

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY



GRADUATION CEREMONY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1987

Welcome to Graduates

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WELCOME TO GRADUATES

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby CMG  
Chancellor of the University

We have come together in this congregation for the conferring of degrees. The candidates are those who have satisfied the academic senate that they have complied with the requirements of the regulations for one of the several degrees of the University. Alternatively, they will be awarded graduate diplomas where they have satisfied the requirements of the graduate diploma regulations.

We have two series of graduations at Macquarie University. The first are held in May, when Autumn is well advanced. "A season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" as Keats once described it. The second are held at this time - when the Spring flowers line the graduands' road to the University. And Summer marches in. I prefer this time. Spring is always a time of renewal.

I also prefer it for a very special reason. My predecessors, Sir Garfield Barwick and Professor Percy Partridge had a special talent which I seem to lack. Never in twenty years did they have rain on a graduation day. Since my election as Chancellor, it has rained on almost every graduation day over which I have presided. Of course, I tried to blame the representatives of the churches for the message gone wrong. But some of the mud stuck - literally - on me.

So I am especially glad that these graduands share a blue and sunny day. In fact, now that we have got it, I am thinking of privatising it.

In their old age, the graduates may remember this precious moment in their lives. Surrounded by family and friends, they are at a watershed. What began on a hot February morning many years ago at the local kindergarten, comes to fruition in this ceremony. I congratulate the graduands and all who have helped them to reach this achievement.