**2013 Alumni Awards & University Dinner**

**Narration**

On Thursday October 3rd, the 2013 La Trobe University Dinner was held in the Great Hall at NGV International, bringing together our alumni, donors and industry and community partners.

**Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Dewar**

It’s very important that the university communicates to our key partners just what the university is doing and what out aspirations are. The people who are here tonight, in different ways, are all in a position to help the university significantly. Whether it’s through philanthropic support or research partnerships, or in the political domain, these are all absolutely key supporters of the university and its really important that we stay in touch with them regularly and tell them what we’re doing and what we want to do.

The strategic plan makes it clear, the only way the university is going to achieve the step change in our research performance that we’re looking for is by tapping into new sources of research funding. The partners who are represented here tonight represent a possible avenue for us to do that, as well as the philanthropic supporters, so it is really important that we are absolutely clear about the vital work that we’re doing, and that’s why we’ve got displays here tonight of all of our Research Focus Areas and all of the great work they’re doing so that people understand the value that the university’s contributing to the local and international community.

**Narration**

The event celebrated this year’s Alumni Award recipients who represent leaders from across the science, sports and arts community.

**Chancellor, Professor Adrienne Clarke**

Well this year’s very interesting, very different from last year. Last year it was mainly people from the humanities and social sciences, this year remarkably it’s mainly from the natural sciences.

**Narration**

In total nine award recipients were acknowledged – Bill Kelty, Elizabeth Proust, David Craik, Marilyn Anderson, Tony Bacic, Tim Matthews, Miriam Fathalla, Tim Estwisle and Michael Looker.

**Chancellor, Professor Adrienne Clarke**

Well it’s a very important showcase for what the graduates of La Trobe University have been able to contribute to society, we haven’t really done this I understand very much in the past, but our graduates have made huge contributions but we don’t really talk to people about it very often. So this is a chance to tell people who are in positions for decision-making, who are important people in our community that La Trobe graduates have made really, really profound contributions to society.