HAL WOOTTEN LECTURE 2014

Response to Lecture delivered by Professor Richard Abel

by

Hal Wootten

Before I begin the serious business of responding to Rick Abel's inspirational lecture I would like to say something to that faithful band who have been coming regularly to these lectures since they were initiated. With them I have developed a standing "in-joke" about my annually recurring pleasure at finding that this eponymous lecture has not yet become the Hal Wootten Memorial Lecture, as the inaugural speaker assumed it was. I have some statistical research to pass on. Every five years the Australian Bureau of Statistics issues fresh life expectancy tables. When the lectures began in 2006 I was 83 and one could deduce from the latest tables that the Hal Wootten Memorial lectures were likely to begin in six years, that is 2012. However in that year, in the nick of time, the Bureau published new tables which, for a then 89 year-old,