

## **DR BRIAN LEON ANDREWS**

### **Citation for the Conferral of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)**

Brian Leon Andrews was born in Moss Vale in July 1935, the second son of a railway guard. Brian's family moved around the state living at Homebush, Goulburn, Greta, Moree and Batlow until 1940 when his father enlisted in the Sixth Division of the Australian Imperial Forces. Brian, his mother and his brother then moved to Caxton House at Gunning, his mother's family home since the 1830's.

Brian's father was killed in the Second World War in 1944. Assisted by the Department of Repatriation and Legacy, Brian became a boarder at Yanco Agricultural High School in 1948 where he remained until 1950 when his grandfather, his legal guardian, deemed it appropriate for him to leave school and get a job.

At the age of fifteen Brian took up a position with Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd and over the next five and a half years worked in Gunning, Scone, Cootamundra, Temora, West Wyalong, Lake Cargellico, Wagga Wagga and Coonabarabran. During this time he also completed his National Service training in the Army. While working at Coonabarabran Brian successfully applied for a position at Wagga Wagga City Council. Before Brian took up the appointment he contracted poliomyelitis. However, Council held the position for him and following several months of recuperation Brian commenced working for them in 1956.

In 1956 Brian married Joy Gregory and with her support made the significant decision to further his formal education. He commenced with Leaving Certificate studies through the Sydney Technical College, and in 1985 completion a Graduate Diploma in Local Government Management at the Mitchell College of Advanced Education, now the Bathurst Campus of Charles Sturt University.

Brian remained employed with Wagga Wagga City Council for forty-five years. He was Town Clerk from 1984 to 1993 when he was appointed as the Council's first General Manager - a position he held until his retirement in January 2001. During this period Brian was associated with, initiated or supervised many developments that saw Wagga Wagga grow from a relatively small town to the state's largest provincial city. The city's superb social and physical infrastructures stand as a lasting testimony to his vision, persuasiveness and organisational skills.

Brian achieved many professional honours during his local government career, including appointments as a Fellow of the Local Government Association, the Town Clerk's Society, the Local Government Managers of Australia, the Institute of Municipal Managers and the Institute of Local Government Managers of Australia. Brian also offered his professional services to more than thirty advisory committees and task forces, and was secretary to the New South Wales Country Mayors' Association.

Despite his active professional life Brian found time to devote to his family of two sons and two daughters, and to contribute to the Wagga Wagga community in many ways. He gave freely of his expertise and time to be involved in such local organisations as Waratah Industries, the Northcott Society, support groups for persons with disabilities, Calvary Hospital, Rotary, Legacy and, most significantly, to Charles Sturt University. Brian continues to be active as a member of the Wagga Wagga Campus Advisory Committee and the

Management and Development Committee of the Riverina Trust of the Charles Sturt University Foundation.

In 1996 Brian received the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his contribution to local government and the Wagga Wagga community.

Chancellor, I present to you for admission to the degree Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) Brian Leon Andrews, a long-serving contributor to local government administration and a friend and supporter of Charles Sturt University.

**Dated this Fourth Day of April Two Thousand and One**