

St Paul's College -- The Sesquicentenary Banquet
The Great Hall, Saturday 23 September 2006

Your Excellency, Sir Nicholas, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

For the University of Sydney, welcoming St Paul's and its community has special significance. We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of St Paul's College as part of our shared history. For it was just four years ago that the University celebrated its own sesquicentenary. Yet there are two dimensions that shape our intertwined history.

As a great rowing eight is built from the intuitive collaboration of pairs and sculls, or an orchestra from the subtle interchange of chamber groups, so this University is the projection at large of the best elements of College life; close friendships and camaraderie along with love of learning, derived from intimate encounters with great scholars and teachers face to face. From your close and supportive College community, each Paul's student is immersed in the wider world of the University. Surely the best antidote to parochialism or self-centred privilege, no part of St Paul's contemporary culture.

For the University itself, self-aggrandisement is dispelled by that simple act of magnanimity that represents the welcome to it – from our Cadigal and Eora people when they give us welcome to the Country as part of many ceremonies in the Great Hall and University. It is expressed as a welcome to a shared country, one whose terrain has been lightly touched by millennia of indigenous connection. In such a vast time scale, 150 years is but a moment gone. Yet the history of St Paul's so encompassed, has been marked by extraordinary generosity, wisdom and above all sense of community. It is represented by the presence of those we hold in such affection from the Paul's community – may I mention specially Gough and Margaret Whitlam and Ros Lehane, beloved wife of John. That their spirit endures is the strongest assurance that St Paul's will remain a profoundly important influence in the life of the University and the Australian community.

GFK Santow
Chancellor
23 September 2006