

MR WILLIAM HANRAHAN

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

William (Bill) Thomas Hanrahan was born in Bungaree, near Ballarat, Victoria, on 18 January 1943. One of five children, Bill's family moved to Albury when he was four years of age. Bill completed his primary education at the Christian Brothers Albury, and his secondary schooling as a boarder at Assumption College in Kilmore, Victoria. In 1962 he commenced studies with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Canberra, eventually gaining a Bachelor of Religious Studies from the MSC Theological College, Melbourne.

Bill returned to Albury in 1967 to work in the family's expanding produce merchant business. He enrolled as a student at what was then Albury Technical College, completing an Accountancy Certificate Course in 1972, before gaining employment with JW Lucas, Public Accountants, where he later became a partner. During his time with JW Lucas, Bill continued to develop his capacity for excellence and commitment to work. In 1973 he was awarded the Australian Society of Accountants Award for Advanced Financial Accounting, as the top student in New South Wales.

It was also during this time that Bill met his future wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1973. Bill subsequently returned to his father's business as company secretary, operating as the firm DJ Hanrahan Pty Ltd.

Bill commenced studying a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) with the then Riverina College of Advanced Education, graduating with distinction in December 1980. Shortly thereafter he applied for and obtained the position of accountant with the Hume Permanent Building Society. Bill also started teaching management accounting part-time at Albury TAFE.

In 1982 Bill was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Hume Permanent Building Society, a position he held until his retirement in 2002, making him one of the longest serving Chief Executive Officers of any major business in regional Australia. During his time as Chief Executive Officer, the Hume Permanent Building Society became one of the largest and most effective rural based building societies in Australia, developing a reputation for excellence of service to its clients and the community. Based on size and lending, the Hume Permanent Building Society continues to rank in Australia's top ten building societies.

Bill's enthusiasm for extending his knowledge, understanding and appreciation of business and business contexts continued after he commenced at the Hume Permanent Building Society. In 1984, he completed a Bachelor of Legal Studies degree from Macquarie University and was admitted to the Bar of NSW as Barrister-at-Law. He also successfully completed the Securities Institute Diploma, a Graduate Certificate of Cost Accountancy, a course for admission to the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries, and became a Senior Associate of the Australian Society of Accountants.

In recognition of his professional achievements, Bill holds an enviable record of Fellowships earned through study, or through superior professional experience and contribution to professional practice in a number of fields. These include: fellowships of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia, the Securities Institute of Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Financial Services.

Throughout his working career Bill made a constant and continuous contribution to community and business life in the Albury-Wodonga region, willingly giving his time and energy to many projects and organisations. In 1990 he became a community member of the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation, and in recognition of his contribution was appointed as its Chair in 1997. In this role Bill continued to be at the forefront of planning for regional development and the improvement of the quality of life for the regional population. Bill was also President of the New South Wales Association of Permanent Building Societies for six years (and a member of the National Executive for the same period), Chairman of the Australian Regional Building Societies Group, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Albury-Wodonga branch of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, the Albury (Mercy) Hospital Board, and the Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocesan Finance Commission. Bill continues to take on new challenges in serving his region and its community.

Bill has also made a significant contribution to Charles Sturt University. He is a longstanding member of the Charles Sturt University Albury-Wodonga Campus Advisory Committee, a member of the School of Business Industry Advisory Panel, and, since its formation in 2001, a member for the School of Business Regional Consultative Group. Bill's advice and other contributions have made a difference to the quality of decisions of these bodies. He has generously donated his time to assist the University in a number of ways, including his willingness to mentor students, and his attendance at Open Days to discuss the finance and housing industry with prospective students.

Chancellor, I present to you William Thomas Hanrahan, a valued citizen and significant contributor to the community of Albury-Wodonga, a humble and highly respected regional and national business leader, on whom Charles Sturt University is proud to confer the award of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Sixteenth Day of May Two Thousand and Three