



Event: Donor Recognition function

Date: Thursday 28 April

Location: NICA

Speech notes

Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson

Acknowledgements

- Former Chancellor, Dr Doug Mitchell
- Swinburne University Council members
- Alumni and friends

I am delighted to be here with you this evening to recognise your valued contributions to Swinburne

The support of our donors makes an incredible difference to Swinburne. This evening is an opportunity for us to celebrate you and to share our achievements.

With your kindness and contributions, we have been able to assist students juggling their studies in the face of rising challenges.

Example: the Young Mums program

- Allows mothers aged 15 to 20 to complete Year 11 and 12 qualifications
- Life changing for these mums
- Opportunity to complete their education
- Give their children the best opportunities in the future

Example: Film and Television students

- Thanks to the Simpson family and The Jolimont Foundation, Swinburne students of Film, TV and Animation are working directly with senior Film industry figures as part of our new “Director in Residence” program.
- Over the years the Jolimont Foundation has generously made significant philanthropic contributions to the university that have enriched our education offerings, bolstered our research and opened doors for students who might otherwise not found their way to university.
- Their gifts have enriched student education and supported high impact research, allowing Swinburne to react quickly and positively to the changing environment around us.
- **Example: Swinburne Baby Lab**
- In 2015 funding from the Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Fund allowed the Swinburne Baby Lab to purchase a new infrared eye-tracker to investigate and make new discoveries.
- The Swinburne Baby Lab is a research facility within the Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Centre.

- The lab allows researchers to use innovative techniques to explore cognitive, social and brain development in infants and young children investigating issues such as epilepsy, autism and developmental challenges.

Your contributions allow us to build on our world-class research and to deliver impact within local and global communities.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build partnerships with industry, our community and other universities in Australia and internationally to achieve outcomes that benefit our economy and society.

The Innovation Precinct

It is an exciting time to be part of the Swinburne community.

In March this year, we announced our new Innovation Precinct at our Hawthorn campus.

The Hawthorn Fire Station is being renovated and will become a gateway to the innovation precinct that will create a culture of innovation across campus as we welcome industry to work with our students and researchers.

The Innovation Precinct model was developed in consultation with entrepreneurs, leading innovation authorities, and senior leaders from industry and business.

We will link our Design Factory, Digital Innovation Lab and our Factory of the Future, to position Swinburne as a centre of entrepreneurial activity... integrating research, new business development and commercialisation.

We look forward to keeping you updated on opportunities on how you too can become involved in our new venture.

The Richard Pratt Creative Fellowship

I would also like to acknowledge this evening how wonderful it is to be here at **National Institute of Circus Arts**.

Swinburne is proud of its association with NICA. Backed by a Swinburne qualification, NICA students go on to great success as circus performers around the world. 23 of our graduates have found employment is Cirque du Soleil.

Established in 2011, The Richard Pratt Creative Fellowship has had a significant impact on NICA.

- The Richard Pratt Creative Fellowship has directly enhanced our international reputation as an elite a performance training institution
- provided tremendous opportunity to both staff and trainers

- allowed us to forge strong links with leading circus schools around the world.

We are pleased to announce that a new agreement – **the Richard Pratt International Creative Development fund** – has been signed. This three-year agreement will help enable:

- eminent international circus artists, circus master trainers and artistic directors to come to NICA and work with NICA trainers and students
- the opportunity for NICA trainers and students to travel abroad to widen their contemporary circus knowledge and be inspired by performances at the cutting edge of international contemporary circus
- NICA staff, students and the wider contemporary circus landscape in Australia to benefit from the influence of traditions, styles and innovations from across the world

We would like to treat you this evening to a brilliant showcase of talented students from NICA.

I hope you enjoy your evening and take the opportunity to talk with other donors who share our Swinburne vision and meet students who have benefitted from your generosity.