



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA**

# Graduation Ceremony

**Winthrop Hall**

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 2pm



# A message from the Chancellor

## The Hon Robert S French AC CtiWA

Graduation from The University of Western Australia is an achievement reflecting years of commitment to higher learning. It also marks the acquisition of the ability to continue to learn, to reason critically and, over time, to acquire the wisdom that comes by joining learning and reasoning to life experience.



It is an achievement which makes you all part of our history. As the holder of a degree at The University of Western Australia, you join generations of students who have passed through the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms at the University, since it came into existence in 1911. You are now part of its history as much as it is part of yours.

The prime mover in the establishment of the University was its first Chancellor, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, a leading Western Australian politician, philanthropist and the proprietor of The West Australian newspaper.

The University's purpose, from its foundation, was expressed in practical terms – to provide instruction in 'practical arts and liberal studies' which would help develop the fledging economy of Western Australia and thereby 'advance the prosperity and welfare of the people'. The University's motto encompasses that purpose with a higher ideal in urging all who pass through it to 'seek wisdom'.

The first 184 students enrolled at the University attended their lectures, which began on 31 March 1913, in timber and iron huts located in Irwin Street, Perth. From those humble beginnings the generation and transmission of knowledge, expertise and innovation at The University of Western Australia has played a significant part in the economic development of Western Australia. It has inspired the work of thousands of researchers and equipped tens of thousands of graduates to contribute in myriad ways to our society.

UWA is one of the world's leading universities. Our graduates go into the world equipped with skills and qualifications which will enable them to engage with the pressing challenges of the day and to advance our society in all fields of human endeavour.

I wish you well as you apply your learning, and the wisdom acquired by life experience combined with that learning, for the benefit of Western Australia, our nation and the wider global community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# A message from the Vice-Chancellor

## Professor Amit Chakma

Graduation day is a special day for the University, our graduates and their families and friends.

On this occasion, we gather as a university community to celebrate your academic success and to wish you the very best as you embark on your respective journeys.



I offer my warmest congratulations to all our graduates. You have worked hard and met the demanding standards of a UWA degree. You are to be commended for your academic achievements.

As you graduate, please remember that your learning days are not over. Learning is a lifelong process. We have prepared you to be master learners. Continue to Seek Wisdom.

We have not given you answers to all questions. We hope that what remains with you is the ability to approach new issues objectively and with an open mind, and always tempered with empathy for the human condition.

You are graduating at a time when humanity is facing many challenges. The need for highly educated and talented people has never been greater. Our world needs talented young people like you to bring a fresh perspective and knowledge in tackling these problems.

You are among the fortunate few to have attended one of the finest universities in the world. You have what it takes to take these challenges on and chart a brighter course for yourselves, your community, your country, and indeed for humanity. As citizens of the globe, you are our gift to the world. We are counting on you for your ingenuity, creativity, and leadership. Go out there, be bold, live a life of impact, and make us proud.

As graduates, you become members of convocation. You are forever a cherished member of this great institution founded over a century ago. Wherever your life's journey may take you, UWA will always be your home. Come home, and come often. Your Alma Mater will be waiting for you!

Congratulations to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amit Chakma'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

# Indigenous commitment

## Dr Richard Walley OAM

### Indigenous protocol

As Noongar people: We respect place and people, plants and animals. It is a holistic respect. We pay tribute to events and ceremonies. We embrace people and change while maintaining links to ancient cultures and practices.

### Noongar people

Noongar people are the original inhabitants of the South West of Western Australia and form one of the largest Aboriginal cultural blocks in Australia. The 14 different language groups – Amangu, Yued/Yuat, Whadjuk/Wajuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Wardandi, Balardong/Ballardong, Nyakinyaki, Wilman, Ganeang, Bibulmun/Piblemen, Mineng, Goreng, Wudjari and Njunga/Noongar – have ownership of all Noongar kaartdijin (knowledge) and culture.

### Boodjar (Country)

The ancestral lands of Aboriginal people. UWA is situated on Noongar Boodjar, in the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people.

### Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country celebrates Aboriginal people's connection with the land, acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land, and welcomes visitors and guests to their land.

### Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country occurs when an elder or custodian is unavailable to deliver the Welcome to Country. In this case a senior representative of the organisation recognises the traditional owners and their ongoing connection and responsibilities to Country.

### Blessing

A blessing is delivered by an Elder, or custodian of the country, who extends best wishes for future journeys to individuals who have spent time on Country.

## National Anthem

The assembly is invited to sing the first verse of the Australian National Anthem.

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

## The Procession

The ceremony commences with the entrance of the Procession.

There is an order of precedence, with the most senior ranking persons appearing at the end of the Procession. Thus, lecturers and senior lecturers will enter the Hall first, followed by the professoriate and former honorary degree recipients. They are followed by members of the Senate, which is the University's governing body, and the Warden of Convocation, representing the body of graduates of the University. The highest ranking officials of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Chancellor, are the last to mount the stage.

The Procession can also include representatives of other universities and dignitaries of local, state and national governments.

## Order of Proceedings

Organ recital by the University Organist\*

Introduction by the Chair of Academic Board\*

The procession will enter and the assembly is requested to stand

The National Anthem

Proceedings will be opened by the Chancellor\*

Welcome to Country

Vice-Chancellor's Address\*

Guest Address

Conferral of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Awards

Conferral of Doctoral Degrees

Awarding of the Chancellor's Medal

Conferral of Honorary Degree

Welcome Address by the Warden of Convocation\*

Valedictorian Address

Proceedings will be closed by the Chancellor\*

The procession will retire and the assembly is requested to stand

*\*On occasion, a representative may fulfil this ceremonial role.*

# Guest Address Speaker Profile

## Sue Miers AM

Sue is the mother of four children and seven grandchildren. Her youngest daughter entered her family via the foster care system in 1982. Developmental delays associated with this child, initiated Sue's life work dedicated to raising awareness about the prevention and management of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Sue was one of the first Australians to realise the significance and impact of prenatal exposure to alcohol, however it wasn't until a trip to Canada in 1999 that her daughter finally received her diagnosis.

That same year Sue established the first national FASD Support Group. She also wrote a detailed report highlighting the lack awareness of FASD in Australia and disseminated it nationally to politicians, government, and non-government agencies.

As a volunteer Sue has made countless presentations to community and professional groups in an effort to raise FASD awareness. She has been an invited member of numerous national and state government reference groups as a recognised parent authority in this area.

Notably her voluntary work included acting as a Senior Consultant for the FASD Collaboration facilitated by Telethon Kids Institute with federal government funding. This resulted in the creation of the first Australian Guide to the Diagnosis of FASD published in 2016. Sue is acknowledged as one of the co-authors of six research papers that resulted from this Collaboration.

Although Sue no longer holds an official position, the support group she founded, the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (NOFASD) is today, the pre-eminent body in its field. Primarily funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health the Organisation is managed by dedicated and passionate staff. As the Peak Body it has become effective and influential in the development of policy, and action plans to improve the lives of those affected by FASD.

Sue has been publicly recognised for her dedication and selfless commitment to FASD prevention, education, and management. In 2006 she was awarded the Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the community.

# Chancellor's Medal

**A Chancellor's Medal is awarded for an outstanding contribution, or sustained contributions, to the University, such as to enable the University to discharge its teaching, research and community responsibilities more effectively.**

**The Chancellor's Medal is presented by the Vice-Chancellor or nominee.**

## Chancellor's Medal (2023)

Mr Tim Ungar

### Citation

Tim Ungar is a long-term supporter of WA artists, arts organisations and audiences. His passion for the arts and his business acumen, as former Telstra executive and current Chair of the TSA Group, has benefitted thousands of Western Australians.

Tim recently retired as the inaugural Chair of the Perth Festival, after serving as a Board member for eight years. As Chair, he delivered a financial plan to diversify Festival funding, secure long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on the University.

In 2020 when COVID struck, it was Tim who supported the Perth Festival during the most perilous time in its 70-year history; ensuring that the Festival could meet its commitments and maintain the University's reputation. His leadership, stakeholder outreach and staff engagement enabled the Festival to overcome several challenges including, shutdowns and decreasing corporate revenue.

Tim has been integral to the Perth Festival securing major contracts from State Government. During his tenure as Chair, philanthropic support for the Perth Festival more than doubled due to his advocacy and direct donations. His initiatives included Perth Festival Patrons and the Chair's Giving Circle. The focus of Tim's personal support of the Perth Festival is to develop young and emerging artists and provide them with long-term, sustainable careers. He is a great believer in involving young people in the arts.

Tim has been an outstanding volunteer, including acting as a Graduation guest speaker at the 2022 Graduation Ceremony; as well as showing immense commitment to the University through his long and deep involvement with the Perth Festival.

## Honorary Doctoral Degree

The primary purpose of conferring honorary degrees is to give public recognition to individuals for outstanding achievements in any recognised field of endeavour with strategic connection or relevance to the University, either at the State level or beyond.

The Honorary Doctoral Degree is presented by the Vice-Chancellor or nominee.

### Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters

Sue Miers AM

#### Citation

For nearly 40 years Sue Miers has been a passionate advocate for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), the preventable disability caused by alcohol-exposed pregnancy. In 1999 she founded the National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (NOFASD) Australia. As a volunteer, the website she developed in 2013 has grown by over 500%, has 150,000 page views annually, and is the world's largest and most active source of FASD information. In addition, the Organisation delivers 5000 Helpline services annually.

Sue led the first International FASD Awareness Day initiative in Australia in 1999, now an annual campaign that reaches 191,000 people and initiates many events across Australia to acknowledge the importance of increased community awareness of the harm caused by alcohol-exposed pregnancies. Same year Sue called for alcohol products to be labelled, warning against consumption during pregnancy, then worked actively with a national campaign to introduce mandatory labelling in 2020.

The work Sue Miers led for NOFASD has advanced awareness of FASD worldwide and provided practical support to individuals and families with lived experience. In recognition of her services to the community Sue was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2006.

Her knowledge of the research across every aspect of FASD is significant, and she was an early contributor to the need for formal education and qualifications in FASD to be developed at a tertiary level. The importance of FASD is now recognised at UWA by the Graduate Certificate in FASD Diagnosis and Assessment we offer.

## Your UWA graduate community

Graduating from University is a momentous achievement and it is our great pleasure to offer heartfelt congratulations on behalf of your fellow UWA graduates.

We'd like to thank you for choosing to study at UWA and for showing admirable dedication in pursuing your educational goals. As a graduate, you will now embark on an exciting new journey – stepping beyond the guidance of professors and tutors – to follow your dreams and fulfil personal and professional goals. However, graduation is only the beginning of a proud, life-long affiliation with your University.

Welcome to your global community of over 145,000 UWA graduates, you are now all members of UWA's Convocation!

To ensure you receive event invitations, voting ballots and graduate communications, please update your contact details by visiting [alumni.uwa.edu.au/update](https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/update), or by scanning the QR code.



We wish you well in your future endeavours and look forward to celebrating the success you find. ConGRADulations!

## Stay involved with UWA

Through the power of UWA's graduate network, you'll find avenues for personal growth, life-long learning, volunteering, social engagement and fellowship with your peers. Wherever you go in the world, you will have access to peers who can support your career goals.

As a graduate, you are now a member of the Convocation of UWA Graduates, a legally constituted body – unique to UWA – which provides you with the opportunity to share in, and contribute to, the future intellectual and cultural prosperity of the University.

You are eligible to vote for members of the Council of Convocation and representatives on the Senate of UWA, and to be nominated for these roles. To find out more about how to get involved please visit **[convocation.uwa.edu.au](http://convocation.uwa.edu.au)**.

We encourage you to continue your relationship with UWA – to vote, attend events, stay in touch and get involved in UWA alumni life!



**Lead:** in ways that reflect your passions. Bring together other graduates to achieve great things and share your story to inspire others.



**Learn:** through events, thought leadership, short courses and resources like library membership, UniHub, alumni newsletters and *Uniview* magazine.



**Network:** with your global community of over 145,000 graduates.



**Volunteer:** as a mentor, network ambassador, committee member, or by sharing your story, hosting a work integrated learning student or organising a reunion.



**Give:** through the UWA Alumni Fund where the kindness and generosity of our UWA graduates, staff and friends continues to change the lives of UWA students.

Find out more by visiting **[alumni.uwa.edu.au](http://alumni.uwa.edu.au)**



# The University's Graduation Ceremonies

## Academic gowns

The practice of wearing academic dress on formal occasions has a long and illustrious history. The title of Chancellor was originally bestowed on important officials in the medieval church and was later applied to the chief dignitary of a university. It also refers to the chief judicial officer of England, the Lord Chancellor, whose robes are similar to those worn by university chancellors. Thus, it is important to remember that the gowns of the Chancellor (who is appointed by the Senate), the Pro-Chancellor (who is elected by the Senate to act on the Chancellor's behalf when he or she is unavailable), and the Vice-Chancellor (who is the Chief Executive Officer of the University), are not strictly academic gowns: they do not signify the wearer's degree but the office held.

The **Chancellor's gown** is of black silk faced with white silk and trimmed with gold braid down each front. A flap collar at the back is faced with white silk and trimmed with gold braid and with open sleeves fully lined with white silk, trimmed with gold braid and turned back to form a triangle bisected by two loops of gold cord from the shoulders. The cap is a black velvet trencher with gold tassel and button and trimmed with three centimetres of gold braid.

The **Pro-Chancellor's** gown is similar to the Chancellor's gown but trimmed with gold cord down each front with a flap collar at the back faced with white silk. This is also trimmed with gold cord, with open sleeves fully lined with white silk, trimmed with gold cord and turned back to form a triangle bisected by a loop of gold cord from the shoulders. The Pro-Chancellor also wears a black velvet trencher cap with gold tassel and button and trimmed with one-and-a-half centimetres of gold braid.

The **Vice-Chancellor's** gown is trimmed with silver braid down each front with a flap collar at the back faced with white silk. Silver braid trims this collar and the open sleeves are fully lined with white silk, rimmed with silver braid and turned back to form a triangle bisected by two loops of silver cord from the shoulders. The black velvet trencher cap has a silver tassel and button and is trimmed with three centimetres of silver braid.

# Officers of the University

As at December 2023

## **Chancellor**

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA

## **Pro-Chancellor**

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng *W.Aust.*

## **Executive**

### **Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Amit Chakma, DipIng IAP, MAsc PhD UBC, DEng (Hons) Waterloo, DSc (Hons) Dhaka, PEng, ICD.D

### **Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Tim Colmer, BSc(Agric) *W.Aust.*, PhD UC Davis

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

Professor Anna Nowak, MBBS PhD *W.Aust.*, MLdshp Deakin, FRACP, GAICD

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)**

Professor David Sadler, FRSA, PFHEA, NTF, MAICD

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Ms Leona Marquand, BA(Hons) UOP, DipIFR ACCA, GradDipAppFin FASEA, FCA

## **Other principal office-bearers**

### **Chair of the Academic Board**

Professor Raymond Da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD *W.Aust.*

### **Visitor**

His Excellency the Honorable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, *ex-officio*

### **Warden of Convocation**

Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, BA PhD *W.Aust.*

### **Immediate Past Warden of Convocation**

Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, MBBS MD *W.Aust.*, DMRD, FRANZCR, FRCR

### **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education)**

Professor Jill Milroy AM, BA *W.Aust.*

# University Senate

## **Ex officio – Chancellor**

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA (Chancellor and Chair)

## **Ex officio – Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Amit Chakma, Diplng IAP, MAsc PhD UBC, DEng(Hons) Waterloo, DSc(Hons) Dhaka, PEng, ICD.D (Vice-Chancellor)

## **Appointed by the Governor**

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng W.Aust. (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair)  
Ms Joanne Farrell, BSc W.Aust., GradDipMgt Curtin, BLP UNSW, SLP LBS  
Ms Linda Kenyon, BJuris, LLB W.Aust., FGIA

## **Elected by Convocation**

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, BArch W.Aust., MHP UNSW, LFRAIA, FACHSM, FAIM, Hon. AIA, Hon. FNZIA  
Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies, BJuris, LLB, LLM, Dip.Ed, B.Arts(Hons), SJD W.Aust. MBA Murdoch, CTA, AIAMA

## **Ex officio – Chair Academic Board**

Professor Raymond (Ray) da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD W.Aust.

## **Elected by Academic Staff**

Professor Serena Dipierro, BMath MMath UniBa, PhD SISSA

## **Elected by Students**

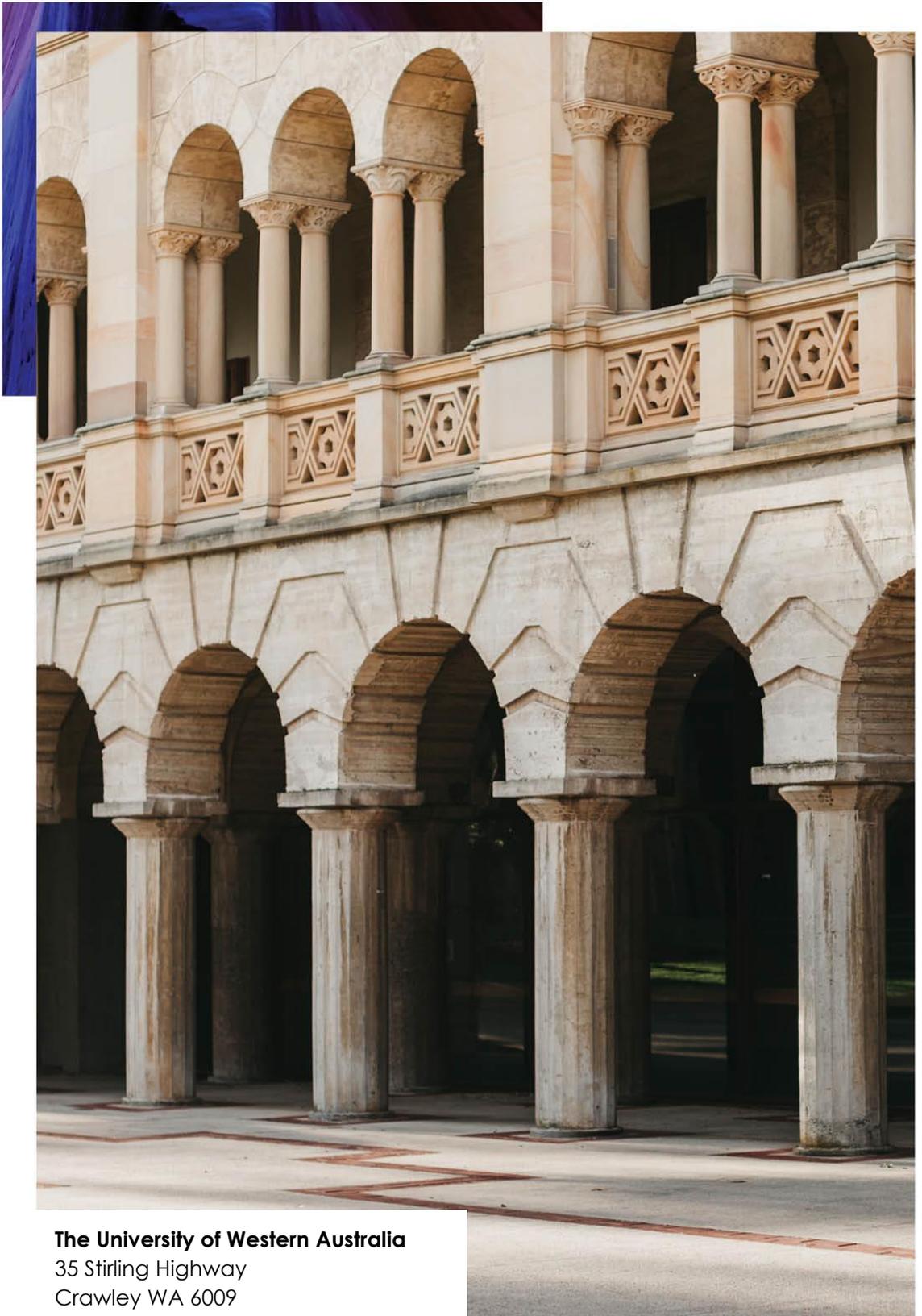
Ms Indi Creed (Student Guild President)  
Mr Christopher-John Daudu, BBiomedSc GradCertIntReIns W.Aust. (Post-Graduate Student Association President)

## **Elected by General Staff**

Ms Jill (Jillian) Benn, BComm(Media)(Hons) E.Cowan, GradDip(InfoLibStds) Curtin, GAICD, PFHEA

## **Co-opted**

Mr Michael Byrne, MSc DU  
Dr Robert (Bob) Olivier, BSc W.Aust., BSocSc(Hons) Curtin, PhD W.Aust.  
Ms Julie O'Neill, BEc(Hons), EMBA W.Aust.  
Dr Jane den Hollander AO, BSc(Hons) MSc Wits, PhD Card., Hon Doc Deakin, Hon Doc Card.  
The Honourable Neil McKerracher KC, LLB W.Aust.



**The University of Western Australia**  
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