

1.3 Retirement  
of Dr.  
J.A.L. Matheson

Council resolved to minute its appreciation of the service of Dr. J.A.L. Matheson, Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1960 to 1976, as follows:-

"At this, its first meeting following the retirement of Dr. J.A.L. Matheson, the Council wishes to put on record its appreciation of his long and conspicuous service as the foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Dr. Matheson took up his appointment at Monash on 1 February, 1960, and attended his first meeting of the Interim Council on 8 February; a month later, the Interim Council approved the letting of the contract for the first building on the campus. The sixteen years of his Vice-Chancellorship have, therefore, seen the total physical development of the University from that early beginning to its virtual completion.

But a university is more than buildings and Dr. Matheson has, with equal skill and devotion, presided over the gathering together of academic and other staff and the establishment of the administrative framework which enables the essential work of the University - teaching and research - to proceed.

At the same time he has been the spokesman of the University in its relations with the public and in all the Australian and world-wide committees and associations which form the network through which universities co-operate with one another and with other agencies in the performance of their work and in making their contribution to humanity at large.

The task to which the Interim Council invited Dr. Matheson was more demanding than it then knew, and as the years passed the Council at its monthly meetings has been able to observe something of the demands which he faced and the problems with which he contended.

The Council has noted and identifies itself with the minute of appreciation recorded by the Professorial Board at its meeting on 25 February, 1976. It assures Dr. and Mrs. Matheson that they take with them into their retirement the gratitude of all who have profited from their labours and the affection of the friends they have made in the course of this notable period of leadership. In addition the Council records its satisfaction that the Louis Matheson

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Pipe Organ soon to be installed in the Robert Blackwood Hall and the annual performances on it, associated with the names of Dr. and Mrs. Matheson and to be given by distinguished musicians, will remind future generations of the achievements of this Vice-Chancellorship for many years to come". S.C.