**UNVEILING IAN YOUNG**

Remarks by the Chancellor, Professor Gareth Evans AC, on Unveiling of Portrait of former Vice-Chancellor Ian Young, The Australian National University, 1 August 2016

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One of the great traditions of this University is to immortalise every retiring Vice-Chancellor with a specially commissioned portrait to hang in the Scarth Room at University House.

I can’t help but note that there is no similar tradition for Chancellors – we just get, if we are lucky, a colour photograph hanging somewhere out of the way – even though there have been no more of us over the years than Vice-Chancellors to strain the budget. I guess that’s just one more demonstration of our proper place in the pecking order.

Though I have to say I’m personally rather relieved to escape immortalisation in this way: I have always rather feared being confronted with something like Oscar Wilde’s attic portrait of Dorian Gray, which you may remember captured on canvas not the rather benign face Mr Gray actually presented to the world, but.the true gnarled, wizened, morally stunted character of the *real* man.

I don’t think Professor Young need fear any such revelation when we lift the curtain on him. What you see with Ian, as I know from working closely with him over his whole five year term in office from 2011 to 2015, is what you get. And what we got was a model of dedication and discipline, who came to a strong university and made it even stronger, earning along the way the affection and respect of the whole ANU university community – and, I think it’s fair to say, especially wearing his hat as Go8 Chair, that of the whole higher education sector, and government policymakers as well.

Among Ian’s many achievements in office were

* To rebuild the senior administration, with coherent lines of decision making and reporting and the right people in the right place – leaving in place a rock-solid senior management team which his successor has been happy to preserve almost completely intact
* To set in train a really major rebuilding of the physical fabric of the University- with major new projects and refurbishment projects, and a plan for the future which will ensure consistent and effective renewal
* To focus hard on the centrality of traditional research to ANU’s standing – being rewarded with some great QS and Times Higher rankings and ERA Outcomes in his last weeks in the job
* To totally understand the central importance of public policy impact in ANU’s national value added – and be very supportive of initiatives like the Crawford School’s Australian Leadership Forum as a highly visible manifestation of that commitment
* To totally understand as the central importance that philanthropy is going to have to play in guaranteeing our distinctive excellence in the future, not least in overseeing the stewardship of the path breaking Tuckwell gift
* By no means least, from a Chancellor’s and University Council’s perspective, to totally understand and respect the place of good university governance – in his relations with us and in his recreation of the Academic Board.

With his collegiality and open-mindedness, Ian Young was a pleasure for the University Council and the whole university community to work with.

While he was never the rowdiest or most flamboyant of characters, Ian’s quiet decency - with the equally quiet but strong support of his wonderful wife Heather, who we are delighted to have with us this evening – made him liked and admired by everyone. It is not for nothing that he was invariably described in the Campus Morning Mail as "Ian ‘The Gent’ Young".

I think you’ll find that this portrait, by Jude Rae captures not only the dedication and determination of the man, but also a good deal of that basic gentlemanly quality. And whether it does or not, we will be very happy to have it hanging here, among those of his illustrious predecessors, to remind us in perpetuity of how lucky we were to have Ian Young as our 11th Vice-Chancellor.