

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## WWII veteran's prizes to be awarded to nursing students

The School of nursing will tomorrow announce the winner of the Hansen prizes, established by a former Tasmanian air traffic controller and WWII veteran.

The three prizes for postgraduate nursing – one each in Midwifery, Oncology Nursing and Child and Family Health – are each worth \$500.

Keith Hansen, 91, initially established a single Midwifery prize in memory of his wife, Mildred, who died in 2008.

However, he later added two further prizes – one in memory of his late daughter, Nadene, who died of cancer in 2000, along with a third prize in Child and Family Health.

Mr Hansen was born at Bundaberg in Queensland in 1919. He joined the RAAF in 1940, shortly after the outbreak of World War II and was later seconded to the RAF.

He was involved in combat operations in the Middle East and North Africa and managed air traffic at various locations along the North African coast.

Mr Hansen was the air-force's only Australian representative at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations of the battle of El Alamein in 2002.

On return to civilian life he began a career in air traffic control at Melbourne Airport before transferring to Launceston Airport and finally Hobart Airport. Mr Hansen's final role was as Hobart Airport Director prior to retiring in 1980.

Mr Hansen's wife Mildred was a registered nurse and midwife, having begun her midwifery training at the Ballarat Base Hospital after the outbreak of WWII.

The three Hansen prizes will be presented at a ceremony tomorrow at 11am at the UTAS School of Nursing at the Newnham campus.

**WHAT:** Presentation of the three 2010 Hansen prizes.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 7, from 11am.

**WHERE:** School of Nursing, Newnham campus.

**For further information contact Sharon Webb, UTAS Communications  
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