

Mr Kenneth Robert Bickle

The honorary degree of Master of Pharmacy was conferred upon Kenneth Robert Bickle by the Chancellor Dame Leonie Kramer AC DBE at the Faculty of Pharmacy graduation ceremony held at 11.30am on 24 February 1998.

Citation

Chancellor

I have the pleasure of presenting for admission to the degree of Master of Pharmacy (*honoris causa*) Kenneth Robert Bickle.

Over the last thirty years Ken Bickle has made an outstanding contribution to the development of pharmacy practice in Australia and the discipline of pharmacy practice at this University. He completed *Materia Medica* at the University of Sydney in 1950, but because he was not yet 21 years of age, Ken had to wait eighteen months before the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales would register him. In 1951 he bought his first practice. He now operates, with his wife, three pharmacies in Sydney.

His contribution to professional organisations is unparalleled. He has the distinction of having served in all major pharmaceutical organisations. He has been active in the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia being made a Fellow in 1994 in recognition of his contribution to the profession. Ken was first elected to The Pharmacy Board of New South Wales in 1977 and in 1989 he was appointed President by the Minister of Health. He guided the Pharmacy Board through its first five years as an independent, self funding statutory authority. In 1991 Ken was elected the Foundation President of the Australian Pharmacy Registering Authorities.

We are greatly indebted to Ken Bickle, for his continuing association with this University and specifically with the Department of Pharmacy. He has been a member of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation Executive and Council since its inception. The Foundation has raised over \$3 million for the establishment of a Chair of Pharmacy Practice and for practitioner teachers. Ken was instrumental in establishing The Pharmacy Alumni Association in 1984, serving as its first President until 1988. He was also the co-chair of the 4 year Bachelor of Pharmacy degree committee. This group was successful in making the first course length change to the degree since its inception some 30 years ago.

Interestingly Ken was involved in student affairs during his undergraduate years and has increased his interest in fostering the advancement of graduates through the establishment of a major program "the Young Leaders program". This program has been instrumental in preparing young pharmacists for leadership positions.

Ken has also been active in international affairs participating in *Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique* conferences.

Apart from his first love of pharmacy many pharmacists are indebted to him for his extensive international knowledge of wine and gourmet restaurants.

Chancellor, I present to you Kenneth Robert Bickle for admission to the degree of Master of Pharmacy (*honoris causa*).