Thirtieth Anniversary Celebrations
20 November 2005

Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
Cover

Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner in the Hall of University House Canberra (centre) and a montage of photos of guests at pre-dinner drinks in the grounds of University House, 20 November 2005.
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President’s Foreword

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences (ATS) held its first meeting of Foundation Fellows on 21 November 1975 and it was formally inaugurated at a ceremony in Melbourne on 24 February 1976.

Over the past 30 years, the Academy has made great progress on many fronts and, in 1987, after consultation with the Institution of Engineers Australia and with the strong support of the Institution, its name was formally changed to ‘Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE)’. The history of the first 30 years was summarised in the Academy’s recent small publication ‘ATSE 1975-2005’ which was prepared for distribution on the occasion of the Academy’s 30th Anniversary.

There was considerable discussion in the Council in early 2005 as to when it would be most appropriate to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ATSE and what form that celebration should take. In the end, it was decided that the most appropriate timing for the national celebration would be in conjunction with the Academy’s 30th Annual General Meeting in Canberra on 20 November 2005 and that we should, as far as possible, seek to replicate the order of events of the formal inauguration – with the celebratory addresses following the Academy’s 2005 Oration by the Rt Hon J D (Doug) Anthony CH AC FTSE.

As it turned out, the evening’s celebration at University House in Canberra was a memorable occasion for all those present, including a large number of Fellows and their partners, and invited guests. In order to share the occasion with the rest of the Fellowship, we recorded the proceedings of the evening and have included Mr Anthony’s Oration and the series of 30th Anniversary speeches in this small publication, along with the order of business for the evening and a list of all those who were present and some photos of the occasion.

I would like to thank our distinguished guests for the evening especially Mr Anthony; Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and now Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Nairn; ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope; President of the Australian Academy of Science, (and now Australian Chief Scientist), Dr Jim Peacock AC FRS PresAA FTSE; and especially the Academy’s former Presidents and Foundation Fellows, for making the Academy’s 30th Anniversary such a special occasion for all those present.

John W Zillman
April 2006
Opening Remarks

Dr John Zillman President

Good evening everyone. I would like to welcome all Fellows and guests to the 2005 Oration and Annual Dinner of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).

This year's Oration and dinner are very special in at least four ways:

• Firstly, it is 30 years ago tomorrow since the first general meeting of Foundation Fellows of the Academy, five of whom are with us tonight to celebrate the Academy's 30th Anniversary. We are specially honoured by the presence of:
  - Dr Keith Farrer, the Academy's Foundation Vice-President;
  - Sir John Holland, our Foundation Treasurer;
  - Three other Foundation Fellows Dr John Christian, Professor David Solomon and Dr Bob Ward.

• Secondly, the records show that the Dinner Address at the Academy's first Annual Invitation Symposium in 1977 on the Energy Resources of Australia was delivered by the then Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt Hon J D (Doug) Anthony. We are greatly honoured that Mr Anthony is with us again tonight as an enthusiastic supporter of the work of the Academy since the beginning, as foundation Chairman of the ATSE Crawford Fund, as an Honorary Fellow of the Academy since 1990 and now as our 2005 Orator. I warmly welcome Doug and Margot Anthony and, in a few minutes, I will invite Mr Anthony to deliver the Oration.

• Thirdly, the records also show that the Academy was formally inaugurated in Melbourne with a series of addresses by the Commonwealth Minister for Science, the Premier of Victoria, the President of ATSE's elder sister Academy, the Australian Academy of Science, and ATSE's Foundation President (Sir Ian McLennan) and first Honorary Fellow (Sir Mark Oliphant). Tonight we are honoured to have with us, and I especially welcome:
  - The Hon Gary Nairn MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government;
  - Mr Jon Stanhope, Chief Minister of the ACT, our host State/Territory for our 30 year celebrations;
  - Dr Jim Peacock, who is here in several capacities, but especially tonight as President of the Australian Academy of Science; and
  - The Academy's former Presidents, Sir Rupert Myers, Sir Arvi Parbo and Tim Besley; who, in speaking to us a little later in the evening, will mirror the order of events at our formal inauguration ceremony 30 years ago.

• Fourthly, we have with us this evening a near record number of our newly elected Fellows who will receive their certificates of election to the Fellowship of the Academy as the concluding highlight of tonight's event.
There are many other special guests with us this evening and I cannot, in the available time, acknowledge them all but I would especially like to mention and warmly welcome:

- The Hon Neil Andrew, former speaker of the Federal Parliament and now Chairman of the ATSE Crawford Fund;
- Professor Andrew Downing, President of Engineers Australia;
- Professor Roger Dean, Vice Chancellor of the University of Canberra, Professor Gavin Brown, Vice Chancellor of Sydney University, and Professor Ian Chubb, Vice Chancellor of ANU representing the Chair of the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee (AVCC), Professor Di Yerbury; and
- Professor Malcolm Gillies (President of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS)) and Professor Snow Barlow (President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)).

There are also many apologies from those who could not be with us but wished to extend their good wishes on the occasion of the Academy’s 30th Anniversary. I should mention especially:

- The Governor General, HE Major General Michael Jeffery;
- The Minister for Science, the Hon Brendan Nelson, and Ministers Peter McGauran and Ian Macdonald who have been strong supporters of the work of the Academy over the past few years;
- Another former Deputy Prime Minister and Academy Fellow, the Hon Tim Fischer;
- High Court Justice Michael Kirby;
- Dr Peter Shergold, Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and several other Departmental Secretaries, David Borthwick, Joanna Hewitt, Michael L'Estrange, Mark Patterson, Lisa Paul and Mike Taylor;
- Michael Chaney on behalf of the Business Council of Australia, Chip Goodyear of BHP-Billiton and Leigh Clifford of Rio Tinto;
- Many ATSE Fellows including Foundation Fellows Rollo Brett, John Gladstones, June Olley, Michael Tracey and Bill Whitton; and
- The President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Professor Sue Richardson, and the President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Professor Graeme Turner.

May I now introduce the Academy’s Orator for 2005. There is no shortage of candidate anecdotes for introducing one of the most widely admired and respected figures of Australian public life in the second half of the 20th Century. I will settle for just two:

The first is personal. The scene was the doorway of Mr Anthony’s bedroom in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in February 1979 at the end of a 7.30am meeting of a Trade Delegation, that included two well-known journalists travelling with the Deputy Prime Minister’s party. At the end of the formal Delegation business, Mr Anthony had shared the substance of a phone call he’d just had from the Prime Minister in Canberra on the outcome of some pretty difficult Cabinet debate – or some such – with the decision to be announced later in the week. He finished with an apologetic aside to the journos “that’s not for media”. As we walked out, one delegation member was heard to comment to the more infamous of the two journalists:

"It must be awfully tough for you guys to know about that and not turn it into a media scoop back home”.

His instant response has stuck with me for 26 years:

"Not even an issue – there isn’t a journalist in Australia that would let Doug Anthony down”
The second anecdote comes courtesy of a late-night email from the Hon Tim Fischer a few weeks back expressing his disappointment at missing tonight’s Oration. Thus Scene 2 steps forward to early 2005 and I quote from Tim’s email:

“On the banks of the fast running Himalayan rivers of the Kingdom of Bhutan, two tall Australians could be seen chancing their arm with some fly-fishing at altitude. On closer examination, as the morning mists lifted, their identities emerged: one Peter Nixon, former Minister for Transport, from Gippsland; and one Doug Anthony, former Minister for Trade, from the Tweed. Clearly Doug Anthony is still taking on new challenges…..”

and at this point Tim’s email said “etc” which I will interpret as a way of saying that Doug Anthony needs no introduction. It now gives me great pleasure to invite the Academy’s 2005 Orator, the MHR for Richmond 1957-84, a Minister in the Commonwealth Government for more than fifteen years and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia 1971-72 and 1975-83, the Rt Honourable Doug Anthony to deliver the Academy’s 2005 Oration on “Floating Close to the Top”.

Twenty Sixth Annual Oration: Floating Close to the Top

The Rt Hon J D (DOUG) ANTHONY CH AC FTSE

Thank you John, Fellows, Guests.

When John asked me to give this oration I said “Hey, cut it out, John. I’m a bit rusty at making public speeches”. But I found it very hard to refuse because I have the highest respect for John Zillman and the work that he is doing for the Academy, and for his great contribution to the Australian meteorological services and world meteorology. I also found it a great honour to be asked to speak to such a distinguished group of people: you engineers, academics, and scientists – all of you volunteering time to be part of the Academy. Here you can meet Fellows, you can get together to discuss your mutual interests, write papers, books and make all this knowledge available to the public and to Government. I hope you feel some satisfaction and joy from what you are doing because it is important and too often undervalued.

In 1963 I was appointed Minister for Interior and part of my responsibility was for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. I was very tickled to have this job. Being a farmer weather reports were of prime interest to me.

This was an exciting time for the Bureau with new types of technology emerging such as radar surveillance of storms and cyclones, satellite weather observance and the emergence of industrial computer technology. The Bureau pushed me hard to obtain for it the latest IBM computer for recording meteorological information. This was considered the most compact and up-to-date computer of its time and took up one whole floor of the Bureau’s
building in Melbourne. Probably today a top grade laptop would do the same job. It was extraordinarily expensive, costing several million dollars, and Treasury was not happy at all. It was my job to persuade Cabinet to agree to purchase it so it was decided to set up a special committee to examine the contract. It was one of the biggest computers in Australia at the time. Forever after the Bureau saw me as its best friend and it was then that I met an up-an-coming young man called Zillman.

A few years later John Zillman came with me on a mission to Saudi Arabia where we signed an agreement to set up a complete meteorological system for Saudi Arabia, which covered virtually the whole of the Middle East. Australia was selected to provide the service because it was recognised as having the best meteorological services in the world. I often think that every time there is a bit of a fracas over in the Middle East, you know, where somebody is going to blow somebody up or have a war, the first thing they do is have a look at John Zillman's weather forecast and say "Right, ready to go" … so you’re to blame John!

But we did have Australians over there in Saudi Arabia for about nine years putting the services in order. When those fellows returned I thought they would either come back confirmed teetotallers or not able to take their hands off the bottle. It is tough working in Saudi Arabia where, of course, no alcohol is allowed whatsoever.

My association with the Academy was basically through Professor Derek Tribe. Many of you will fondly remember Derek Tribe, a delightful and interesting character. I used to see a bit of him when I was Minister for Primary Industry. He was Professor of Agriculture and at that time and I was becoming interested in intensive pig raising. In fact we were pioneering the industry so I’d frequently ask Derek for bits of advice.

One of the first people to knock on my door after I resigned from Parliament in 1984 was Derek Tribe, who said to me, 'Look, I want you to help me set up an international agricultural research aid program'. I replied 'Well that's a big ask'. I really thought that his concept was a bit far fetched. But he was serious and it was to be done under the auspices of the Academy. The first thing we had to decide on was a good name for this project - a name that would give us an entrée into government and entrée into business. So we chose the name of John Crawford who, at that time, was one of the most respected academics and public servants in Australia. Initially we needed people to help us raise money from the Government and from business.

Back in those early days Sir Ian McLennan, Sir David Zeidler, Sir Arvi Parbo and Sir Rupert Myers, all of them at the time new members of the Academy and very influential people, helped Derek and me set up the Crawford Fund. I am delighted to see Arvi and Rupert here tonight.

The Crawford Fund has been a great success and when I retired after nine years in the chair Tim Fischer took my place. Now I am pleased to learn that Neil Andrew will be the next Chairman of the Crawford Fund. Thank you Neil.

Now let’s get back to my address. When John asked me to make a speech he said: 'You’ve got to give an oration'. I said, 'An oration? I’ve never given an oration before. What will I talk about? I'm not a scientist, an engineer or an academic'. 'Oh, you’ll think of something', said John. (It’s the usual way of cornering a person to agree). 'Just speak about anything'. So I said, 'Alright. I'll talk about floating close to the top. That'll make them guess'.
I am sure this will excite some of you. I can imagine the marine biologist saying ‘Ah. That’s going to be in my area’. Or the metallurgist thinking of the floating circuit system, extracting precious minerals from ore. Or the meteorologist thinking about the ozone hole and global warming. Well it’s not going to be any one of those erudite things.

I am going to talk about my political experience, which I think is rather unique. I have floated near the top of government for an extraordinary period of time. I have personally known sixteen Prime Ministers. I worked as a Minister for six of them, been Deputy Prime Minister for three and I have been Acting Prime Minister for almost a year in total. That’s when the PM is on leave, overseas or sick. So I have a remarkable insight into personalities at the top. I was just bubbling around below them.

To put you in the picture, my father was elected to Federal Parliament in 1937. In those days the longest parliamentary session was for three months during the winter. My family would come to Canberra and we would live in the Kurrajong Hotel, as did most Members at the time. I was only seven and knew everyone there. And everyone knew me, running around as a young kid.

The first and most notable of this long list of Prime Ministers was that colourful character, Billy Hughes. I only remember him as a grumpy old man who couldn’t hear half of what I said. But my father had a great admiration for Billy Hughes. And the reason was that when Billy Hughes was Prime Minister in 1916 he visited my father in a Gallipoli repatriation hospital. In England at the time Billy Hughes was one of the most popular figures in all the country. He was greeted everywhere with great enthusiasm.

Although Billy started his political life as a staunch Labor person, when the conscription issue divided the Labor Party in 1915 he moved across to become the Prime Minister of the Nationals. Later he joined the United Australia Party. He could have continued to be Prime Minister after the 1922 election if it had not been for Earl Page, the leader of the Country Party, who had won enough seats to hold the balance of power. Billy Hughes was forced to resign as Prime Minister. He stayed on in parliament until 1952 and he was in the Federal parliament for fifty one and a half years. Obviously there wasn’t any superannuation to encourage people to retire in those days. A well-known story about Billy Hughes was when somebody said to him, ‘You’ve been a member of so many parties, why didn’t you join the Country Party’ and he replied: ‘You have to draw the line somewhere’.

I didn’t know Prime Minister Bruce or Prime Minister Scullin. When we went to Canberra Joe Lyons was Prime Minister. Joe Lyons had split with the Scullin government and joined the United Australia Party to become Prime Minister. In Canberra I used to go to school at Telopea Park and as there were few houses or people living around the hotel I’d come back to the hotel and go off to Parliament. That was my playground – the Parliament. I used to roller skate around the lower floors of Parliament House and could virtually go anywhere in the building. I’d go up to the kitchen where they’d give me a scone or a cake. I’d go down to the furnaces and talk to the fellows shovelling coal to make hot water for the air conditioning system. I could go up the Prime Minister’s office where I knew the staff, many of them living in the Kurrajong Hotel. And occasionally Joe Lyons would call out from his desk ‘Hello Doug’. The only place I couldn’t go was into the Chambers if they were in session. A great thrill for me was when the Prime Minister was away and one of the staff would let down his secret bed, which was behind a panel of the wall. This was for the Prime Minister to have a rest on or to sleep overnight. It has long since gone and I doubt whether the present day Prime Minister would want it reported that he was sleeping in Parliament.
It is a strange coincidence that, with this historical background at Old Parliament House, I am today the Chairman of the Governing Council of Old Parliament House where I served as a Member and Minister for 27 years. I have a great affection for this grand old building where so much of Australia’s political history has been made.

I have a warm memory of Joe Lyons. He was a most courteous and kindly person. And I had a great admiration for his wife, Enid Lyons. She was a tremendous help to him as well as having twelve children! They certainly filled the new Lodge in those days. Enid Lyons later became Dame Enid Lyons. She was widowed in 1939 and elected to Parliament in 1943. My father had also lost his wife, my mother. He and Dame Enid used to sit together in Parliament at the same desk. They were great mates. They would laugh and joke and were both very active parliamentary participants. When Dame Enid Lyons died in 1981 I was Acting Prime Minister at the time and I flew down to her funeral in Davenport. I thought it was rather interesting that at the subsequent wake one of her daughters came up to me and said, ‘You know, some of the members of the family had wished that my mother might have married your father’. Gee, could you imagine how complicated my life might have been now?

When Joe Lyons died Sir Earl Page became caretaker Prime minister until a young member of the United Australia Party, Bob Menzies, was elected Prime Minister. Menzies was brilliant. Don’t ever underestimate his talent. He came from an ordinary family. His father was a grocer in a small Victorian town. He won scholarships to secondary school, to university and won the highest medal at Law School. He became an Advocate in the Supreme Court in Victoria and Victoria’s youngest King’s Counsel at the High Court at the age of 35. When he came to Canberra he was young and ambitious and could put people offside. He was conceited and arrogant and he disliked mediocrity. These characteristics undermined his position as Prime Minister and divisions grew within his party. He perhaps could have remained Prime Minister except for a disastrous air crash when an aircraft carrying three of his top Ministers crash-landed near Canberra. An interesting aside is that Artie Fadden, who later became Prime Minister, was to be on that aircraft, too, but one of the Minister’s staff went up to Artie and said ‘I’d like to go back to Canberra on the plane tomorrow. I have a wedding anniversary celebration tonight and I know you don’t mind travelling on the train back to Canberra’. Artie took the train. He would have been killed had be been on the plane. With party unrest Menzies was forced to resign. Artie Fadden became Prime Minister, but only for a relatively short period – 40 days. Curtin then became Prime Minister. I had a close relationship with Curtin. At the Kurrajong Hotel after dinner some nights he would take me over to a little couch in the lounge room and there he would sit and tell me bedtime stories. I remember that fondly.

John Curtin was a great Prime Minister. He was a good speaker and the texts of his speeches were excellent. He had been a journalist. John Curtin led Australia through some of the most gruesome days at the beginning of the war with Japan. Tragically the wartime pressures were great and he died in office.

Frank Forde, as Deputy Prime Minister, became Prime Minister. His family lived in the Kurrajong Hotel, too. He had two daughters who were playmates of mine and I still see one of them occasionally in Brisbane.

Ben Chifley was chosen as Labor’s Prime Minister. I didn’t have much to do with him. All I can remember was of him being a shy man, smoking a pipe and really not mixing much or accepting me as a kid around the place. My father got on well with him. He used to go to
the Lodge on Thursday nights when they would play billiards together. Until, I think, my father made a rather cutting speech in Parliament and that was the end of billiards.

In 1949 Chifley was defeated by the Liberal and the Country Party and the Menzies-Fadden government was formed. Menzies remained in office for a period of 17 years. My father died in office in 1957, the seat was then vacant and I became the Member. I came to Canberra. I can remember my first day and some of the old attendants welcoming me because they could remember me as a kid. I remember one of them saying to me, 'Listen Doug, this is a place you have got to get to know, just take your time'. I also remember going into the Chamber after lunch, having been sworn-in in the morning, and sitting on a seat there. I was hardly there five minutes before one of the younger attendants came in and grabbed me by the sleeve and said, 'What are you doing here, come outside, you aren't allowed in here', and pulled me out through the door, only to be told, rather to his embarrassment, by one of the more senior attendants, 'He's a Member of Parliament!' I suppose I did look young in those days.

During my apprenticeship with Menzies I used to enjoy going into the Chamber and just listening to him speak. He was, I thought, the finest orator in the world and certainly a magnificent debater. On one particular night during a budget debating speech, he was replying to Arthur Caldwell who had spoken the night before. He got up and started to lay into Arthur, cutting him into ribbons and I thought, 'Oh, Arthur must want to crawl under the table'. Menzies did the deed with hardly a note in front of him. When he finished I said to myself, 'If I ever make a speech a quarter as good as that, I'll be happy'. That night there was a birthday party going on in McEwen's office and I went along. I met one of the girls from the Prime Minister's office and said, 'Gee, your boss made a great speech tonight, and he did it without any effort'. She looked at me and said, 'Without any effort? He had me up 'til 4 o'clock last night writing every word of that speech'. That was a good lesson for me. If you're going to make a speech you have to do a lot of work on it.

After the successful 1963 election the telephone rang and I answered the phone. 'Prime Minister here'. 'Who is it? the Prime Minister?' ‘Yes, Douglas, I want you to join my Ministry'. ‘Yes Sir’, I certainly wasn't expecting that. He said, 'Douglas I want you to become the Minister for the Interior. That will keep you out of mischief!' It sure did, I never worked so hard in all my life, but I loved every minute of it.

When Menzies retired Harold Holt took over. It was quite amicable, the move from Menzies to Holt. Holt was experienced, knowledgeable, well liked. He was such a friendly person, but he did like to be liked. Things got rough for him in 1968. The Senate was becoming difficult and there were many and varied problems. The result of the half Senate election was disappointing. I had my own thoughts about his disappearance, but I won't say anything about that.

I can remember the occasion very clearly. I was having a BBQ at my neighbours’ on a Sunday afternoon and suddenly a policeman turned up at the front door and said, 'Would you ring John McEwen immediately'. I rang him, and he said, 'I have to tell you that Harold Holt has disappeared and I am now Prime Minister. I want you to come to Canberra immediately. There is a plane on the way'. I was on the plane and back in Canberra in a few hours. I spent some time that night with McEwen in his hotel room. We talked about all the consequences of the loss of the Prime Minister. Our main concern was who was going to be his successor. We went through the various contenders. He was quite adamant about Bill McMahon. There was no way he was going to tolerate Bill McMahon. Then there
was Paul Hasluck who was well thought of, highly intelligent but he had been behaving a bit peculiarly and stupidly in some recent Cabinet meetings. Both of us agreed that if that’s the Prime Minister we’ve got to work with it’s not a “goer”. The only one that seemed likely was John Gorton but he was in the Senate. Gorton was good around the Cabinet table and he certainly was highly regarded in the Senate. We realised that if he were to become PM he would have to resign from the Senate, take Harold Holt’s seat, get elected by the Liberal Party and become Prime Minister. It was a big ask. I was sent off about 11 o’clock that night to Red Hill, to where John Gorton lived, and knocked on his door. A light went on and out he came in his pyjamas. I said, ‘John, I want to talk with you’. We sat down and I explained what the attitude of the Country Party was at the time and that we would give him all the support possible. He did go on to become Prime Minister. And again, I admired him and respected and liked him. He was a genuine Australian. But, as time went on there were rumbles. He didn’t care about the Establishment. He didn’t care about the State Premiers. What he wanted to do often grated with them. But he stood his ground until at last he was undermined. Malcolm Fraser, a friend of mine, was rather heavily involved in the spill that took place. I didn’t agree with or condone what Malcolm was doing at all. There was a spill in the Liberal Party. The challenge came to an even vote. John Gorton voted against himself and that determined the new Prime Minister, Billy McMahon. Well, don’t ask me to talk about those years. I’m pretty tolerant, but I will tell you one story. This will give you some idea of the problems that I had during that period.

We were running up to the election of 1972 and I wanted to know when the election would be so as to organise my party. I went to the Prime Minister and said, ‘Prime Minister, would you mind telling me when you think the election is going to be held’. We weren’t getting on too well, I have to say that, and he looked at me and said, ‘I’m not going to tell you’. I said, ‘But Prime Minister I need to know’. He said, ‘There are only three people who know and you’re not one of them’. There was no use talking any longer with him. I went out and I thought, now who could those three people be? Well Sonia, his wife, must be one, and maybe his young daughter was the other. But there was a third person and it struck me who it must be. There had been a pattern in recent years when New Zealand and Australia would have an election on the same day. I thought, I will ring up Jack Marshall, the New Zealand PM, who was a good friend. We had met at international conferences. So I rang up Jack and I said, ‘Jack, when are you having your election?’ He said, ‘The same day as you are’. I replied, ‘Well, when is that?’ ‘What, hasn’t he told you?’ ‘Well, not yet, Jack, when is it?’ And he told me. I didn’t let Billy McMahon know and we went ahead and organised our campaign.

Ladies and gentlemen, I’ve spoken too long. I could tell you so much but we are getting up to Gough Whitlam now of course. Gough came along and those were bumpy years. I loved the first years in Opposition. They were so different. There were so many things to attack the Government on. Making speech after speech was great fun. But then it got very tiresome and concerning and I hated the way things were going in every direction - international relations, behaviour in the Parliament, inflation. You name it. It was a rort. So I had no qualms at all in backing Malcolm Fraser to the hilt in blocking Supply because this was the only way we could see of forcing an election and allowing the Australian people to determine whether this government should continue. They were memorable days. I was asked during this past week, the 30th anniversary of the Dismissal, what my reactions were. I suppose my first reaction was shock. When Malcolm rang me about 1.30 in the afternoon and said, ‘You’re Deputy Prime Minister’. I said, ‘What?’ He followed that with, ‘And I’m Prime Minister. The Governor General has just sacked the Government’. Immediately I dashed into his office and with a handful of the leading Ministers started to work out a strategy. We had to
get the Supply Bill through the Senate and we had to close Parliament down. That all
takes time and organization. Do you know, Gough didn't go back to Parliament? He stayed
at home, had lunch and then went back. The Labor Party didn't know what was happening
until half an hour before the Parliament opened. They were in total amazement and disarray.
We got the Supply Bill through and the Parliament rose.

The other thing that made a mark on me, was being out in the front of Parliament. I knew
history was in the making so I stood out there just behind David Smith who read the
dismissal notice from the Governor General and Gough, who then made his rather
remarkable speech. What struck me was the way the people were running in across
Anzac Square. A crowd was building up. It built up to about 1,000 people in no time. They
were wild and they were angry. They were mostly public servants, supporters of the
Government and I could sense the electricity in the air. I said, 'I don't like it here'. Naturally
I was a target for abuse and I wanted to get out of it because I knew something could
happen at any moment. So I eased my way back into the front doors of Parliament house
but inside it was absolutely crowded, too, mainly with Ministerial Staff. I copped a lot of
abuse and swearing as I was going up the steps. Some even spat upon me. The cogent
point I want to make here is, if a riot had broken out in the front of Parliament, which could
easily have happened, if some crazy person had done something stupid, people could
have been hurt, maybe even killed, and it would have changed the whole nature of
Australian politics. It did cause bitter polarisation, but it could have been much worse.

Then we moved on into the Malcolm Fraser period which were good years. I got on well
with Malcolm. We were never given enough credit for the work we did. But you have got to
realise that the media hated us, particularly the press gallery, for disposing of Gough. I
mean, they loved Gough. There was nothing kind being said about us during that period.
Then, of course, we ran into difficult time – a nasty drought. The international economy
dropped, the Australian economy was about to drop. By the rarest of circumstances, Hawke
became leader of the Labor Party. There was a changeover between Hayden and Hawke
half an hour before the writs for an election were issued and he became leader of the
Labor Party. Hawke carried out a good campaign and won the election. I know what
Hawke was like, I know what a scoundrel he was before he became Prime Minister. He
was a wild boy. But I have to give him full credit. Once he became Prime Minister he totally
gave the grog away. He never had a drink during the whole period he was Prime Minister
and I admired him greatly for that. He also had a great ability in managing men. The Labor
Party is not easy to manage but he seemed to be able to handle them all and he kept it
that way for a number of years until Keating undermined him. I felt sorry for Bob Hawke
when that happened. Indeed, when John Howard beat Keating, I had no tears at all for
Keating. He just wasn't my cup of tea. I knew him well as my opposite number in the
Parliament and he was an unpleasant character.

Well, we have John Howard there today. I won't say much about that except I think he is
one of our best Prime Ministers ever. I think he is a person who has shown enormous
determination. He has shown strength of character, he has got great courage and he is
moving Australia ahead very well.

Now, you might ask, what's your opinion of all of these people you have known? I have to
tell you that they are just ordinary people. Some are tall, some are big. Some of them
march to different tunes. Some of them have a different formula for what they might want
to do. But they are all, in their own way, trying to do the best they can to make a mark for
Australia.
The hardest thing to deal with, I think, if you are at the top, is the media. The media can be so cruel, so devastating. The media will never let you go. When people ask is politics more rugged today than it was years ago, I say, 'It has always been a tough game, it has always been rugged, but I think with the electronic media today, it is more difficult'. The instant reporting of comments nation-wide, often in rather a glib form, makes it hard to counter misinterpretations. When a television camera pokes its lens right into your eyes to measure how you are feeling and to report what you are saying, you have to be media savvy. When the television program is aired, it is not only what you have said that tells the story, it is also the expression you might have on your face. You have only got to say one word out of place and it's a drama, not just here, but internationally. Your one word can be reported as ‘Australia’s opinion’. It is hard and tough. But whatever you might think of the media, and I doubt whether any of these Prime Ministers that I mentioned would say they loved the media, you have to recognise that it is one of the most important arms of democracy. To have a free press, to have it acting as guardian, watchdog of the behaviour of Government, of the propriety of Government, is absolutely critical. If you think the media is tough, and if you think it unfair, well bad luck! You just have to put up with it.

Some of you might ask, ‘Well, how have you survived so long?’ I’ve survived because I have never been at the top.

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**Vote of Thanks to Orator**

**Dr Doreen Clark AM FTSE**, Vice President

Well ladies and gentlemen, I’m almost lost for words which is saying something. We have been treated to a unique experience tonight. That oration was fabulous, I enjoyed every minute of it and I can’t believe I’ve been able to hear first hand the history of governance over so many years. Sir you have done us proud from the beginning of your association with the Academy in those early years, with adventures in Saudi Arabia and the wonderful contribution you have made to the Crawford Fund in getting it going to tonight’s Oration which is really given us the history of the life from seven years old to the present time. Oh dear, amazing.

An eye witness account we have had tonight of the governance of our country. From a man who is so modest, unbelievably modest, but I can understand why he was happy to be floating near the top and not to be at the top. But I think you will agree with me that his contribution to the top has been outstanding over very very many years. So lets all join together and show by acclamation just how much we appreciate Doug Anthony.

And my final present duty is to give to Doug Anthony a medal, the Oration Medal of the Academy. We hope that he remembers tonight as a great event an event among friends. We certainly have pleasure in giving the Oration Medal to him.
Introduction to 30th Anniversary

Dr John Zillman AO FTSE, President

We have now come to the part of the evening where, on behalf of the ATSE Council, I am pleased to invite all Fellows and their partners, and our special guests, to join in a short ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the Academy through its first 30 years – and to launch it on its way for the next 30 years.

The story of the origins of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences (ATS) – now ATSE – is a fascinating part of the history of Australian scientific and industrial research and it is my hope that, in the not too distant future, we will find ways of commissioning a proper professional history of the early years of the Academy.

The little booklet that you have received tonight to celebrate the Academy's first 30 years provides just an outline of that history for the information of our new Fellows, and as a complement to the photographic record of the past 30 years that was on display in the foyer.

As I have already mentioned, we have chosen to mirror the formal inauguration of the Academy in Melbourne in February 1976 with a series of short speeches on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, the ACT Government and the Australian Academy of Science. And then some brief reflections from former ATSE Presidents, Sir Rupert Myers, Sir Arvi Parbo and Tim Besley who presided over the development of the Academy for the best part of its first 30 years.

First the Commonwealth. I am pleased to welcome the Hon Gary Nairn, who – appropriately for this Academy – comes from a professional background of surveying and mapping. He has been the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro since 1996 and, among his many Parliamentary roles, he chaired the House of Representatives Standing Committee for Science and Innovation. He is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister for science and innovation matters. I am grateful to him for joining us for the Academy's 30th Anniversary and I now invite him to speak.

Address by Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

The Hon Gary Nairn MP Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

Thank you President John, Fellows of the Academy and so many distinguished guests. There is just no way that you can know all these distinguished guests, but, John, you introduced them before. Ladies and gentlemen, it really is a huge honour for me to speak on behalf of the Commonwealth at this 30 year celebration. In fact, I am representing Brendan Nelson as Minister for Education, Science and Training, who sends
his regards for the 30th Anniversary. Now I have said the other day that it is something
that I think I have become the unpaid Science Minister! When you look at my diary over
the last couple of weeks and the next week – it has included the announcement of the
Australian Research Council grants, I did a launch for the Royal Australian Chemistry
Institute; I spoke at the Science Industry Action agenda last Wednesday night in
Melbourne. Geoff Vaughan, who is here tonight, missed hearing me speak last Wednesday
evening because he had to duck away. So, just incase I say anything duplicated tonight,
he won’t know!

I attended the 40th Anniversary of the Molonglo Radio Telescope on Friday, which was
actually opened by Sir Robert Menzies, the Prime Minister, and that, as you know is really
quite a unique piece of equipment – not only in Australia, but internationally. It was
terrific to be there for their 40th anniversary. Here tonight – tomorrow night is the 20th
anniversary of FASTS which I shall be speaking at, and then on Wednesday I will be
opening the publicly-funded agencies for Collaborative Counter-terrorism Research
Program Science Technology and Counter-terrorism conference, which is in fact in the
duties that I do have as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, because a little
known responsibility is that I was heading the Science, Engineering Technology unit
within Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is, amongst other things co-coordinating some
great research and development that is happening related to domestic counter-terrorism.

But, I am also pleased as one of the probably very few members of the Parliament with
a practical science background as opposed to a political science background here this
evening. I know that I have had a little bit to do with the Academy over the last few
years, but in looking at the history of the Academy, I feel quite a close association because
I can actually signal a direct association because I was the last four Presidents of the Academy. Sir
Rupert Myers signature is on my degree from the University of New South Wales, Sir Arvi
Parbo doesn’t probably know it, but I actually did some surveying and mapping for the
mining company that he headed up some years ago, I seem to be sharing the stage with
Tim Besley every second week at various things and, most recently with the ARC grants
the week before last, and with John when he was Head of the Bureau at a number of
committee meetings in relation to the Met Bureau, particularly during some of the serious
drought periods we have had in recent times.

But congratulations on your 30 years! I thought, now February 1976, what was I doing
when the Inauguration took place for ATSE? I was actually getting ready to embark on
the dreaded overseas trip that Australians do after going to University – it was about
three years after I had finished University. But little did I know at the time that that trip
that might have been only 6 or 12 months ended up being nearly 3 years and took me
very much more into a scientific world where I spent almost 2 years at a particle physics
laboratory outside Geneva. The time that I spent there has certainly come back to assist
me in this role over the last few years. But looking at the speeches in the 30th Anniversary
handbook, the relevance back then is just so spot on for today. I notice that Sir Ian
McLennan talked about four conferences – the four major conference that ATSE would be
sponsoring initially after its formation. The first one was ‘Fuel and Energy’, the second
‘Water and Land Resources’, the third ‘Mineral Resources’ and the fourth ‘Marine
Resources’. Really, if you were sitting down today to start such an Academy, all of those
things would really be in the forefront of discussion. Similarly, the Australian Academy of
Science President at the time, Professor Badger, said, and I quote, “I believe that science
is now so important and so all pervasive that it is difficult for one Academy to provide the
necessary stimulus and leadership in all branches to the extent everyone would wish”.

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Really, today, when we have seen just so many new branches and new aspects of science in those 30 years, those comments then are just as relevant today.

The connection to Government – Sir Rupert Hamer, as he was at the time – the Victorian Premier – one of his comments, and I quote, "Such a body can then talk directly with government and be a partner with government in technological advancement". Absolutely spot on. I mean this is how I have to say this government sees the Academies role very much – to advise, to criticize (and that should be a role of the Academies), but I think more importantly, to partner and, that’s what has been happening over the last 30 years between the various Academies and this Academy with government.

We have huge challenges ahead in this area and it is interesting to look at where some of the global challenges come in the science region. China’s GDP will overtake Japan in 2015 and the USA in 2040. India will overtake Japan is 2035 and the USA much later. Both those economies position themselves to be knowledge-based economies and there is something in the order of 300 to 600 multi-national companies maintaining R&D Centres in China for instance. So, Australia will have to compete with that and to compete, will have to be extremely strategic, and that is where I believe the advice from the Academies will be crucial to government over the next 30 years of the life of this Academy.

Could I, in finishing, quote from Sir Mark Oliphant at the launch in 1976. Sir Mark Oliphant in my view is one of the most eminent scientists that Australia has ever, and will ever have. He said, "Natural knowledge is universal, knowing no boundaries of race, language, colour, politics, religion or lack of religion. Through its application in technology the whole world is now one in both space and time. If wisdom prevails, the inevitable result will be one humanity, one family of mankind, sharing all the resources of the earth. Equally, if man’s grosser instincts of greed and violence are dominant, technology provides the means by which the race can commit suicide. The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences can help guide our particular Ship of State towards prosperity and happiness rather than towards the rocks of annihilation". Government needs that guidance and we will look to ATSE and other Academies for that continuous guidance.

Congratulations on 30 years and all the very best for the next 30 years.

Thank you.

President

Thank you Parliamentary Secretary. The Academy is grateful for your enthusiastic support and encouragement. I now turn to State/Territory Government. Victorian Premier Mr (later Sir Rupert) Hamer addressed our formal inauguration 30 years ago. Appropriately we are celebrating our 30th anniversary as a national academy in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Mr Jon Stanhope is a lawyer who spent a good part of his early career in legal officer roles in a number of Commonwealth Departments. He went on to serve as Secretary of several House of Representatives Committees and as Chief of Staff to various Commonwealth Ministers before entering ACT politics in 1998. After covering a number of Shadow Ministries and serving as Leader of the Opposition in the ACT Legislative Assembly, he became Chief Minister of the ACT in 2001. He is also an athlete of some note. His CV in ‘Who’s Who’ doesn’t say so but I can vouch for the fact that his early career also included a period looking after matters scientific. We are honoured that he has been able to join us and I now invite him to speak.
Address by ACT Chief Minister

Jon Stanhope MLA, ACT Chief Minister

I wish to acknowledge
· Rt Hon Doug Anthony, former Deputy Prime Minister
· Mr Gary Nairn, MP
· Dr John Zillman AO FTSE, President of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
· Former ATSE Presidents Sir Arvi Parbo and Sir Rupert Myers
· Dr Jim Peacock AC FAA FRS FTSE, President of the Academy of Science
· Fellows, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

I also acknowledge the Ngunnawal people, the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on. I respect their ongoing culture and the unique contribution they make to the life of this region.

Thank you for inviting me here this evening.

I was particularly pleased to receive an invitation from Dr Zillman to attend tonight and speak. I first met Dr Zillman in the 80s. I was in fact an officer of the Department of Science and Technology from 1981 to 1987 and Dr Zillman was, from time to time, my boss. I learnt much from him.

Sometimes in quiet moments, when I search for an answer as to how or why I ended up doing what it is I do now, I search my past for those people who so influenced me that I became a politician and subsequently a head of Government. So John, when next you see me embroiled in some controversy or other, it might just be your doing.

Sir Mark Oliphant, in delivering the inaugural address to this academy some 30 years ago, spoke warmly of the value – as Gary Nairn has just mentioned – of ‘natural’ knowledge.

This was the kind of knowledge which came from observation and experiment, which was available to anyone who sought it.

This was the kind of knowledge which belonged to science – an ordered knowledge which followed rules and rigorously tested its results.

Given that Sir Mark was speaking well before the Internet came about, his remarks were prescient.

Technology changes fast.
A hundred and fifty years ago, Australia was just getting its first telegraph line. A century ago, the telephone was still a new technology. Thirty years ago, the first colour television broadcast was made in Australia. Fifteen years ago, the world wide web as we now know it – an almost endless source of information, gossip and public debate – was still a hopeful plan.

Today in Tokyo, I’m told, you can wave your mobile phone over the subway barrier to pay your fare.

And computer storage is now cheap enough that it’s feasible to record everything that your ears would hear in a lifetime – and you could do it for much less than $2 a day.

Canberra, of course, has played an essential role in the technological development of this country. The national capital has been home to some of the best and brightest in Australian science. Professor Frank Fenner and Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty, of course, spring immediately to mind. But there are many, many others – too many to mention here – who have made significant contributions to their field and, indeed, to their nation.

Researchers at the ANU, CSIRO, University of Canberra, and National ICT Australia are working, every day, to bring new technology into our lives. It won’t be long before our cars can read speed signs, or prevent us from falling asleep at the wheel. A computer will be able to learn to recognise our voice, or handwriting.

There are ample outlets for new technology in Canberra, where we have more ICT companies per capita than anywhere else in Australia.

And in the ACT, we are grateful for a very elegant solution to our water problems. Transferring water from the Googong catchment to Cotter is a sustainable solution, and an example, I believe, of good engineering.

The ACT Government understands the enormous value of science and technology – to the economy, the environment and to society. These are values which I know the academy shares. And those of us – and I confess I have sometimes been one – who are not always quick to take up new technologies must be especially grateful that there are people who are prepared to share their expertise, to advise on the best road ahead.

I think we must all be glad that, 30 years ago, a group of experts undertook to found the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

That a group such as this exists – to advise us all on the nature of our progress, and keep watch on the social, environmental and economic impacts of it – is a great thing indeed.

Because, as Sir Mark said some 30 years ago, technology has the capacity to help us unite – to share all the resources of the earth. But if we do not keep watch, technology can – as history shows – set us back.

And if we do not have access to reliable, considered opinions – based on what Sir Mark called “natural knowledge” – we cannot expect to get the very best of everything science has to offer.
I congratulate the academy, on behalf of the ACT Government, for helping us steer the right course through the challenges of technology for 30 years.

I look forward to seeing the academy continue to prosper, and share its great wealth of knowledge, for many more decades to come.

Thank you

President

We are all grateful to you, Chief Minister, for honouring us with your presence on this occasion and we appreciate your good wishes for the future. Consultations with the Australian Academy of Science (AAS) played an important part in the origins of ATSE and the then President of AAS Professor (later Sir Geoffrey) Badger addressed our inauguration ceremony in Melbourne. The current President of the Academy, Dr Jim Peacock, is one of Australia’s most distinguished scientists who has received many honours and awards for his research, including the BHP Bicentennial Prize for the Pursuit of Excellence in Science and the Prime Minister’s Science Prize in 2000. He served for 25 years as Chief of the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and a Foreign Associate of several other overseas Academies. He has been President of the AAS since 2002 but clearly the crowning achievement of his career was his election as a Fellow of ATSE in 1988. It is, however, tonight, as President of the Australian Academy of Science, that I now invite him to speak.

Address by President of the Australian Academy of Science

Dr Jim Peacock AC FRS PresAA FTSE,
President, Australian Academy of Science

I am delighted to represent the Australian Academy of Science on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of our sister Academy.

At the inauguration of ATSE in February 1976 the Academy of Science was similarly represented by the President, Professor, later Sir, Geoffrey Badger. Badger expressed the hope that our two Academies would work together in friendship and cooperation for the advancement of science and technology.

The links between the two Academies were further strengthened when the inauguration address was given by Sir Mark Oliphant, the Foundation President of the Academy of Science from 1954-1957. During the ceremony, Sir Mark was awarded an Honourary Fellowship of ATSE. Sir Mark dwelled on the early histories of some academies of science, including the Royal Society of London and Benjamin Franklin’s Leather Apron Club. His important point was that academies of science are more concerned for natural knowledge and the welfare of all mankind, not with the interests of any profession. He saw the concerns of the new Academy of Technological Sciences as concerned with technology, not technologists, and concerned with:
During the past 30 years, the two Academies, together with those of Social Sciences and the Humanities, have often collaborated in joint activities as envisioned by the founding fathers.

The first formal cooperative venture, together with the Social Sciences, was a joint Academies National Program, relating to the United Nations Conference on Development, held in Vienna in 1979. In recent years, we have worked together on projects ranging from the principles that govern national research priorities, measuring excellence in research and Australia’s response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Most recently, we have led a joint scientific delegation to Beijing for the second Australia-China Symposium, organized in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Plans are already underway to a third Australia-China Symposium to be held in October 2006, again to be co-hosted by the Academies of Science and Technological Sciences and Engineering.

The interaction of our two Academies are assured in part by cross-memberships of some Fellows. Thirty years ago, there were 12 Fellows of the Academy of Science among the 64 Foundation Fellows of ATSE. I myself was elected as an ATSE Fellow in 1988 and served on the Council from 1998 to 2001.

I’m proud to be an ATSE fellow and I am impressed with the way ATSE operates – excellent discussion at symposia. When I became President of the Academy of Science, I was determined to introduce some ATSE characteristics into the AAS. Mind you, Tim Besley, as President, always gave me a rough time on Council.

I congratulate ATSE on its proud record over 30 years. It is not self-evident that any voluntary organization can remain vibrant and relevant for more than a generation. Obviously ATSE has an innate drive and I wish ATSE well in its next 30 years.
Wise and astute, also, was their decision to invite Sir Ian McLennan to become Foundation President. His drive and wide knowledge of industry and government was highly beneficial as you have elegantly captured in the excellent short history you have produced.

Those who knew Sir Ian McLennan personally will be aware of his wonderful ability to make decisions and cause things to happen and he and Sir David Zeidler, who succeeded him, put the Academy firmly on the world stage. You and the other distinguished gentlemen who succeeded me in office have also added greatly to the lustre and standing of our organisation and I humbly acknowledge those great contributions. I feel very privileged to be in such company.

In thinking about those who built the Academy I must mention those two grand ladies who for most of the Academy’s thirty years handled our administrative affairs. Having worked closely with both of them I am, perhaps more than many, conscious of the huge contribution they made and it is with much fondness that I record my and the Academy’s deep gratitude to Beryl Jacka and Joy Dudine.

You have suggested, Mr President, that I might reflect on some significant moments in our history.

One was when it fell to my lot as President to implement the recommendations of Sir Frank Espie’s committee on a new course for the Academy. I believe that the changes which were made considerably enhanced the organisation and operations of the Academy. But more importantly, going on behind the scenes during these changes, were profound discussions with the Institution of Engineers Australia about our respective roles. One outcome was our addition of the word “Engineering” to the Academy’s name. Of more enduring significance for the future success of the Academy, though, and I emphasise this, is the need for us to continue to make a special effort to seek out for election to its fellowship the very distinguished engineers quietly doing outstanding work in industry and the consulting professions.

We have some significant jewels in our crown but one with which I was personally involved was the Crawford Fund. The genius and drive behind this was Founder Fellow Derek Tribe. He saw, and convinced the Academy Council, that by facilitating Australia’s support of international agricultural research there could be enormous benefits for Australia while at the same time confering on our international neighbours much help and support. In subtle ways, and Derek Tribe saw this so clearly, this help has hugely benefited Australia’s agricultural trade and commerce and its reputation for quality products. The contributions of Professor Tribe and a succession of distinguished Executive Directors and Chairmen of the Fund, a number of whom are here this evening, deserve our great admiration and thanks.

Finally, Mr President, may I pay a heartfelt tribute to a part of our community which quietly and thoughtfully supports the Academy in diverse ways but especially by being patient, understanding and tolerant of the Fellows’ absences and preoccupations? I refer, of course, to our spouses and partners. To you especially I say “thank you very much indeed!”
Remarks by Sir Arvi Parbo AC Kt FTSE  
(President ATSE 1995-97)

I would like to congratulate the President and all those involved in compiling the short history of the Academy to mark its 30th anniversary. It captures the essence of the 30 years very well indeed and is an excellent base on which to build. I was delighted to hear the President say that it may be followed by a longer version while many of the participants are still around and memories are still reasonably fresh. Writing a history just from written records a long time after the events is a poor second best to also being able to tap the recollections of those who were there. Had there been recording devices around to-day and here tonight, I am sure they would have captured quite a few interesting stories, some of it no doubt true.

There can be no doubt that our founding fathers were right: there was a need for an Academy of applied sciences and engineering. The Academy has filled a gap which would have otherwise existed. Just how well we have done this should be judged by others but I believe it has been a creditable performance although, of course, one should never be satisfied.

The Academy has been fortunate to be served by very able staff throughout the 30 years who have been essential to what has been achieved. The numbers of staff, however, have been minimal and almost entirely in the administrative area. The governance and the scientific and technological content of the Academy’s activities have been largely provided by Fellows, many of them very busy in their own careers and activities but nevertheless unstintingly contributing their expertise, time and energy on a voluntary basis. This was one of the aspects of the Academy which really impressed me during my time as President. Had the Fellows’ input into the Academy’s activities over the years been costed at professional rates, the value of it today would be a very large sum indeed. It is one measure of the contribution made by the Academy to the professions and to Australia.

As for the future, it is full of challenges. There are many issues involving applied science and engineering awaiting wise decisions on future public policy. There is no unanimity on many, perhaps even any, of these. The Academy is in a unique position to provide a forum for calm and dispassionate consideration of the various views and to help separate factual evidence and rational conclusions from assertions and distortions which frequently dominate public discussion of such issues. This is one important way in which the Academy can continue to serve the community well and I hope that it will increasingly act in this capacity.

Happy anniversary!
Remarks by Mr Tim Besley AC FTSE
(President ATSE 1998-2002)

Thank you John, distinguished guests, Fellows and friends of the Academy.

When one has been preceded by two former distinguished Presidents, there isn’t much left to say I suppose. But I want to begin with a little story about Joy – we all loved Joy and she loved us, she knew us all – knew our foibles, knew everyone of us – all the things that we stood for and did and didn’t do.

I recall when she and I were in China on one occasion and we were confronted by the Great Wall. Joy was not as well then as I thought she was. She was getting to the point where what got her down eventually was beginning to catch up with her. But she was determined to climb the Great Wall, so up we went. I said, you know Joy, they say that you can’t be a real man unless you’ve climbed the wall and Joy said, what does that do for me? That was Joy – she had a great sense of humour and as I’ve said she was a wonderful person and we all loved her and miss her.

Having said that, what I’d like to do now is look forward a bit.

The Academy has come an awfully long way in 30 years. It has been able to continue to contribute to public policy in a continuously changing environment. Today the pace of change is increasing and I hope and believe that we can continue to contribute in the way we have in the past. But we need to make some changes in the way we operate.

We need to attract good people into the Academy. We were at one stage a bit too much like a secret society – you couldn’t know that you had been nominated and by whom. The Academy of Science, our sister organization had a rather more open approach and we moving in that direction ourselves, and so we should.

Today we listened to some extraordinarily good new Fellows, some young and some somewhat older, and, some of those somewhat older ones ought to have been Fellows of this Academy a long time ago. So it seems to me that we have to be more proactive in the Fellowship area.

We have to remember where this Academy started. It started in industry and people were invited to join and give it that kick start that it needed to develop the momentum that has carried it though these 30 years to where it is today. We to look at that approach again and I plan to push that.

The other thing that I have expressed my concern about is that people don’t know enough about us. If any of us from the Council, any Fellow went in to Parliament House and shouted, ‘Who knows about the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering?’ there wouldn’t be too many who would know very much about us.
I know that we have done a lot of work to try and remedy that, but we have to do more. I have a view that we ought to be detailing off people to work with John Dodgson who can liaise with the Chiefs of Staff of Ministers – doing this outside a Parliamentary Sitting time when there’s an opportunity for free and frank discussion and say, ‘Look, let’s tell you about the Academy’.

When you think back on the reports we’ve written, we have done some pretty good work, but I do recall once asking, when I became President, ‘Tell me about the reports we’ve written and the recommendations we’ve made and what’s happened’. The answer was ‘Lots and not much’. So, the issue is why haven’t we followed up as much as perhaps we should have? We have got better at it, but this is something we need to do even better. We have to get ourselves better known – not just amongst the Parliamentarians, but amongst captains of industry.

If we can attract the kinds of work that we have shown we can do well, and do it successfully on a proper financial basis, as we have done, I believe our advice would be sought after and would spiral upwards. We would then do a lot better than we have done in the past in that respect.

So, my view is the Academy can do a lot to influence public policy, professionally and objectively. We are in a unique position to do so. We have a huge pool of talent which we don’t mine as well as we should. And work needs to be done on that too. But, if we can do that, we will be better able to contribute to public policy development. Finally we must all do our best to invigorate the Academy. It does have a lot to contribute. It can make a difference. So these are my thoughts for the next 30, 40, 50 years. John, all the best.

Toast to the Academy

The toast to the Academy on the occasion of its Thirtieth Anniversary was proposed by Foundation Vice President Dr Keith Farrer OBE FTSE.
Announcement of new Fellows

The 30th Anniversary addresses were followed by the formal introduction of the following newly elected Fellows with the presentation of certificates to those present at the dinner (*).

ARCHER, John William (Dr)*
BARLOW, Edward William Ross (Snow) (Professor)*
CHAPPEL, Richard Alan (Mr)*
COCKS, Philip Stanley (Professor)
COSTER, Hans Gerard Leonard (Professor)*
FENG, (David) Dagan (Professor)*
FOWLER, Ross (Mr)*
FRASER, Paul Joseph (Dr)*
HALLEGRAEFF, Gustaaf Marinus (Professor)
HARDWICK, Ronald Thomas (Mr)*
HARVEY, Erol Craig (Professor)*
HIRSHORN, Michael (Dr)
KENIGER, Michael Dennis (Professor)*
LOUGH, Roger Malcolm (Dr)
LOWE, Ian (Professor)
LUTHER-DAVIES, Barry (Professor)*
MEEK, Susan Denise (Dr)*
PAGE, Adrian William (Professor)*
PARKER, Lesley Hannah (Professor)
PEARMAN, Graeme (Dr)*
SIDDIQUE, Kadambot (Professor)*
SKERRITT, John Howard (Dr)
SMITH, Neville (Dr)*
TANNER, David Reginald (Mr)*
TYREE, Peter Lyndon (Mr)*
VAUGHAN, Geoffrey Norman (Dr)*
WATSON, Peter Lawrence (Mr)*
WIGHTLEY, Alan Clifford (Mr)
YE, Lin (Professor)*
ZIMMET, Paul Zev (Professor)
ANNUAL ORATION, DINNER AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

University House, Canberra, Sunday 20 November 2005

Order of Business

7.00–7.05pm  Welcome and opening remarks, Dr John Zillman AO FTSE, ATSE President
7.05–7.45pm  2005 ATSE Oration ‘Floating Close to the Top’ Rt Hon J D (Doug) Anthony
            AC CH FTSE
            Vote of thanks, Dr Doreen Clark AM FTSE, ATSE Vice President
7.45–9.00 pm  Entrée and Main Course
9.00–9.45 pm  30th Anniversary Speeches
            The Hon Gary Nairn MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
            Mr Jon Stanhope, ACT Chief Minister
            Dr Jim Peacock AC FRS PresAA FTSE, President, Australian Academy of
            Science
            Sir Rupert Myers KBE AO FAA FTSE, President ATSE 1989-94
            Sir Arvi Parbo AC FTSE, President ATSE 1995-97
            Mr Tim Besley AC FTSE, President ATSE 1998-2002
9.45–10.15 pm  Dessert
10.15–10.30 pm  Presentation of Certificates to newly elected Fellows
10.30–10.45 pm  Photos and coffee
11.00pm  End of celebrations
Guest list for 30th Anniversary Dinner

The Hon Neil Andrew
The Rt Hon J Doug Anthony AC CH FTSE
Mrs Margot Anthony
Dr John Archer FTSE
Joan Archer
Dr Joe Baker AO OBE FTSE
Professor Snow Barlow FTSE
Ms Winsome McCaughey
Dr John Beaton
Mrs Susan Beaton
Dr John Bell FTSE
Mrs Judy Bell
Mr Tim Besley AC FTSE
Ms Sarah Harrington
Dr Ray Binns FTSE
Dr Trevor Bird FTSE
Mrs Val Bird
Professor Andrew Blakers FTSE
Dr Keith Boardman AO FRS FAA FTSE
Dr Brian Booth AM FTSE
Mrs Jane Booth
Dr John Brotchie AM FTSE
Professor Gavin Brown
Mrs Diane Brown
Dr John Byron
Ms Rachel Eggleton
Mr Gus Carfi
Mr Darrell O'Loughlin
Mr Alan Chappel FTSE
Mrs Mary Chappel
Dr John Christian AO FTSE
Mrs Helen Christian AM
Professor Ian Chubb
Dr Doreen Clark AM FTSE
Mr Graeme Cook
Mrs Fran Cook
Dr Peter Cook CBE FTSE
Mrs Norma Cook
Professor Hans Coster FTSE
Mrs Tillie Coster
Ms Kate Cowie
Professor Julian Cribb FTSE
Ms Tessie Librando
Dr Jim Davidson AM FTSE
Mrs Marian Davidson
Professor Roger Dean
Mrs Michelle Dimech
Dr John Dodgson
Mrs Jan Dodgson
Dr Alan Donald AM FTSE
Mrs Nancy Donald
Professor Andrew Downing
Dr Bob Durie FTSE
Mrs Claire Durie
Dr John Eady FTSE
Dr Keith Farrer OBE FTSE
Professor David Feng FTSE
Mrs Rubi Guo
Mr George Feng
Mr Ross Fowler FTSE
Mrs Kathryn Fowler
Dr Paul Fraser FTSE
Mr Steve Anderson
Professor Malcolm Gillies
Mr David Pear
Mr Les Gore FTSE
Mrs Bronwyn Gore
Mr John Grace FTSE
Dr Geoff Grigg FTSE
Mr Ron Hardwick FTSE
Mrs Margaret Hardwick
Professor Erol Harvey FTSE
Sir John Holland AC FTSE
Lady Suzanne Holland
Mr David Hudson FTSE
Professor Chennupati Jagadish FAA FTSE
Dr Vidya Jagadish
Professor Graeme Jameson AO FAA FREng FTSE
Professor Ron Johnston FTSE
Mrs Lynne Johnston
Dr Peter Jones FTSE
Dr Adam Jostsons FTSE
Mrs Pamela Jostsons
Professor Michael Keniger FTSE
Ms Jane Grealy
Mr John Laurie AC FTSE
Mr Peter Laver AM FTSE
Dr Rob Lewis FTSE
Professor Max Lu FTSE
Professor Barry Luther-Davies FTSE
Professor Yiu-Wing Mai FAA FTSE
Professor Gavan McDonell FTSE
Dr Sue Meek FTSE
    Ms Sheila Hughes
Mrs Elizabeth Meier
Professor Bob Menary OAM FTSE
Mr Henry Muller FTSE
    Mrs Marina Muller
Sir Rupert Myers KBE AO FAA FTSE
    Lady Nancy Myers
The Hon Gary Nairn MP
Em Professor Don Nicklin AO FTSE
Mr Peter North AM FTSE
Dr John Nutt AM FTSE
Professor Adrian William Page FTSE
    Mrs Dianne Page
Sir Arvi Parbo AC Kt FTSE
Dr Jim Peacock AC FRS PresAA FTSE
    Mrs Margie Peacock
Dr Graeme Pearman FAA FTSE
    Mrs Irene Pearman
Dr Trevor Powell FTSE
Professor Rolf Prince AO FReIng FTSE
Mrs Nancy Pritchard
Professor John Richards FTSE
Em Professor Alan Roberts AM FTSE
    Mrs Betty Roberts
Dr Mary Rose FTSE
Em Professor Roye Rutland AO FTSE
    Mrs Pamela Rutland
Dr Mike Sargent AM FTSE
    Mrs Pat Sargent
Dr Len Sciacca FTSE
Mr Charlie Scott
Mr Jim Scully
    Mrs Scully
Mrs Else Shepherd AM FTSE
    Mr Richard Taylor
Professor Kadambot Siddique FTSE
Professor John Simmons FTSE

Professor David Skellern FTSE
Dr Neville Smith FTSE
Dr Ray Smith FTSE
Professor Fred Smith AM FTSE
    Mrs Marian Smith
Professor David Solomon AM FAA FRS FTSE
Mr Jon Stanhope
Professor Robin Stanton FTSE
Mr David Tanner FTSE
    Mrs Jo Tanner
Professor Roger Tanner FAA FRS FTSE
    Mrs Elizabeth Tanner
Mr Peter Taylor
    Mrs Barbara Taylor
Mrs Robyn Tegart
Mr Martin Thomas AM FTSE
    Mrs Tricia Thomas
Mrs Joanne Torcasio
Mr Peter Tyree FTSE
    Mrs Helen Tyree
Dr Geoffrey Vaughan FTSE
    Mrs Jennie Vaughan
Mr Barrie Virtue
    Mrs Claire Virtue
Dr Bob Ward FTSE
    Mrs Dinny Ward
Professor Chihiro Watanabe
Mr Jason Watson
Mr Peter Watson FTSE
    Mrs Robyn Watson
Professor Don Watts AM FTSE
Dr Bob Watts FAA FTSE
    Mrs Diana Watts
Professor Lin Ye FTSE
Dr John Yeaman FTSE
    Mrs Judith Yeaman
\Professor Aibing Yu FTSE
    Mrs Ruiping Zou
Professor Alex Zelinsky FTSE
Professor Dong-ke Zhang FTSE
Dr John Zillman AO FTSE
    Ms Bettye Dixon
Vision, Mission and Key Objectives  
of the Academy

Vision  
The Vision of the Academy is of Australia as an international leader in the wise use,  
beneficial development and application of science, engineering and technology for society.

Mission  
The mission of the Academy is to promote the application of scientific and engineering  
knowledge to practical purposes. The Academy will carry out its mission by:

• engaging with and providing advice to governments, industry and the community;
• providing a forum for debate and policy formulation on important national issues;
• undertaking projects on matters of major national significance;
• identifying opportunities to improve engagement in, delivery of, and outcomes  
from, science and engineering education at all levels;
• fostering and recognising excellence in the technological sciences and  
engineering; and
• using its international linkages to provide access to experience and expertise to  
promote engagement in the global development of science, engineering and  
technology.

Key Objectives and Strategy
1 Become the "Resource of Choice" for Governments for independent expert advice  
and analysis on engineering and technological issues. (Government)
2 Provide independent technological and engineering advice to industry. (Industry  
and Business)
3 Foster informed debate on technological science and engineering issues in support  
of national goals and aspirations. (Society)
4 Advance the scientific and technological awareness of the Australian community.  
(Public Awareness)
5 Advance the scientific and technological capability of Australia (Education and  
Training)
6 Encourage and promote excellence in the technological sciences and engineering  
and their status and influence in the community. (Excellence)
7 Strengthen Australia's access to global science and technology. (International)
8 Achieve active involvement of all Fellows in carrying out the mission of the Academy.  
(Fellowship)
9 Ensure the financial viability of the Academy and its intellectual independence from  
funding sources. (Finance).