

APPEAL

SUE NAPIER

Postgraduate Fellowship in Education



Sue Napier – the politician

There are few Tasmanians who would not be aware of Sue Napier.

She was a pioneer in state politics as Tasmania's first female Liberal cabinet minister, its first female Deputy Premier and the first woman to lead the Liberal Party in Australia – she was a courageous and determined advocate on many contemporary social issues.

While Sue Napier represented the Bass electorate in the Tasmanian House of Assembly she worked for all Tasmanians, introducing a range of initiatives which helped to change the state's direction for the better.

She held a broad range of ministerial and shadow responsibilities during her career. Two years after being elected to Parliament in 1992 she was made Assistant Minister for Women and Youth Affairs. In 1995 she became Minister for Transport and Youth Affairs and in 1996 Deputy Premier in the Rundle government and Minister for Education, the Arts, and Sport and Recreation.

In opposition she was the Tasmanian Parliamentary Liberal Party leader from July 1999 to 2001. From then until she retired early in February 2010 she managed a range of shadow portfolios – in health and human services; sport and recreation; women; education and the arts; social inclusion; the environment; and climate change and the leader of opposition business – a very heavy workload indeed – and all sides of politics agree she served with distinction.

For a woman in politics the bar was always high but Sue Napier set the standards for others. She fought tenaciously for issues she believed in and was a tireless worker who championed the cause of those who were disadvantaged or suffered discrimination. She was committed to the advancement of Aboriginal people in Tasmania and was an advocate for gay law reform.

Few achieve the wide respect she gained across all the political parties – for her integrity, her commitment to education and her knowledge of the parliamentary system. She was a shining example to all Tasmanian women who aspire to leadership in their communities.

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Sue Napier's vision

Sue Napier was passionate about education – she was a dedicated teacher and mentor to her own students – believing that inspirational teachers and quality teaching were the key to better student outcomes.

This passion for education was deep and personal. Shortly before Sue died she set up a trust fund, managed by the University of Tasmania Foundation, to financially support a fellowship program. This program was aimed at encouraging practising teachers to develop their skills through postgraduate education. Sue felt that providing this opportunity would empower participating teachers, in her words 'to make a difference' for their students.

Sue's family, friends and academic colleagues have since taken up her idea by initiating a capital-raising program to support the Sue Napier Postgraduate Education Fellowship Trust Fund. The fellowship will be available annually to Tasmanian teachers to undertake postgraduate study focused on enhancing their classroom teaching and actively improving the outcomes for their students.

The University Foundation will match dollar for dollar funds raised through this capital-raising program and the University will manage the awarding of the Fellowship each year from 2012.



Sue Napier – the educator

Education was always very close to Sue Napier's heart. She was a former teacher and staff member in the UTAS Education Faculty. She approached education intuitively and was a consistent advocate for improving learning opportunities for Tasmania's teachers. In her maiden speech to Parliament she dwelt on a number of issues in the Tasmanian education system which are still critical concerns today – participation rates, class sizes and how to gain the greatest advantage from keeping the most experienced and valuable teachers in their classroom roles. They were themes she adhered to over her time as Tasmania's Minister for Education and as shadow spokesperson for education.

Her last task before she retired from politics was to complete the Liberal Party education policy for the 2010 state election.

Sue was a well-qualified educator who recognised the benefits of postgraduate study. She received a BA (Hons) from the University of Tasmania, a Master of Arts from Leeds, specialising in sport psychology and motor learning, and a Diploma of Physical Education from the University of Tasmania.

Sue Napier Postgraduate Education Fellowship Trust Fund

Sue started the ball rolling on this concept with a generous donation. Our goal now is to raise an initial \$75,000 from the Tasmanian community through an appeal. The University of Tasmania Foundation has agreed to support the initiative by matching every dollar donated to the Fellowship, allowing around \$6000 to be available each year in perpetuity to support teachers awarded the Fellowship.

All donations to the trust over \$2 are tax deductible.

Join us in keeping the memory of Sue's contribution to her State alive through the Sue Napier Postgraduate Fellowship in Education – it will make a difference.



FOUNDATION

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