

Dr Anne Summers AO

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa) Ceremony 11, Monday 4 May 2015, 2:00pm

Chancellor, I present to you Anne Summers.

The award of the Degree of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa) acknowledges Dr Summers' standing as an internationally-known author, award-winning journalist, editor and publisher and founding member of the Women's Liberation Movement.

Anne Summers grew up in Adelaide and was educated at Cabra Convent. Leaving school at 17, she initially worked in a bank in Melbourne then as a bookshop assistant until she returned to Adelaide, enrolling in 1965 in a Bachelor of Arts degree in politics and history at The University of Adelaide. While at The University of Adelaide, she became a member of the Labor Club, later becoming aligned with the radical student movement. In 1969, she became one of the founders of the Women's Liberation Movement in Australia. She was involved in the early 1970s in helping start Australia's first women's and children's domestic violence refuge.

Anne Summers' PhD, which looked at the history of women in Australia, became an acclaimed bestselling book, *Damned Whores and God's Police*, which has remained constantly in print since it first appeared in 1975. In 1975 she began work as a journalist on the National Times and in 1979 she was appointed Canberra bureau chief for the Australian Financial Review and then the paper's North American editor. In 1987 in New York she became Editor-in-Chief of landmark feminist magazine Ms and the following year, with business partner Sandra Yates, Dr Summers bought Ms and Sassy magazines in the second only women-led management buyout in US corporate history. She was also correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review and Le Monde, and later, editor of the Good Weekend magazine.

Dr Summers joined the Board of Greenpeace Australia in 1999 and was chair of the Board of Greenpeace International from 2000 to 2006 and Deputy President of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum from 1999 to 2008. She was formerly Australia's First Assistant Secretary of the Office of the Status of Women from 1983-86 when Bob Hawke was Prime Minister and was an advisor to Prime Minister Paul Keating before the 1993 federal election.

Her books include her autobiography *Ducks on the Pond*, *The End of Equality* and *The Lost Mother: A Story of Art and Love*. She also published *Gamble for Power*, an account of the 1983 federal elections and, with Margaret Bettison, *Her-Story: Australian Women in Print 1788-1975*. Her recent books include *On Luck* and *The Misogyny Factor*. She currently writes opinion columns for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Sunday Age and since 2012 has run her own digital publication, Anne Summers Reports, which covers a range of topics in politics, social issues and the arts.

In 1976 Dr Summers was awarded the Walkley award for Best Newspaper Feature Story for her investigation into NSW prisons. In 1989 she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for her services to journalism and to women's affairs. Acknowledged as a leader of her generation and as an 'Australian Legend', Dr Summers has continued to educate, challenge, entertain and inspire those who have followed her.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Dr Anne Summers, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of the University (Flinders University), Honorary Doctor of Letters (University of New South Wales), Officer of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts (honoris causa).