

MR DONALD MORETON KENDELL

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

Donald Moreton Kendell was born in 1930 and raised on the family property near Lockhart, west of Wagga Wagga. He attended Geelong College Melbourne after a period at Osborne Bush School, but returned to the family property to help during the drought of 1946. Even at this early age Don had developed a love of aviation and in 1949, after training with Eric Condon in Wagga Wagga, Don gained his pilot's licence. Following a period in the RAAF Reserve, successful barnstorming trips around western Victoria flying Tiger Moths, and a round-Australia odyssey looking for work, Don set off for the United Kingdom in 1955.

It was there Don sat for and passed his commercial pilot's licence. He flew for British European Airways from 1956 to 1959, piloting DC3 and Heron aircraft in the highlands of Scotland and Ireland. Here he met Eilish Burke who, prior to their marriage in 1957, was in charge of the Medical Department for British European Airways (Scottish Division) at Renfrew Airport.

In 1959 Don, Eilish and the first of their four children, six-month old Guy, returned to Australia where Don again took up farming on the family's property. In 1965 Don and his family moved to Wagga Wagga and became partners in a flying, training and air charter business. After buying out their partners they set up Premiair Aviation. In 1967 the company was incorporated and in 1971 the name was changed to the now familiar Kendell Airlines. It was at this time that Ansett ceased its two flights per week between Melbourne and Wagga Wagga. Don took over operation of these flights and expanded the frequency by introducing two daily return flights between Wagga Wagga and Melbourne. Don purchased a seven-seat Piper Navajo aircraft to cater for the increased business demand.

Don had a simple philosophy: if you offer the travelling public greater frequency you will be rewarded with the business. As a result the company grew steadily with the expansion of routes between Griffith, Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Melbourne. The network continued to grow by servicing regional and country areas and the purchase of a sophisticated Heron fifteen-seat aircraft was well received by the clientele. Today the Kendell Airlines fleet comprises sixteen Saab 340s, seven Fairchild Metro 23s and twelve CRJ200 fifty-seat jets. In 1991 Kendell Airlines received the *Air Transport World* magazine's Regional Airline of the Year award.

Don served as Managing Director of Kendell Airlines from 1967 to 1997 and as Chairman of Kendell Airlines (Aust) Pty Ltd, Aeropelican Pty Ltd and Skywest Airlines Pty Ltd from 1997 to 2000. He also served as Chairman of the General Aviation Association from 1974 to 1976 and the Regional Airlines Association from 1983 to 1985, and was a member of the Transport Industries Advisory Council from 1979 to 1981, the Aviation Industry Advisory Council from 1983 to 1985 and the Australian Aviation Advisory Committee from 1988 to 1990. In recognition of his commitment and service to air transport Don Kendell was admitted as a Member of the Order of Australia in June 1992.

Don Kendell's interests in rural Australia extended beyond the airline industry. In March 1998 he was appointed by the NSW Minister for Health to the Board of the Murray Area Health Service on which he served as a community representative and Chairman until May 1999.

Chancellor, I present to you for conferral of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*), Donald Moreton Kendell, who has served regional and rural Australia with distinction.

Dated this Fifth Day of April Two Thousand and One