Event: Launch of the Centre for the New Workforce
Date: Thursday 6 December 2018
Arrival time: 5.30pm
Speaking time: 5.53pm (5 minutes duration)
Location: Aerial, 17 Dukes Walk, South Wharf

Speech notes
Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
Thank you David.

And thank you Levi for the warm and generous welcome to your country that you have extended to us.

**Acknowledgement of country**

I would like to also respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past, present, and future who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

Thank you all for being here tonight for this wonderful occasion - the launch of the Centre for the New Workforce.

We live in volatile times. Disruptive change is not new. Human beings have navigated many upheavals, as new technologies and discoveries have led to transformations in how we function as a society. Change has also improved our lives remarkably.

Yuval Noah Harari reminds us in his book, Homo Deus, that, ‘People are usually afraid of change because they fear the unknown. But the greatest single constant of history is that everything changes’.
Work and the workforce are rapidly changing. The ways in which we think about work will continue to evolve at a rapid pace. This has profound implications for society, and especially for the role universities play.

We are now encountering the fourth industrial revolution.

This revolution is characterised by automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. We are moving rapidly towards a future state known as Industry 4.0. Industrial development sees cyber-physical systems, the Internet-of-Things, cloud computing, and cognitive computing becoming part of our everyday working world.

I am pleased to say that Swinburne is already preparing our students for this future of work, ensuring that graduates will have more, not less, opportunities.

Swinburne was the first university in Australia to pioneer an Industry 4.0 training program – the Associate Degree of Applied Technologies.

In partnership with Siemens and the AI Group, this award-winning program is developing higher apprentices who have Industry 4.0 expertise without equal.

Tonight, I am delighted to launch the Centre for the New Workforce.
Led by Dr Sean Gallagher, the Centre for the New Workforce will explore the future of work and understand how we can best prepare people and organisations for what is ahead.

The Centre will provide unique insights on the impact of workforce transformation arising from digital disruption.

The Centre will collaborate closely with industry, with the aim of making an impact here in Australia and internationally.

Most importantly, the Centre places people right at the heart of the future of work.

The Centre will also play an important role in bringing together some of the world’s best thought leaders.

We are privileged to have Heather McGowan – a leading future of work strategist – here with us from Boston.

I would like to warmly welcome you, Heather, and thank you for giving the keynote address this evening. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

At Swinburne, we do not see disruption as a challenge, but rather as an opportunity to engage and empower our students, researchers and community like never before.
But to do so, we must not stand still. We must be the explorers of the new world of the future of work.

It is now my great pleasure to officially launch the Centre for the New Workforce.

I would like to introduce and welcome Dr Sean Gallagher. Sean is the Centre’s inaugural director - Sean will talk about our vision and ambition for the Centre.

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