



**DEMOCRACY
ENVIRONMENT AND
CITIZENSHIP
RESEARCH UNIT**

Faculty of Arts

Friday 27th July

Faculty of Arts

Democracy, Environment and Citizenship Research Unit Forum

‘Commissions Against Corruption – Does Tasmania Need One? ’

Greg Barns

Barrister and Author

Anti-corruption Bodies as Educative as well as Inquisitorial

Jeff Malpas

Professor School of Philosophy

Commission Against Corruption or Commission for Ethics?

Max Bingham

The Hon Sir Max Bingham, **LLB (Hons), QC**

Is a Corruption and Misconduct Commission enough?

Matthew Denholm *(if available)*

Australian journalist - Why do we need an ICAC style body?

Venue: Law Lecture Theatre 2, Law School

Time: 1.00- 3.00 pm

All welcome

For information Kate.Crowley@utas.edu.au or visit:

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<http://www.utas.edu.au/government/HomePage/deacru.html>

Greg Barns is a barrister and author. He was a senior political adviser to a number of Liberal premiers and ministers from 1989-1999, and ran the Republic referendum campaign in 1999. He is the author of three books on Australian politics and writes a weekly column for *The Mercury*, and is *Crikey's* legal correspondent. Greg will argue that anti-corruption commissions only work if they resist the temptation to go after 'big scalps.' The role of such bodies should be educative as much as inquisitorial and to take account of the rights of individuals not to be vilified by commission hearings. The case of Brian Burke and Julian Grill are cases in point. The damage done by the WA CCC hearings to their chances of getting a fair trial is immense.



Jeff Malpas is a Professor in the School of Philosophy. He will argue that whilst unethical behaviour in government is not new, what is new (although perhaps not in Tasmania) is the public disregard for ethical conduct, and the triumph of the rhetoric of political pragmatism over ordinary standards of fairness and honesty. This is a crisis of ethics, indicative of a wider breakdown in ethics in our society, and cannot be addressed by an anti-corruption commission alone. What is needed is a body that can educate politicians, as well as the electorate, about the standards of ethical conduct that should be expected in politics and government. What has to be combated, above all, is not merely the fact of unethical behaviour, but the expectation that such behaviour is inevitable and to be tolerated. What is needed then is not merely a commission *against* corruption, but a commission *for* ethics with the positive task of promoting ethics in government, and investigating ethical impropriety.

The Hon Sir Max Bingham, LLB (Hons), QC

The Hon Sir Max Bingham has held the esteemed positions in Tasmania of Attorney-General, Minister for Police, Deputy Premier and Liberal Opposition Leader. He was also a member of the National Crime Authority (Commonwealth) from 1984-7, and between 1989-92 he was the inaugural Chair of the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission. As well as being a distinguished jurist, he is today a University of Tasmania Distinguished Alumni. He will argue that Tasmania needs both a corruption and misconduct commission and an educative effort to highlight ethical and philosophical concerns with respect to government practices.

Matthew Denholm

Journalist with the Australian – will join us depending on his news deadlines.