

**SPEECH AT FAREWELL Ceremony for
Professor GAVIN BROWN AO Vice-Chancellor & Principal,
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**

Friday, 20 June 2008

**Professor Gavin Brown AO FAA, *Vice Chancellor and Principal,*
And Mrs Diane Brown
Emeritus Professor Dame Leonie Kramer AC, Former Chancellor of The University of Sydney**

The Hon John Watkins, Deputy Premier of NSW, and Ministers of the Crown,
the Hon Justice Spigelman, Chief Justice,
Former Vice-Chancellor Sir Bruce Williams, and Vice-Chancellor Designate Dr Michael Spence
Professor Andrew Coats, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Master of Ceremonies
University staff and academic colleagues
Fellows of Senate
Distinguished guests and friends

Thank you Vice-Chancellor for your thoughtful and wide-ranging address.

It is indeed a time of sadness and reflection as we bid farewell to a most valued Vice-Chancellor and Principal, whose 12 years of outstanding service to this great University will be remembered and recorded as a period of extraordinary growth and achievement in diverse ways. And may I thank each one of you for joining us tonight to honour him.

Dame Leonie, who had the pleasure of working alongside the Vice-Chancellor over the critical years of his tenure, has provided a most eloquent account of this. Thank you Dame Leonie.

This illustrious gathering is therefore an occasion also to express not only sadness but also the gratitude of this University, and indeed that of the wider community, this city, this state and nation, and to celebrate the dimensions of his contribution — a contribution which will provide an unparalleled foundation for the richness of future dividends.

He has presided over a period of unprecedented development

- The curriculum has been extended and enriched, embracing the frontiers of science and plumbing the endless depths of the humanities
- Standards have been continuously raised
- The University family, as never before, has been internationalised in diverse ways —
 - the wonderful infusion of students from across the world, many of whom are returning to their homelands as loyal and effective ambassadors for Australia
 - The ascending attraction of fine academics -teachers and researchers of high achievement and humanity -- to join our faculty
 - the establishment of the US Study Centre and The Confucius Centre: both will have a genuinely Australian dimension
- And more

Vice Chancellor, I have the honour on behalf of the community of this well-loved University to thank you deeply and sincerely from our intellect and from our hearts.

We bid you every fulfilment in your forthcoming prestigious role as head of The Royal Institution in Australia. You will relish the challenge of gathering great minds of science and innovation to reach out to the people for the benefit of humankind.

Before concluding, I would like to share with yourself and all present, the words of that great man William Charles Wentworth, founder of this University, whose marble presence in this Great Hall always, for me, evokes his spirit.

On the occasion of the Second Reading of the University Bill on the 4th October 1849, he said —

“I believe that of two evils, it is better to do too much, than to do too little.

It is better to make this institution great at once, to give it lofty aims and ends, than to endow it moderately and see it dwindle into insignificance.”

Vice-Chancellor, were William Charles Wentworth here today, like ourselves, he would in gratitude salute you. *Ave atque Vale.*

Our best wishes are with you in all the years ahead.

***Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Chancellor
The University of Sydney
20 June 2008***