

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



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UTAS honours community leaders

Two of the University of Tasmania's most distinguished and popular identities were last night honoured in front of a crowd of more than 500 people during a Foundation dinner to showcase the University's 2007 scholarship winners.

Michael Vertigan, who graduated from the University in 1964 then went on to establish a formidable international career before returning as Chancellor in 1998, was recognised at last night's ceremony for his distinguished service to UTAS, when presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The 2007 Foundation Graduate Award was given to a future world leader in sustainable water use, Professor Nicholas Ashbolt, who was recently appointed Senior Water Microbiologist for the US Environmental Protection Agency – the first non-US citizen to be appointed to such a senior post.

In an address broadcast to last night's gathering, Professor Ashbolt, paid tribute to the University of Tasmania and the opportunities he was given to pursue his passion for water management whilst a student at UTAS.

Chairman of the University Foundation, Mr David Rowell, said both award recipients had shown true leadership and reached the top of their respective academic fields of expertise, which had been recognised at an international level.

"Michael Vertigan, in particular, can take great pride in the fact that UTAS, under his leadership, has sustained national and international recognition as a leading research and teaching institution," he said.

"It is also gratifying to recognise a graduate of UTAS, Professor Ashbolt, is taking a leading role in the world's growing water crisis, not only in developed regions, but also in developing countries."

More than 220 of the University's 2007 Scholarship winners were showcased at last night's gala event.

For more information/interviews:

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