge led to his nomination for various other committees of the University over many years. In 1997 he became a member of the Farm Management Committee, a position that he still holds, and also the Board of Governors of Charles Sturt University, the governing body of the University which was renamed the Council of Charles Sturt University in 1999. John held a position on the Council until 9 December 2005.

John has held various positions on committees of Council over the years. He was a member of the Personnel Committee from September 1999 until November 2003, at which time the committee was disbanded. He was the Deputy Chair of the Compliance and Commercial Activities Committee from July 2004 until December 2005, and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee from August 2000 until May 2004.

He held the position of Presiding Officer of the Wagga Wagga Campus Advisory Committee from 1999 until its cessation in 2003, and was subsequently appointed as a member of the Wagga Wagga Campus Regional Consultative Committee until 2005. By virtue of his position on Council, he has been at various times a member of student general misconduct

appeal panels and also staff grievance panels. He has been a member of the Farrer Centre, the conservation farming research facility, since 1992.

Mr Chancellor, Mr Mahon has been, and continues to be, a major contributor to the University, being involved in scholarship funding to the Charles Sturt Foundation. His commitment to the people of the region continues unabated.

Chancellor, I believe that Mr Mahon has demonstrated, as the great quiet achiever, a commitment and dedication to this University and its region that makes him a worthy recipient of the award Companion of the University.

Dated this Twentieth Day of April Two Thousand and Seven