

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 29 JULY 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Inspirational leader remembered by UTAS

The University community has been saddened by the death of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert yesterday in the United Kingdom.

Prof Gilbert was Vice-Chancellor of UTAS from 1991 to 1995.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said Prof Gilbert's excellent leadership set the University on a progressive and successful path.

"Prof Gilbert made an outstanding contribution to both UTAS and higher education in Australia," Prof Le Grew said.

Prof Gilbert had an illustrious academic career. After graduating from the Australian National University, he went on to lecture at the University of Papua New Guinea before completing his doctorate at Oxford University in the UK. He also lectured at the University of New South Wales before moving from teaching into administration.

Prof Gilbert oversaw the melding of UTAS and the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology into a single unified institution. His strategic vision laid the foundation for its future and his commitment to Tasmania was exemplified by his vision to establish the new campus at Burnie.

He insisted that teaching at the University was recognised alongside research and it was his vision that first implemented the School, Faculty and Divisional structure in the University.

Prof Gilbert also inaugurated University Scholarships and established the University Foundation and the University Alumni, recognising UTAS as one of the founding Universities of Australia.

As Vice-Chancellor, Prof Gilbert led the University to an enhanced role in the Tasmanian community as it sought to plan its future development - in particular his role in chairing the Tasmania 2010 forum, a University-initiated venture which succeeded in bringing together key decision-makers regardless of their place in the political spectrum.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate by UTAS in 1995. He then went on to be Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

He had just stepped down from that position after a period of ill-health.

“Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to his wife, Ingrid and daughters, Michelle and Fiona,” Prof Le Grew said.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 626 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au