

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Distinguished Tasmanians shine at UTAS Foundation Awards

Three distinguished Tasmanians who have made outstanding achievements as members of the UTAS Alumni family will be recognised tonight at the UTAS Foundation Awards Dinner.

The Premier of Tasmania, the Honorable Lara Giddings MP, will receive the Foundation Graduate Award.

Professor Ross Large, an internationally recognised economic geologist, and Reverend Professor Michael Tate AO, will both receive the UTAS Distinguished Alumni Award.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich the awards highlight the talent of UTAS Alumni.

“The Premier, Professor Ross Large and Reverend Professor Michael Tate are exceptional ambassadors for the University of Tasmania,” Prof Rich said.

“They are fine examples of what our Alumni can achieve across a diverse range of fields. Their vision, hard work, leadership and determination are truly inspiring for our next generation of leaders.”

More than 540 guests will attend the UTAS Foundation Awards Dinner, to also recognise the important contribution of donors.

“This year, 465 students will benefit from scholarships to study at UTAS through the UTAS Foundation thanks to our many generous supporters,” said Mr Miles Hampton, Chair of the Foundation.

“Scholarships enable students to concentrate on their studies and lower the day-to-day pressures of work and living expenses. In some cases, scholarships provide our students with an opportunity to gain experience in the workplace, international travel and field work when it might not have otherwise have been possible.

“The UTAS Foundation distributes over \$3.5 million in scholarships annually. Last year, \$6 million was donated from our very generous supporters. UTAS is very fortunate to have such support from the community.”

UTAS Vice-Chancellor designate Professor Peter Rathjen will be a guest speaker at the dinner.

About the award winners:

The Honorable Lara Giddings MP graduated from the University of Tasmania in Arts and Laws. At just 23, Ms Giddings was elected to the seat of Lyons in 1996, the youngest woman to ever be elected to an Australian parliament.

For over 15 years she has served the community with distinction and maintained her commitment to improving the provision of services to Tasmanians. Some of her achievements include securing increased funding for the Ten Days on the Island Festival, establishing the Tasmanian Leaders Program, developing legislation to establish an Integrity Commission in Tasmania, reforming Tasmania's Freedom of Information laws and amending legislation to recognise same sex parental rights.

This year, Ms Giddings became the first female Premier of Tasmania.

Professor Ross Large is an economic geologist who is internationally recognised for his research and leadership in the field of ore deposits. In 1989, he established the Centre for Ore Deposit Research (CODES), jointly funded by the Australian Research Council, the University of Tasmania, the mining industry and the State Government. It is now one of the top research institutes in the field of ore deposit geology and exploration in the world. CODES has an operating budget of around \$10million with 42 geoscientists and 95 postgraduate students who work with more than 50 mining and exploration companies worldwide.

Prof Large has received many awards for his work. He received the Haddon Forrester King Medal from the Australian Academy of Science in 2005. He became a Distinguished Professor at the University of Tasmania in 2009, and also received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Lulea in Sweden for his international research in ore deposits.

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

Rev Prof Tate gained First Class Honours in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968. In 1971, he studied a Bachelor of Arts at Oxford in the Honour School of Theology. An academic career at UTAS soon followed, including serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1977-78.

Rev Prof Tate has also had a long and distinguished career as a Federal politician. He served as the Minister for Justice from 1987-1993 as well as other portfolios.

He was Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Holy See from 1993-1996. He has also represented Australia at the International Court of Justice. In 1996, his outstanding achievements were recognised through the award of an officer of the Order of Australia.

In 1992, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by UTAS and has been an Honorary Professor since 1997. He was instrumental in establishing the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship which enables a UTAS graduate to gain experience at the War Crimes Tribunals at The Hague.

Rev Prof Tate is now a priest in the Hobart Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church.

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