



### A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Being a “Royal” society, created in 1843 during the reign of Queen Victoria, it was appropriate that we conveyed condolences to the royal family following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Past-President Mary Koolhof and Honorary Secretary Marley Large signed the condolences book at Government House on behalf of the Society.

Although the royal connection has been a critical element in the longevity and success of the RST, having “Royal” in the name conveys little about our core mission of advancing knowledge and is somewhat misleading. We constantly have to explain ourselves. And for some, the name is an immediate barrier. Food for thought ...

At the September meeting, the RST Council resolved to make a financial contribution to TMAG’s *taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country* project and to loan the RST Artwork “Methinna” by Simpkinson de Wesselow to TMAG for the associated exhibition. *taypani* is a long-term TMAG project designed to facilitate reconnection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community with historic cultural objects held in institutions globally. The exhibition runs from 1 October this year until 12 February 2023. (Image below: Installation view, *taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country*, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2022)



Read on for information about forthcoming events – lectures by **Associate Professor Rebecca Carey** on Sunday 16 October and **Dr Mike Pook** on Sunday 23 October – and the annual **RST Doctoral Awards**. The two Doctoral Awards are intended for outstanding recent PhD graduates whose research involves Tasmania or was conducted at a Tasmanian institution.

Best regards,

Prof Jocelyn McPhie,  
President

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## M R Banks Lecture

Please join us for an upcoming lecture from The Royal Society of Tasmania's 2021 M R Banks Medal winner

**Associate Professor Rebecca Carey**  
Volcanologist, School of Natural Sciences, UTas.



### **Bang, Fizzle, Pop: Case studies of the interactions between volcanoes and magma with the ocean**

**Sunday 16th October 2022, 3:00 pm**

At the Royal Society of Tasmania's Lecture Room, Custom House, 19 Davey Street, Hobart or via Zoom webinar.

To attend the lecture in person, [please register](#).

Registrations close at 2:00 pm on Saturday 15 October 2022.

Register [here for the Zoom webinar](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



**Above:** Lava from the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii flowing into the ocean. Photo from pinterest.com

ing of how magmas and volcanoes interact with the ocean. In this presentation, I will describe case studies of recent submarine eruptions and underwater exploration of the eruption products to highlight advances and remaining challenges in the study of underwater volcanoes.

**Biography:** Associate Professor 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 won the RST's M R Banks Medal as outstanding mid-career researcher in 2021.

Rebecca is interested in volcanic processes and environments, geological hazards, and indigenous cultural narratives around volcanic events. Her research focuses on understanding volcanic eruptive histories, mechanisms and drivers of volcanic eruptions, explosive eruption plumes, submarine volcanoes and eruption dynamics, and volcanic hazards.

**Right:** Lava from the Kilauea volcano explodes as it reaches the Pacific Ocean. Photo from telegraph.co.uk



Admission is free for RST members; \$6 general admission; \$4 students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

**Abstract:** Volcanic eruptions are fascinating for scientists and the public alike. Visual observations of eruption on land have been central to the scientific understanding and development of various models used in hazard forecasting. However, in a submarine setting the interaction between hot magma and seawater is hidden and therefore not well understood. Recent submarine eruptions like the Hunga Tonga eruption in 2022 are extraordinary and can be devastating.

International scientific teams with innovative robotic technologies have responded to these events to characterise and further understand submarine eruptions. These well-characterised events underpin step changes in our understand-



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to a public lecture by

**Dr Mike Pook**

## Living with climate variability – the Tasmanian experience

**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 23 October 2022

**Full COVID vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.**

**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk.

**Admission:** free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania, \$6 general admission, \$4 for students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends, and members of Launceston Historical Society.

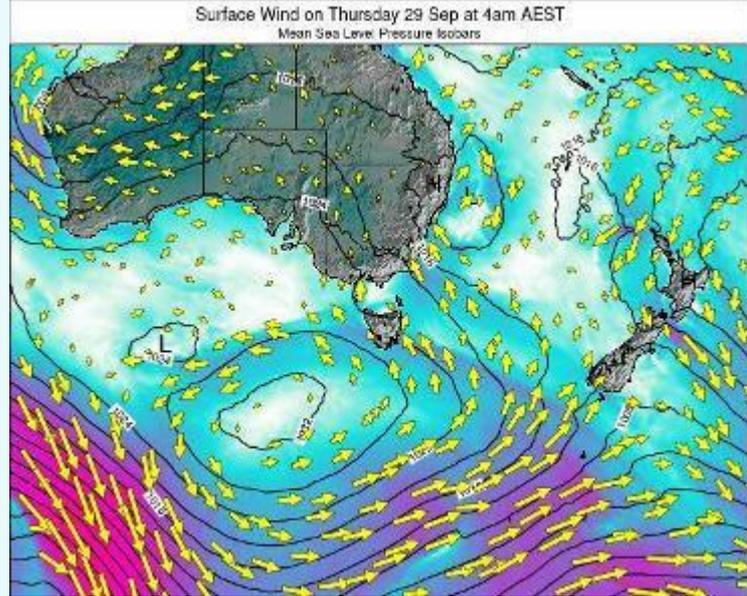


For Zoom webinar, [register here](#).

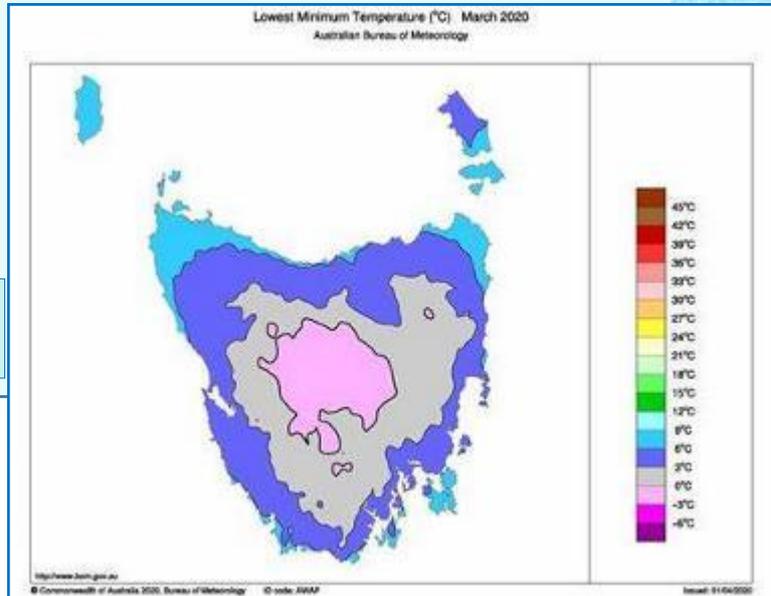
**Abstract:** The location of Tasmania exposes the island to climate influences from the tropics and subtropics to the north and the Southern Ocean and Antarctica to the south. This presentation will identify the dominant climate drivers in the region and interpret how their interactions contribute to climate variability in Tasmania on seasonal, interannual and longer timescales. The distinction between climate and weather will be discussed.

**Biography:** Mike Pook is an Honorary Fellow at CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere. He worked as a meteorologist in Australia and Papua New Guinea before becoming a senior forecaster in Hobart and spent a summer at Casey in Antarctica. After completing a PhD at the University of Tasmania, he became an academic, science communicator and administrator at the Antarctic CRC until taking up a research scientist position with CSIRO. Mike was ABC Tasmania's TV weather presenter for about 18 years.

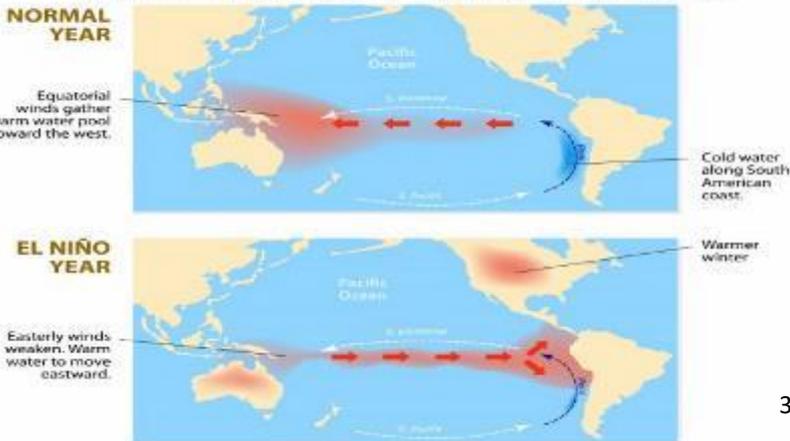
**Left:** By deviantart.com  
**Below:** iascurrent.com



**Image above:** mountain-forecast.com  
**Image below:** pinterest.com



## THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON



Generously supported by



## RST Lecture and Webinar

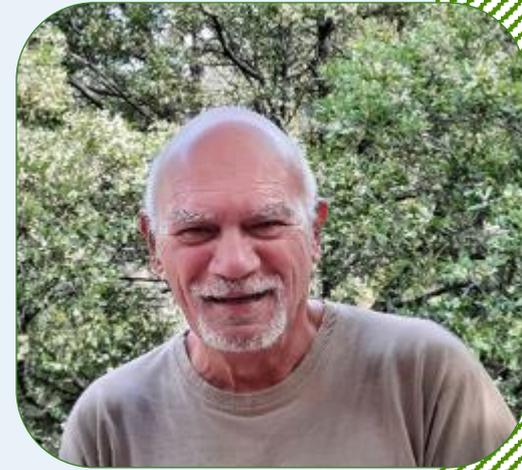
Dear Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters,

You are invited to a lecture  
at the IMAS Aurora Lecture Theatre, Castray Esplanade, Hobart.

**Tasmanian Aboriginal leader, Rodney Gibbins**

will present a lecture entitled

**“Truth telling and treaty as it relates to Tasmania now”**



**When:** Sunday 13 November, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

**Registration:** If you will attend in person, [please register](#) before 3 pm Saturday 12 November.

Alternatively, you may view the lecture remotely via Zoom. Please register in advance to ensure that you receive an email containing instructions for joining the webinar on the day of the talk. [Click here to register for Zoom.](#)

Admission is free for RST members; \$6 general admission; \$4 students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

For 60,000+ years the palawa people had sovereignty across this land lutruwita. All of this changed with the arrival of the white man. The invasion radically changed us in a very short period of time, our culture was interrupted, our language and freedoms were taken from us. This has resulted in continuing contemptuous views and actions by successive governments that have rendered us almost voiceless and powerless in our own country.

We began the fight back in the early 1970s. We developed our own political movements and rallied as a people. Five years ago, the *Uluru Statement* was released. It was a forerunner for states and territories to develop their own policies towards treaty and truth telling.

In this lecture, I will outline the responses of successive governments to Aboriginal issues and consider the needs and ambitions of the Aboriginal community in the development of a treaty and the truth telling process.

### About Rodney Gibbins

My name is Rodney Gibbins. I am a 70-year-old old palawa man born in Launceston. As a child, I experienced constant physical and racial harassment. This was the experience as well of most, if not all, my community and this harassment was a direct consequence of the subjugation by the broader white community towards the Aboriginal community.

I have been actively involved in Aboriginal politics since the early 70s and served in both the state and Commonwealth governments as a Senior Aboriginal Program and Policy Officer for over 30 years. I am currently retired.





## Call for Nominations for the RST Doctoral (PhD) Awards 2022

Nominations will open for the annual RST Doctoral Awards on 1 October 2022. Two awards are offered for recent PhD graduates who have made significant advances in the course of their doctoral research. The value of each award is \$1,000 (AUD). Awardees may be invited to present a lecture to the Society.

Conditions of the Doctoral Awards:

- The awards shall be made to nominees who are no more than three years, or three years equivalent-full-time, after their PhD graduation.
- The awards are intended to recognise significant advances based on the PhD research, as shown by published or in press peer-reviewed papers in national/international journals or equivalent outputs in fields where publications are not the norm.
- The research should have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation.
- Nominations may be made by anyone, although no self-nominations will be accepted.
- Nominations must be received before COB, 15 November 2022. [Click for nomination guidelines.](#)

Jocelyn McPhie, on behalf of the RST Honours and Awards Committee



## 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](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au) to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5 pm, 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.

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.

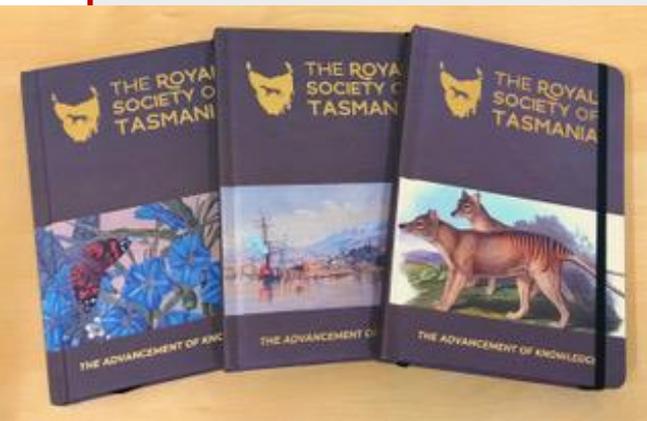
Any queries please contact [special.collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au)

Janette Burke, University Librarian, Collections,  
Library Services | Academic Division, University of Tasmania

## Recent RST Publications

Three new publications are available to add to your reading list:

All items below are available for purchase online via the [RST Shop with some offering a membership discount](#).



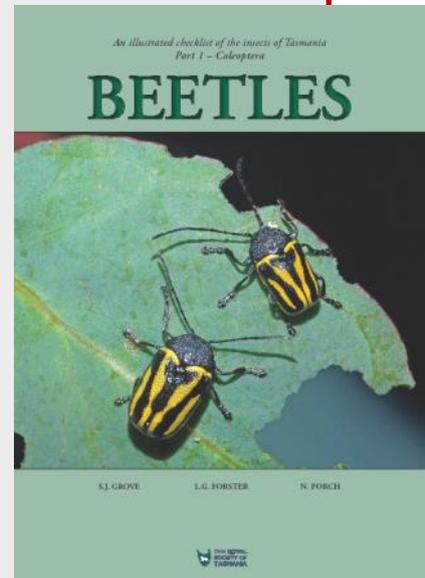
**RST Notebooks** featuring a choice of three cover images from the Society's Art Collection and the Special and Rare Book Collection are available (- see left). Beautifully bound and presented, these prestigious notebooks are ideal for meeting notes or creative writing, so why not buy yourself a couple or as gifts for others? \$25 each or \$22.50 member discount.

[Purchase now.](#)

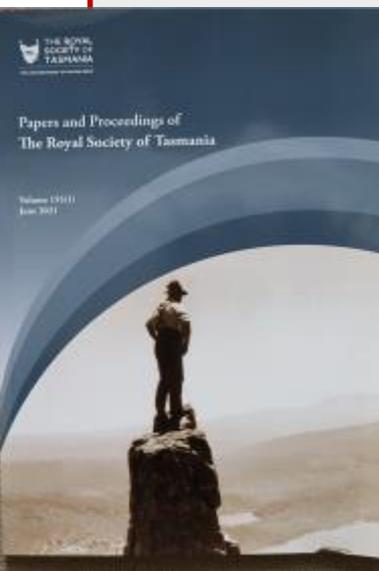
### **An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles**

prepared by experts Simon Grove, Lynne Forster and Nick Porch (- see cover at

right), is an exciting new taxonomic guide to Tasmanian beetles with diagnostic information on nearly 3000 species, including over 600 endemics and seven species found only on Macquarie Island. Featuring thumbnail images of every group and 16 full colour plates, this fantastic new resource will help you identify and learn more about Tasmania's enigmatic beetle fauna. \$46 [Purchase now.](#)



Following Volume 155(1) celebrating the RST Northern Branch centenary in June 2021, the RST Journal **Papers and Proceedings Volume 155(2)** (- see cover at left) features the transcripts of speakers at the historic *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people*, as well as a diverse range of scientific and review papers of wide interest. Contact the Office to purchase a copy [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)



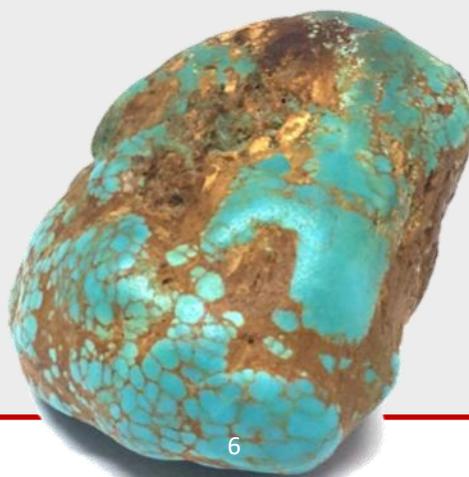
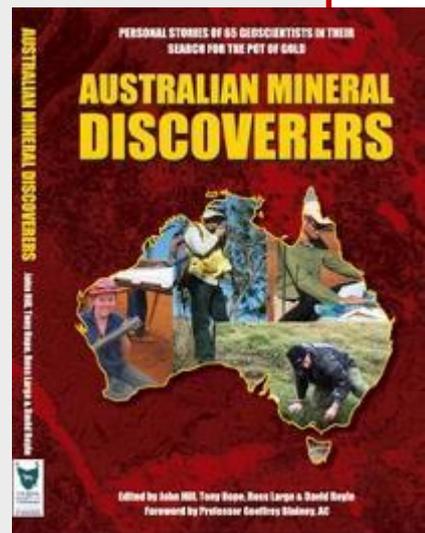
**Australian Mineral Discoverers: 1950-2010** (pictured right). Edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Ross Large and David Royle, this book features the biographies of 65 Australian mineral explorers and educators. Their stories show that the discovery of buried minerals is an extremely complex science, requiring knowledge, innovation, disciplined application of geological principles, teamwork, persistence and luck. \$60.00 non-member

**RST members' discount on this item @ \$50.00**

[Purchase now.](#)

**For overseas orders, please contact the Society directly to calculate postage and place the order: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)**

For orders of more than one copy, please contact the Society direct: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)



## The Royal Society of Tasmania Office

The Society office is open on Thursday mornings 9:00 am to midday. Enter the Custom House building from the Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' Desk.

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 THURSDAY morning on 03 6165 7014.

### Main Society contact:

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

Email: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

### Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

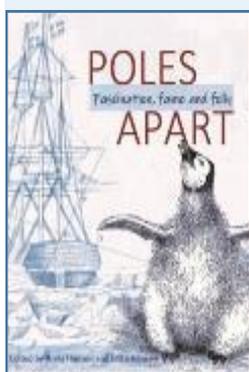
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

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

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

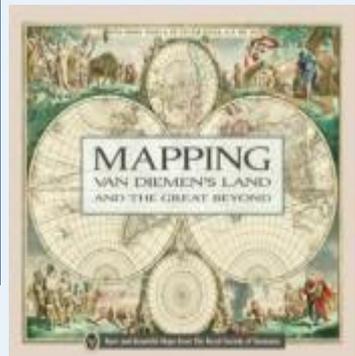
**10% discount for Members on these books.**

**Discounted prices for members are shown beside each book:**



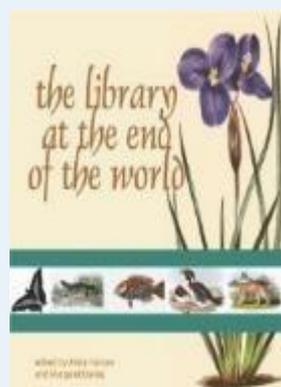
### [Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly](#)

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



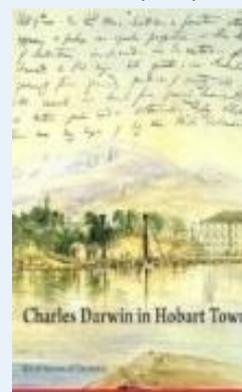
### [Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond](#)

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



### [The Library at the End of the World](#)

Hardcover (\$60) and Softcover (\$36)



### [Charles Darwin in Hobart Town](#)

Softcover (\$32 member or \$35 non-member)

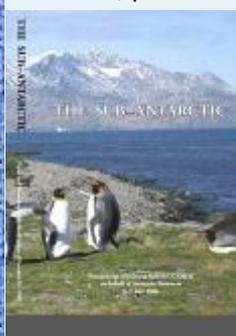


### ***Papers and Proceedings***

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](mailto:editor@rst.org.au)



### [Special publications still available:](#)

*The Sub-Antarctic* (21 papers on various aspects of the Sub-Antarctic islands).

*Aspects of Tasmanian Botany* (– a collection of botanical papers given at a symposium honouring the work of Dr Winifred Curtis AM); *Tasmanian Wilderness – World Heritage Values*.

Purchase direct from the Royal Society Office on Thursday mornings 9:00 to 12:00 noon or email [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au) or phone Thursday mornings on 03 6165 7014.

## The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection

The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection is housed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart. Any queries please contact the Honorary Curator, Dr Anita Hansen: [anita.hansen@utas.edu.au](mailto:anita.hansen@utas.edu.au)



**Above:** Jacob Calmeyer, *Portrait of Knud Bull*, Norsk portrettarkiv, Riksantikvaren.

**Right:** *CITY of HOBART TOWN*, Tinted lithograph printed by E. Walker, after a drawing by Knud Bull, 1855.

### Knud Bull, born Knud Bull (1811–1889)

Because Van Diemen's Land began as a penal colony, it is not surprising that a number of our early artists were convicts -- unfortunately occasionally putting their artistic talents to forgery. One of the convict artists featured in The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection is Knud Bull (although he is known as Knut Bull in our records). There is only one of his artworks in the collection -- and sadly it is in very poor condition with a large tear across most of the work and some foxing. This can be repaired -- and it will be worth doing this in the future. It shows a stunning view of early Hobart.



In *The Convict Artists*, Jocelyn Hackford-Jones describes this drawing by Bull delightfully when she writes:

*His skill as a draughtsman is evident in the rendering of detail like the ship's rigging, or the finely-drawn buildings further back. The commanding presence of Mount Wellington adds an aura of grandeur to the scene which is broken only by the attention to minutiae such as the lively seagulls being bounced along on the waves or fluttering just over them, and the play of light on the rippling water.*

#### Early Days

Knud Bull was born in Bergen, Norway on 10 September 1811 to a large and talented family -- his brother became a well-known violinist. His first art training was in Copenhagen, Denmark, although it is not known with whom. From November 1833 to May 1834 and again in 1838 Bull was a student of JC Dahl in Dresden, Germany.

This is no small matter for Dahl (1788–1857), a Danish-Norwegian artist, is considered the first great romantic painter in Norway, and, by some, one of the greatest European artists of all time. He was the first Norwegian artist to acquire genuine fame and cultural renown abroad. As one critic has put it, 'JC Dahl occupies a central position in Norwegian artistic life of the first half of the 19th century'. Such a pity then that Knud Bull put his obvious talent and training to forgery.

#### Convict Days

In 1845, Bull visited London, but had been there for only five weeks when he was tried at the Central Criminal Court on 15 December for 'Feloniously making part of a Foreign Note for 100 Dollars' and sentenced to transportation for 14 years. He reached Norfolk Island on the John Calvin on 21 September 1846. Nine months later, he was sent to the penal settlement at Saltwater River, Van Diemen's Land, and from there, in May 1849 he was sent to Hobart Town. By the next year, he was teaching at Mrs Rogers's seminary at Bagdad in central Tasmania.

Bull seems to have often found himself in trouble with the law. On 8 December 1850, Bull fled to Melbourne from Hobart. His recapture caused quite a stir and was reported in a number of newspapers, both in Melbourne and locally.

**RUNAWAY PRISONERS OF THE CROWN.—**A respectable looking man, who gave the name of Thomas Evans, but whose real name is Canute Bull (a Dane), was on Thursday committed to gaol for the purpose of being forwarded to Van Diemen's Land by the first opportunity, as a runaway prisoner of the Crown. A person named Simpson, Chief Constable at the Hopkins, proved that he had known the prisoner, who was an artist by profession, both at Hobart Town and Norfolk Island, at which time he was a prisoner of the Crown, and was still so, having been transported for a period of fourteen years. For the defence a certificate of freedom was produced in the name of Thomas Evans, but it had evidently been altered, and was altogether such a suspicious looking document that the Justices paid no attention to it.—*Ibid.*

The *Hobarton Guardian* of 22 January 1851 wrote:

*RUNAWAY PRISONER OF THE CROWN — A respectable looking man, who gave the name of Thomas Evans, but whose real name is Canute Bull (a Dane) was on Thursday committed to gaol for the purpose of being forwarded to Van Diemen's Land (from Port Phillip) by the first opportunity, as a runaway prisoner of the Crown. A person named Simpson, Chief Constable at the Hopkins, proved that he had known the prisoner, who was an artist by profession, both at Hobart Town and Norfolk Island, at which time he was a prisoner of the Crown and was still so, having been transported for a period of fourteen years. For the defence a certificate of freedom was produced in the name of Thomas Evans, but it had evidently been altered, and was altogether such a suspicious looking document that the Justices paid no attention to it.*

Left: *Hobarton Guardian* of 22 January 1851.

It seems that Bull was a better painter than forger!

While the *Launceston Examiner* wrote:

*Absconder to Melbourne*

*Another prisoner of the Crown, named Canute Bull, was charged with absconding from the service of Mr. Guest, of Collins Street, Hobart Town, on the 8th December last and with remaining illegally at large until*

*apprehended in Melbourne, Victoria, on the 7th January of the present year. This man was represented as a portrait and landscape painter of great merit, and would shortly have been eligible for a conditional pardon.*

It was fully two months before Bull was tried. Then, because he had been so long in custody, he was sentenced only to 20 days' solitary confinement.

Jocelyn Hackford-Jones notes, *It is puzzling that Bull should have contemplated escape knowing that he would shortly be eligible for a conditional pardon and given also his exemplary conduct on the 'John Calvin' during the voyage out ... By April 1851, he was working for another artist, the Reverend J. G. Medland at Boa Vista, and the following month, he married a freewoman Mary Anne Bryen. In March 1853, he received a ticket of leave which was followed by a conditional pardon in November 1853.*

**RECOMMENDED FOR CONDITIONAL PARDONS.**  
—William Batty, China; John Buckinshaw, Hyderabad; Knut Bull, John Calvin; Eliza Callaghan, Lord Auckland; Patrick Campbell, Tory; Ellen Doyle, Australasia; Celia Hacka, Maria; John Lampert, Maitland; Solomon Lyons, China; Ann Nangle, Waverley; William

Left: *The Cornwall Chronical* Launceston, Nov 5 1853, p. 8.

**TICKETS-OF-LEAVE GRANTED.**

20,250 Knut Bull, John Calvin  
7550 William Brace. Moffatt 3

Above: *The Tasmanian Colonist* Hobarton, March 18 1853, p. 2.

#### After the Convict Days

Bull spent several years in Hobart from 1849 and was finally released from custody during 1853.

There were few painters in Australia at the time, and Bull was the only professional landscape painter in Hobart. During the 1850s, he was a teacher at the William Slade Smith Academy, and also painted local landscapes, and is noted for his scenes of early colonial Hobart as well as for his portraits. Bull is regarded as a pioneer of Australian landscape painting and is represented in several major galleries in Tasmania and mainland Australia.

The Art Gallery of South Australia has a number of Bull's works in their collection. Their publication *Australian Colonial Art 1800–1900* notes, 'This period [1840s] saw the arrival of another interesting artist, Knut Bull, who was sent to Norfolk Island ... He painted a few intimate portraits in the Biedermeier manner ... Bull also executed landscapes in the German Romantic tradition which would dominate much Australian landscape painting from the 1850s to the 1870s.'

Knut Bull left Tasmania in 1857 and settled in New South Wales.



### **CITY of HOBART TOWN**

*CITY of HOBART TOWN* was published as a tinted lithograph by E. Walker in 1855; in 1859, 53 of the prints, supplemented with statistical details of the colony and framed in muskwood and Huon pine, were sent to London to encourage emigration to Tasmania.

On 7 May 1856 at a meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania, Dr Agnew submitted that: *Mr K Bull, who made for the Paris Exhibition an oil painting of Hobart Town having incurred liabilities by getting the same lithographed in England which he is unable to meet, has*

*some claims on the Society's consideration. It was resolved that the Secretary be authorised to purchase from Mr Bull one or two of the lithographs.*

The information for this article has been gleaned from a number of sources: The Royal Society of Tasmania's Minutes, *The Convict Artists* Jocelyn Hackford-Jones, the Directory of Australian Artists Online, the National Library of Australia, *A Companion the Tasmanian History*, *Australian Colonial Art 1800–1900*, and early Tasmanian newspapers.

#### **Last Word**

A number of the articles I read during my research mention that Knud Bull was a photographer, but I could not find any images. I would be interested in finding out more about this if anyone has any information about Bull's photography.

**Anita Hansen**



The Royal Society of Tasmania publications are now on sale at the TMAG Gift Shop, Davey Street, Hobart until the end of October. A further 10% off sale prices for all Royal Society members.

### **Suggestion Box**

Members are an important part of the Royal Society and we are always keen to hear suggestions about speakers or subjects for monthly lectures, ideas for social events, or thoughts about ways we can progress our current projects, such as the Art Funding initiative.

Members can share their ideas or general comments by talking directly with any Council member at Society events, by emailing the Society at [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au), or by directing an email to any Council member.

**Events and lectures** are this month's focus and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. You can make a donation to the [RST Art Fund here](#). Donations over \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.



# Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm until 24 December 2022.



## Tours

Free tours for small groups are available on Fridays, 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 Highlights Tour

Join a TMAG guide and discover some of the treasures and exhibitions at the museum and art gallery.

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 October, Central Gallery.  
Free

### TMAG Historic Buildings

Discover why they were built and what they were originally used for.

Thursday 20 October 11–12 noon.  
Central Gallery, TMAG  
Free

### Colonial Art, Recipes and Food

Join Dr Mary Knights, Senior Curator of Art at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for a discussion about colonial art, recipes and food availability in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, in the early 1800s.

Tuesday 18 October 11–12 noon. 2–3pm  
Central Gallery, TMAG  
Free



## Highlights Tour

TASMANIAN  
MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY

Seniors  
Week  
Tours



## Historic Buildings

TASMANIAN  
MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY

Seniors  
Week  
Tours



## Colonial Art, Recipes and Food

TASMANIAN  
MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY

Seniors  
Week  
Tours

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Please click and scroll way down to **DONATE** to our Society. Thank you for your kind support!

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Hobart TAS 7000

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