

MR JOHN LANDY

John Landy, AC, MBE, Governor of Victoria, was born in Melbourne in 1930, and educated at Malvern and Geelong Grammar Schools and the University of Melbourne. After graduating as a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1954 he embarked on a career and a life of community service informed by his interests in science, agricultural science, natural history and conservation.

Mr Landy spent much of his career with the then ICI Australia, spending the last 11 years as Research and Development Manager of the Biological Group. From this background he has made an exceptional contribution at the interface of science and industry and to the general community in roles that have integrated his training, expertise and passions.

Among the many activities related to science and conservation Mr Landy has acted as Chair of the Wool and Research Development Corporation (1989-1994), the Meat Research Corporation (1995-1998), the Board of Governors of the Australian National Insect Collection (1995-2000) and Clean-up Australia (1990-1994), as President of Greening Australia (1998-2000) and as a foundation member of the Land Conservation Council (1971-1979). During his tenure on the latter body the area of national parks in Victoria increased five-fold and the foundation for policies was firmly established. His passion for natural history and well planned conservation programs is apparent in his books *Close to Nature* (1985), which won the C. J. Dennis Award, and *A Coastal Diary* (1993), which has provided information and pleasure to those who visit Victoria's south-western coast line.

Mr Landy is an Australian legend for his athletic prowess. He was the holder of the world records for the 1500 metres (1954-55) and the Mile (1954-1957) and was the second person in the world, to achieve what at the time was considered an impossibility, to run a sub-4 minute mile. His outstanding record as an athlete is matched only by an equally outstanding record as a sportsman and a person.

Typically, Mr Landy's contribution to sport extended beyond the track. He served as President of Athletics International (1973-1977), was a member of the Australian Institute of Sport (1985-1987), was Director of the Australian Sports Drug Agency (1998-2000) and chaired the Athletics Task Force (1992-1993). His contribution to the general community is no less significant, having served as chair of the Australia Day Committee (Vic) (1990-1993) and the ABC Advisory Committee (Vic) (1974-1976) among other activities. Mr Landy has also made a significant contribution to the University of Melbourne as a member of the Graduate Council (1972-1974) and the Faculty Board of Agriculture and Forestry (1974-1984). His contribution to public life continues in his current role as Governor of Victoria.

Mr Landy was awarded the MBE for Services to Sport in 1955. In 1984 he was elected Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in 1994 and Honorary Doctor of Rural Science by the University of New England in 1997. In 2001 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Mr John Landy has excelled in all of his pursuits. He leads by example and encouragement and provides an environment where those who interact with him are afforded the opportunity to realise their potential. His governorship has returned the discussion of science to Government House and those privileged to participate in formal and informal fora benefit from the ambience for intellectual discussion the Governor provides.