

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

COMPANION OF THE UNIVERSITY

MR JOHN BRANSON

John Branson's involvement with the University has spanned the better part of three decades. He began his association with Flinders in 1974 when he was appointed as the University's legal adviser.

In 1991 he chaired the fundraising committee responsible for generating funds to support the building of the Library for the newly-established Flinders Law School: under his steerage, the committee raised in excess of \$800,000 for the cause. In the same year, he was appointed to the Board of the Flinders Foundation, which had been established in 1987 to raise funds for the benefit of the University.

Mr Branson was appointed to Council as an external member in 1997 and served continuously in that role until his resignation in April this year. Also in 1997, he was appointed to the position of Chair of the Board of Flinders Technologies Pty Ltd, the University's wholly-owned intellectual property commercialisation company, a position which he continues to hold.

He was an active Council member, generous with his contributions outside of meetings, as well as around the Council table. Mr Branson provided wise, sensible and strategic guidance to the deliberations of Council for almost ten years and his contributions will be missed greatly.

In recent years, and in addition to the demands of being Chair of Flinders Technologies, he has served as a member of the Council Working Party on Governance (2003) and as Chair of its offshoot, the Council Working Party on Commercial Ventures (2004 and 2005). Together, these working parties were instrumental in establishing mechanisms for improved governance of the University, and the better management and oversight of commercial ventures undertaken by the University.

Outside of the University sphere, Mr Branson works as a consultant with one of Adelaide's major law firms, Minter Ellison. He has served and continues to serve on many corporate boards and is a former solicitor.

The Council is honoured to award the Companion of the University to Mr Branson.