

# **EULOGY — THE LATE THE HONOURABLE KIM SANTOW AO**

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**THE GREAT HALL, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
23 April 2008**

**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR AC CVO  
CHANCELLOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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Dear family, — and friends and colleagues of the Late The Honourable Kim Santow.

This evening we are drawn together with a great sense of sadness to mourn the passing of a man of towering goodness, of wisdom and integrity, — my esteemed predecessor as Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2001 to 2007.

We also join together with a considerable sense of gratitude for his life, and especially for the way in which his life has touched each one of us, in extraordinarily diverse ways.

Certainly the University can never forget his contribution — that he was willing to accept the high and demanding role of Chancellor at a critical time for higher education in Australia's universities, and certainly a time of challenge for The University of Sydney.

There were the demands of government requiring revision, — of a governing body yearning for harmony, and the ever present, important and changing needs of students, national and international.

The Chancellor's transactions across all sectors of the University, — from undergraduate to most senior academic, and to those men and women who quietly protect and preserve the fabric of Australia's oldest University — revealed a rapport that was inclusive, warm, scholarly and meticulously knowledgeable.

A distinguished alumnus of this University, Chancellor Kim Santow had an unswerving commitment to the University's obligation to provide a comprehensively rich student experience. He was open to all who could bring forward recommendations for its continuing enrichment.

He was immensely proud of the long history of the University's cultural treasures including its orchestra, its museums and the superb Sydney University Graduates' Choir, who sing this evening from Johann Sebastian Bach to honour him.

Together with his beloved and inseparable companion Lee, he was an impeccable ambassador for both the University — across the nation, and on their international journeys for Australia. As a visiting scholar at Harvard and Cornell Universities and at Lincoln's Inn in London, there could have been no finer representative to provide the Australian perspective.

Because of his valued service in so many dimensions and for his significant contribution to the law, the Senate of the University of Sydney resolved to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa). I was privileged to conduct this ceremony at his hospital bedside a few weeks ago in the presence of all the family, including grandchildren and closest friends.

There is no doubt, however, that one of his most joyful and proud associations with this University flowed from his membership of the Sydney University Boat Club who, in 1964, awarded him a Boat Blue according to their very rigorous standards.

Our University has lost a beloved son before his time. But his contribution and his name will endure in many ways. Indeed, together with the Chief Justice the Honourable Jim Spigelman, Chancellor Kim Santow laid the Foundation Stone for the new Faculty of Law Building, now rising majestically beside the Fisher Library.

His noble spirit will be with us at the opening and long into the years ahead.