

MR ZVONIMIR HRIBAR

Citation for the award of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)

Zvonimir Hribar, LLB, MEd, FCPA, ACIS, was born and raised in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in February 1921, the seventh in a family of eight children. Zvone undertook his initial tertiary education at the University of Ljubljana where he graduated as a Bachelor of Laws (and Social Studies) in 1943 and commenced work as an economist with a rural co-operative in Ljubljana and Trieste.

At the conclusion of World War 2 he worked for the United Nations agencies IRO (International Refugee Organisation) and ICEM (Intragovernmental Committee for European Migration) in Rome and Trieste where he rose to second in command of the mission. He had a major role in matching refugees for immigration with host countries. During this period he met and married Sonia (a high school teacher) and, not wishing to remain stateless in Europe, following the birth of their third daughter decided they should immigrate. Having had a major involvement in settling refugees in Australia and knowing his damaged eyesight could disqualify him on medical grounds, an Australian doctor colleague was able to obtain special permission for him to migrate to Australia. The family arrived in Melbourne by ship in April 1955 and travelled overnight by train to Bonegilla Migrant Centre. There Zvone accepted a position as a translator and supply clerk until August 1956 when an opportunity arose for him to join W Angliss & Co as a credit manager and inventory supervisor. He later became branch accountant, which resulted in him studying accountancy part-time at Albury TAFE and being admitted as an Associate of the Australian Society of Accountants. In 1965 he joined the public accounting firm of W Stirling & Co in Albury and taught part-time at the TAFE. This led to an invitation for him to teach there full-time. Zvone undertook a TAFE Teachers Training course in Sydney and later returned to Albury TAFE as a teacher in charge of Accounting. In 1969 he completed his cost accountancy course and advanced to Senior Associate status with the ASA later becoming a Fellow CPA. He also completed the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators professional course achieving first prizes for NSW and Australia in Economics and Company Law and Meetings.

In 1972 following discussions with senior staff concerning an appointment at Riverina CAE in Wagga Wagga Zvone joined the staff in February 1973 as a lecturer and was promoted to senior lecturer in the following year.

Zvone joined the teaching profession believing that the future of every nation depended upon the quality and vision of young people who are educated to accept a future leadership role in society.

He believes that the major asset university graduates have is their ability to think and carry out diagnostic analysis. Thus his teaching of conceptual and technical skills has been oriented towards the development of insight into social problems and how they might be solved. In encouraging his students to fully develop their potential he has become known for a range of Zvonisms such as 'the human mind is like a parachute, it is of use only when it is open'. Zvone's students are now employed throughout the world and he still enjoys receiving calls from them advising of new work positions and forthcoming challenges.

As an academic Zvone's two major research interests revolved around the structure of company law and the well being of small enterprises as the foundation of the Australian economy.

A foundation member of SEAANZ (the Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand) Zvone was one of the earliest researchers in the Small Business area with Riverina CAE publishing his '*Training Needs and Attitudes of Small Businessmen*' in 1978. At the same time with the help of his small business management students they produced '*A Business Profile of Wagga Wagga*'. Zvone was also deeply involved with the local '*Productivity Group*' whose main aim was to assist Wagga Wagga businesses overcome organisational and operational problems.

Given his thirst for knowledge and desire for learning Zvone had enrolled as an external student at the University of New England and graduated in 1978 with a Masters Degree in Economics. Coupled with his quest for knowledge and learning was the desire to share his ideas with others through teaching and writing.

Up to the time of his compulsory retirement in December 1983 Zvone had written and published '*A Guide to Company Law*' by the Law Book Co which was into its second revised edition and some 14 articles and papers in a range of academic and professional journals.

Following his 'first' retirement Zvone was appointed a Fellow of the Institute (RMIHE) and continued with his lecturing and writing activities including the publication in 1985 by CCH of his '*Accounting Practice Management for Small Business*' Volumes 1 and 2 and spending 1986/87 at the Albury campus overseeing the accountancy degree course. In July 1987 Zvone accepted an appointment with the Australian Society of Accountants in Melbourne as the National Education Assessment Officer and Manager for Overseas Membership utilising his extensive knowledge of accounting education and overseas qualifications.

In 1989 he returned to CSU-Riverina as University Fellow coinciding with the publication of the third revised edition of '*A Guide to Company Law*' which had now grown from 90 to some 327 pages.

In 1990 Zvone acted as Co-Research Director for a DEET funded \$35,000 grant on TAFE Credit Transfers resulting in a 212 page report to DEET in 1991.

Teaching, research and publication activities still continue with 1997 seeing Zvone having two book chapters published bringing his output to some five books, 25 book chapters and articles, numerous study guides and mail packages for distance education students.

Zvone has also served his community in a professional capacity as President, Secretary and a Committee member of the Wagga Wagga and Albury branches of the Australian Society of Accountants over a 14 year period. He has acted and continues to act as an Honorary Auditor for a number of local non-profit associations and societies. Other community involvements revolve around his membership of the Wagga Wagga Rotary Club (of which he is a Paul Harris Fellow), the Probus Club and the Catholic Church where he was a member of the Diocesan Financial Committee and Parish Council.

Zvonimir Hribar teacher, educator, researcher, professional and humanitarian who has served this University (and its antecedent bodies) and the local community faithfully for a period of 25 years, is admitted to the degree Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Twenty Second day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven