**Citation – Dr Roderick Kater**

Wednesday, 9 March - 9.30am

Presiding Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Dr Rod Kater to you for an Honorary Fellowship of the University for his extraordinary contribution to the University over many years.

Rod was born in 1936 into a prominent family of medical practitioners and pastoralists, and is the son and grandson of Doctors Mick and Sir Norman Kater, the latter being one of only eight doctors at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1898. Rod attended school at Sydney Church of England Grammar then enrolled in a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, before moving to second year Medicine.

He lived at St Paul’s College, and his emerging leadership acumen was recognised when he was elected Senior Student of the College in 1959. Rod graduated from the University in 1961, and was a resident, registrar, and research fellow at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, then at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and Harvard Medical School, Boston. In 1963 he married Penny Salter and in 1970 he began practice as a gastroenterologist and Honorary Medical Officer at RPAH.

Rod grew up on the family Merino stud founded in 1906 and was a jackaroo there whenever time allowed. In 1972 his rural interests turned to beef production with the purchase of property in the Hunter Valley, where Rod and Penny grew a successful cattle breeding operation, now managed by their daughter Annabel who has introduced sustainable holistic grazing practices there and at Nevertire in western NSW.

In the 1990s Rod’s family farming and medical backgrounds merged, when he was invited to take up a position as the Chief Medical Officer for the then mighty Australian Mutual Provident Society. In 1992, Rod was then appointed Chairman of AMP subsidiary the Stanbroke Pastoral Company, and in conjunction with the Managing Director, he was responsible for growing the company’s cattle numbers to 650,000 head.

In 1974 Rod became Councillor and Honorary Treasurer of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, receiving the College Medal in 1990. In 1983 he became Councillor and Honorary Treasurer of the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, becoming President in 1991, and receiving the Distinguished Service Medal in 1990. During this time, Rod maintained his interest and passion for medicine, working as a part-time clinical lecturer in medicine at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and served on many national and international committees.

Rod continued to practice medicine until 2001, when he retired to focus on beef cattle production. After retiring as a medical practitioner, Rod became a consultant to the trustees of a prominent but anonymous philanthropic foundation, where he influenced the Foundation’s philanthropic direction to support international lecturers at Australian Gastroenterology Week, the establishment of a Travelling Fellowship in Medicine and the Allied Sciences of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and also the establishment of the AW Morrow Chair of Medicine in Gastroenterology and the University of Sydney.

Rod was also instrumental in the development of a significant, yet anonymous philanthropic relationship between the Foundation and the University of Sydney, one which has resulted in over $14 million in carefully targeted gifts and grants.

In 2011, the Foundation pledged its support for the University with a gift toward the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Power Polemics program and in 2013, gifted $1 million toward research into Nutrition and Healthy Ageing at the Charles Perkins Centre.

In 2015, Rod's agricultural passion was a driving force behind an extraordinary gift of nearly $1.6 million toward the University's *Farmbot for the People* project. This project aimed to make technology accessible to average farmers as a tool to better manage their farms and to increase the productive use of the land and other natural resources.

Rod has stressed the need to invest in our future – the undergraduate and postgraduate students who are destined to make a difference as to how we progress preventative medicine and sustainable agriculture to produce healthy, non-processed food to combat the Western World’s main underlying threat to health, prosperity, and morbid obesity.

Presiding Pro-Chancellor, I present to you Dr Roderick Kater and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.