

MS JANICE ANNE WOOLLEY

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

It is with great pleasure that the University confers on Janice Anne Woolley the award of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*). Jan was born and started school in Newcastle. When she was nine, her family moved to a dairy farm at Coolongolook on the mid north coast of New South Wales. She continued her primary schooling at Coolongolook which was then a one teacher school. She drove to school in a horse and sulky with her sister and children from nearby farms who hitched a ride. As a sign of things to come, it is significant to note that Jan drove the horse and sulky to school and was not driven.

Jan won a state bursary to Newcastle Girls' High School. With the completion of her secondary schooling she won a University scholarship which took her to Newcastle University where she studied English and History and a Diploma of Education. She was first appointed to Casino High School and as was typical of that era, as soon as her bond was completed she resigned and went to England on a working holiday. She taught at a secondary modern school at Warrington and, after three months, was invited to become the Head of the English Department. The challenges of this position kindled her interest for further study in education and when she returned to Australia requested the Education Department to post her to a school near a university so she could pursue postgraduate studies. She was appointed to Broken Hill High School – about as far away as you could get!

Once again, Jan had rapid promotion and became Head of the English Department in a very short time. She was also the A-Grade women's squash champion of Broken Hill. She commenced postgraduate study with the University of New England. Jan was appointed to Mitchell College of Advanced Education in 1972 as a Lecturer in English in the Department of English and Modern Languages. Twenty-six years later when she retired from Charles Sturt University, she was Dean of Studies and Acting Principal of the Bathurst Campus.

Jan, from her earliest days at Mitchell, was always involved in the corporate life of the institution and made contributions through College Council, the Academic Board, and the Staff Association. She was very involved in the opposition to the 1982 restructuring of Mitchell College. She served for periods as Head of the School of Communication and Liberal Studies, Acting Head of Social Science and Liberal Studies and Acting Head of Information Studies. She was Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Chair of the Academic Senate and Member of the Board of Governors.

Perhaps her most impressive contribution to this institution was during her time as Dean of Studies. Her overseeing of the introduction of a unified student administration system and the computing system which served it, demonstrated her determination, organising ability, patience and skill in being able to get the best from her staff. Many of the graduates of this ceremony will find Jan's signature on earlier transcripts of their results.

Most recently Jan went to the Solomon Islands under the Australian Volunteers Abroad Scheme to assist the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education to introduce a comprehensive student

administration system. In addition to this, she proved herself to be an outstanding gardener. Apparently her tomatoes and basil were the envy of all the neighbours. She also supervised students on teaching practice in the Roviana Lagoon in the Western Solomons. Some of the Education students graduating this week would have undertaken their practice teaching in those schools.

A woman of enormous talent, tireless energy and commitment, Jan would be the first to acknowledge the amazing opportunities the public education system has offered her through bursaries and scholarships. Without these she may not have had the privileges of a university education. All her postgraduate studies at the University of New England and at Sydney were done when there were no fees. It was the benefits and privileges of this education which motivated Jan to give something back by becoming an Australian volunteer.

It is with great pleasure that Charles Sturt University recognises this extraordinary woman whose outstanding contribution to the institution has helped make it the success that it now is.

Dated this Fourteenth Day of April Two Thousand