

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New scholarship offers ‘transformative experience’

A life-changing experience awaits a University of Tasmania student or graduate with a prestigious new scholarship launched today.

The Michael Tate Oxford Scholarship will support a student or graduate undertaking studies in Theology at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, covering fees and associated expenses including travel costs and living allowances.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner joined the Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO, University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen and special guests for the launch ceremony today.

Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO has led an extraordinary career as an academic, politician, diplomat and priest.

It was during his first year of law studies, while recovering after a serious car accident, that an opportunity arose for him to pursue studies at Oxford on a Commonwealth scholarship.

“I was supposed to study more law, but when I got there I asked if I could study theology,” Father Tate said.

“The thing about Oxford is that it expanded my intellectual horizons. For me this was a combined intellectual, spiritual and social revolution.

“It was such a transformative experience in every sphere and I really wanted to offer that opportunity to other students.”

Professor Rathjen acknowledged Father Tate’s outstanding career achievements and generosity towards supporting international study opportunities for students.

“Father Tate has made an enormous contribution to not only the University of Tasmania through his active involvement with the Faculty of Law, but to the community, state and country,” Professor Rathjen said.

“This scholarship provides an invaluable opportunity for students to pursue their studies at the prestigious Oxford University.”

Applications for the scholarship are scheduled to open on 7 November, 2016. The scholarship will be open to applications annually.

For more information visit www.utas.edu.au/scholarships-bursaries or phone 1300 361 928.

Bio: Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO

Professor Tate gained first-class honours in Law from the University of Tasmania, before studying Bachelor of Arts at Oxford in the Honour School of Theology in 1971. An academic career at the University followed, including serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1977-78. Father Tate then pursued a long and distinguished career as a federal politician. From 1978 he was a Labor senator for Tasmania for 15 years, and held the position of Minister for Justice from 1987 to 1993 in the Hawke and Keating governments. He went on to appointments as Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Holy See, before retiring to enter the priesthood in the Catholic Church in 2000. In 1992, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Tasmania and has been an Honorary Professor since 1997. In 1996, his achievements were recognised with the award of an office of the Order of Australia (AO). He is currently Cygnet Parish Priest in the Huon Valley, Tasmania.

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