



2020 Christmas Function

Members and friends, please note that there has been a change of date advertised earlier this year for our Christmas lecture and dinner. The function will be held on **Monday 30 November** at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Sandy Bay.

The timing this year allows for some mingling at the venue before the lecture. The RYCT has a new outdoor deck area and, if the weather is suitable, you may care to enjoy a relaxing drink there to begin the festivities.

The venue is available from 5:00 pm and guests are asked to be seated by 5:45 when orders for plated meals will be taken. At 6:00 pm, a short meeting will be held to ratify and welcome any new members for 2020.

At 6:15, Antarctic historian John Williamson will deliver his address (- see information below) and the meal will be served following that at around 7:00 pm.

We are very much looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members and friends at this our only social gathering for 2020. Our Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, and Mr Richard Warner AM will be joining us for the evening.

We look forward to seeing you there. **See below for the Acceptance Form.**

Presentation abstract:

Hobart and Amundsen: An Antarctic gateway illusion?

In 1912 the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition stopped at Hobart on its way home from their successful journey to the South Pole. While the Amundsen expedition had immediate and substantial effects on Hobart as an Antarctic Gateway city, these impacts on Hobart's Antarctic life were not long lasting.

Within two years, governments around the world, and our own, dealt with both World War, economic depression and another war. When in 1947, the Australian government decided to renew its expeditions to the Antarctic, Hobart, once again and belatedly, began to play an important role as a south polar port.

It has always been tempting to assume that the success of the Amundsen Expedition's respite in Hobart was the key driver of making Hobart into an Antarctic Gateway. In fact, this does not seem to have been the case.

Biography: John Williamson (pictured above right)

John teaches senior History and Philosophy at Fahan School in Hobart where he is the Head of Humanities. John is also a Polar Historian who he has lectured in Antarctic History at the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies and worked as a guide/historian in Antarctica for *Quark Expeditions*.

For many years, John carried out research for 'Antarctic Tasmania' and he has been instrumental, with Dr Lorne Kriwoken, in developing the *Polar Pathways Tours*.



Above: The Amundsen expedition.

Above right: Roald Amundsen Norwegian explorer.

Left: Amundsen reaches the South Pole 14 December 1911.

INVITATION

The President and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania warmly invite members and friends to the

2020 Christmas Function

on **Monday 30 November 2020.**

Members and guests are requested to be seated by 5:45pm in the **Bruni Room**, Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay.

The address

Hobart and Amundsen: An Antarctic gateway illusion?

will be presented by

John Williamson

Head of Humanities at Fahan School and lecturer in Antarctic history

and will be followed by a two-course plated meal (\$55 per person).

Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

*If you have special dietary requirements, please contact the office.

*If attending only the lecture there is no charge, but please complete and return this acceptance form giving your name and address.



The Royal Society of Tasmania Christmas Function 2020 Acceptance Form

DINNER: Number of people attending ____ @ \$55 each **Total \$** ____

LECTURE ONLY: Number of people attending _____

NAME(S): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cheque Credit Card
Bank Deposit Commonwealth Bank BSB 067 000 Acc. 00800763

Card number: _____ Expiry: __ / __

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

RSVP: Please scan the completed form and email to royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au
or post to: The Royal Society of Tasmania, GPO 1166, HOBART TAS 7001
to arrive by **16 November 2020**

