

Mr Ian George Hudson AM

The title of Honorary Fellow of the University was conferred upon Ian George Hudson AM in 2002.

Citation

Deputy Chancellor, I have the honour to present Ian George Hudson AM for the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.

For almost 40 years Mr Hudson has been closely associated with the University of Sydney through International House.

In 1962 the University saw the need to create a hall of residence for foreign students, and it requested Rotary International to assist in raising funds for such project. Such responsibility was given to Mr Hudson and other Rotarians.

For this undertaking Mr Hudson travelled extensively, at his own expense, within Australia and throughout South East Asia as part of the Rotary fund raising campaign. He was able to call upon his many business contacts, established during his life long career as a timber merchant, and owner of A Hudson Limited, popularly known as "Hudson with a Haitch".

Such endeavours were outstandingly successful, and the vision of International House became a reality. It was constructed and commenced operations in 1965.

Upon the creation of the House, Mr Hudson was appointed by the Senate to the Council of International House. He thereafter gave almost 30 years service, as a council member, Vice-Chairman and Chairman.

International House has a vital role in the life of the University and Mr Hudson has contributed enormously to its establishment and success. He has actively supported the activities of the House, and has freely provided his business knowledge for its benefit. He donated bursaries for less privileged residents of the House, whether local or foreign. He negotiated the lease of a site from the Forestry Commission for the purpose of a holiday cabin for the residents and arranged for its construction. He has maintained a continuing interest in International House. Outside the University Mr Hudson has served for the benefit of mankind in many ways.

Following active service in the Second World War, Mr Hudson took a leading role in other community and charitable causes such as the Salvation Army, Rotary International and community welfare. Each of those organisations has given public recognition for his services.

Mr Hudson has also engaged in international charitable work assisting community projects amongst the hill tribes of Thailand, and contributed to the development of schools and hospitals in that country. He served as Honorary Consul General in Australia for Thailand for a period of 15 years.

His Majesty The King of Thailand recognised such service by awarding Mr Hudson the highest decoration that can be bestowed upon a foreigner, namely, Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand. Australia has also recognised Mr Hudson's services by granting him of Membership of the Order of Australia in 1977.

The University of Sydney has been the recipient of Mr Hudson's munificent benefaction and selfless dedication. By this award the University recognises Mr Hudson's outstanding contribution to International House and to this University.

Deputy Chancellor, may I present Ian George Hudson, AM for the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.