

John Allen

Citation for the Award of Companion of the University

John Allen was one of the key financiers of the Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue project, and became the Chairman of the Steering Committee; a role he fulfilled with commitment, energy and determination.

He was instrumental in leading the Steering Committee to embrace the idea of developing a memorial with maximum impact in London, the final form of which was a 1.25 life size bronze statue of Matthew Flinders.

John Allen was a volunteer who gave freely and generously of his time, working indefatigably on the project, its promotion and realisation over two years.

The project became his "magnificent obsession" as he discovered more about the remarkable life of Matthew Flinders, and he became committed to the idea of creating a lasting legacy and on-going connection with Flinders University in the form of the Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Scholarship, to support education links between Australia and Britain.

Through his passion for Captain Matthew Flinders and Australia, he was the driving force for ensuring that Flinders was properly honoured as an Englishman.

John Allen's contribution to the University was evident through his support for and inclusion of the University in the high profile London based events surrounding the unveiling of the statue, enabling the University to link into his extensive business and community networks.

The award of Companion of the University to John Allen recognises his contribution to both the University and the community, especially in the United Kingdom. In recognising him, the University would also be acknowledging the contribution of the Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Steering Committee.