

Chancellor

Ms Kathryn Fagg is a remarkable leader in the corporate, public and social sectors who has championed opportunities for women in fields as diverse as resources, logistics, manufacturing and finance.

Born and raised in regional Queensland, Ms Fagg gained a University of Queensland chemical engineering degree before launching on a trajectory that has elevated her to the executive suites of major companies, and to the board of Australia's powerful central bank.

Along the way she has accumulated respect and gratitude as a generous mentor, and a professional who turns problems into solutions, solutions into outcomes, and outcomes into inspiration and cultural change.

Ms Fagg learned early to defy social norms about women succeeding in mostly-male domains.

Of the 200 graduates in her class of 1982, six were women, and her first post-graduation job was as a petroleum engineer with Exxon in the Bass Strait oil and gas fields. There she was able to indulge her love of problem-solving, and lead the planning for a world-first technique that made oil extraction from small reserves economically viable.

At the same time, postgraduate studies in organisation behaviour opened her eyes to other career possibilities, and so she took a new path with a global management consultancy.

From there Ms Fagg stepped into senior management at a Big Four bank, and by the start of the new century she was exploring a different career track. She became a president of Bluescope Steel, including President, Asia, and the inaugural chair of Tata Bluescope Steel Limited in India.

This was followed by three years as a president of logistics giant Linfox, where her responsibilities included the efficient movement of products for most of the world's major fast-moving consumer goods behemoths, operating in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

In 2013 she was invited to join the prestigious nine-person Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, becoming only the fifth female member since its formation.

Ms Fagg is also a non-executive director of three ASX-listed companies.

Notwithstanding her demanding corporate schedule, she has always remained true to the community causes that are near to her heart. She is President of Chief Executive Women, and chair of Breast Cancer Network Australia, the Melbourne Recital Centre, and the Industry and Innovation Forum of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE). She is also a past chair of Parks Victoria, and a current member of the Business Advisory Council of World Vision.

She has retained the respect of peers in her first field, being recognised as: an ATSE Fellow; one of Australia's Top 100 Most Influential Engineers; and one of Australia's 25 Most Influential Female Engineers.

Always generous with her time for the UQ community, Ms Fagg has given guest lectures and spoken at events – particularly where she can highlight the imperative for more women in engineering and in leadership.

The University proudly awarded her an inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award, in 2013.

Chancellor, I present to you Ms Kathryn Fagg, Bachelor of Engineering with honours of this University; Master of Commerce, and Doctor of Business *honoris causa* of the University of New South Wales; and Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, for the award of Doctor of Chemical Engineering *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.