



A Message from the President



Dear Members,

This month we welcome a bumper crop of eleven **new members**: Dr Adam Abersteiner, Priya Bindal, Prof Nathan Bindoff, Mary Collins, Dr Clive Crossley, Harriet Edquist, Susannah Fullerton OAM, Dr Will Hobbs, Lynne Uptin, Prof Kate Warner AC and Richard Warner AM, and returning member Christine Hurley. It is really pleasing that so many of our supporters have taken a vivid interest in recent activities of the Society and taken up membership to support our endeavours.

I am very pleased to tell you that the RST Council has recommended the members of our Art Committee (Prof Ross Large AO FTSE, Dr Anita Hansen, Mrs Marley Large) for **Honorary Life Membership** to recognise the truly Herculean efforts of the Committee in compiling a massive spreadsheet with all the available information related to 680 items on the Loans List, artworks that are currently on long-term loan to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. This work has taken them thousands of hours as volunteers, and is an extremely important gift to the Society as a record of this important collection. These nominations for Honorary Life Membership will now go forward to the next General Meeting of the Society.

The first joint **Royal Society of Tasmania–Beer Aquatic event** held on Thursday 26 August was a resounding success. To a packed house at the Hobart Brewing Company, Prof Pete Strutton gave a very well-received talk, *Dusty with a chance of phytoplankton*, on the link between land and ocean ecosystems. Many thanks to the speaker, organisers Dr Will Hobbs and Dr Christina Schallenberg, and the RST Councillors and other members who supported the event by attending. We hope that this will become an annual event on the RST calendar.

Our Northern Branch invites you to a lecture: ***Breathing New Life*** by Tim Smallbon on Sunday October 24, 2021 at QVMAG, at 1:30pm, with a Zoom link also available from rst.org.au. See p. 3 for more information. The Northern Branch also invites you to a lecture on Sunday 26 September by naturalist, writer and photographer **Sarah Lloyd OAM**. The lecture will focus on slime moulds (myxomycetes) – more information is available from our website.

On Sunday 3 October Associate Prof Rebecca Carey will give **the next Hobart lecture** at the RST Lecture Room, TMAG, starting at 3 pm: *Volcanology and adventures investigating eruptions on the seafloor*. I do hope you can join us for some of these events. If you have missed any past lectures, you can catch up with them on our [RST YouTube channel](#). This has been a roaring success, with over 4000 views to date.

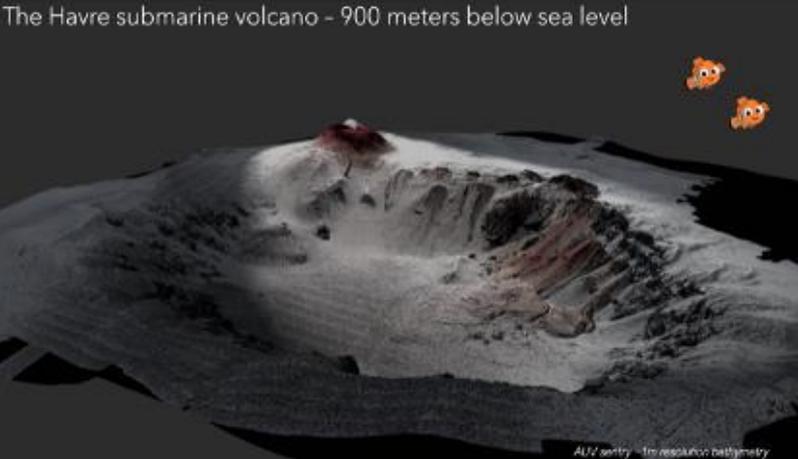
Date for your diary: the Society will be holding a promotional stall at the **Garden Clubs of Australia Plant Fair** to be held at 'Valleyfield', New Norfolk on the weekend of 30–31 October. See p. 7 for more information.

Warm regards,

Mary Koolhof, President

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RST October Lecture

Volcanology and adventures investigating eruptions on the seafloor

Dear Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters,

You are invited to a presentation by Associate Prof Rebecca Carey.

[Click for the link.](#) The password is RST.

[All details are available on the RST website.](#)

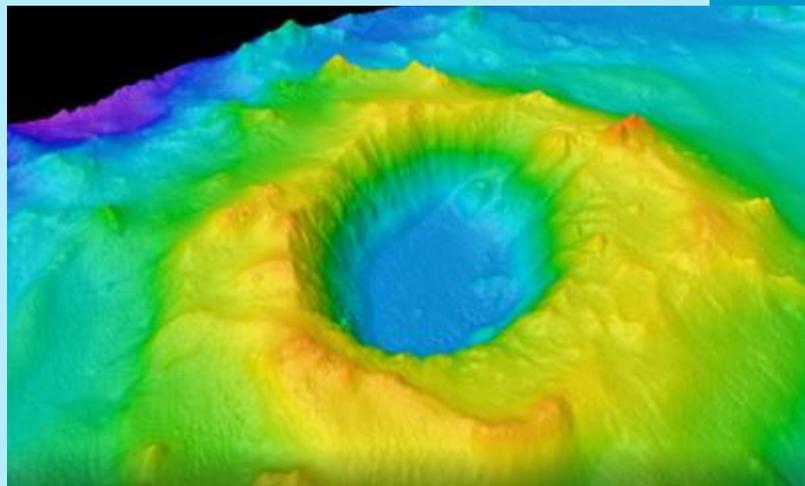
When: Sunday 3 October 2021 at 3:00 pm in the RST lecture room.

Volcanic eruptions into the deep submarine environment: are the dynamics and products the same as on-land?

Volcanic eruptions on land are spectacular events for scientists and the public alike. Submarine eruptions are probably no less spectacular, but they are rarely observed. The lack of observational opportunity has severely hindered the scientific understanding of submarine volcanism.

The deep-sea eruption of Havre submarine volcano north of New Zealand in 2012 was an exceptionally powerful event that produced a gigantic 400m² raft of floating pumice which alerted scientists to the eruption. Ship and robotic vehicle surveys of the volcano in 2015 have provided an unprecedented dataset from which to discover the similarities and differences between eruptions and their products on land versus in deep submarine settings. Our team-based studies of this event have elucidated the special complications that arise for eruption into water versus air. Our insights can be used by science teams for future submarine events.

Biography: Associate Prof Rebecca Carey is a former Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow, Tasmanian Tall Poppy Scientist of the Year, and the 2020 winner of the Australian Academy of Science Dorothy Hill Medal. Rebecca is interested in volcanic processes and environments, geological hazards, and indigenous cultural narratives around volcanic events. She leads the volcanology group at the University of Tasmania which includes two post-doctoral researchers, five PhD students and other students at Honours and undergraduate levels. Her current projects range from microanalytical studies of products from single eruptions to volcanology and geochemistry of hotspot volcanoes offshore Australia and the role of mantle plume volcanism in tectonics, and field studies of ancient mineralised volcanic terrains in Australia. She enjoys ocean swimming at Tarooma Beach, and fungi finding in the forest with her two children.



Postponement of the Northern Branch Statewide Event

Due to a confluence of circumstances, the Northern Branch Centenary event mentioned in the President's message in the last newsletter has been postponed. It was mentioned as a date for your diary on Sunday 10 October in Launceston.

New details will be posted when they become available.

Brief Details for Upcoming RST Events for Your Diary

More information about the following RST events will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Remaining events for 2021:

- **Sunday 7 November** – Dr Lila Landowski - Developmental neurobiology, neurorepair, neuropathy, stroke.
- **Thursday 9 December** – Prof Greg Lehman – Topic still to be finalised.



RST Northern Branch

invites you to a public lecture:

Breathing New Life

presented by **Tim Smallbon**

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 24 October 2021

Admission: Free for members, \$6 general admission, \$4 students, QVMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

BOOK for QVMAG lecture - 0417 330 118

or apcachris@gmail.com

for Zoom webinar, register at rst.org.au



Breathing New Life outlines the journey of the Cressy Research Station, founded in 1937 and becoming a Land Army training centre through the war, then a farmer training facility and then a centre of excellence for Tasmanian agriculture. But what has become of the Cressy Research Station today, and can it be revitalised with a new breath of life and scientific purpose?

Tim Smallbon has enjoyed a career in Tasmanian Agriculture spanning almost 40 years. Always having a passion for applied science, detail and technical skill led him to train as a seed and vegetable crop agronomist. Embracing the challenge of lifelong learning, he completed a Master's degree by research within the last five years and was appointed Research Manager for Upper Murray Seeds to breathe new life into the Cressy Research Station.

Generously supported by



Royal Society Office

The Royal Society office is open on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am to midday. Enter the Custom House building from the **Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' Desk**. TMAG's Safety Plan requires all visitors' details to be recorded or use the QR code.

A phone call prior to your visit will help with more speedy arrangements.

Please phone between the hours of 9:00am – 12 noon on a Wednesday morning on 03 6165 7014.

Main contact:

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

Email: admin@rst.org.au

Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

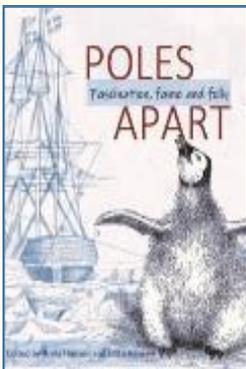
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

Membership forms and renewals can either be posted to the Post Box (see above) clearly marked 'Royal Society of Tasmania' or completed and emailed to the address above.

Book and calendar sales are available either through the RST shop, on our [website](#), by email or by phone through the office.

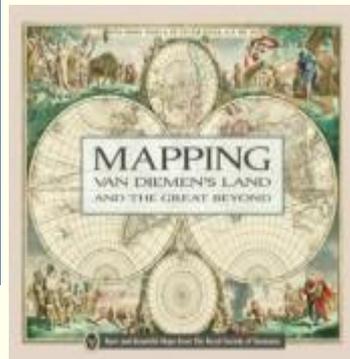
10% discount for Members on these books.

Discounted prices for members are shown beside each book:



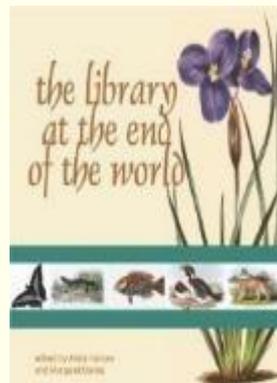
Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

Hardcover (\$22.50) and Softcover (\$13.50)



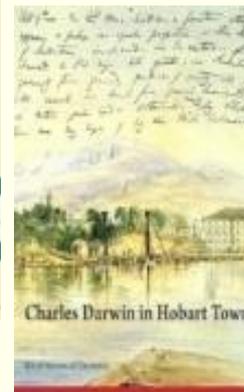
Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



The Library at the End of the World

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



Charles Darwin in Hobart Town

Softcover (\$32)



Papers and Proceedings

Since 1849, the Society has published annual volumes of refereed scholarly papers. The *Papers and Proceedings* publishes research that focuses on Tasmania or is particularly relevant to Tasmanians.

Personal subscription to the *Papers and Proceedings* are made through membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Prices for back editions of *Papers and Proceedings* range from \$10 – \$40 per volume. Members of the Society are eligible for a

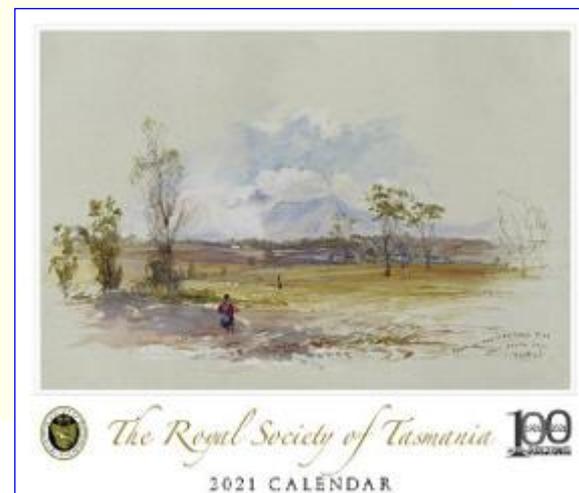
10% discount, please contact the **Honorary Editor** at editor@rst.org.au

Royal Society 2021 Calendar

Features 13 lovely watercolours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow. Retail price: \$8.00 plus postage and handling as applicable.

Members of the Royal Society can also order calendars from the [website](#) or the RST office at the newly discounted price of \$7.00.

Purchase direct from the Royal Society Office on Wednesday mornings 9:00 to 12:00 noon or email admin@rst.org.au or phone Wednesday mornings on 03 6165 7014.



**RST stall at the GCA Southern Tasmania Zone Plant Fair
'Valleyfield', 120 Hamilton Rd, New Norfolk.
Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 October 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.
at the family property of the past
Governor of Tasmania, Prof Kate Warner AC.**

Valleyfield house (pictured below) is listed with the National Trust and features a tennis court, pony paddocks and a main drive lined with English oaks and Dutch elms. Governor Lachlan Macquarie originally granted the *Valleyfield* land to two ex-convicts, William and Mary Abel, on 20 September 1813. The Abels built a house that, although it has been considerably modified, has been lived in continuously ever since. The surrounding land has also been cultivated by various owners over that period.

William and Mary Abel and their four children lived at *Valleyfield* from 1813 until 1826. During this time Abel increased his land holdings near New Norfolk and on the Macquarie Plains. However, the family gave up living at *Valleyfield* after a tragic accident in 1826. On the night of 4 April at around 10:15 pm William Abel mistakenly thought that a shadow of a person in white, glimmering in the dark part of the house passageway, was a bushranger. Abel shot at him with his fowling piece, then found that the intruder was his own son, Henry. Tragically, Henry was dead.

The Abels sold the property and a new house was built in 1827 by George Lowe, another ex-convict, who licensed it as the King's Head Inn. Together with a business partner, George Mills, Lowe ran a four-horse coach service to Hobart Town. It would depart New Norfolk at noon and arrive in Hobart Town a bumpy four hours later.



In 1832 George Lowe sold the inn to Irishman Captain Richard Armstrong (1788–1859). Armstrong had served in the Bengal Army for the East India Company before retiring to Van Diemen's Land. He renamed the inn *Bingfield* and it is believed that he was responsible for putting the ornate wooden verandah screen and the balustrade featuring an eight-pointed star, a symbol of wealth, on the house (see left).

Captain Armstrong managed the property poorly, got into financial difficulty and, in 1854, sold the property to Ebenezer Shoobridge. The Shoobridge family renamed the property *Valleyfield* and were the first people to import

hops into Tasmania. They ran the property as a hop and apple farm, built two hop kilns to dry the hops and planted many of the now-established trees that grace the garden. An innovative man, Shoobridge experimented in enriching the soil by ploughing in green crops.

Hugh Ashton Warner, leased *Valleyfield* in partnership with the Shoobridges from 1910, and purchased the property in 1919. The Warner family has dwelt on the property ever since.

Our Society will have a promotions and book stall at this event. Other exhibitors at the Fair will include local garden clubs, Derwent Valley-based companies, **Angus Stewart** and his native plants, professional horticultural-related items, specialty plants such as irises, lilliums, orchids, succulent specialist, perennials and more. Coffee van plus Silverbean Catering will have delicious snacks (including wine by the glass).

\$10 entry. Children under 12 free. **Cash only event.**

Parking: To make parking easier on the busy Hamilton Road/Lyell Highway, please make use of the **free mini bus shuttle service** by parking at **The Valley Sports Bar, 21 Back River Road, New Norfolk.**

To get there from Hobart, drive to the Lyell Highway side of the river. Just after the bridge across the river, you will see a road sign 'Magra 3'. This is Back River Road (C184). Turn onto the C184. Cross the railway lines, see the Fire Station on the left and the Valley Sports Bar is on the right, approx. 250 m from the turnoff. Park your car and then catch the free bus.

Volunteer Helpers Required

RST Promotional Stall at the GCA Southern Tasmania Zone Plant Fair

'Valleyfield', 120 Hamilton Rd, New Norfolk.

Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 October 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Whole day if you like or two shifts per day: 10:00 to noon; and noon to 4:00pm.

Hosted by the Derwent Valley Garden Club.

Anyone volunteering has free entry to the garden and the plant fair.

Please contact Julie Rimes 0419 594 206 before 15 October to offer your help.

Vale: Robin Malcolm McQuilkin (30.11.41 – 18.05.21)

Rob grew up in Melbourne and attended Ashburton Primary School and Scotch College, matriculating in 1959. At school, Rob excelled in academic studies and was a champion short and middle distance runner; also representing both his school and Victoria in hockey.

Rob attended the University of Melbourne from 1960, graduating with a doctorate from The School of Chemistry in 1967. He then travelled to the UK to University College London where he spent three years as a post-doctoral fellow, researching non-benzenoid aromatic molecules in annulene chemistry, an important field at the time. In 1969, he married Elizabeth Hall at Forest Row in Sussex, and after another year in London, they moved to California where Rob worked for a year as a research chemist at the pharmaceutical company Syntex in Stanford Industrial Park, Palo Alto.

The couple returned to Australia in 1971 and Rob joined a small team of CSIRO scientists in Hobart, in their research into chemical control of the siren wasp. In 1974, he began work with Diagnostic Services, a Tasmanian statewide pathology company, where he became their chief biochemist and remained with them for twenty-seven years.

During this time, the couple made their home in Hobart where they brought up their three children, Emma, Jenny and Andrew. Rob was an active member of the Tasmanian Branch of The Royal Australian Chemical Institute and its President for three years. He was also President of the Hobart Branch of Old Scotch Collegians Association for thirteen years; and a long-time member of both The Biological Club and The Royal Society. He retired from his work in pathology in 2001, in plenty of time to travel widely and to enjoy gardening, fishing and cycling.

He passed away in May this year, succumbing to Alzheimer's after a five-year battle. He is survived by his wife, their three children and five grandchildren.

A life well-lived, a man much loved and respected by everyone who knew him.

IODINE DEFICIENCY SYMPOSIUM

THE STATUS OF IODINE IN TASMANIA

Symposium will be opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

20 November 2021
PEPPERS
SILO HOTEL



A landmark symposium will be presented in Launceston featuring Australia's leading researchers in the field of Iodine Deficiency.

A full day Symposium with keynote speaker Prof Creswell Eastman will be followed by a dinner with guest speaker Dr Mark Veitch - Director of Public Health, Tasmania.

On Sunday there will be an Medical Walk in Launceston followed by a tour of the Launceston Whisky Distillery & BBQ Lunch.

For registration [CLICK HERE](#)

Symposium Secretariat - The Clifford Craig Foundation

admin@cliffordcraig.org.au



The Status of Iodine in Tasmania a Medical History and Research Symposium

Public Symposium 20 November 2021
at Peppers Silo Hotel, Launceston

Registration is now open for this landmark seminar supported by the Royal Society of Tasmania, showcasing a variety of presentations on iodine deficiency in Tasmania, its history, management and academic research in the 21st century. The keynote speaker, Professor Creswell Eastman <https://www.ign.org/how-creswell-eastman-saved-a-million-brains.htm>, will speak on Iodine Deficiency Disorders from Tasmania to Tibet, followed by 10 internationally recognised speakers presenting the latest information on iodine deficiency, climate change effects (the Iodine Cycle – marine and terrestrial), prophylaxis, management and what the future holds for the control of iodine deficiency in Tasmania, Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The symposium will be opened by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

Registration through Eventbrite for the full day symposium is \$80.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/iodine-symposium-tickets-157426901099>

Zoom registration will be available for international participants.

Associated social events include a dinner with after-dinner speaker Dr Mark Veitch, Tasmanian Director of Public Health. On Sunday 21 November, Dr John Paull and Dr Dan Huon will lead a medical history walk and toast to Dr John Pugh, which will be followed by a tour of Launceston Whisky Distillery and BBQ lunch.

Please note: Continuing Professional Development Credits

Medical, nursing, allied Health and other professionals attending the Iodine Symposium are eligible for CPD activity points which can be self-logged post event.

Closing date 15 October.



The Society's Library



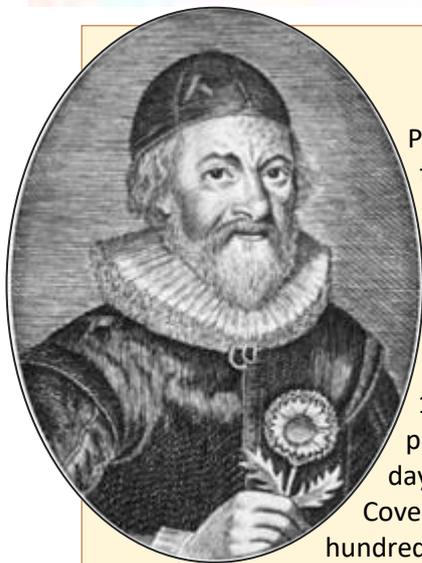
Special & Rare Collections (5th floor, Morris Miller Library at UTAS Sandy Bay campus) including TRST Library asks that all visitors and researchers comply with the following COVID-safe practices:

- Please make appointments via special.collections@utas.edu.au to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5pm, Monday to Wednesday, closed for lunch 12:30 – 1:30 pm.
- Maximum occupancy of two visitors at any one time and must be adhered to.
- You are required to maintain the recommended 1.5m physical distance.
- Make sure you have had your temperature checked before entering the Library.
- Temperature checks will be undertaken at the entrance to Morris Miller Library.
- If you are not a staff member or student at UTAS, you will need to sign in on entry to Morris Miller Library to enable contact tracing.
- The Library is providing hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and carrying out additional cleaning.
- If you are feeling unwell, please do **not** come to the Library.

Library staff will continue answering all email enquiries and can scan and email requests as needed, so if you don't wish to visit the Library in person, there is no need. We will also be quarantining material handled by researchers and other visitors for 72 hours, in line with UTAS Libraries' COVID-safe practice.

Any queries please contact special.collections@utas.edu.au

Juliet Beale, Senior Librarian, Collections
Library Services | Academic Division
University of Tasmania



John Parkinson (1567–1650)

Parkinson was widely regarded as the last of the great English herbalists and one of the first of the great English botanists, being Apothecary to James I and Botanist to his successor Charles I. He is known for two monumental works *Paradisi in sole paradus terrestris* describing the proper cultivation of plants; and *Theatrum botanicum*, the most complete and beautifully presented English treatise on plants of its time.

Parkinson became an apprentice apothecary in London in 1585, rising through the ranks to become a founding member of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. In 1622, he gave up his career in apothecary to devote himself to gardening and studying plants. One of the most eminent gardeners of his day, he kept a botanical garden at Long Acre in Covent Garden where he cultivated over four hundred plants by the end of his life; maintained close

Above: John Parkinson.
(Courtesy en.wikipedia.org)

relations with other important English and Continental botanists, herbalists and plantsmen; collected new varieties of plants through contacts abroad; funded plant-collecting expeditions to Iberia and Africa; introduced exotic flowers into England to study their healing properties; and was the first person in Britain to grow the Spanish double-flowered daffodil. Parkinson believed that gardens are integral to life: they are necessary "for Meat or Medicine, for Use or for Delight".

His first work, *Paradisi in sole paradus terrestris* (1629), is often considered the first purely horticultural book in England – that is, a book about gardens and flowers. The playful woodcut title page shows not the traditional Garden of Eden, but Parkinson's own garden with Adam and Eve as caretakers. Some featured flowers – such as the tulip, fritillary, dog's tooth and cyclamen – were new to England, sourced from eastern Europe and the Middle East. Nearly every plant depicted on the title page has its own section within the book. The title of the book is also playful, translating as





'Park in sun's terrestrial paradise', a pun on his surname.

This encyclopedia of meticulously detailed, illustrated and grouped plants was a new way of displaying horticultural and botanical information. Bridging the separation between botanists and apothecaries, it demonstrates how botany and gardening were evolving in the seventeenth century into a new form of science: the medicinal use of a plant became a scientific attribute of the plant.

The book is in three sections: the flower garden, the kitchen garden, and the orchard garden and includes descriptions of approximately 1,000 plants giving information about their origins, alternative names, appearance, medicinal properties and social uses. Almost 800 of the plants were illustrated, in 108 full-page plates. The frontispiece is signed by the engraver Christoph Switzer who is generally regarded as having provided the woodcuts for all the illustrations. Parkinson dedicated the book to Queen Henrietta Maria and in return, was given the title *Botanicus Regius Primarius* (First Botanist to the King) by King Charles I.

Eleven years later, Parkinson published *Theatrum botanicum* (1640), a massive compendium describing the medicinal uses of approximately 3,800 plants in English gardens, many of them never described in print before, and referencing many other authors of herbals and botanical books. An herbal - unlike a flora - is concerned with the medicinal properties of plants, and herbals had been the dominant form of botanical publication ever since Greek physician Dioscorides wrote *De materia medica* in the 1st century AD. Often called the last of the English herbals, Parkinson intended the book to be a reliable guide for apothecaries – and it remained so for over a century after his death.

But the age of the herbal was over. With the advent of scientific enquiry, it was gradually superseded by the flora: a descriptive catalogue of plants of a geographical area or geological period, with standardised descriptions and consistent terminology. Surprisingly, Parkinson published the first flora eleven years *before* the last herbal. He died in 1650 and was buried at Saint Martin-in-the-Fields in London. Parkinson is commemorated by a statue in the Palm House at Sefton Park, Liverpool; and in the Central American genus of leguminous trees *Parkinsonia*.

Both of Parkinson's books are held in the Special & Rare Collections:

- *Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris* / collected by John Parkinson. London: Printed by H. Lownes and R. Young, 1629.
Morris Miller-Royal Society Rare-Folio SB 453.3 .G7 P37 1629 This book was donated in memory of Leonard E

Couchman (1901-1992), electrical engineer and lepidopterist

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/14342/>
Biodiversity Heritage Library
<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/title/24488>

- *Theatrum botanicum* = The theater of plants, or, An herball of a large extent / collected by the many years traivale, industry and experience in this subject by John Parkinson. London: Printed by Tho. Cotes, 1640.
Morris Miller-Royal Society Rare-Folio QK 41 .P37 1640
Biodiversity Heritage Library
<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/title/152383>



What's Currently on Display at QVMAG?

Left: *Pelecanus Empties 2020* (Huon pine, steel, enamel, Alistair Mooney).

Alistair Mooney grew up in George Town, Tasmania, and has developed a sincere and complex connection to the wildlife of the region. He uses both hyperlocal and global materials to respond to Tasmania's contemporary landscape.

In his **Nest** exhibition, Mooney exhibits birds which are sweet, cheeky and sometimes monumental. They perch on, poke into and play with common items of discarded rubbish found throughout the national parks of Tasmania. They remain stoic observers of us as we occupy their space, unmoved by our irresponsible treatment of their environment.

Littered with crushed cans, empty bottles and flat tyres, the works in *Nest* remind us of youthful adventures in the bush. Mooney's sculptures are carved from salvaged blocks of endemic Huon pine, and reflect on the breeding ground that we have created. They provoke us to think about what kind of nest we are each building for our future.



Right: Diorama: *A colony of Boffins* (sublimation transfer on fabric, 2020, Anne Zahalka).

The artist, Anne Zahalka, states: *Oceanic crust and rock from deep below the Earth's surface formed Macquarie Island millions of years ago.*

The sub-Antarctic climate of this ecosystem with its unique megaherbs is of major geoconservation significance. Its vulnerable flora and fauna have flourished since the eradication of rodents and other feral animals introduced by early explorers. Adventurers and volunteers now navigate this lush landscape via elevated walkways so as not to disturb its fragile vegetation.

In her exhibition, Zahalka, one of Australia's leading photographers, has turned her lens towards QVMAG's historic display of dioramas. **Lost Landscapes** is the latest iteration in Zahalka's series *Wild Life*, a project in which she unearths habitat displays from around Australia and re-imagines them to reflect contemporary concerns about the environment.

In an era of climate change awareness, this exhibition calls us to notice the drastic changes in the Tasmanian environment and our role in its degradation or preservation. Using digital manipulation to interrupt the idealistic and static landscapes depicted in the dioramas, Zahalka offers both apocalyptic and utopian visions of what our future could be.



Left: The route to Tasmania taken by the first people who migrated to Australia. The locations and dates indicate evidence of human occupation (image modified from that presented by Tobler et al. , 2016)

***The First Tasmanians: Our Story* exhibition** – Currently, evidence suggests that people first arrived in Australia, by boat from southeast Asia, about 50 000 years ago. At that time, mainland Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania were part of a large landmass called Sahul. This long-isolated land had its own unique flora and fauna. It took just a few thousand years for people to spread to all parts of Sahul. Aborigines were living in the south-eastern part of Australia by about 46 000 to 44 000 years ago.

About 43 000 years ago, the sea level had dropped enough to allow people to



Above: *Kelp water carrier*, 2016, Vicki West (bull kelp, tea-tree wood, strong made from river reed).

cross the Bass land bridge. The First Tasmanians then migrated from south-eastern Australian populations across this land bridge for thousands of years. They maintained links with mainland populations, cultures and technology. This continued through the Last Glacial Maximum, until about 14 000 years ago, when the rising sea separated the island of Tasmania and mainland Australia.

From this point, Aboriginal people in Tasmania became isolated from the rest of the world and began to develop unique cultures and traditions. They moved throughout their lands in regular cycles, seasonally, annually, with some variations. As they moved from place to place, they burned the landscape as required, producing a complex variety of ecosystems and the high levels of biodiversity that we know today.

The First Tasmanians: Our Story exhibition – Stone Tools

Tools made from flaked stone (*laneerparrener*) have been the basis of much human technology for over two million years. Because they do not break down as quickly as other materials, stone tools are often the only visible evidence of early human activity.

In Tasmania, tools found in deposits approx. 40 000 years old have been found in the Jordan River valley. (See map at right of tool collection locations.)

Stone tools can provide much information about the people who used them and for what purpose they were used. Tools of different types of stone may indicate the deliberate transport of stone across the landscape. This could have been part of a cycle of movement by a local group, or a wider trade network in which stone was passed between neighbouring clans.

Stone tools are an important part of Tasmania’s cultural landscape and must not be removed from where they are found. Stone knapping is the technique of removing flakes of stone from a core of rock (see picture below right) by striking it with another stone called a hammer stone. The process starts with the selection of raw materials. Fine-grained or glassy stone that can be flaked in any direction is best. The stone is first shaped to produce a core, from which flakes can be removed. Eventually the core becomes too small to use and is discarded, or may be converted into a tool itself.

Flakes with thick edges were used as knives, while those with broader edges were suitable for heavier scraping (of animal skin, for example). With the right materials, a skilled knapper can produce an edge as sharp as a scalpel. The edge could be maintained by re-working when it became blunt or broken.

Only certain types of stone can be used to make stone tools. Location where quantities of such stone was available usually became quarry sites. Often a stone tool found at a living place is made from a different stone from that found in the local area. This means that people have moved the stone, probably in the form of a core or large flake, from which more tools would be made as needed. The highest quality stone was traded over great distances.

Frequently tools and cores would be left at a living site for later use. This saved the wasted effort of carrying large amounts of heavy stone. When that site was re-visited, old tools could be re-worked and new ones made from old cores.

Right: Stone tools found at Five Mile Bluff, site 1 (map top right).



We are open!

Untimed ticket bookings now available

www.tmag.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Visiting TMAG: It is no longer essential to book your visits to TMAG in advance, but when you arrive, you will need to register. The quickest and easiest way to do this is with the **Check In Tas** app: [click here to go to the Tasmanian Government website](#) to download the app.

The Museum Shop is open.

TMAG from Home initiative is available from the TMAG website.

Free tours for small groups are available on Saturdays and Sundays, and run for approximately 40 minutes.

Tour times are subject to change and availability and can be checked by phoning (03) 6165 7000. For guided tours for clubs, tourist groups or other organisations, please [click here](#).

TMAG Art Tour – 11:00 am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Join the TMAG Art Guides for a tour of our current art exhibitions.

TMAG Highlights Tour – 1:30 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays Join the TMAG guides for a highlights tour of the treasures of the Central and Henry Hunter galleries and the historic Commissariat Complex and the Bond Store exhibitions.

pARTicipate - Print making workshop

Join celebrated Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Allan Mansell for this very special printmaking workshop. In this four-hour workshop, you will learn about different artistic styles and techniques whilst Allan shares cultural stories. Create your own artwork on the day using different materials and processes.

Date: Sunday 26 September 2021. Time: 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

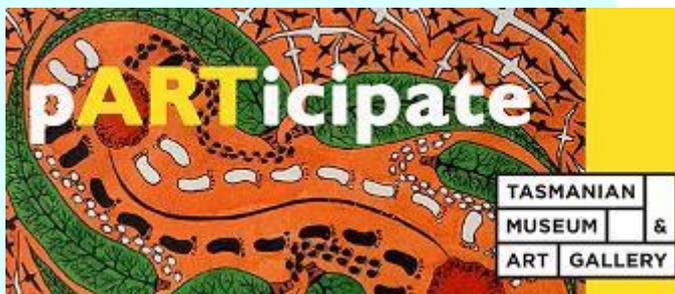
Tickets: \$10, all materials provided. Suitable for ages 14+ Bookings essential. [Book now](#).

pARTicipate sessions

The TMAG Art Guides are back hosting their popular *pARTicipate* sessions each month.

Date: Sunday 3 October 2021 Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$10, all materials provided. Suitable for ages 14+ [Visit TMAG Events site to book](#).



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