Sir Louis Matheson honoured

The Main Library at Monash University has been renamed the Sir Louis Matheson Library after Monash's founding vice-chancellor.

Sir Louis and his wife Lady Audrey Matheson were guests of honour at the renaming of the library last week.

In the official ceremony Monash's chancellor Mr Bill Rogers said: "This is a most appropriate mark of respect for a man who was fundamental to the creation of our university."

Sir Louis is a graduate of Manchester University and the University of Birmingham from where he took his doctorate. He has held chairs in Engineering at the University of Melbourne and at Manchester, where he served from 1951 to 1960.

He returned to Australia from Manchester to become foundation vice-chancellor at Monash, a post he held for 16 years until his retirement in 1976.

While vice-chancellor he served on the Royal Commission into the collapse of the King Street Bridge in the early 1960s.

Mr Rogers said: "Sir Louis lived a life of engaged rather than contemplative scholarship. He not only led the team that created Monash but he tirelessly placed his professional skills at the service of the community."

His community service included membership of the Advisory Council of the CSIRO and on the executive of the Australian Council for Education Research.

He was a member of the Ramsay Committee on Tertiary Education and president of the Institute of Engineers.

"For the Monash community it is his achievement in establishing our university which is his greatest monument," Mr Rogers said.

From left: Monash chancellor Mr Bill Rogers, Sir Louis Matheson, Lady Audrey Matheson and vice-chancellor Professor Mal Logan.

"It is Sir Louis who created the culture of scholarship and innovation which has allowed Monash in just three decades to grow to be the largest, and on many measures the best, university in the country.

"And nowhere is this spirit of growth and innovation more apparent than in the university's development of library resources," he said.