

## **MINUTE OF APPRECIATION:**

### **PROFESSOR RICHARD G FOX**

It is both an honour and a pleasure to be given the opportunity of recording something of the achievements of Richard George Fox on the occasion that marks his retirement as a Professor of the Faculty of Law. Richard and I have known each other since we joined the staff at Monash in 1972. Richard returned to Australia in late 1972 from Canada, where he had been Senior Research Associate, Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto with a cross appointment as an Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, at that University. About the same time, I returned to Monash from England and we arrived within a matter of days of one another. We have been friends and colleagues since that time.

Richard graduated Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1962 and earned a post-graduate Diploma in Criminology in 1967. He graduated Master of Laws with First Class Honours in 1967, and his thesis was published in 1968 under the title *The Concept of Obscenity*. This pioneering monograph received high praise. Following a period as Tutor and Senior Tutor at the University of Melbourne, he took up appointment at the University of Toronto in 1969, where he remained for three years.

Richard's achievements during his period at Monash have been outstanding. As a scholar he has achieved pre-eminence in the areas in which he has worked, and particularly that of sentencing. His major work, with Arie Freiberg, is the text *Sentencing: State and Federal Law in Victoria* (1<sup>st</sup> ed, 1985; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 1999). This outstanding book is recognised as the definitive text on its subject, and is regularly cited by courts throughout Australia. His other monographs include *Victorian Criminal Procedure: State and Federal Law*, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> edition; *Students' Guide to Legal Writing and Law Exams*, with Enid Campbell (2003); *Criminal Justice on the Spot: Infringement Penalties in Victoria* (1995); and *Research Guide to Criminology Materials* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 1977). Additionally, Richard has written numerous reports to Government, and more than 80 articles and chapters in books. His writing is characterised by meticulous and painstaking scholarship, attention to detail, creativity in approach and a remarkable combination of the skills of a criminologist and an analytical lawyer.

Richard is an excellent and dedicated classroom teacher. He is demanding of students. Richard's classes have never been a place for the unprepared or uninterested. For those who wish to learn and to participate, he is an exciting and inspirational teacher. Infectious enthusiasm, rewards (chocolate frogs a favourite) and an appreciation of Richard's own deep knowledge combine to encourage his students to achieve their best. In 1994, he was a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching. Over more than three decades, Richard has worked to establish and maintain the reputation of Monash in the broad area of criminal justice and related subjects. He has helped foster

and encourage what are now several generations of younger teachers and scholars to continue and enhance that reputation. He was also responsible for introducing the subjects *Current Problems in Criminal Law*, *Criminology* and *Federal Criminal Law* into the undergraduate curriculum and *Sentencing* in the Master of Laws program.

Richard has consistently undertaken a heavy load of demanding administrative tasks within the Faculty and the University, including, at one time or another, membership of almost every committee within the Faculty. More recently, his responsibilities have included Associate Dean (Student Affairs), 1999-2003, and Deputy Dean, 2005.

Richard's achievements have been recognised by his University by two distinct honours. In 1990 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws for his published works in relation to the law of sentencing, obscenity, policing and other areas. This was the first, and until 2002, the only occasion on which this degree has been awarded by examination since the establishment of the Law Faculty in 1963. In 1991, Richard was appointed to a Personal Chair in the Faculty. This was only the second personal chair awarded in the Law Faculty since its inception.

There have been many other forms of recognition of Richard's standing and achievements. In 1987, he was the recipient of the Inaugural Citation and Medal for Excellence in Research by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. In 1993, he was recipient of the Medico-Legal Society of Sri Lanka Oration Medal. The visiting appointments he has held include; Visiting Professor, Case Western Reserve University (1979 and 1995); Visiting Professor, Northern Territory University (1993); Visiting Professor, University of Warsaw (1986); and Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law and Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto (1975). He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 1979 and prior to that, a recipient of a British Council Commonwealth University Interchange Travel Award in 1975.

Within the Faculty, Richard's contribution to the life of the institution has been outstanding. There has never been a stauncher defender of the importance of high academic standards within a university. Shoddy work which finds its way to Richard receives short shrift. There has never been a member of staff more committed to the historic mission and values of universities than Richard. He is always ready to advise and assist anyone who seeks his guidance, and in particular to be a mentor and a friend to younger members of staff. At the same time, Richard has been a loyal friend and discreet confidant of his peers, and his senior colleagues. He is an individual of high integrity and great honesty, and a person always willing to express sincerely held beliefs, whether fashionable or not.

At a personal level, I have always regarded it as a pleasure and a privilege to have Richard as a colleague. Geographically, we have always been close. We have

worked on the same floor of the Law School for around 20 of the past 34 years, most of the earlier years living next door to one another. I could not begin to calculate the time we spent discussing all sorts of matters from the future of universities to the intricacies of the most recent piece of legislation. I have always valued Richard's views on everything and he has been someone who I have wanted to seek out to talk about problems relating to teaching or writing and, in particular in my years as Dean, to talk to about matters affecting the future of the faculty and the university.

Richard has been accorded the honour of appointment as Emeritus Professor, and will be maintaining what we hope will be a close connection with the Faculty. We will nonetheless be the poorer for his retirement as a full time member of staff. He has played a major role in developing and nurturing all that is best and most worthwhile in the institution to which he has devoted most of his working life.

Professor C R Williams  
Sir John Barry Chair of Law  
Monash University