



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

MEMORIAL CEREMONY
TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF
**PROFESSOR GAVIN
BROWN AO**

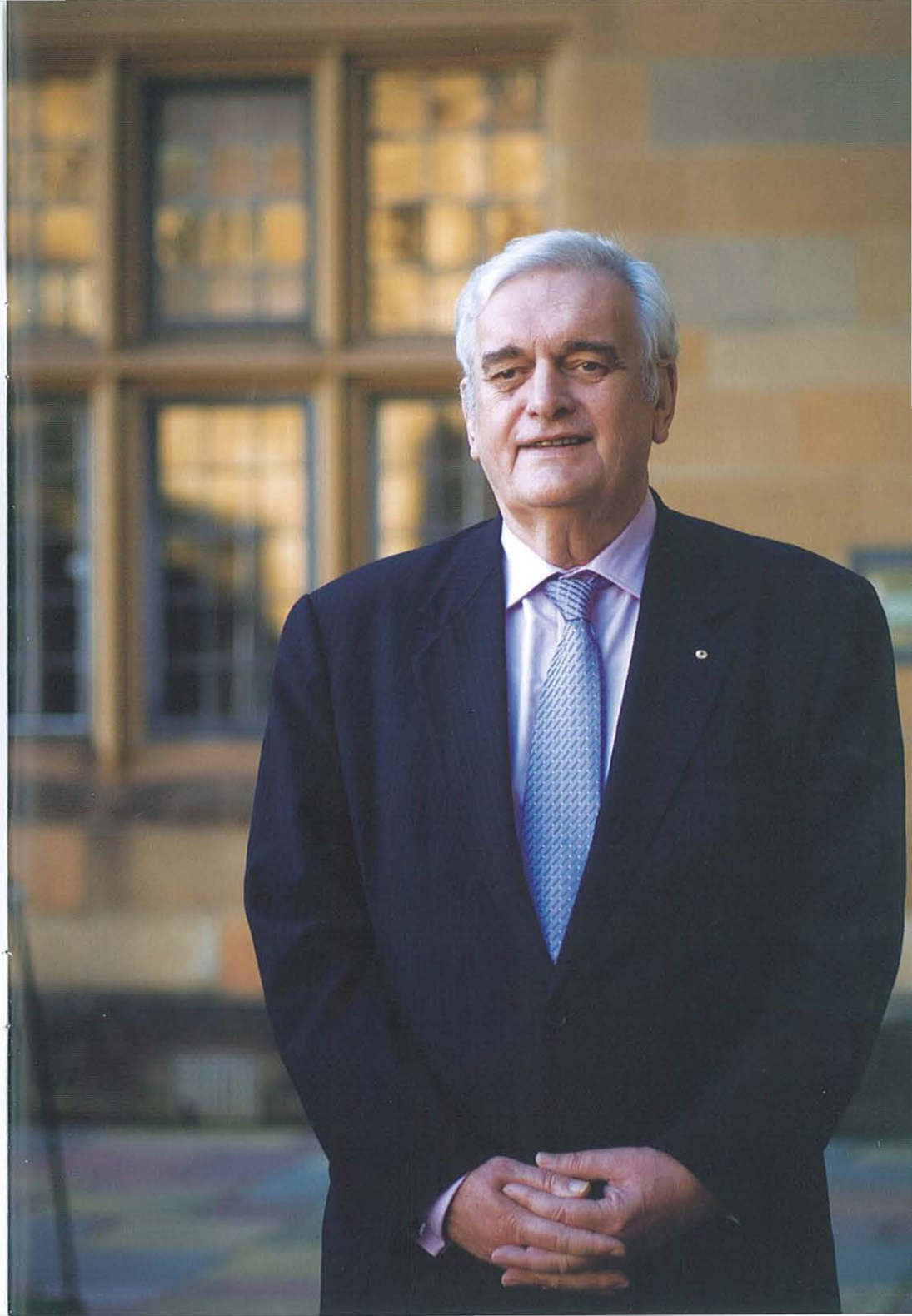
*MA StAnd PhD Newcastle (UK) HonLLD StAnd
HonLLD Dundee HonDSc Sydney
HonDSc Edinburgh, FAA CorrFRSE*

Friday 18 February 2011
The Great Hall, The Quadrangle
The University of Sydney

Professor Gavin Brown AO

MA *StAnd* PhD *Newcastle (UK)* HonLLD *StAnd*
HonLLD *Dundee* HonDSc *Sydney* HonDSc *Edinburgh*,
FAA CorrFRSE

1942–2010



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

CARILLON RECITAL

Liz Cartwright, Honorary Carillonneur

ORGAN PRELUDE

Larghetto from the Clarinet Quintet, K. 581 – Mozart

Sicilienne from the Flute Sonata in E-flat, BWV 1031 – Bach

Amy Johansen, University Organist

BAGPIPE SOLO

Medley of Scottish songs

Nicholas Bilinsky

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Professor Stephen Garton, Provost and

Deputy Vice-Chancellor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal

CHANCELLOR'S TRIBUTE

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Chancellor

CHOIR

Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618 – Mozart

University of Sydney Graduate Choir

TRIBUTE

Emeritus Professor Ken Eltis, former deputy vice-chancellor

CHOIR

May angels bear my soul away, final chorale from the

St John Passion – JS Bach

University of Sydney Graduate Choir

TRIBUTE

Jennifer Doubell

ORGAN RECEPTIONAL

Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572 – Bach

Amy Johansen, University Organist

CARILLON RECITAL

June Catchpoole, Assistant University Carillonneur

Morning tea will be served at the
conclusion of the ceremony.

REFLECTING ON AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

Professor Gavin Brown made a remarkable contribution to the academic world during a rich and varied professional career, including serving the University of Sydney as vice-chancellor and principal for more than a decade, from 1996 to 2008.

Professor Gavin Brown's life began on 27 February 1942 in Lundin Links, a small village in Fife, Scotland.

After being honoured as dux of Madras College in St Andrews, he was awarded a Harkness Scholarship to study at the University of St Andrews, where he graduated with a Master of Arts degree (First Class Honours and the Duncan Medal) in 1963.

Professor Brown was then awarded a Carnegie Scholarship, which enabled him to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he earned a PhD in 1966. During his early days as a scholar, he spent a year as a junior research fellow at the University of Edinburgh.

RAPID RISE TO PROMINENCE

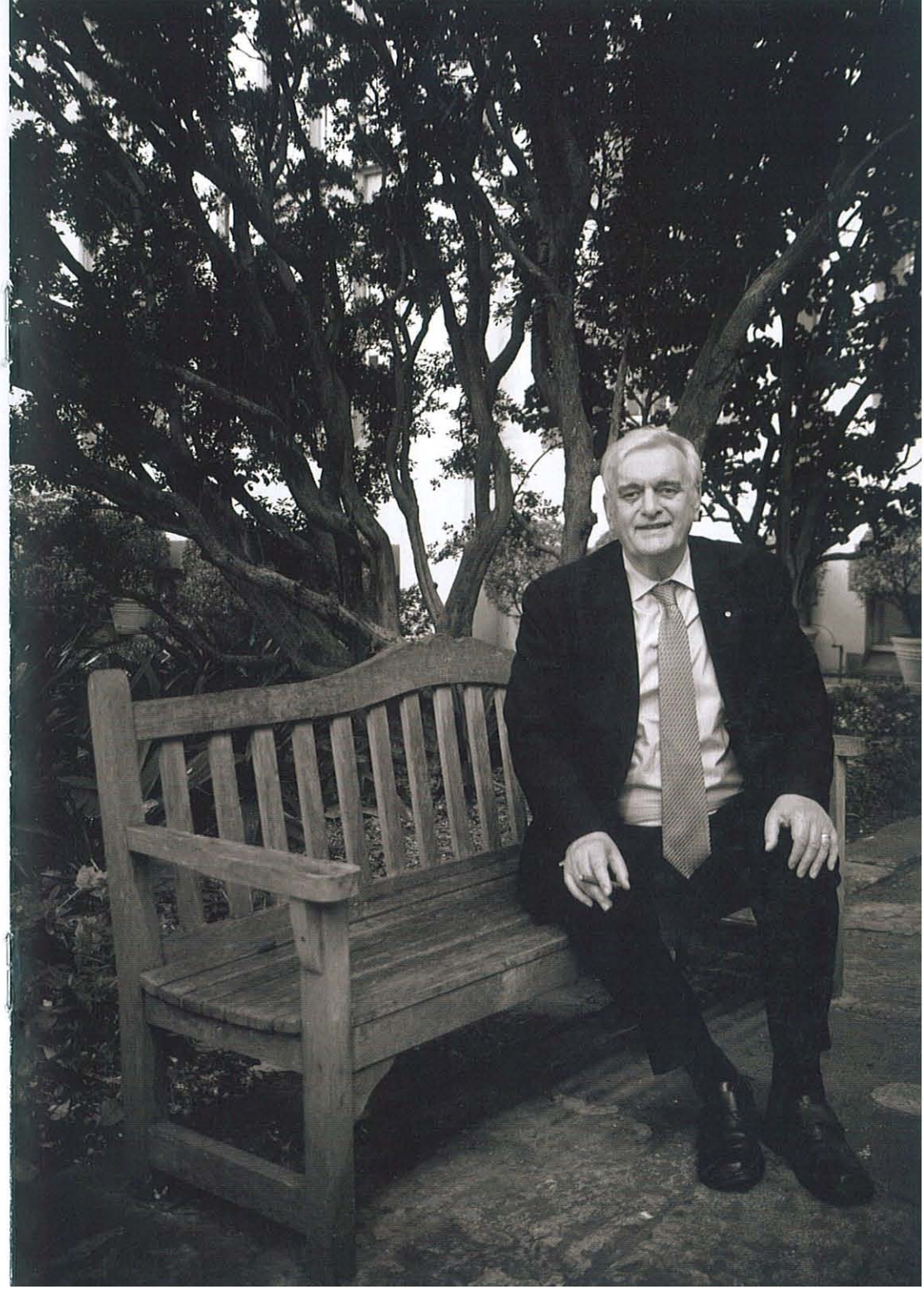
Professor Brown started his academic career at the University of Liverpool, where he rose to the rank of senior lecturer in mathematics. After accepting the chair of pure mathematics at the University of New South Wales in 1975, he and his family emigrated to Australia. At the University of New South Wales he held

a number of academic administrative posts, including head of the department of pure mathematics, head of the School of Mathematics and, from 1989–92, dean of the Faculty of Science.

During his time at UNSW, Professor Brown's mathematical research and, in particular his work involving Fourier analysis, led to the award of the Sir Edmund Whittaker Memorial Prize and the Australian Mathematical Society Medal. He was also elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and later became a member of its council (1992–95) and vice-president (1993–94). Professor Brown held visiting professorships at the University of Paris, the University of Cambridge and the University of Washington.

From 1988–93, Professor Brown was actively involved in the work of the Australian Research Council. He chaired several of its funding committees and, during 1992–93, was a member of

Professor Gavin Brown in the Vice-Chancellor's Courtyard, 2008. Photograph courtesy of Nuran Zorlu.



its council. He moved to Adelaide in 1992 when he was appointed deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research at the University of Adelaide. In January 1994, he became vice-chancellor and held this post until he resigned on 30 June 1996. Features of Professor Brown's stint as vice-chancellor included a major restructuring of University management, a strong focus on links with industry and a programmed return of the University's budget to surplus.

TAKING CHARGE AT SYDNEY

Professor Brown held the post of vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Sydney from 1 July 1996 to 10 July 2008. During his tenure the University of Sydney reasserted its leadership role in Australia, dominating each of the major Australian Research Council funding categories and obtaining outstanding National Health and Medical Research Council results.

The University's reputation for quality learning and teaching was demonstrated by increases in its percentage share of first-preference applications for admission.

Professor Brown was also active in supporting the overall student experience, a stance he reinforced in his farewell speech on 23 June 2008. "I persist in the belief that the greatest gift we confer on our students is the opportunity to contribute more effectively to our society, both spiritually and materially," he said.

He championed the independence of student organisations, and reflected in his farewell speech that the University had taken "vigorous steps to preserve their autonomy". Indeed, during his tenure he strongly supported extra-curricular activity such as sport and debating. The University of Sydney won the Australian

University Games five times during Professor Brown's tenure, provided many Olympic and Paralympic athletes and won the world universities debating title.

As an author of more than 100 research papers, he continued active mathematical research and was on the board of several international journals. He was a regular commentator on higher education policy and gave invited presentations to international meetings in many countries.

As vice-chancellor, he was president of the international group of universities, Academic Consortium 21, vice-chair of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities and Foundation Chairman of the G08 universities.

In 1997 Professor Brown was awarded an honorary doctor of laws by the University of St Andrews and in 2004 he was presented with an honorary doctor of laws by the University of Dundee. In January 2006 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. In March 2007 he was elected as a corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Professor Brown retired as vice-chancellor on 10 July 2008. In that same year, he was appointed as the inaugural director of The Royal Institution of Australia in Adelaide.

In 2009 the University of Sydney awarded him an honorary doctor of science, and just last year he travelled to Scotland to receive an honorary doctor of science from the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Brown died on 25 December 2010.

Professor Brown meeting alumni at The Bund in Shanghai before their graduation ceremony in November 2006. Photograph courtesy of Rodney Evans.



PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT SCHOLAR AND LEADER

As vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Gavin Brown was an inspirational leader and mentor for a large number of people whom he worked with and met. When he retired, some of these people provided farewell tributes; excerpts from several of these appear below.

In my view, one key element of Gavin Brown's legacy is simply this: the intellectual, social and capital investment that has emerged from enhancing, transforming and protecting cultural life, in its broadest realm. It is an inheritance that is felt and held dearly by the community at large and which doesn't cease at city or state borders. We owe him considerable thanks and recognition for this gift to Sydney, and will continue to do so for some time.

PROFESSOR ANN BREWER
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
(STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT)

Professor Brown has shown a commitment to students and student organisations that is unparalleled in this country. He has shown great leadership at a time of tremendous change for higher education. His support of the student experience has allowed the University to lead the way in providing a world-class, well-rounded education.

ROSE KHALILIZADEH
FORMER PRESIDENT,
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

Gavin, your leadership, wisdom and wit have infused this University with a spirit of humane, inclusive aspiration from the moment you arrived. It has been a spectacular period.

PROFESSOR SIMON CHAPMAN
FELLOW OF SENATE

Professor Gavin Brown was recognised and esteemed by those he led as a true scholar, an intellectual with broad vision, good instinct and a matching strategic mind. For matters that mattered, he formed and held resolutely his own view, his ears open only to the voice of experience. I shall miss Professor Brown.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROSS DRYNAN
DISCIPLINE OF AGRICULTURAL AND
RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Gavin Brown ... is a towering intellect, an academics' vice-chancellor, a very human person with a capricious sense of humour, acerbic wit and a Scottish work ethic. His commitment to the staff of the University as its most important asset is evidenced by the outcomes of enterprise bargaining, envied by those at other institutions.

His belief that the University experience was training for life has seen an emphasis on the non-academic aspects of student life, with active support for sporting prowess and vocal and practical support for students and their facilities throughout his tenure, particularly when voluntary student unionism was being introduced.

DAVID BURKE
BUSHELL PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGY,
CENTRAL CLINICAL SCHOOL, ROYAL
PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL; DIRECTOR OF
RESEARCH, SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Gavin Brown was the most inspirational leader I ever worked with ... You don't come across many people with the intellect and the capacity to lead that Gavin possessed.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR KEN ELTIS
FORMER DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

What made Gavin a highly successful academic leader is that despite his lofty position and many honours, he retained that profound Celtic suspicion of authority, which is essential for intellectual authenticity.

CHRIS MURPHY
BOSCH PROFESSOR OF
HISTOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY

Sydney and its University are a better place thanks to the philosopher, the athlete, the writer, the teacher and the musician Gavin Brown.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GOETZ RICHTER
SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC