

The new Spirit of Entrepreneurship.

Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Vice Chancellor, University Council Members, Academic Staff, Graduands and your families and friends.

I acknowledge we meet on the traditional lands of the Kurna People and respect their spiritual relationship to Country.

It is a privilege for me to speak to you today and from the outset I would like to congratulate all Graduands, your supportive friends and families, on the achievement we recognize and celebrate today.

In this celebration, we not only focus on this important day, but a future to which you will individually or collectively contribute. A future in which you will be utilising and building further upon the skills you have acquired during your undergraduate and postgraduate years at this remarkable University. Let's look briefly at that future.

In a World swirling with rapid and often unpredictable change I believe it is the spirit of what we see today with your graduation which is so fundamentally important to our future. In whatever endeavour you pursue, you will, with your fellow graduands from this University and other Universities shape that future.

I believe that Universities are the reassuring vital force for enlightenment, confidence and stabilisation in times of change and uncertainty. Why? Because they view the future through the remarkable lens of accumulated knowledge gained from experience. As Aldous Huxley the novelist and writer stated; **“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.”** I have asked myself what is the one word comes to mind when I look through that lens?

The word is “Scale”.

- A great deal of the amazing technology, health provision and fundamental sustenance that we use daily (often taken for granted) arose from entrepreneurship that understood, valued and drove creative opportunities to Scale. Scale for Society, Scale for wellbeing, Scale for Industry and National Productivity and Scale to assist provision of services
- Successful leadership and entrepreneurship facilitates the coming together of creativity with application and then chaperones the product of that union to Utility with Scale.
- Australia has historically embraced Scale particularly in the Resource and Agricultural industries to name but two. Moreover, the sheer physical Scale of this Country constantly led to innovation to accommodate that geographic Scale. What of now?

If the key lesson is Scale what is its significance in April 2018 and beyond?

There is now I believe a very real need in Australia to accelerate the issue of entrepreneurship and Scale. Particularly as the country undergoes a transformation of its industry base, economy and societal needs. I am convinced this change is not negotiable. It is;

- A change that will require the requisite leadership committed to creating an environment within Australia of greater diffusion across and within the boundaries of the physical sciences, social sciences, the arts, business and economics.

- A change to create an environment that will permit enable entrepreneurship not only to flourish but flourish at scale. Indeed, the area of human health is for many reasons ideally suited for creative growth to scale.

This is your future. This is where you will indelibly leave your mark. It is just possible that some of the graduands in front of me will work with others to achieve the answers to the next stage of entrepreneurship and scale. Whatever your future career trajectory you will contribute and help to shape the future.

That is why today's recognition and celebration of your achievements is so important.

I congratulate you, wish each of you the very the best and challenge each of you to create and make your dreams a reality.

R. J. Head