



Commemorating Professor Emma Johnston AO

A life of leadership and impact

University of Melbourne, Parkville
Friday 6 February 2026



Order of proceedings

Master of Ceremonies

Professor Jane Gunn AO
University of Melbourne

Welcome to Country

Wurundjeri Elder

Opening remarks

Jane Hansen AO, Chancellor
University of Melbourne

Speakers

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

Kylie Walker AM

Distinguished Professor Katherine Dafforn

Video tributes

Reflections on a life of
leadership and impact

Professor Mary O’Kane AC

Family tribute

Sam Maresh

Photo tribute

Featuring ‘Like All Things New’

Music and lyrics by University
of Melbourne alum Sonja Horbelt
(Kennedy Snow) with Nina Ferro on vocals,
friend of Professor Emma Johnston

Video

Emma, in her own words

Closing remarks

Jane Hansen AO

“What drove me was: what was I really loving? How could I help the people around me? How interesting was this world that I was investigating? How could I help protect it and work with other people to do so? But it’s not about any individual doing more. **It’s about all of us as a collective, working together.** It’s about building the resilience and connectivity and the ambition to save what we have.

If we can steep the values of honesty and integrity and equity and diversity and wanting the best for everybody into the way we do science ... then we will have some hope.

Hold on to what you can, save what you can. There is such beauty in this world.”

PROFESSOR EMMA JOHNSTON, 2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



Guests are invited to share memories or reflections of Professor Johnston's life and legacy in an online condolence book unimelb.edu.au/emma-johnston-condolences.

In lieu of flowers, tributes to remember Emma and continue her legacy may be made in the form of contributions to the Professor Emma Johnston Fund. communityfoundation.org.au/professor-emma-johnston-fund/
This fund has been established by Emma's family within the Australian Communities Foundation.

Front cover image: System Garden, University of Melbourne, Parkville campus, September 2024

Inside cover image: Sydney Harbour, March 2014 (image supplied by the University of NSW)

Back cover image: Orientation Week, University of Melbourne, Parkville campus, March 2025
(image supplied by Sam Maresh)

Scan to view fund

