Mr George Mack

The title of Honorary Fellow of the University was conferred upon George Mack at the Faculty of Veterinary Science graduation ceremony held at 2.00pm on 17 December 2010.

The Chancellor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO conferring the honorary award upon Mr Mack, photo, copyright Memento Photography.

Citation

Chancellor I have the honour to present to you Mr George Wharton Mack for the conferring of the title of Honorary fellow of the University.

Mr Mack, through his strong leadership for over 16 years of the Post Graduate Foundation (now known as the Centre for Veterinary Education) of the University of Sydney, has supported the interests of the University in its aim to promote itself at the forefront of postgraduate education.

Mr Mack is a leading farmer and grazier from the Western Districts of New South Wales whose life and interest have been in rural production, as well as in the role of the veterinary profession in the Australian rural and urban communities. He was raised on the land and it was obvious early on that he was destined to become a prominent figure in the rights of farmers and agri-politics. In 1964 he joined NSW Graziers and subsequently was elected to NSW Graziers Council before it became part of the NSW Farmers Association in 1979.

Later he was elected to the Wool Council of Australia and served as Chairman of the NSW Wool Committee and Vice Chairman of the Wool Council of Australia. In 1987 he was appointed to the Australian Wool Corporation as a ‘grower member’ and served three terms until 1993. He was also a Board Member of the International Wool Secretariat and the Wool Research and Development Corporation.

Mr Mack was invited to become a Member of the Council of the Post Graduate Foundation of Veterinary Science of the University of Sydney and in 1993 was elected its President. He played a key role in moving the PGF from an office in Sydney to the Camperdown campus, by financially supporting the building of the Veterinary Science Conference Centre, and developing strong ties with the Veterinary Faculty as well as the University.

Another landmark event, which he strongly championed, was when the PGF provided one million dollars seed money towards the building of the Valentine Charlton Feline Clinic within the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Mr Mack provided strong leadership to the Council and ongoing mentorship to its Directors, and as a non veterinarian he brought an independent and objective approach to assist with the management and maintenance of the asset base of the organisation.
His strong support and wise guidance ensured the Post Graduate Foundation maintained pre-eminence as the leader in continuing veterinary education throughout Australasia. During this period the organisation expanded very rapidly and provided conferences, seminars and workshops throughout Australia, in New Zealand and in Hong Kong.

The PGF developed a Distance Education program which remains unique in the veterinary world and to this day provides a solid platform of education for veterinarians around the world. This has fostered strong relationships for the University of Sydney in the UK, Europe and in Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.

In conclusion, Mr Mack has selflessly provided strong leadership for continuing veterinary education in the University of Sydney over the past 16 years. By doing so he has enriched the veterinary community and enhanced the national and international reputation of the University of Sydney. He is indeed worthy to become an Honorary Fellow of the University.

Chancellor, I present George Wharton Mack for the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.