

## **Leon A. DAVIS AO**

Leon Davis is one of our most distinguished alumni.

He was born in Port Pirie and graduated from the South Australian Institute of Technology in Primary Metallurgy.

He began work for the CRA Group in 1956 as a cadet with the Broken Hill Associated Smelters and went on to hold several senior management positions with the Group.

These included Chairman of Argyle Diamond Mines, Dampier Salt, Wimmera Industrial Minerals and Kalimantan Gold. He was also a Director of CRA Services Limited and Kelian Gold (Indonesia).

Leon became Chief Executive of Rio Tinto Ltd and Rio Tinto plc in 1997. Rio Tinto is one of the largest mining companies in the world, with operations in Australasia, the Americas, South Africa and Europe. He retired as Chief Executive in April 2000, and held the position of Deputy Chairman until this year.

He is presently the Chairman of Westpac Banking Corporation.

Leon Davis is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

He is also President of the Board of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Chairman of the Federal Government's Business Roundtable on Sustainable Development and a member of the Foreign Affairs Council.

He is an Officer of the Order of Australia and a recipient of the Centenary Medal.

In May 2005 Leon joined the recently formed South Australian Minerals and Petroleum Expert Group, a South Australian Government initiative to boost mineral exploration in South Australia.

Leon's commitment to his work and to the organisations he serves is outstanding. This is illustrated by the story of him alighting from one of the vintage cars taking part in a recent Outback Odyssey, borrowing a satellite phone and chairing a crucial board meeting for an hour from the middle of a paddock somewhere in central Australia.

Chancellor, Leon is a most distinguished Australian and it is with great pleasure that I present.....