

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Kevin Rudd to deliver Sir James Plimsoll lecture

The University of Tasmania will play host to Australia's Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd this week, when he delivers the third annual Sir James Plimsoll lecture.

Mr Rudd will deliver a lecture titled "Taking Centre Stage: The Rise of Asia and Its Implications for the Global Order."

Mr Rudd will deliver the 2011 Sir James Plimsoll lecture this Wednesday, July 13, from 6pm at the Stanley Burbury Theatre at the Sandy Bay campus.

The prestigious lecture series was launched in 2007, in honour of Sir James Plimsoll; one of the most distinguished diplomats in the history of Australia's Department of External Affairs (later the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Former Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has labelled Sir James "Australia's greatest ambassador".

Born in Sydney on April 25, 1917, Sir James Plimsoll AC, CBE, KstJ, not only served his country in a long and highly distinguished diplomatic career, but became one of the most respected Governors of Tasmania and much loved patron of the arts at the University of Tasmania.

Sir James began his diplomatic career in the late 1940s and subsequently rose through the ranks to serve in many of Australia's most senior diplomatic postings.

Sir James took up his position as Governor of Tasmania in 1982, and thus began his love of, and commitment to, not just the arts in Tasmania, but also the performing arts. A man of the people, Sir James was renowned for turning up, unannounced, to performances in the most remote areas of Tasmania.

A particular friend of the University of Tasmania, Sir James is remembered for his patronage and support through a memorial bust of him that takes pride of place in the university's Plimsoll Arts Centre, located in Hunter Street, near Hobart's waterfront.

Sir James died in office at Government House, Hobart, on May 8, 1987, shortly after the Queen had extended his term for a further three years.

The Sir James Plimsoll 2011 lecture is held in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Australian Institute of International Affairs (Tasmania).

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