The Royal Society of Tasmania
August 2017 newsletter

Ghost Ships of the Arctic: The exploration of Sir John Franklin's HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*

presented by

Dr Marc-André Bernier

In 1845, Sir John Franklin and his men sailed from England on HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, hopeful to find the final link of the Northwest Passage. Both ships were abandoned in 1848, and it was believed that the crews walked to their deaths across the Arctic. The recent discoveries of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* re-open the interpretation of what happened to Franklin's men as they tried to escape the Arctic. This presentation will showcase the search efforts lead by Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Team in their exploration of these wrecks in one of Canada's most challenging environments.

Dr Marc-André Bernier is the Head of Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology team for which he has worked since 1990. He has worked all over Canada and the world, and has directed many notable projects including the excavation part of Sir William Phips' fleet, and the discovery of a World War II American plane in the St. Lawrence River. He is the former Chair and a member of the International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

When Wednesday 11 October, 6.00pm
Where Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus
Register www.events.utas.edu.au

Presented in partnership with the Canadian High Commission, The Royal Society of Tasmania, and the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery.

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Register now

Free lecture, all welcome

Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

8 pm Tues Sep 5: drinks 7.30 pm

Dr Tas van Ommen

Ice cores and climate: looking back over a million years of earth history

Ice cores from Antarctica and Greenland have reshaped our understanding of how the climate system operates. We see in the cycles of temperature and carbon dioxide the pulse of the ice ages back to 800 thousand years. Ice core records for recent millennia show detailed changes that are linked to drivers of Australian climate such as the westerlies or El Niño from which we can infer past periods of drought. Australia has been a leading nation in ice coring, particularly in East Antarctica, with a focus on studies of climate over recent millennia and into the last ice age. Now, an international initiative is maturing to drill for a continuous record extending into the very oldest ice, more than a million years old. Australia has announced its plans to lead such an expedition, which will commence early next decade. This talk will look at why such an old ice core record matters, and how the project might proceed.

Dr Tas van Ommen is the leader of climate research with the Australian Antarctic

Division. Tas has participated in six research expeditions to Antarctica, drilling ice cores and conducting airborne surveys of the ice and bedrock beneath. In his most recent trip he drove a tractor in a traverse across some 1300 km of the continent, crossing areas never previously visited. His research interests centre around high resolution ice core studies, connections with Australian climate and the stability and future of the Antarctic ice sheet. Tas is leading the Australian project to drill the 'million year' ice core and is also co-chair of the International Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences, an international planning body behind the search for this oldest ice core.

The Royal Society of Tasmania - 2017 Launceston Lecture Series

Dr Clare Hawkins

will present

Extinction Matters: Could Citizen Science Help?

in the Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

1.30 pm Sunday 24th September 2017

Admission: $6 General Public, $4 Friends of the Museum and Students
Free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania
As these events are popular, **RSVP is essential by Thursday 21st September 2017:**
Email bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au or telephone 6323 3798

NATURETRACKERS

Twenty-seven species are listed as having gone extinct from Tasmania in recent times. Threatened Species Day (7 September) marks the date since the last known thylacine died, in 1936. It's a time to reflect on why extinction matters to us, and how we might reduce our negative impacts on species survival. My own response, as a threatened species zoologist, has been to take up a Churchill Fellowship on citizen science, to engage the wider community in better understanding the needs of the plants and animals in their own backyards. In this talk, I share my findings on how this might work most effectively.

Dr Clare Hawkins carried out her Ph.D. on the fossa *(Cryptoprocta ferox)*, a semi-arboreal mammalian carnivore endemic to the forests of Madagascar. Its ecological similarities to the spotted-tailed quoll *(Dasyurus maculatus)* brought her to Tasmania in 2001 to study the latter species' habitat requirements. She subsequently joined the State Government, initially with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, and spent four years monitoring the impact and distribution of Devil Facial Tumour Disease. She is currently the IUCN Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group Red List coordinator and author of the Naturetrackers blog. For the Bookend Trust, she co-organised two 'Extinction Matters' BioBlitzes in 2016, held on either side of Threatened Species Day, to be reprised this year in November. Her current focus is on novel approaches to better monitor and manage Tasmania's diverse threatened fauna (from quolls and eagles to skinks, butterflies and burrowing crayfish). In 2015, she was awarded a Gallaugher Bequest Churchill Fellowship to develop citizen science study designs for long term monitoring.

This lecture is presented with the generous support of

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T 03 6323 3777
www.qvmag.tas.gov.au

Presented by

Dr Sue Cook

Ice Shelf Glaciologist,
Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre

ABSTRACT:
Events such as the 1 trillion-tonne iceberg which recently broke away from the Larsen C Ice Shelf capture headlines around the world. But what can these icebergs really tell us about the future of the Antarctic Ice Sheet? This lecture examines what we know about how icebergs form, how they are affected by climate change, and the implications for Antarctica's future contributions to sea level rise.

SPEAKER PROFILE:
Dr Sue Cook is a glaciologist studying the Antarctic Ice Sheet. Her work focuses on the floating ice shelves which occur where the ice sheet meets the ocean. This is where the ice sheet loses most of its mass. Her work ranges from fieldwork using geophysical equipment to directly measure melt rates underneath ice shelves, to computer models predicting the rate of iceberg formation. The aim of this research is ultimately to improve our predictions of how fast Antarctic will contribute to future sea level rise. Sue obtained her PhD from the Swansea University (UK) in 2012 and afterwards worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University Centre in Svalbard. She joined the University of Tasmania in 2015, where she is currently working for the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.

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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

Lecture Summary	Dr Sue Cook, Australian Institute of Physics Public Lecture 2017 Alexander and Leicester McAulay Winter Lecture Series 20th Sep 2017 8 - 9 pm
Venue	Physics Lecture Theatre 1, Sandy Bay campus
RSVP / Contact Information	Further details: Andrew Klekociuk (T 0418 323 341, E aip_branchsecretary_tas@aip.org.au)

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What's On at TMAG


THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
1843

Active members of the Society are kindly invited to apply for The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal.
Nominations close 30 Sept midnight.

The RST medal nomination form

An RST award especially for mid-career researchers!
Nominations are kindly invited for the M. R. Banks Medal.
Nominations close 30 Sept midnight.

The M. R. Banks medal nomination form

18-35s Apply Now! Australian Government 2018 Science and Innovation Awards. Applications close 5pm AEST Friday 13 October 2017

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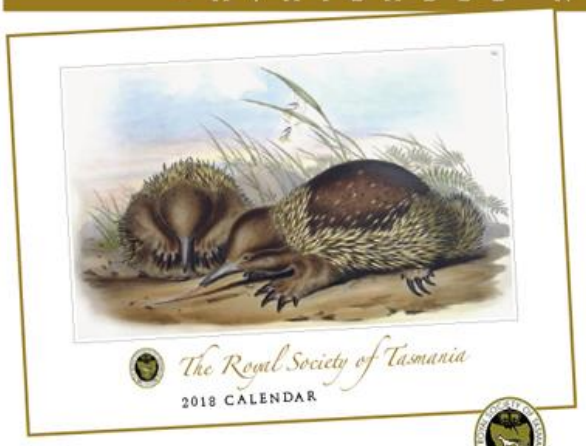

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