

Press Release – Paul Barnett receives honorary doctorate.

By Kate Best

Leading New Testament scholar and Epping resident Paul Barnett had the honorary degree of Doctor of Theology conferred on him at the School of Christian Studies graduation ceremony at Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University on Monday March 2, 2009.

The degree was awarded in recognition of his continuous contribution to New Testament Studies, his founding of the School of Christian Studies at Robert Menzies College in 1983, and his significant pastoral ministry at St Barnabas' Broadway and Holy Trinity Adelaide. He was also bishop of the Northern Region of Sydney Anglican Diocese from 1990 to 2001.

Dr Barnett is well-known for his academic work as a lecturer at Moore Theological College in Sydney, the Presbyterian Theological Centre, Regent College in Vancouver, and at School of Christian Studies. He has published over 40 articles and books and is renowned for his works on historical evidences, his commentary on 2 Corinthians and his 3-volume work 'After Jesus' focusing on the first Christian century. Additionally, Dr Barnett's graduation address on the conversion of Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 is to be published in the ACT as the fifth in its Occasional Papers series.

In announcing the award, the Dean of the Australian College of Theology, the Rev Dr Mark Harding commented that "The nominee's theological learning is attested by his body of published work, especially the many substantial monographs appearing on his CV, and that his scholarly contribution, as evidenced by the reports of his Australian and international referees, can properly be considered of international repute and standing".

Also attending the ceremony were Professor Gail Whiteford, Macquarie University's Pro Vice-Chancellor – Social Inclusion; Professor Chris Bellenger, the Master of Robert Menzies College and Principal of the School of Christian Studies; and seven other School of Christian Studies Diploma of Theology graduates.



(L-R) Dr Paul Barnett, Prof Chris Bellenger, Rev Dr Mark Harding