



## **Citation for the Award of the Degree Doctor of the University *honoris causa***

### **Mr Anthony Kittel BEng(Mech) *UniSA*, MBA *Adel***

Anthony Kittel was brought up in Hawker in South Australia; he is a country boy who has evolved into one of the state's most successful businessmen. Anthony attended Port Augusta High School before taking up an engineering traineeship at the BHP steel works in Whyalla, now known as Arrium. It was part of a five-year degree that was a mixture of the theoretical and practical sides, and Anthony Kittel qualified with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the South Australian Institute of Technology (now UniSA) in 1987.

He stayed on at BHP, working as a qualified engineer and gaining management experience before leaving to do an MBA full-time for two years at the University of Adelaide, gaining that qualification in 1992. The following year he moved to ROH Wheels in Adelaide where he was promoted to General Manager at just 28.

In 1997 at the age of 32, he took over a small struggling electronics business based in Lonsdale that employed eight people, and immediately introduced a culture of innovation, transforming it into an Australian-owned and diversified manufacturer of electronic accessories and power sources. That manufacturer was known as Redarc.

In the year 2000, Anthony set up the first real business plan for Redarc and aimed to take the business from an annual revenue of around \$700,000 to a revenue of \$5m a year by 2005. The company just made it, by \$20,000.

And the growth has continued. Under Anthony's leadership, Redarc now has a distribution arm in France, selling its products into countries from Iceland to Spain, and has medium-term plans to design and manufacture in the US. The company plans to increase sales revenue from \$50m to \$100m. And those plans mean an expansion of staff too; Redarc currently employs more than 185 people, and they are looking to grow to over 240 employees in the coming years.

Since purchasing Redarc, Anthony has completed the Owner/Presidents Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2013; holds a Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Fellow of the South Australian Governor's Leadership Foundation program.

Anthony's success has come from an unrelenting focus on new product development, employing and developing highly skilled people and providing excellent technical and after-sales customer support. Anthony believes that formal and informal mentoring is crucial for young students. He works with students and recent graduates to help them develop communication skills and learn how to relate to others with different skill sets in cross-functional teams, giving them guidance on their career journey.

Anthony is currently Deputy President of the Australian Industry Group in South Australia and a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee at Flinders University.

The award of the degree of Doctor of the University recognises Anthony Kittel's commitment to and achievements in building a successful South Australian business, combining that with a belief in new product development and innovation, recognising the value of mentoring, and developing and investing in the business leaders of tomorrow.