

Professor Margaret Gardner AO
President and Vice-Chancellor

2nd June, 2015

Institute of Railway Technology (IRT) - 15 Year Celebration at Monash University

I am pleased that this evening you celebrate 15 years as part of Monash University.

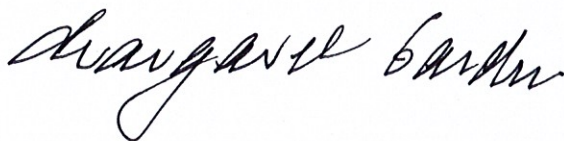
Since you joined Monash at the turn of the millennium, the Institute of Rail Technology has been one of the University's great success stories.

As our cities grow bigger and as trade becomes ever more globalised, our reliance on rail, whether for shifting goods or people, can only grow greater. By increasing productivity and reliability, reducing maintenance issues, and making trains safer, the IRT helps reduce the costs of transport, minimises environmental impact and generally makes rail a more attractive option.

As the accolades that have been heaped upon its staff attest, it does so excellently.

The Institute is particularly accomplished in its engagement with its industries. Since 2000, it has engaged with more than 120 external entities and completed over 350 projects. Even more impressive are the length of some of these partnerships: 43 years with BHP Billiton Iron Ore, 26 years with Hong Kong's Mass Transit Rail and 23 years with Queensland Railways. These deep relationships are exactly what Monash seeks to build, because they help us translate excellence into impact and keep us at the forefront of understanding and contributing to the transport infrastructure of the future. In this, it points the way for the rest of the University.

I would like to thank you and your team for your contribution the Monash over the last 15 years and congratulate you on this milestone. I look forward to many more years of world-leading research.



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