



# **Installation of Graham Goldsmith as the 4<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of Swinburne**

*Wednesday, 3 December 2014*

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Professor Linda Kristjanson, Vice-Chancellor**

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to begin by also acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov

Chancellor, Graham Goldsmith

Incoming Deputy Premier, the Honourable James Merlino, MP

Councillor and Mayor of Boroondara, Coral Ross

Former Chancellors of Swinburne University – Bill Scales, AO, Doug Mitchell

Mr George Pappas - Chancellor, Victoria University

Dr Paul Hemming – Chancellor, Federation University

Ted Baillieu – Former Premier of Victoria

Aunty Joy Wandin Murphy

Dr Leonie Walsh – Lead Chief Scientist of Victoria

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Swinburne friends

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Installation of Swinburne University of Technology's fourth Chancellor, Graham Goldsmith.

It is a great pleasure to be here tonight to celebrate a historic and momentous occasion. Thank you all for being part of this special ceremony.

## **George Collins**

I would like to pause from this joyous occasion for just a moment to remember Professor George Collins, our recently departed dear friend and esteemed colleague. His passing was terribly sudden but he left his mark on this university that will remain forever. George was a true gentleman, an individual deeply committed to collaboration – warm and inclusive. He was excited by the research we undertake and by our commitment to quality research that is relevant to industry and the communities we serve. His warm and engaging nature was treasured by all who knew him and as we acknowledge today's milestone, imagine that he is here with us in spirit.

## **Swinburne History**

This is the fourth Installation of a Chancellor, as Swinburne achieved university status in 1992, only 22 years ago. However, our story and our contribution to Australian society started long before then.

For more than 100 years, Swinburne has been changing the lives of young men and women through high quality education. This is exactly how George Swinburne, the Founder of Eastern Suburbs Technical College in 1908 (later to become known as Swinburne Technical College), saw the power of education. He saw education as a way to give people equal opportunity. We proudly continue his legacy to today.

In 1909, 80 young men enrolled at the College to study carpentry, plumbing and gas fitting. They gained skills that were practical and necessary during this pre-war period of rapid industrial development.

After the Second World War, the curriculum was expanded to include mechanical and electrical engineering, chemistry, film and television, and computer programming.

In 1960 we established the first international transition course to cater for the arrival of increasing numbers of overseas students.

And, our highly successful Industry-Based Learning program began in 1963 with what was first referred to as, the 'sandwich' course. These courses were built on a new combination of academic study and industrial experience, sandwiched between academic learning to allow our graduates to integrate their education with up-to-date industry experience. It is not surprising that our students have been identified as innovative and career-ready graduates.

It is this commitment to real-world impact that still drives us.

We see education not simply as a form of learning, or the transfer of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next, but as a path to empowering individuals to enter the workforce, build a future, and contribute to a nation's growth and success.

## **Vision and Achievements**

2014 represents one of the most challenging and most exciting periods in our history in the education sector.

Although we face significant challenges in a highly competitive sector, as the federal government considers a range of changes as part of its higher education reform package, we remain committed to accessible, high quality education and research excellence.

Graham Goldsmith has taken on the role of Chancellor at a time of great ambition and promise for the university. We have expanded our local and global impact through high-quality, strategic partnerships. We are reaching more students through attentive, high-touch online education and Swinburne Online has become the fastest growing online education provider in Australia.

We continue to offer opportunities to students to undertake tertiary education through a range of pathways and enabling doors. We excel in our areas of research focus and we are creating innovative courses in line with our vision to be Australia's leading university in science, technology, and innovation; with our special strengths in business and design.

## **School of Law**

Next year Swinburne will welcome its first law students. In addition to meeting the requirements for legal practice - our law degree will deliver a particular focus on commercialisation, technology transfer and intellectual property law. We also know that many students will wish to pursue a double degree, such as law and science, law and engineering or law and business.

We believe that, through this new course our graduates will have access to a wider range of careers, enabled by their specialised knowledge of legal frameworks and the tools to create innovative businesses.

## **AMDC**

The Advanced Manufacturing and Design Centre opened in May and will further increase our research and teaching capabilities.

The state-of-the-art facilities within the building allow opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and research across the fields of engineering, design, ICT and business.

The AMDC will also be home to Swinburne's Factory of the Future facilitating a powerful nexus amongst students, researchers and industry partners in fields of design, engineering and technology.

## **Our people**

We could not meet the challenges before us and achieve all that we have without our people.

Across every faculty and every research centre, every school and every departmental unit, our academic and professional staff members are working tirelessly to build and grow Swinburne's reputation and offer an engaging and enabling student experience.

Swinburne was recently named an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. The citation recognises organisations that have demonstrated an active commitment to gender equality in their workplace.

Our Gender Equality Action Plan contains a range of key initiatives, including flexible working arrangements; a transition program for parents returning to work from parental leave and a domestic violence support program that assists employees who are the victims of family and domestic violence.

We continue to place great importance on our culture at Swinburne, knowing that any great learning environment is built on relationships that are mutually respectful. This year we launched our Reconciliation Action Plan – a significant step toward improving engagement of our University with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their culture, spirituality and history.

We have also released two other action plans that put in place our commitment to an inclusive and welcoming culture - our Pride@Swinburne action plan outlines our goals and actions to ensure that people of different sexual orientations and gender expressions can work and study in an organisation that is safe and respectful. And just yesterday, we released our AccessAbility plan to ensure that individuals with disabilities can contribute fully. I am pleased to say that we were the first university in Victoria to become “smoke-free” and we also released our first Sustainability Report, signalling our concern for the health of our people and our planet.

### **Graham Goldsmith**

A review of our recent achievements affirms our vision and mission and generates a sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the future.

Graham Goldsmith has been a central contributor to our vision, focus and successes.

His first footstep into the Swinburne community was as a student. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) in 1983 and then went on to start a highly successful career in the financial services industry at National Australia Bank before joining JBWere & Son in 1987.

In the 1990s Graham worked for JBWere in London for five years, before returning to Melbourne in 1996. Following the merger of JBWere with the Australian operations of Goldman Sachs & Co in 2003, Mr Goldsmith held a number of senior roles, including serving as Chair of the Goldman Sachs Australia Foundation. Mr Goldsmith retired in 2012 as Vice-Chairman and a Managing Director of Goldman Sachs Australia after a 25 year career with the firm.

Mr Goldsmith is a non-executive director of ASX listed companies Djerriwarrh Investments Limited and SEEK Limited, and NYSE listed Zhaopin Limited.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Financial Services Institute of Australia, and the Australian Society of Certified Practicing Accountants. He has also served as President of the Bialik College School Council, a K-12 independent school in Melbourne.

Graham has served on the University's Council for the past four years, working closely with his predecessor, Bill Scales, AO. Graham has shown generous and astute leadership and demonstrated a steadfast passion for higher education and Swinburne's role in creating opportunity.

When we first launched the Swinburne Leadership Institute, Graham kindly agreed to serve as the inaugural Chair of the SLI Advisory Board.

He is a firm believer that leadership in government and business needs to be renewed for the greater good.

His impressive intellect and ethical decision making underpin his achievements in business and his community contributions. Graham's warmth and modesty are always at the core of everything he does.

I have worked closely with Graham as a Council member. I know that he will lead by example. His passion for education and his respectful questioning, always grounded in the best interests of the university, will enhance Swinburne's performance, and our influence and reputation.

Under his leadership as Chancellor, our ambitions will be realised and we will continue our strong tradition of contributing to and shaping our society and Australia's future.

Graham, it is a great honour to personally and on behalf of the Swinburne community, congratulate you on your installation as our Chancellor.

Governor (nod) – I now call upon you to formally install Mr Graham Goldsmith as the fourth Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology.