

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday 7 May 2015

---

## Sue Napier Awards inspire Tasmanian educators

Three current and future teachers have today received a boost to their careers thanks to awards celebrating the life and career of the late Sue Napier.

The 2015 Sue Napier Postgraduate Fellowship scholar, Jeff Thomas from Hobart, said he aims to use the award to help connect his research with practice in Tasmanian classrooms.

“In my PhD research, I’m looking at how to help disengaged students to reengage with education and I am focused on using the Fellowship to strengthen my ties with what’s happening in schools,” Mr Thomas said.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen congratulated Mr Thomas and the recipients of the Sue Napier Scholarship in Education for 2015, Lily Bartkevicius and Susan Katarzynski, both from Launceston.

“These awards exemplify the extraordinary career and impact of Sue Napier as an educator and advocate for Tasmania,” Professor Rathjen said.

“She provided an inspiring legacy and we are proud that the students we are celebrating today will continue that legacy.”

Ms Napier was a highly regarded educator and a member of the House of Assembly respected by all sides of politics. A former student and lecturer at the University of Tasmania, education remained close to her heart throughout her life.

“Her commitment to education was so deep and personal that shortly before she died she created a fund so that she could support practicing teachers in Tasmania to develop their skills,” Professor Rathjen said.

“Sue instigated the Fellowship and her friends, family and colleagues came together to raise funds and ensure the Sue Napier Postgraduate Fellowship was secured in perpetuity.”

The Tasmanian Government, through the Department of Education, funded the Sue Napier Scholarship in Education, which is awarded to a Bachelor of Education student and a Master of Teaching student each year.

**Information released by:**

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6324 3218 or 0438 510 616

Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)