

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Leading lawyer appointed to University's governing council

Law partner Leanne Topfer has been appointed to the University of Tasmania's governing Council.

It is the latest step in an enduring relationship between Ms Topfer and the University, having graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons) in 1981 and served on its North-West Advisory Board between 2005-2012.

Chancellor the Hon Michael Field AC welcomed the appointment, saying Ms Topfer would bring considerable strengths to the role.

"Leanne's professional credentials are obvious and, alongside that, Leanne has balanced a clear devotion to family, civic responsibility and community engagement for almost three decades in the State's North-West," he said.

"She will be an enormous asset to our Council, which comprises leading academics and professionals across various disciplines."

Ms Topfer is a partner at McLean, McKenzie & Topfer in Burnie. She has practised in the city since settling there in 1986 and has held numerous community and professional positions, including President of the Law Society of Tasmania and Director of the Law Council of Australia.

Her sons Simon and Alex are both Law graduates from the University of Tasmania; Simon winning the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship and working at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

"This is a fantastic opportunity and I'm very much looking forward to working with my fellow councillors," Ms Topfer said. "Education is the basis of so many things and certainly underpins the strength of our communities."

Chancellor Field thanked outgoing council member Brenda Richardson, who had served since 2005.

The Minister for Education and Training has also reappointed as the two ministerial appointees to the Council:

- Consultant and Rhodes Scholar Rhys Edwards;
- Alumna and former Marist Regional College (Burnie) principal Sue Chen.

**Information released by:**

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