

## ALAN SIMON FINKEL AM PhD FTSE

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Dr Finkel, a respected engineer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, became Chancellor of Monash University in January 2008. A graduate of Monash University, Dr Finkel received his Bachelor of Engineering in 1976 and Doctorate in Electrical Engineering in 1981, following which he served for two years as a neuroscience research fellow at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, located at The Australian National University.

In 1983, Dr Finkel established Axon Instruments, a world-class supplier of electronic and robotic instruments and software for use in cellular neuroscience, genomics and drug discovery in the university and pharmaceutical company research sectors. The Californian Company successfully listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2000 and was acquired by the US firm Molecular Devices Corporation in 2004.

Since Axon, Dr Finkel has contributed significantly to Australian scientific endeavour and communications. He co-founded COSMOS and G magazines to promote science awareness and sustainable lifestyles to the general public; led the establishment of the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience; fostered various secondary school science teaching initiatives that add relevance, excitement and inquiry to science based learning; and co-founded a company distributing educational toys and books for children.

In 2005, Dr Finkel was appointed to the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering Clunies Ross Foundation Board of Governors and in 2006 he was elected a Fellow of the Academy. Dr Finkel serves as chairman of the Child Abuse Research Australia centre at Monash University and he is a director of the Florey Neuroscience Institutes. He is passionate about Australian science and education.