

## AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF COMMERCE

### PROFESSOR GEOFFREY COLIN HARCOURT AO

Professor Geoffrey Harcourt was born in Melbourne in 1931. He entered the University of Melbourne in 1951 as a resident of Queen's College. He graduated Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in 1954 and Master of Commerce in 1956. The title of his Master's thesis was a "Pilot Survey of Savings in Melbourne" which 'admirably indicates his then youthful interest in Keynes, applied issues and his own city'. In 1955 he journeyed to Cambridge, beginning a lifelong emotional and intellectual attachment to that seat of learning. By his own admission he is an 'Australian patriot and a Cambridge economist'. His Cambridge PhD was followed in 1988 by a Doctor of Letters.

He returned to Australia in 1958 to take up a Lectureship at the University of Adelaide. He was appointed to a Personal Chair at Adelaide in 1967. In 1982 he accepted a Fellowship at Jesus College, Cambridge, and a university lectureship in Economics. He formally resigned from his Adelaide position in 1985. He was appointed to an *ad hominem* Readership in the History of Economic Theory at Cambridge in 1990.

Geoffrey Harcourt is one of the few Australian economists whose writings have been absorbed by the leading economists of his generation. He has always been a Keynesian economist in the broadest sense but his work also reflects classical and Marxian themes. Arguably his greatest scholarly contribution lies in synthesizing states of debates in economic theory, especially capital theory. He has made important contributions to Post-Keynesian Theory and has produced intellectual biographies of a number of leading economists 'with the specific intention to raise the humanity and vitality of economics'. He has published numerous applied articles on the Australian economy and played an important role in policy debates. Reflecting his broad-based undergraduate degree, he has also published several articles on the valuation procedures used in accounting.

Geoffrey Harcourt is a stimulating lecturer and seminar participant, although his cricket analogies can confuse American audiences and his Australian Rules Football references have been known to befuddle his Cambridge colleagues. He is a member of the editorial board of many international journals and from 1967 to 1985 was joint editor of *Australian Economic Papers*.

He is an Officer of the Order of Australia and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He was the 1996 Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia, an award which recognized a life time of major contributions to the economic profession.