



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

MEDIA RELEASE

UNIVERSITY COMES OF AGE

In a simple ceremony last Friday at Frogmore House, Dame Leonie Kramer, Chancellor of University of Sydney formally presented the ceremonial mace to Sir Ian Turbott, Chancellor of University of Western Sydney.

It was an historic occasion with the Chancellor of Australia's oldest university presenting the mace as a gift to the Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney one of Australia's youngest institutions.

In her address Dame Leonie Kramer said "Ancient traditions such as this one are not static but they are able to accommodate change and there has been and I hope there will continue to be a very special relationship between the University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney. Four years ago the Senate agreed 'to be associated with the development of the University of Western Sydney.' In the same year both houses of state parliament passed the legislation which established it.

The then Vice - Chancellor Professor John Ward stressed the importance of ensuring 'that the maximum benefit is extracted by both institutions from their association with one another.' That association was in the beginning very close indeed and it was a parent child relationship. Professor Ward became Acting Vice-Chancellor and many members of the Academic staff of the University of Sydney and other parts of staff were involved in planning and academic development.

But the goal that John Ward had enunciated is best reached by the separation of parent and child so that the child can find its own place in

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the world of learning and scholarship and that is what we celebrate today.

This ceremony Chancellor recognises your institutional authority symbolised by the mace but it also recognises the University's independence. In presenting you with the mace which is a symbol of both authority and independence and the University of Sydney looks forward to our continuing association and co operation in the advancement of learning."

The mace a symbol of institutional authority is carried in procession, in front of the Chancellor, as a ceremonial weapon and it developed from a primitive form of club to weapon of war and from the 17th century the mace became an ornamental symbol of authority possessed by universities as well as parliament.

Sir Ian Turbott on accepting the mace from Dame Leonie Kramer reflected on the history and tradition of the mace and thanked the University of Sydney for their generous gift.

Sir Ian said "Whereas in Sydney in the 1850's there is no record of any ceremony being arranged for the formal acceptance of the Mace by the Senate. Today we are proud to have joined in this formal ceremony.

Chancellor it is with great pride I accept this ceremonial mace on behalf of the University of Western Sydney. And I ask you to convey to your Senate our deep and real appreciation. We are a University of the future. This Mace reflects our image of the life ahead; of the lead into the year 2000 and the years ahead. We are indeed proud to have had this early relationship with the University of Sydney and your gift today will continue to remind us of this association."

The Mace was designed and crafted by the husband and wife team of Associate Professor Helge Larsen and Darani Lewers who developed a three dimensional form reminiscent of the cosmic sphere as the symbol for the University. It is based on the armillary the oldest known astronomical device. The cosmic sphere represents the evolution of knowledge which led to the concept of the modern universe and is constructed in sterling silver.