Vice Chancellor’s presentation to Mary MacKillop College

Time: 9:50am for 10:00am
Date: Thursday 9 February, 2017
Place: St Ignatius Church, William Street, Norwood
(Use the side entrance to the church on William Street. There is a reserved sign on your seat in front of the altar.)
Mary MacKillop College
Beginning of Year Mass and
2016 Year 12 Merit Awards’ Ceremony

Thursday 9 February 2017
St Ignatius Church Norwood
9:15am Mass
10:00am Awards Ceremony

Running Sheet for Professor David Lloyd

• Mass – concludes with the College anthem.

• The Awards ceremony is introduced by Ms Helen Steele.
  o Merit certificates presented by College staff. (13 certificates, 10 students)
  o Above 90% ATAR presented by College Principal, Kath McGuigan. (18 students)
  o Kath McGuigan introduces Professor David Lloyd.
    ▪ At the appropriate time, Helen Steele will direct Professor David Lloyd to the
      Sanctuary for the presentation to Proxime Accessit, Julia Iannace and College Dux,
      Kristie Goudas.
  o Professor David Lloyd presents the certificates and plaque to the Proxime Accessit and then
    the Dux.
    ▪ Photos
      • Professor David Lloyd and Proxime Accessit.
      • Professor David Lloyd and Dux.
      • Professor David Lloyd with both Dux and Proxime Accessit.
    ▪ Professor David Lloyd returns to his seat.
  o Mrs McGuigan invites Kristie (Dux) to address the College.
  o Kristie speaks.
  o Ms Helen Steele acknowledges Kristie and invites Professor David Lloyd to address the school
    community.
  o Professor David Lloyd presents at the lectern and returns to his seat at completion of speech.
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- College Captains offer a vote of thanks to Professor David Lloyd.
- Ms Steele concludes the assembly.

- Special and invited guests return to the College for Morning Tea.
• Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli

• Ngai pundunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapinthi

• What I just said, for those of you who have yet to come across Irish-accented Kaurna, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

• We meet this morning on Kaurna land.

• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the Adelaide region.
• Good morning.

• I want to have a serious talk with you about your future.

• - I bet you hear that a lot -

• And a great place to start is with my Kaurna welcome.

• It is a great example of what education and opportunity offers you.

• I grew up, much like you are doing, but on the other side of the world.

• When I had my serious talk to my parents about my future, my life was straightforward.

• I would go to university – I was the first in my family to make that decision – and the choice I had to make was between Trinity College and Dublin City University.
• My father said Trinity College because it is a good university, a nurturer of scientists, writers and Nobel Laureates;

• My mother’s choice was Dublin City University, not for a competing list of Laureates, but because it was within walking distance of my home and I could save money on transport and lunch.

• I wanted to be a scientist because I was a Star Trek fanatic and loved science and science fiction,

• and yes, I did almost blow up my parents’ house with a chemistry experiment, but it wasn’t too badly damaged.

• Because I was the first in my family to go to university, it was expected that any degree I chose would lead to a decent job.

• So I chose my university not for the courses it offered but for the lunch money I’d save.
• I chose Dublin City University and decided that I would live my days as a researcher and maybe become something of an expert on computer-aided drug design.

• How did I end up here, on the other side of the world, leading a major university with 34,000 students and 3000 staff?

• And speaking – in admittedly just a tiny bit of Kaurna – to a group of high school girls, their parents and their teachers?

• How did I get here? I took opportunities whenever they were offered,

• and I hope you learn to do the same.

• Now I tell you all this because I know many of you will be in the process of planning potential careers and choosing the universities you’ll attend to bring those careers to reality.
• Now I know some of you younger members of the audience are still thinking about what to do with your post school years,

• so I want to speak directly to those who are actively planning career paths and researching the right way to take the first steps onto those paths.

• I, who hardly ever give advice, would like to offer you some. Just this once.

• Choose a career path and a university degree that interests you.

• Choose a university degree that feels right, not one that you feel obliged to study because you did well in your exams.

• You’ve met this morning the 18 girls who achieved ATARs of 90% or more in last year’s exams.
• I congratulate you again. Those ATARs are impressive, but only if what you do with them makes you happy.

• I urge all of you to work hard, get good ATARs and use them to get an education and a career you can be passionate about.

• Don’t use them to ‘buy’ into a career just because you can afford it on points.

• I talk to students all the time and it’s heartbreaking to talk to those who have spent to their ATAR limit to study something they’re not that keen on.

• And if you’re saddling yourself with debt so that you can study for a degree to which you’re not suited, then that is a tragic waste of your time, your money, perhaps even your future happiness.

• Choose the degree that feels right and go into a career that you’ll not only love but will reward your spirit as it begins to reward your bank balance.
• If you have the ability, the interest and the ATAR to enter medical school, by all means do that.

• But first make sure you have the interest and the passion to be a great doctor.

• You may have the ability, and a high ATAR, but both those ingredients do not make a recipe for future success.

• Those ingredients – and what you want – are key considerations.

• If you want to do social work, be a brilliant social worker and change those many lives that you will touch during your careers.

• Be a brilliant teacher

• – and might I add we’re building the ultimate teaching academy at our Magill campus so you should study teaching with us –
• But be a brilliant teacher and be an inspiration for the young women who will sit in these chairs in later years.

• Now this morning, as you sit on the edge of your possibilities, I would like you to think about the people you are now and the people you hope to become.

• Mary MacKillop College has prepared you well with an education in the fine tradition of the Josephites,

• who, I’m told, produce skilful and knowledgeable young women who are open to challenging opportunities, and a sense of service and spirituality inspired by that Josephite tradition.

• Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop as you know, was often quoted as saying:

• *Never see a need without doing something about it*
• And I’m confident that you will all continue that service to the community.

• You won’t have to look far to find the need:

• Around the world 72 million children of primary school age are not in school;

• 759 million adults are illiterate – two-thirds of them women – without any hope of improving their living conditions.

• there are still 3 billion people in the world living on less than $2.50 per day;

• more than 1.3 billion live on less than $1.25 per day - that's extreme poverty.

• But that’s a problem that can be solved.
• The United Nations estimates that it would only take about $58 billion annually to offer basic education, clean water and sanitation, reproductive health, and basic health and nutrition to every person in every developing country.

• A small amount of money when you consider the US Defence Budget runs at around $750 billion a year.

• But besides money what's also needed is for people like you to want to change and challenge our status quo,

• and to be part of the new thinking that will give us new ways to make change happen.

• Demographers tell us that Generation Z – people born between the mid-1990s and the early 2000s, which would cover a good many of you I think – are creative and digitally-minded.

• While nearly half of you are connected to electronic devices of one kind or another for over 10 hours a day -
and I hope you’ve put away your screens for this morning’s little talk –

You are looking to develop a lifelong love of learning and are hoping to change the world.

I can’t think of a more exciting future.

But let’s talk a little about the world you’re about to enter,

the world of contributing your own skills to the economy in whatever guise you choose.

You will have heard many bleak predictions about the lack of opportunity for young people as our economy goes through another life cycle.

I’m here to tell you that those predictions are vastly overblown.
• Yes, the economy is changing but it is changing in ways that offer you more exciting opportunities to be the best you you could possibly imagine.

• Yes, smart machines are automating a lot of tasks and eliminating lots of jobs,

• but I doubt that these jobs would interest you anyway.

• Looking around this room, I can’t see anyone who has her heart set upon being a manual labourer or a process worker,

• and as these jobs disappear, the smart machines that replace them are actually freeing people like you to be the future problem solvers, the entrepreneurs, the creative thinkers and the social intelligence experts in tomorrow’s knowledge economy.

• Change has always been part of our economic growth.
• Historians among you will remember reading about the Luddites and their attempt to hold onto old weaving practices.

• And while we may be seeing the manufacturing industry suffer the effects of the global marketplace, look back at what happened to agriculture and to the sheeps’ back all Australians were supposed to be riding upon.

• Agriculture’s share of the Australian economy has gone from around 25% in the first half of the 20th century, to between 4-6% today.

• The restructuring of the agricultural economy left a number of traditional farm jobs in its wake, but created huge numbers of different opportunities.

• Today, Australia’s 135,000 farmers produce enough food to feed 80 million people.
• Not only do they provide 93% of the domestic food supply, but they support an export market valued at more than A$41 billion per annum – that’s over 13% of export revenue.

• So I would suggest that you stand on the cusp of a brilliant new future where the drudgery of work – and believe me, there is still enough drudgery to go around – will virtually disappear, leaving you to change the world.

• I can’t think of a happier future.

• The challenge you face is to find new creative solutions for the world’s problems as that world changes rapidly.

• Here are some statistics to give you something to think about:

• The world’s most populous nations are, in descending order:
  
  o China with 1.3 billion people;
o India with 1.2 billion people;
  o Facebook with a population of 800 million;
  o Skype with 521 million;
  o Twitter with 380 million; and
  o The United States with 312 million.

• With those figures in mind, think also of this:

• The majority of the world’s citizens have not yet started using the internet;

• BUT from 2000 to 2015 the numbers using the net went from 6% of the world’s population, to 43%.

• From 400 million people to 3.2 billion in the space of 15 years.

• And you, part of the digital native population, have a head start on the opportunities that increased use of technology will provide.
- **Big data analysis is one.** Those of you with scientific or mathematical talents can learn to analyse the available data to help people make better decisions or lead to the creation of new goods and services which industry – and the economy – needs.

- **Customer experience experts will use** their skills in psychology, marketing design and understanding to find out what customers, and society in general, actually wants.

Supermarkets, shopping malls, banks and hospitals will need a workforce of creative, imaginative and perceptive customer experience experts to change the way they do business.

- **Personalised preventative health helpers** will make use of information technology to provide personalised support that helps their clients avoid chronic and diet-related illness and achieve improved lifestyles.

- Even the traditional labour intensive occupations of nursing and aged care will require familiarity with
computers and the ability to operate complex machines, while those with trades will have to understand and be able to connect multiple devices and smart systems of future homes.

• But before you start you need to open your minds to ideas and opportunity and to find new ways of thinking.

• The great Irish poet – and they were all great let’s face it – WB Yeats said that education is not simply the filling of a vessel, it is the lighting of a fire.

• I ask that you keep that flame burning and soak up as much learning as you can, now and for the rest of your lives.

• For those of you who now move to university education – and I look forward to seeing some of you on one of our campuses - look for that education to instil in you a passion for lifelong learning.
The capacity for critical thinking;
The creativity for complex problem solving; and
The awareness to develop a truly global perspective.

• Take the opportunities that come your way and open your minds and your hearts to difference, to challenges and to the unfamiliar.

• Challenge your own worldview by accepting that others also have legitimate claims to different ideas and ideologies.

• And who knows where you can end up, professionally, intellectually and geographically.

• It was Abraham Lincoln who said: The best way to predict your future is to create it.

• Be good people. Be real. Take responsibility. Be bold and courageous and embrace change.
• The rest will take care of itself.

• It has been an honour for me to have been invited to speak with you this morning.

• I wish you all the success in the world as you embark upon you intellectual and personal adventures.

• I wish you a future filled with challenge, change and creativity

• And all the happiness and value those qualities bring.

• Thank you.