

AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS

DR ROBIN BATTERHAM

Dr Robin Batterham graduated from the University of Melbourne in Chemical Engineering in 1965. He obtained his PhD in 1969 and was awarded a CSIRO scholarship to undertake postdoctoral studies in the United Kingdom, at the central laboratories of ICI (UK).

Dr Batterham returned to Australia as a research scientist with the Division of Chemical Engineering in CSIRO. During this period of his professional career Dr Batterham undertook a significant number of innovative projects in the mineral processing field, and he was ultimately appointed as Chief of the Division of Mineral and Process Engineering at the CSIRO in 1985. During his career with CSIRO Dr Batterham promoted close interactions with industry, leading to the development of a number of novel processes which are in use today in the mineral sector in Australia and overseas.

In 1988 Dr Batterham was approached by CRA Ltd, now Rio Tinto Ltd, to take a major role in technology development for that company. Many of the company's industrial technology successes are a result of Dr Batterham's work.

When the Federal Government introduced the CRC Research Initiative Dr Batterham was appointed early as a key advisor. The undoubted success of the CRC program owes much to his expertise.

In 1999 he was appointed as Australia's Chief Scientist, a position he holds together with that of Chief Technologist for Rio Tinto Ltd. As Chief Scientist he advises a large number of Government bodies, including the Australian Research Council and the Cooperative Research Centres Committee. He was responsible for the major research review which produced the blueprint for Government support for research in the early years of the twenty-first century. His report entitled the "The Chance to Change" has been widely accepted by the Australian research community as well as by the Federal Government.

Since Dr Batterham was a student, he has had a love for organ music and he is now the organist for the Scots Church in Melbourne, where he can frequently be heard performing. He has played the organ in many major cities of the world.

In February 2003 Dr Batterham was invited to give the prestigious Danckwerts Memorial Lecture in London. His lecture, on "Chemical Engineering and Sustainability", was received with great acclaim. He has also recently been elected to World Chemical Engineering Council, a position acknowledging that he is one of the top ten chemical engineers in the World.

Dr Batterham has been appointed as the President of the UK Institution of Chemical Engineers for 2004-05, a mark of the very great respect in which he is held. He is also a recipient of the University of Melbourne Kernot medal for distinguished engineering achievement.