

Molly Boyle- Graduate Speaker

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would firstly like to extend a thank you to all who have helped us reach this exciting and special day of our lives. To the university staff, and our families and friends, it is your assistance and guidance that has allowed us to follow our dreams and take our lives in any direction we choose. Thank you for encouraging us when we doubted ourselves, and supporting us when we couldn't see how we were going to finish 5 essays, 3 group assignments and 2 presentations by the end of the week. There is no doubt in my mind that many of us wouldn't be standing here today without your help.

Thank you to all of the lecturers and tutors who have given their knowledge, expertise and time to us throughout our education at Federation University. Your passion and enthusiasm for your field is incredible, and we are all so privileged to have been given the opportunity to learn from you. You have supported, challenged and inspired us through a huge chapter of our lives and for that we are extremely grateful.

There is such a diverse range of graduates both in this room today, and graduating throughout the rest of the week. We have all come from different places, different walks of life, to study different degrees in different ways and we are all now starting a new but different chapter of our lives. However, there is something we all have in common. Today, we will receive a piece of paper that doesn't just represent our degree. This piece of paper represents so much more than that. This piece of paper represents our determination, motivation and resilience. Our ability to work hard to achieve something. Our ability to juggle many different things within our lives, and continue to persevere when it all seems too hard. Our readiness to move on to the next chapter of our lives before we accumulate any more debt. But most of all it represents memories, experiences and friendships that we have created as students of Federation University that we will remember long after we leave this room today.

So let's take our piece of paper and use all the knowledge and life experience we have gained as a result, to follow our dreams and passions and inspire others. But most importantly let's do it with vibrance, energy and enthusiasm. After all, as a great man once told me "Enthusiasm is contagious, spread it around."

Thank you.