

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS pays tribute to respected academic

The achievements of a respected academic and early pioneer in philosophy at the University of Tasmania will be celebrated today.

The University of Tasmania and the family of the late Emeritus Professor William (Bill) Joske will pay tribute to him through the establishment of the WD Joske Memorial Trust.

Professor Joske was instrumental in the development of the School of Philosophy at UTAS and had maintained a close relationship with the School and the University up until the time of his death in 2006.

The WD Joske Memorial Trust will support the bi-annual Philosophy Colloquium, which will now be named in his honour.

Professor Jeff Malpas from the UTAS School of Philosophy said the Colloquium aims to promote philosophical exchange and dialogue that draws on international, national, and community perspectives, and engages philosophical discussion across a range of disciplines and perspectives.

“It is a particularly appropriate memorial to Professor Joske as it embodies ideas of intellectual exchange and engagement that were at the heart of his life and work,” Professor Malpas said.

“Professor Joske is not only fondly remembered by the many colleagues and students who knew him, but he also left behind a significant institutional and professional legacy.”

“In particular, he rebuilt philosophy at the University at a critical time in its history. His work exemplified an approach to philosophy directly concerned with the important issues of human life and passionately committed to the importance of clear thinking and open dialogue.

“The values that Professor Joske embodied are values that continue in the School of Philosophy today.”

“I would like to thank the Joske family, his wife Helen and children Fiona, Caroline and Stephen for establishing this Trust in his honour. It is an especially fitting memorial for one who was so strongly committed to the importance of philosophy and philosophical engagement.”

Biography of the late Emeritus Professor William (Bill) Joske

WD Joske was Chair in Philosophy from 1969 to 1993, and was instrumental in the development of the School, at UTAS, being the first appointment to the Chair after a lapse of some 13 years. He was a well-loved and respected teacher who is still remembered by the many students who were taught by him. He served on the Professorial Board (1982-1983), was Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1970-72) and the University Ombudsman (1985-92). For many years, he represented the University on the State Library Board of Tasmania which he chaired (1977-82). He was a distinguished member of the Australasian philosophical community and was President of the Australasian Association of Philosophy (1969-70). Professor Joske passed away in 2006.

Photo Opportunity:

Event: Announcement of the WD Joske Trust

When: Thursday 4 November 2010 at 3.00pm

Where: The John Elliot Classics Museum, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus

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