

## **PROFESSOR KEVIN ANTHONY PARTON**

### **Citation for the conferral of Emeritus Professor**

Professor Kevin Parton has been an active contributor to research and teaching excellence at Charles Sturt University since his appointment in 2006. He has over 40 years of experience in teaching and research with positions held in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, and has completed research projects both nationally and internationally. His knowledge and expertise is sought by a number of government departments, academic journals, and agricultural groups.

In 1973 Professor Parton completed a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours at Liverpool University, followed by a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics at the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom. Professor Parton then moved to Australia and completed a Doctorate in Agricultural Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Economic Statistics, both at the University of New England.

In his academic positions held in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, Professor Parton has maintained a focus on agricultural economics and agribusiness issues and promoted regional and rural development. Early academic positions at the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom and the University of New England resulted in publications of books, book chapters and journal articles in the agribusiness sector. While at the University of New England, Professor Parton was successful in attracting external funding from the Australian Wool Corporation and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. During this time, Professor Parton was also active in teaching, and developed new undergraduate courses in Health Economics, Rural Finance, Risk Management, and Strategic Management for the University of New England.

Professor Parton's success was rewarded with leadership positions. From 1986 to 1988 he was a project co-leader of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Indonesia Project on Agricultural Price Policy, and then was the project leader of the Papua New Guinea Project on Evaluating Agricultural Research Projects.

In 1992, he won the Sir John Crawford Award for extension of research methods in agricultural research institutes in Papua New Guinea. During the period of 1989 to 1991, Professor Parton was also an advisor on the collaborative project between the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, CSIRO, the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute, and the Kenyan Project on Dryland Crop and Forage Production in the African Semi-Arid Tropics.

Within Australia, Professor Parton was an advisor for the New South Wales Department of Agriculture's Project on Farm Injuries from 1990 to 1994, and from 1991 to 2008 he was an advisor for the CSIRO and Queensland Department of Primary Industries' Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit.

As Professor Parton's research expanded, so did his commitment to quality education with the development of a new Master of Business Administration course in Strategic Management in 1992 and a new Master of Business Administration course in Agribusiness Strategy in 1993 for the University of New England. In 1996, he was instrumental in the introduction of the development of new doctoral level courses in Research Design and Professional Experience in Health Services Management. Professor Parton developed his commitment to improving education by taking on the role of Director of Teaching and Learning and also that of Graduate Student Co-ordinator for the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics for the University of New England for the period of 1994 to 1995.

Professor Parton then took on the role of Director of the Centre for Health Research and Development at the University of New England and was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Australian Agricultural Health Unit. Professor Parton was also successful in receiving external funding from New South Wales Health and the Australian Government Division of General Practice. During this time, Professor Parton continued to publish book chapters, and journal articles in agribusiness, and also expanded his research focus into investigating the impact of climate and social change in rural regions on health.

In 1998, Professor Parton was appointed to the position of Chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Professor Parton held this position for three years, during which time he was successful in obtaining external funding from Agriculture Canada to assess greenhouse gas reduction strategies and from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural affairs to evaluate environmental farm planning. Professor Parton also continued to publish on the impact of climate variability on disease and in the agribusiness sector.

In 2001, Professor Parton returned to Australia and was appointed Foundation Dean of Sydney University's Faculty of Rural Management. During this period Professor Parton continued to develop courses, creating a new MBA course in Risk Management in Agriculture, a new Master of Sustainable Management and a new undergraduate course in Research Methods and Statistics. Professor Parton held this post until 2005 when the Faculty was transferred to Charles Sturt University.

Professor Parton remained as an honorary Dean of Rural Management at the University of Sydney in conjunction with his positions as Head of Campus, Orange and Strategic Professor for Charles Sturt University until 2011. He remained a full time Strategic Professor for Charles Sturt University until his retirement at the end of 2012. Professor Parton has continued to publish in a range of areas and is also a regular commentator on a range of issues in the local and national media.

From 2004 to 2013, Professor Parton was the editor of the Australian Farm Business Management Journal and from 2011 to 2014 was Associate Editor of the International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability.

From 2004, Professor Parton has been extremely successful in attracting external funding from various organisations and in total Professor Parton has received approximately \$2.7 million in research as either lead researcher or a co-investigator. From 2008 to 2011, Professor Parton was also the recipient of the John Allwright Fellowship from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. This funding has resulted in numerous publications.

Over his broad career Professor Parton has produced a significant body of research, has edited four books, 13 book chapters and 98 journal articles. In conjunction with his research, Professor Parton has also maintained a focus on developing educational resources and courses.

He has also been keen to promote and support the training of postgraduate and early-career researchers. He has supervised 24 doctoral students to completion. He is a committed mentor, and meets regularly with a number of early-career staff to support their development, as well as helping the Faculty of Business run various research development activities such as journal and grant writing workshops and methodology training.

The combination of Professor Parton's impact as an educator and researcher has played an important role in furthering knowledge and improving outcomes for our regional, national and international communities. Professor Parton has been an outstanding academic leader and is deserving of the title Emeritus Professor.

**Dated this Fifteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Fifteen**