

## BARRY OWEN JONES

### *CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE*

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Dr Barry Owen Jones.

Dr Jones is one of Australia's leading public intellectuals and polymaths. His achievements have resided in the national consciousness for some fifty years and are popularly recognized by his inclusion among "Australia's Living National Treasures". Less noticed has been the regard accorded Dr Jones by the nation's leading scholars.

Dr Jones was born in Geelong in 1932, and studied at Melbourne High School and The University of Melbourne, from which he holds Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees. A renowned quiz champion both in Australia and abroad, he taught for ten years in Victorian high schools before taking up a position as a Lecturer in History at La Trobe University in 1968. By 1972 Dr Jones had become a member of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, and from 1977 until 1998 was a member of the House of Representatives representing the seat of Lalor. During the Hawke ministries he gave service in several portfolios, most notably as Minister for Science between 1983 and 1990. During that time he helped to foster a greater sense of advocacy for and national awareness of the importance of science and technology to Australia's future.

From 1992 until 2000 Dr Jones served as National President of the Australian Labor Party. He was Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Convention on the Republic in 1997-8, and at that time also served on the Council of the National Library of Australia.

Dr Jones has pursued many passions. During 1969-73 he was Deputy Chairman of the Australian Council for the Arts, and for some years Chair, both of the Australian Film and Television School and of the Australian Film Institute. He was a director of the State Opera of Victoria and for thirteen years Secretary of the Victorian Anti-Hanging Council. He chaired the Australian Parliamentary Group of Amnesty International and has for many years been a board member of CARE Australia.

While pursuing his political career Dr Jones remained a prolific writer, producing such volumes as *Age of Apocalypse* in 1975, *Sleepers, Wake!: Technology and The Future of Work* in 1982, *Living by Our Wits* in 1986, as well as several editions of *Barry Jones' Dictionary of World Biography*. His scholarship was recognized by appointment as a Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong in 1991 and at Victoria University in 1994. Trinity College, Cambridge, appointed him a Visiting Fellow in 1999, and since 2000 he has been an Adjunct Professor of Monash University.

Dr Jones' signal contributions to many fields of scholarship have been recognized by honorary doctorates, including in Law, from The University of Melbourne, in Letters from Wollongong University and the University of Technology, Sydney, and in Science from Macquarie University. His polymathic contributions have been recognized over the years also through election to fellowship or honorary fellowship of various of the four Australian Learned Academies. In 2003 Dr Jones achieved the singular distinction of becoming a fellow or honorary fellow of *all* of these Learned Academies: Technological Sciences and Engineering, Science, Humanities, and most recently, Social Sciences. Through election to these four Academies by some 1,500 of Australia's leading scholars, Dr Jones has achieved the ultimate in peer recognition. As the national university, with the largest number of these academicians in its ranks, the ANU salutes Dr Jones for his most significant contributions to knowledge and learning over the last five decades.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Barry Owen Jones, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his distinguished creative achievement as a scholar over the broad range of scholarship, arts and letters.

Professor Ian Chubb AO  
Vice-Chancellor  
The Australian National University  
16 December 2004