

INTRODUCTION: SYMPOSIUM IN HONOUR OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR NANCY MILLIS AC

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The Royal Society of Victoria has a long and proud history promoting science to the benefit of the community.

We were pleased to offer this one day symposium to mark the significant contribution of Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis AC to microbiology, higher education, public policy, science and particularly the role of women in science in Victoria. Professor Millis contributed significantly to the Royal Society of Victoria, serving on the Council and was a Patron of the Royal Society of Victoria Foundation.

Nancy Millis has had a dynamic and enduring impact on public life in Victoria, over diverse fields. In many aspects of public life we owe a great debt of gratitude to this prominent Australian ambassador for science.

She has helped reinforce her own discipline of microbiology in the scientific community. She has promoted science generally and the importance of higher education. Professor Millis' impact stretches from the management of water and health services to

the ever growing role of women in academia and the sciences. Her contributions to environmental protection and the monitoring of gene technologies are also very significant.

Professor Nancy Millis has been acknowledged with numerous honours in recognition of her significance in our community, including the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), Fellowship in the Australian Academy of Science and an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Melbourne.

We asked ourselves how we, The Royal Society of Victoria, might best acknowledge her contribution? The Royal Society with the assistance of her colleagues, friends and Nancy herself were pleased to invite a stellar list of contributors to participate in this one day symposium in April 2009. We thank them for their willingness to participate and assist us in celebrating this very special Australian. We also thank the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University for their support of the meeting.