



A Message from the President

Dear Members,

The long-anticipated **Government House reception** in honour of Louisa Anne Meredith went ahead as planned on 28 September. More than 130 RST members and guests were treated to superb entertainment masterminded by Julie Rimes and Marley Large. This event was the perfect opportunity to announce a **new RST medal** to be known as the “Louisa Anne Meredith Medal”, and intended for a person who has made outstanding contributions in the humanities, arts and/or social sciences (see pp. 10–11).

Right: Merely part of the RST display at the Government House reception.



All funds raised by the Government House reception will be devoted to the management and conservation of the RST Art Collection. The support of our patron, **Her Excellency the Hon Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania** and Professor Don Chalmers AO, was central to the success of the event, providing the venue and the refreshments. These events don't run themselves – sincere thanks to the many RST volunteers who worked to ensure that this event went ahead as planned, especially Mary Koolhof, Julie Rimes, Marley Large, Ross Large and John Williamson (see pp. 12–15).

The **significance of the RST Art Collection** has been assessed by Warwick Oakman:

The collection is of national and international significance for its contribution to an understanding of Tasmania's unique flora, fauna, and First Peoples, and the role of women artists working in the 19th century.

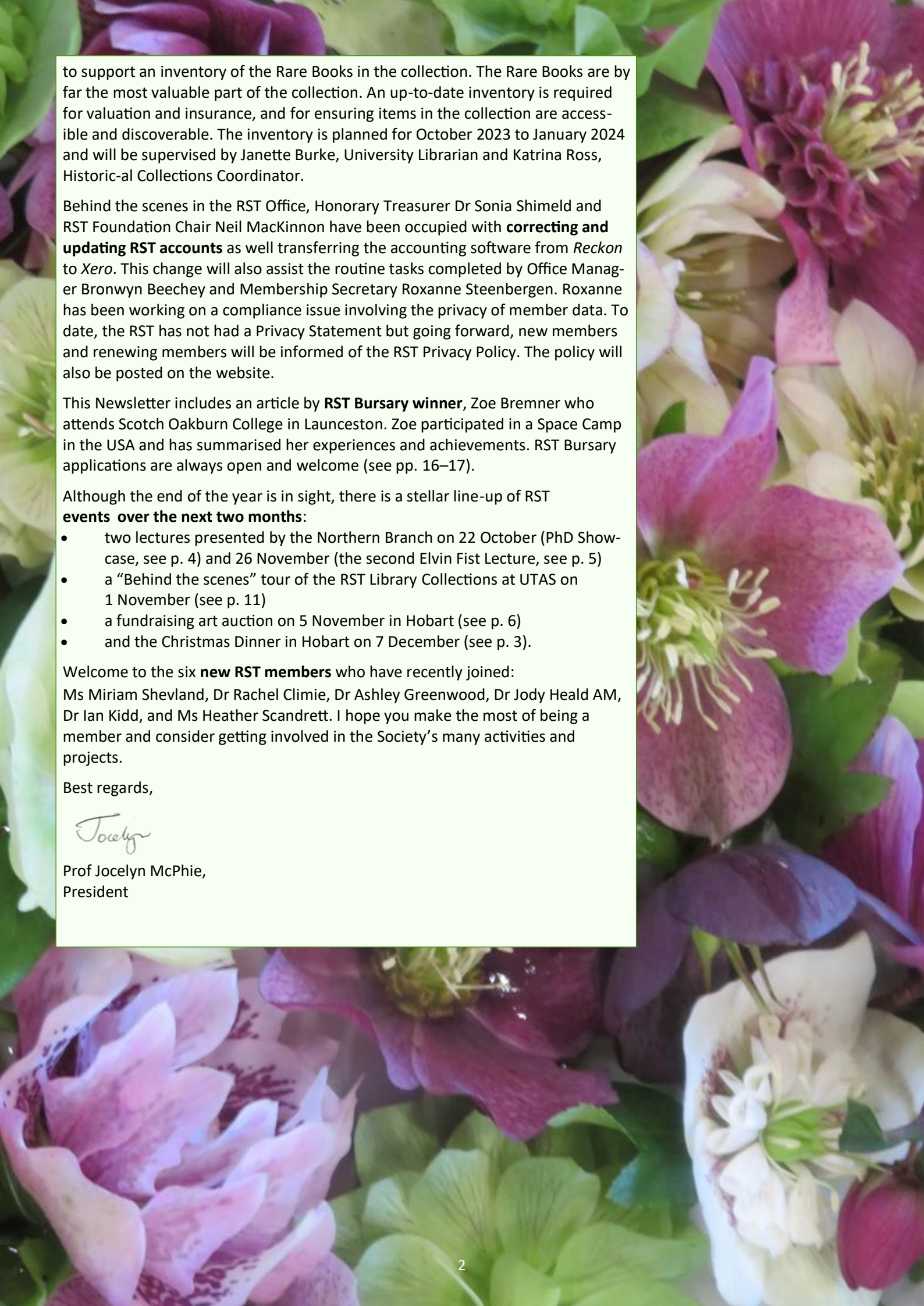
There is no doubt that the collection is a major asset for which the RST bears the responsibility of appropriate care and preservation. Professional Conservator Amy Bartlett has recently completed a Conservation Assessment, allowing identification of the top priorities for conservation work.

A year ago, discussions began between the RST and TMAG with the aim of resolving ownership of a set of Louisa Anne Meredith artworks referred to as the **'Fish Illustrations'**. These discussions have not led to agreement, so the option of formal mediation has been accepted and is currently planned to take place in November (2023).

Review of the RST's other major collection – the **RST Library Collections** held in the Morris Miller Library at UTAS – has progressed. Council has committed funds

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to support an inventory of the Rare Books in the collection. The Rare Books are by far the most valuable part of the collection. An up-to-date inventory is required for valuation and insurance, and for ensuring items in the collection are accessible and discoverable. The inventory is planned for October 2023 to January 2024 and will be supervised by Janette Burke, University Librarian and Katrina Ross, Historical Collections Coordinator.

Behind the scenes in the RST Office, Honorary Treasurer Dr Sonia Shimeld and RST Foundation Chair Neil MacKinnon have been occupied with **correcting and updating RST accounts** as well transferring the accounting software from *Reckon* to *Xero*. This change will also assist the routine tasks completed by Office Manager Bronwyn Beechey and Membership Secretary Roxanne Steenbergen. Roxanne has been working on a compliance issue involving the privacy of member data. To date, the RST has not had a Privacy Statement but going forward, new members and renewing members will be informed of the RST Privacy Policy. The policy will also be posted on the website.

This Newsletter includes an article by **RST Bursary winner**, Zoe Bremner who attends Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston. Zoe participated in a Space Camp in the USA and has summarised her experiences and achievements. RST Bursary applications are always open and welcome (see pp. 16–17).

Although the end of the year is in sight, there is a stellar line-up of RST **events over the next two months:**

- two lectures presented by the Northern Branch on 22 October (PhD Showcase, see p. 4) and 26 November (the second Elvin Fisk Lecture, see p. 5)
- a “Behind the scenes” tour of the RST Library Collections at UTAS on 1 November (see p. 11)
- a fundraising art auction on 5 November in Hobart (see p. 6)
- and the Christmas Dinner in Hobart on 7 December (see p. 3).

Welcome to the six **new RST members** who have recently joined:

Ms Miriam Shevland, Dr Rachel Climie, Dr Ashley Greenwood, Dr Jody Heald AM, Dr Ian Kidd, and Ms Heather Scandrett. I hope you make the most of being a member and consider getting involved in the Society’s many activities and projects.

Best regards,



Prof Jocelyn McPhie,
President

Christmas Lecture

Dr Annaliese Jacobs-Claydon

at 6:00 pm on Thursday 7 December, 2023

“Shearwater Stories: Histories of Tasmania and the Arctic, c. 1800–1860”



Sometime between 1850 and 1860, a Chukchi *umialik* (a whaling captain), drew a map of the Bering Strait on sealskin. The map was a rich depiction of an animate and changing world, and it included several whaling ships gathered to hunt *aġviq*, the bowhead whale. Like the short-tailed shearwater, one of them might have made the long journey from Tasmania.

We are accustomed to thinking of Hobart as an Antarctic gateway, but this talk will turn things around, and examine some of Tasmania’s Arctic histories. How did islanders impact the Arctic regions, and how have this island’s histories have been shaped by Arctic environments, animals and people?

Following the tracks of migrating animals and the people who pursued them in (roughly) the first half of the nineteenth century, we will look at how Tasmanians were entangled in the shifting politics of dynamic Arctic worlds, and how those threads were woven in turn into the fabric of Tasmanian history.

We will also stop with Tasmanians in the places they called home and look at how they used Arctic stories to make sense of their pasts and imagine their futures. Indigenous people and Indigenous networks of trade and information are central to these stories, connecting the Bering and Bass Straits in surprising and important ways. These polar perspectives might help us reckon with the living legacies of Tasmania’s colonial history, a history that includes the changing polar regions that many will never see.

Biography:

Annaliese Jacobs-Claydon was born and brought up on Dena’ina land in Southcentral Alaska. She began her career as an historian and archaeologist with the U.S. National Park Service in two Indigenous-owned Affiliated Areas, the Iñupiat Heritage Center (Utqiagvik) and the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area (Unalaska/Dutch Harbour).



Annaliese earned her PhD in British and Imperial History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2015, after which she worked for the State Library and Archives Service at Libraries Tasmania as an Archivist until 2022.

Annaliese is now an Adjunct Researcher in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Tasmania. Her first book, *Arctic Circles and Imperial Knowledge: The Franklin Family, Indigenous Intermediaries, and the Politics of Truth* will be published by Bloomsbury Academic in early 2024.

Left: 19th century Chukchi map of the Bering Strait on sealskin.



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

RST Northern Branch invites you to the public

Northern Branch October lectures

Misha Anstari and Stan Kaine – PhD Candidates

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk.

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 22 October 2023.

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

Full COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

Misha Anstari: “Downhill Walking: A Way Forward in Blood Glucose Management”



Above: UTAS School of Health Sciences diabetes researcher Misha Ansari.
Photo: Paul Scambler of *The Examiner*.

Misha will discuss how regular exercise is key to preventing and managing type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) as it improves blood glucose control. However, compliance to exercise is poor. Eccentric exercise, which involves the muscle lengthening under load, is less metabolically demanding on the body, and may be an attractive alternative to conventional exercise. This research investigates the use of downhill walking (eccentric exercise) on the management of blood glucose control and other health-related parameters.

Biography:

Misha Anstari is a professional physiotherapist who is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Tasmania. Her research is centred around the use of eccentric exercise to manage blood glucose levels in individuals with type-2 diabetes mellitus. Misha earned her Bachelor's and Post-professional Physiotherapy degrees in Pakistan where she also worked as a clinical therapist and taught before starting her PhD program at UTAS.



Stan Kaine: “Using AI to Improve Safety at Sea”



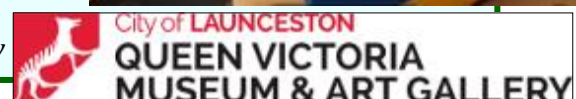
Stan will discuss how, in a data-driven world, access to up-to-date sea state information that could affect vessel safety is paramount. Research is being undertaken to convert the six degrees of vessel accelerations into sea state to allow unsafe situations to be avoided by both the vessel capturing the data and other ships transiting the area via AIS transmissions or the internet. Machine Learning is a key component in making this information available in near real time.

Biography:

Stan Kaine founded a software development company, Point Duty, in 2004 with an initial mission to help track the flow of child abuse material over the internet and assist Law Enforcement to find the perpetrators. The company now has a broader data capture and analytics function. Stan's degree is in Computer Science, which when coupled to a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and a Diesel Fitting Apprenticeship gives him a unique insight into boundaries between IT and the “real world”.



Generously supported by





THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

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

Tanya Ringuet

“International Big Picture Learning Credential: Putting the Person Back in Assessment”

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 26 November 2023.

Full COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

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



Above image Prof John Fischetti

Abstract:

The Big Picture design for learning is centred around students learning through personal interests, with an emphasis on real-world learning with expert mentors in the community.

The International Big Picture Learning Credential puts the ‘person’ back into educational assessment so that young people exiting schooling do so with a rich, customised portrait of their abilities that offers meaningful, accessible information to end-users in the wider community, while allowing students significant agency in the way they are represented.

Biography:

Tanya Ringuet (pictured above right) has over 30 years’ experience as an educator and school leader. Based in Launceston, she is currently seconded to Big Picture Learning Australia as the International Big Picture Learning Credential Coordinator and Big Picture School Coach (Tas). Her role involves overseeing credentialling processes for students within the global Big Picture Learning network.

Committed to maintaining the validity and integrity of the credential, Tanya is part of a team that contributes significantly to the network’s objective of empowering students for a dynamic future.

Right: Image by thewritestuffteaching.blogspot.ca



Left: Image by Erikson.edu



Generously supported by





THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

AUCTION:

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ART, OBJETS D'ART AND
COLLECTABLES AUCTION CATALOGUE

5 November 2023

96 King St., Sandy Bay
5 – 7 pm

Invitation

The Royal Society of Tasmania ART, OBJETS D'ART and COLLECTABLES Auction

Please join us for wine and canapés on **Sunday 5 November**
at **96 King St, Sandy Bay** from **5 – 7 pm**.

The Art Fundraising Committee warmly invites you and your friends to attend a social event and silent auction featuring an attractive selection of art, objets d'art and collectables. All auction items have been donated by generous members of the RST, from their private collections.

Vice-President Julie Rimes is very kindly hosting this event at her lovely home built in 1905 by noted Tasmanian architect Orlando Baker. While enjoying the various rooms, you will have the opportunity to place bids on auction items. These would make appealing additions to your own collection, wonderful gifts for friends and family, or of course you may simply like to bid to support the cause. There will be lucky door prizes, too.

The ticket price of \$25 per person includes wine and canapés. All funds from ticket sales and auction proceeds will be used for the conservation and restoration of The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection.

Book your tickets now at: [TryBooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com)

Any questions? Please email admin@rst.org.au

We hope to see you there!

Mary Koolhof

Chair, Art Fundraising Committee



RST Supports Outstanding Early Career Researchers at the SOOS Symposium 2023

SOUTHERN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

The Southern Ocean is a critical component of the global climate system. The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) coordinates the delivery of Southern Ocean data internationally and promotes sustained observing systems and syntheses of existing Southern Ocean datasets. The International Project Office is hosted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania.

The Southern Ocean Observing System Symposium “Southern Ocean in a Changing World” was held in Hobart 14–18 August. Among the international delegates was a significant cohort of early career researchers from which future leaders in the field will emerge.

The RST offered a \$250 cash prize for the best paper presented at the conference by an early career researcher. The SOOS Organising Committee chose the paper by Pauline Latour “Living on the edge: Response of deep phytoplankton communities to light, iron and manganese additions”.

The papers by **Safiyah Moos** - “Investigating the dynamics and exchanges across the ice-ocean interface in artificial sea ice”; and **Ethan**

Right: RST member Dr Ed Doddridge presenting winner Paula Latour with the prize for the best ECR paper at the SOOS Symposium.



Campbell - "Antarctic sea ice formation and melt rates estimated from under-ice Argo observations" were highly commended.

RST member and Southern Ocean researcher Dr Ed Doddridge presented the RST awards at the closing ceremony of the symposium on 18 August. All three winners also received copies of the RST publication *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*.



Above: Jane Giblin and Dr Anita Hansen at the opening of Jane's exhibition *Dear Kate: the vision of the Mitchell women* on 8 August in the Allport Museum.

Dear Kate: the vision of the Mitchell women

An exhibition by Tasmanian artist Jane Giblin at the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Hobart.

Jane Giblin's latest exhibition *Dear Kate: the vision of the Mitchell women* was opened on 11 August by RST Honorary Curator, Dr Anita Hansen. Jane's inspiration for the exhibition is a scrapbook created by two sisters from the nineteenth century – Sarah and Catherine ('Dear Kate') Mitchell.

The scrapbook is held in the RST Library Collections at the Morris Miller Library, UTAS, along with journals, diaries, letters, maps and logbooks from the nineteenth century. Jane's research into, knowledge of, and creative products based on the Sarah Mitchell Scrapbook, is an entirely appropriate expression of the Society's mission to "advance knowledge".

Sarah and Kate lived on the family property Lisdillon on the eastern coast of Tasmania. From the age of thirteen, Sarah kept a diary, writing every day of that day's activities: helping around the house and property, working in the property's gardens, picnics, visitors and the weather. Kate would sketch these activities, recording scenes of their lives and adventures. Kate's drawings were completed between 1860 and 1875. She died tragically in her early thirties, and Sarah spent the rest of her life compiling a scrapbook that brought together their two views of their world. Sarah maintained her diaries and scrapbooks until she died at ninety-three in 1946. They were then bequeathed to The Royal Society of Tasmania.

Jane Giblin is a descendant of the extended Mitchell family. Her exhibition, *Dear Kate: the vision of the Mitchell women*, looks at the nineteenth century world created by Sarah and Kate Mitchell through the twenty-first century eyes of an artist. Jane juxtaposes her own pen, ink and watercolour images next to images from the scrapbook, both reimagining and reimagined, that world.

These works combined form an intimate glimpse into the past. It is the past, not of extraordinary, remarkable events or people in Tasmania's history but the ordinary, routine lives of a rural family, as seen by the two young sisters: scenes of picnics on the beach, a beloved dog Caleb, boat trips to Schouten Island, trips to Hobart, going to a dance, horse-back riding (and falling off), even of a hat being blown off on a windy night.

What makes Jane Giblin's exhibition *Dear Kate: the vision of the Mitchell women* so exceptional is this: from the ordinary she has created something quite extraordinary.

The RST Library Collections comprise a very rich resource for artists and historians. There are many treasures waiting to be discovered and enlivened – [click to visit](#).

Enquiries are most welcome RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au

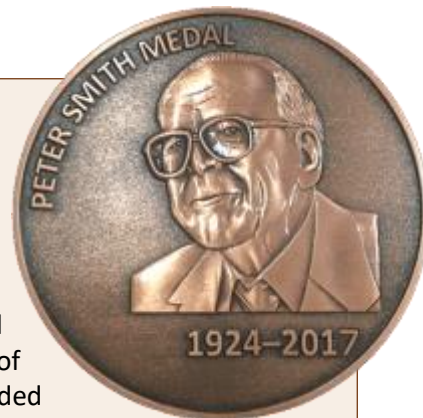
The *Dear Kate* exhibition will run until 10 November 2023.

Dr Anita Hansen

Peter Smith Medal Winners' Lectures

Held on 6 August, 2023 at the Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania

Dr Peter Smith OAM (1924–2017) was a much-respected, long-time teacher and researcher in Chemistry at the University of Tasmania. He was also a significant philanthropist supporting a range of the University scholarships, and a long-standing member of The Royal Society of Tasmania. The RST now awards the Peter Smith Medal for an early career researcher (three to eight years EFT post-PhD). In 2022, the cohort of nominees included two equally outstanding scientists, so the Honours Committee decided to award two medals.



Dr Rachel Climie:

Cardiovascular Health in Early Life

Dr Rachel Climie is a Clinical Exercise Physiologist, a National Health Medical Research Council 'Emerging Leader', Heart Foundation 'Future Leader' Fellow and a Senior Research Fellow at the Menzies Centre, UTAS. She was recently awarded a European Collaboration in Science and Technology Action grant to translate vascular ageing research into clinical practice (<http://vascagenet.eu/>). Her research is focused on the determinants and consequences of vascular ageing, commencing in early life.

Dr Climie began by explaining the vast cost (approximately \$11 billion per annum) to Australia of poor cardiovascular health and the many thousands who die as a result of the disease. She explained that much of her research has aimed to better understand key markers of vascular ageing. Risk factors include high blood pressure, high blood glucose levels as well as ageing. The link between vascular ageing and cognitive impairment has also been a recent finding of heart health research.

Dr Climie argues that the risk factors begin in childhood and there is evidence of rising levels of obesity, Type 1 and 2 diabetes and high blood pressure in the very young. A study of children at the age of three in France, Spain and the UK indicated that 93% of them had reduced physical activity and an increased Body Mass Index (BMI) – all indicating significant risk factors for long term cardiovascular health. Her recent research has focused on the determinants of cardiovascular health and amongst her positive results is the fact that children whose mother's diet contains mostly fish, vegetables, pulses and fruit, are much more likely to have good heart health as they get older.

Dr Climie is part of an international group that is developing tools to identify risk factors in young children – the Youth Vascular Consortium – and she explained that her most recent research is examining solutions for improving heart health in areas of social disadvantage.

Dr Vipul Gupta:

Transforming 3D Printing from Rapid Prototyping to Advanced Manufacturing

Dr Vipul Gupta is an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Fellow in Chemistry at the School of Natural Sciences, UTAS. He has expertise in fields such as 3D printing and computer-aided design, microfluidics and material sciences. Vipul's recent research has focused on developing new materials and methods to 3D print glass and ceramics - the most attractive and hard-to-manufacture classes of materials - while offering nanometre scale feature resolution and multi-material print capabilities. Vipul's research has commercialisation potential so alongside his academic papers, he has generated six patent applications and is involved in a spin-off company named "3D MADE".

Dr Gupta explained that using silica (silicon dioxide, also known as quartz, a naturally occurring, abundant mineral), 3D printers can create small analytical devices and biometric structures for medical purposes. Silica has the further advantage of being environmentally benign and easy to re-cycle. Dr Gupta has focused especially on porous silicon-based materials with unique qualities amenable to producing devices that can be used in the bio-medical area and a wide range of industrial processes. Precisely controlling three-dimensional porosity is extremely difficult but very sophisticated results have been achieved. The next challenge in this research is the construction of multi-material objects for an even wider range of complex three-dimensional structures.

Dr Gupta outlined limitations in terms of the difficulty to up-scale objects, a limitation that affects most currently available 3D printers. A further challenge is the vigorous national and international competition and speed with



which advances in the field are emerging in response to demand from health, environmental and defence end-users.

These two early career researchers gave excellent lectures on cutting-edge science to an enthusiastic audience. They were then each presented with the Peter Smith Medal.

Congratulations to Dr Climie and Dr Gupta, 2022 Peter Smith Medallists.

John Williamson

Left: Dr Vipul Gupta and Dr Rachel Climie, each having received the Peter Smith Medal on 6 August 2023.

Call for Nominations for the RST Doctoral (PhD) Awards 2023

Nominations for the annual RST Doctoral Awards open on 1 October 2023. 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).

Nominations for the annual RST Doctoral Awards open on 1 October 2023.

Two awards are offered for recent PhD graduates who have made significant advances in the course of their doctoral research. One Doctoral Award is reserved for nominations from non-Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) disciplines and the other Award will be open.

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 2023.
- ◆ Nomination guidelines are given at <https://rst.org.au/guidelines-for-annual-doctoral-awards/>.
- ◆ A flyer for the 2023 Doctoral awards is [available via this link](#).

Prof Richard Coleman,
on behalf of the RST Honours and Awards Committee

Guidelines for the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal - Established September 2023



In 2023, The Royal Society of Tasmania established the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal to be awarded every four years to a person who excels in any area within the arts or humanities or both. The Medal honours Louisa Anne Meredith's contributions to the areas of natural history art, scientific art, literature and history and is to commemorate the exceptional whole-of-career contributions by a person in any area within the arts or humanities or both.

Louisa Anne Meredith (née Twamley) was quite a remarkable woman; a prolific artist, writer and social commentator. She was the first woman to be granted Honorary membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania in 1881. The RST has a large number of her sketches and watercolours in its Art Collection, as well as a number of her books in its Library.

Louisa came to Tasmania with her husband, Charles, in 1840. She was already a published illustrator and author in England, moving in a circle of famous artists, poets and writers. She was an educated, intelligent and independent woman, a skilled artist and writer.

She proved to be a prolific artist and author while in Van Diemen's Land. She published over a dozen books during her life, many of them lavishly

illustrated by her. In her books, she was considered most successful as a 'shrewd and cultivated' observer of colonial life. Her descriptions, particularly those of domestic conditions and of the natural environment, were praised by many contemporaries as among the most reliable and practical, and remain a valuable source for social historians.

In 1890, Louisa travelled to England to see her original watercolours for *Some of My Bush Friends vol 2* – now part of the RST Art Collection – made into lithographs.

She wrote, 'For a woman of nearly eighty years of age to make the voyage from Tasmania to London, bringing a book to publish, was doubtless an exploit of less wisdom than valour; but my purpose is achieved, and I now hope to return and end my days among my children, in the pleasant colony to whose service my best efforts have been so long devoted.'



Above: Louisa Anne Meredith (1812–1895) (portrait by JW Beattie).

Although Meredith's books were aimed at a general market, her illustrations of the Tasmanian fauna and flora were always well researched and scientifically accurately drawn. During the nineteenth century, the study of Australian natural history acknowledged the work of the professional male scientists, but the contribution of women like Louisa Anne Meredith to the growth of this science in the colonies was often not recognised. However, her work was certainly highly regarded by the leading scientists of the time. Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens, checked the proofs of the book to ensure that they were botanically correct; and Professor John Westwood, entomologist, checked the insects.

Meredith sent seaweed specimens to Jacob Agardh at Lund University in Sweden, who named several seaweeds for her, *Bornetia meredithiana*, *Curdia meredithiae*, and in 1892 Agardh honoured her with a new genus, *Meredithia*.

She also corresponded with Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, often called the greatest Australian botanist of the nineteenth century, who named *Ewartia meredithae* for her. In the past, John Gould had allowed her to copy illustrations from his books for her children's books.

Meredith's wildflower drawings won medals in exhibitions in Australia and overseas, notably in the Melbourne

Exhibition of 1866.

Meredith contributed a great deal to the work of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Over several decades, she sent interesting specimens to the Royal Society Museum and presented beautiful and accurate watercolours of many specimens to the RST. These artworks were much admired at Royal Society meetings as being 'beautifully executed'. The Royal Society of Tasmania also purchased a number of her illustrations.

The conditions of the Louisa Anne Meredith award are:

1. The recipient shall be a person who excels in the field of arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs. The Honours Committee retains the right to exercise discretion in the application of this condition.
2. The medal is to be awarded every four years. Unsuccessful nominees are welcome to apply at future rounds. If the medal is not awarded in one particular round, then the medal will be re-advertised in the following year.
3. After the conferring of the Award, the recipient may be invited to address the Society by delivering the "Louisa Anne Meredith Lecture".

Nomination guidelines for the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal

- On the first page of the nomination, give: (1) the name of the medal; (2) the name of the nominee, contact address and other contact details; and (3) the name of the nominator, contact address and other contact details.
- No self-nominations are allowed.
- On the second page, provide a concise description of the nominee's achievements relevant to the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal in plain language. The nominee's exceptional contributions to the arts and humanities should be clearly stated.
- Provide the nominee's curriculum vitae in full. It should include the nominee's education and employment history, and a list of published/unpublished works and/or creative outputs (for example, artworks, art catalogues, curated events, exhibitions). The nominee should highlight the most significant outputs relevant to the award with an asterisk.
- The Honours, Medals and Awards Committee has limited ability to seek additional information and therefore depends entirely on the nomination document to assess the nominee's suitability, taking into account the criteria of the medal.
- The nomination should be submitted by email as a single pdf file to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at admin@rst.org.au **by 31 August**. Please write "Louisa Anne Meredith Medal Nomination" in the subject line.

All matters pertaining to the Society awards and the Honours Committee deliberations are confidential. The Honours Committee recommendations must be ratified by Council and all nominators must be informed of the outcome before public announcement of award winners.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the RST Library Collection

Wednesday 1 November

10:00 – 11 am

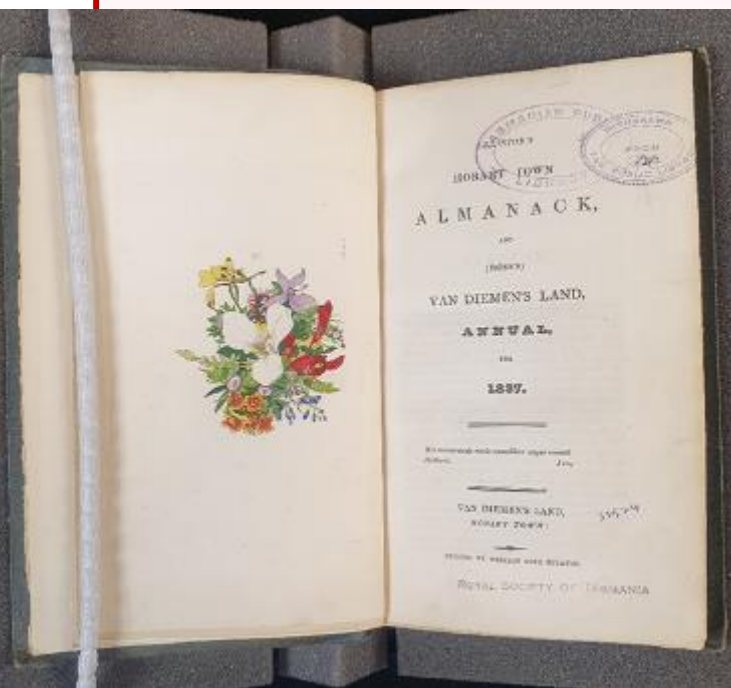
Level 5, Morris Miller Library, UTAS

Visit the home of our RST Library Collection and hear about what makes it important and how it is used by researchers, students and the broader community. Historical Collections Coordinator, Katrina Ross, will delve into the collections and share the stories of the popular, the oldest and the quirky items that make this Collection nationally significant.

Places are strictly limited to 15 participants. To register, send an email to office@rst.org.au to reach our office assistant Bronwyn Beechey **before 27 October 2023**.

Details of the event will be in an email of confirmation.

Left: *Hobart Town Almanack and Van Diemen's Land Annual, 1837*. RST Library Collection.





Above: (from left) Hilary Wallace of Taroona with Kay Schwarz of Lindisfarne and Maggie Row of Battery Pt with Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

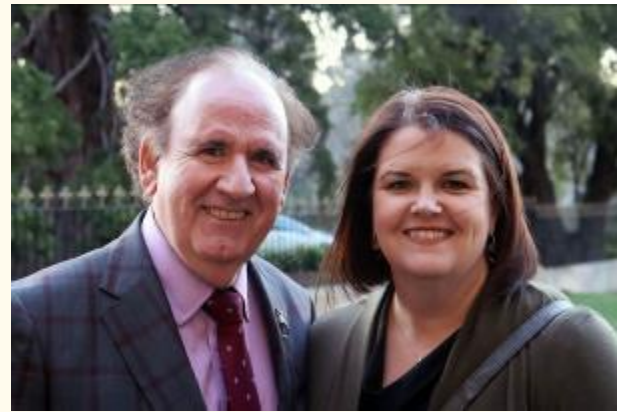
An Evening with Louisa

Just over 130 Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters enjoyed a wonderful evening at Government House on 28 September as guests of the Society's Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO. The occasion, 'An Evening with Louisa', was a reception to raise funds for the conservation and restoration of artworks in the Society's extensive Art Collection.

Em. Prof Ross Large AO led a group of volunteers including Marley Large, Julie Rimes, Lorraine Polglase and John Williamson in setting the scene

in the elegant reception rooms at Government House with an attractive display of artworks, prints and banners featuring Louisa Anne Meredith's life and achievements. It was much appreciated that Government House Official Secretary, David Owen, arranged an appealing display of Louisa's works owned by Government House, and photographs from her performances there in the 19th century.

The atmosphere was buzzing as guests streamed into the beautiful ball-room at Government House. Her Excellency's welcoming address containing very interesting historical information was followed by RST President Prof Jocelyn McPhie's reply announcing the establishment of a new medal by the RST, the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal, to be awarded every four years to a person who excels in any area within the arts or humanities or both. The Medal honours Louisa Anne Meredith's significant contributions to the areas of natural history art, scientific art, literature and history.



Above: Dr William Simon of South Hobart with Kim Rimes of Sandy Bay.

Louisa contributed a great deal to the work of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

Over several decades, she sent interesting specimens to the Royal Society Museum and presented beautiful and accurate watercolours of many specimens to the RST. These artworks were much admired at Royal Society meetings as being 'beautifully executed'. The Royal Society of Tasmania also purchased a number of her illustrations. The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection contains 252 watercolours and sketches by Louisa Anne Meredith.

RST Vice-President Julie Rimes led the creative team of Marley Large, Thomas Rimes, Dr William Simon and Meg Johnson in developing a theatrical and musical entertainment especially



Above: (from left) RST Hon Editor Dr Sally Bryant with Suzanne Skira from Hobart and Janet McKaig from Sydney.

for the evening, a modern adaptation of a Masque (see right) such as Louisa Meredith herself performed at Government House, Hobart in 1866 consisting of dancing and acting performed by masked players. The modern masque was a tribute to the life and achievements of Louisa, with everything said by the costumed 'Louisa' coming directly from Louisa Meredith's own writings. RST Council member John Williamson very capably narrated the linking text and guests were absolutely delighted



Right: (top row from left) Soprano Zoë Fitzherbert, pianist Thomas Rimes, Melissa Cuthbertson (in the role of Louisa Anne Meredith).
Bottom row (from left): dancer Pearl Smithies, violinist Ji Won Kim and narrator John Williamson.

by the musical entertainment, while the performance of young dancer, Pearl, added a touch of whimsy.

Masque Cast:

John Williamson – narrator
 Melissa Cuthbertson – Louisa Anne Meredith
 Thomas Rimes – piano
 Zoë Fitzherbert – soprano
 Ji Won Kim – violin
 Pearl Smithies – dancer

Musical Items:

Thomas Rimes and Zoë Fitzherbert – piano, soprano
 “On Orchids”: Thomas Rimes – music, Louisa Anne Meredith – words
 Thomas Rimes and Ji Won Kim
 “Méditation” from the opera *Thaïs*, Jules Massenet
 Thomas Rimes and Zoë Fitzherbert
 “The Dew Fairy Aria” from *Hansel and Gretel*, Engelbert Humperdinck
 Thomas Rimes and Ji Won Kim
Schindler’s List, John Williams



Above: Dr Michael and Jenny Coombes of Kingston.

Grateful thanks go to Bernard Pryor OAM and Heather Pryor for their work in capturing a photographic record of the evening, and to Leanne Balmforth for designing the printed program.

Above: Lynnellen Ferguson of Sandy Bay with Patricia Sabine of Rokeby.

Following the performance, Pipe Major David North (see below) piped the guests in to supper with a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* that was much enjoyed by those present. Guests were then treated to individual plates of botanical-themed food and delicious desserts served on the lovely Government House china. Very warm thanks go to Executive Chef Ainstie Wagner and her team for these masterpieces.



Left: Pipe Major David North performs in the Government House Ballroom.

Right: Soprano Zoë Fitzherbert with actor Melissa Cuthbertson (as Louisa Anne Meredith).





Left: A Meredith family portrait: (from left) Isabel Clerk, Michael Meredith, Louise Gillett with Alex and Rosalind Pitt.

A highlight of the evening was the attendance of several relatives of Louisa Anne Meredith: Michael Meredith, Josephine Lynch, Isabel Clerk, and Louise Gillett from Melbourne with her husband, Peter. Louise brought with her for display on the night a magnificent 22cm medal (pictured left) won by

Louisa at the Intercolonial Exhibition of Australasia held in Melbourne in 1866–1867.



The evening concluded with the auction of a painting by Lynne Uptin. Lynne is an internationally renowned botanical artist and a member of the Society, who very generously donated a wonderful painting of Tasmanian waratah (*Telopea truncata*). The winning bid of \$2,500 was made by Lorraine Polglase, (pictured right) and the proceeds will go to the Art Fund.

Right: Lorraine Polglase with Lynne Uptin's superb painting.



Left: (from left) Three times great granddaughter of Louisa Anne Meredith Louise Gillett with Prof Kate Warner AC and Em. Prof Ross Large AO with the painting by Lynne Uptin prior to the exciting auction.



Above: Virginia Vaughan-Williams of Sandy Bay.



Below: Gus Risberg of California with Dr Columbine Mullins of Lutana and Camilla Daintree of Lutana.

Below: Sally Avery of South Hobart with Jane Colville of West Hobart.





Left: (from left) RST Councillor Chel Bardell with husband Jon of Deloraine with RST Treasurer Sonia Shimeld and husband Peter of Franklin.

We extend very grateful thanks to Her Excellency and Professor Chalmers for hosting this special evening, and to the Government House team who provided the RST volunteers and guests with magnificent support before and during the event. Thank you to all who attended or supported the event in various ways. The proceeds of \$15,155 will go towards the conservation and restoration of artworks in the RST Art Collection.

by **Mary Koolhof**, Chair, Art Fundraising Committee



Right: (from left) Peter and Alison Watson of Acton Park with RST Immed. Past President Mary Koolhof and husband Grady of Geilston Bay.

Left: Peter Bowen and Kate Jones of Battery Point.



Left: (from left) RST Honours and Awards Committee Chair Em. Prof Richard Coleman of Sandy Bay with Tony and Anne Crawford of Tinderbox.

Right: Rosalind and Alex Pitt with RST Councillor John Williamson, all of Sandy Bay.



Left: Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania with Richard Warner AM of Hobart.

Below: One of the supper tables ready for guests.

Above: Violinist Ji Won Kim performing during the masque. **Below:** RST members Jandy Godfrey, Janette Burke and Derris Wood.



Endeavour Space Camp

In July this year, the RST supported five senior secondary students at Elizabeth College to attend the Youth ANZAAS Residential Science Forum in Melbourne. We also provided assistance to Zoe Bremner, a student at Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston who won a highly prized scholarship to attend a very exciting science event in the USA. This is her story:

“After receiving the ‘Astronaut Al Worden Endeavour Scholarship’, I visited Washington DC and participated in the Advanced Space Academy Program in Huntsville, Alabama, from 28 June to 10 July. The Endeavour Scholarship is an international education program which rewards young students who are passionate about STEM with an astronaut training experience at the US Space and Rocket Centre’s renowned Space Camp in Alabama. This year, the scholarship rewarded 16 students from four different countries. There were over 600 applications from Australia alone, and I was one of four selected.

My experience commenced in Sydney where our team was officially presented with the scholarship by AMCHAM Australia and KPMG Australia. The event provided me with the honour of meeting the US Consul General, Christine Elder, the NSW Chairman of KPMG, Doug Ferguson, the founder of Space Centre Australia, James Palmer, and many more inspiring and successful people.



Above: Zoe Bremner and the “Right Stuff” Medal she won for the best trainee at the Endeavour Space Camp.



Above: Zoe receiving the Right Stuff Medal from Astronauts Robert Gibson and Charlie Duke, and Crew Trainer, Belinda Reynolds.

In Washington DC, our ‘Endeavour’ group of 16 students toured the city for one day. During breakfast, we were joined by Heidi Grant, Boeing’s President of Business Development, Space, Defence and Global Services. We then visited the resting place of Apollo Astronaut and ‘Endeavour Scholarship’ founder, Alfred Worden, at the Arlington National Cemetery. Then we toured through the National Mall, before devoting our afternoon to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, which was a highlight of the trip for many of us.

At the museum, we were able to explore the world’s most significant collection of aviation and space artifacts, including the ‘Discovery’ Space Shuttle, the Apollo 11 command module, and Neil Armstrong’s original Apollo space suit.

We arrived at the US Space and Rocket Centre’s Space Camp in Huntsville on a 36-degree afternoon, and I was very eager to begin what was to be a truly incredible experience.

For the five days of Space Camp, my day began at 6:30 am,

and concluded at 10:45 pm after a long day of learning and activities.

The week included a variety of space related education, such as learning how to build rockets and then developing and launching our own rockets. We also experienced what it is like to walk on the Moon in 1/6 gravity chairs, spin in multi-axis chairs, and fly F-15 fighter jet simulators. A large focus of the camp was the three mission simulations that we undertook throughout the week. The missions were composed of a team in mission control, a team of pilots, scientists, mission specialists and EVA’s (Extra Vehicular Activity). In the three missions, I trialled the roles of command pilot, flight director in mission control, and in the final three-hour mission, I completed an EVA and was the mission specialist.

Right: Zoe fixing the satellite during the final three-hour mission.





Above: Zoe working through the start-up checklist in the 'Discovery' Space Shuttle for the first mission as Command Pilot.

The mission simulations were certainly a highlight for me as they were highly challenging, high tech, and educated me about all the roles involved in space travel. To simulate weightlessness, we experienced underwater astronaut training (scuba diving) in a tank which has been used by NASA astronauts in the past. We learnt about heat shields and space suits and then were able to build and test our own design. The Space Camp also involved educational presentations on topics such as the history and future of space travel, commercial space travel, space law, career options and astronomy.



Right: Zoe spinning in a multi-axis chair to simulate the motion which occurs during re-entry from space.

At our graduation from Space Camp, I was honoured to receive "The Right Stuff" award,

which is given to the trainee who "best exemplifies the courage, integrity and excellence of early space explorers and test pilots". At my graduation, I also had the privilege of meeting Astronaut Robert Gibson, who flew five missions to space and served as Chief of the Astronaut Office at NASA.

On our last day in Huntsville, I was guided by Apollo 16 lunar module pilot, Charlie Duke, through the US Space and Rocket Centre's Museum, including the original command module that Duke flew to the Moon in 1972. For our last night, we had dinner at the Huntsville Airport owners' home, accompanied by Duke, his wife Dorothy, Al Worden's grandchildren, and Thomas Conner (past Senior Engineer at Northrup Grumman and present Chief Engineer for Operations and Sustainment at Boeing). This dinner was an extraordinary experience and something I will forever cherish and for which I am so grateful. I was able to ask Charlie Duke all my burning questions about his experience in space, but also his advice on my ambition of becoming an astronaut.

This scholarship was so much more than a week at Space Camp. The friendships I made with the scholarship recipients from around the world are truly unique and invaluable as, despite our cultural differences, we were united by a common interest. The connections I made and the opportunities I was presented with throughout the trip were extraordinary as I was able to expand the network of people who can support me in achieving my aspirations.

Overall, it was a highly rewarding experience which intensified my passion for space science and inspired me to pursue my ambition of becoming an astronaut by proving to me that this dream is attainable.

Thank you so much to the Kallman Foundation for their devotion in making this scholarship experience so successful and thank you to The Royal Society of Tasmania for generously supporting me in this incredible opportunity."



Left: The 2023 Endeavour Scholarship recipients from Australia, Bahrain, France and the United States.



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RST Art Collection

The RST 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

The Royal Society of Tasmania recently had a visitor from New Zealand whose great, great, great grandfather's artwork was in the Art Collection. When we went to view the lithograph, I was embarrassed to say that I really didn't know much about the artist. Therefore, this month's article is about Henri James D'Emden.

Henri James D'Emden (1824–1875)



Left: *HJ D'Emden* (unknown photographer). From Centre for Australian Art, Australian Prints and Printmaking.

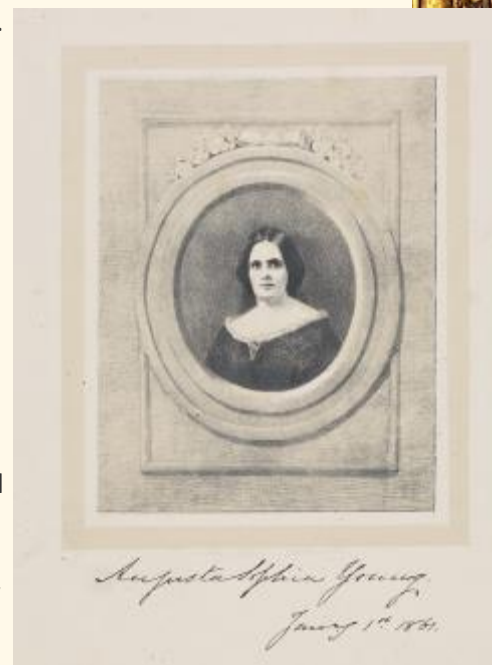
There is only one artwork by D'Emden in the Collection. It is a lithograph of Augusta Sophia Young, printed in 1861 by Robin Vaughan Hood, based on a miniature painting by Letitia MacDonald (see right).

Who was Henri James D'Emden?

Sadly, Henri James D'Emden seems to have been a troubled man. He was born in Southgate, England to a Dutch father. He was educated in both Britain and Holland. I haven't been able to find anything about his education, however, he was a missionary in London

before moving to Tasmania.

In June 1852, the *Columbus* landed in Hobart. Onboard the vessel was Henri James D'Emden, his wife Emma (née Young), and their child. On arrival, he was appointed Congregational minister at Richmond. This position did not fulfil his ambitions, and he resigned two years later in 1854 'believing himself called to a different sphere of usefulness'. Although there seems to have been some complaints about the pay offered to the clergy at this time. In an anonymous letter to the Editor of the *Tasmanian Daily News* on 1 April 1857, the writer claims the reason for D'Emden's resignation was financial (see below).



Above: *Augusta Sophia Young*, Henri James D'Emden, after Mrs Davidson, lith. Robin Vaughan Hood, 1/1/1861, lithograph.

Left: *Tasmanian Daily News*, 1 April 1857.

If this congregational voluntarism is really so efficient for meeting the religious exigencies of Tasmania, how does it happen that two of its ministers—the Rev. John West, at Launceston, and the Rev. Henri James D'Emden, at Richmond—have both abandoned their sacred profession, and secularised themselves by becoming Editors of Colonial Newspapers? As far as Mr. West is concerned, no one who knows him will believe that anything but hard necessity could have induced him to give up the pastoral care of an attached congregation for the more lucrative—but certainly to him, the less congenial—office of a writer on secular politics. The

After leaving the ministry, D'Emden took on a job as a parliamentary reporter at the *Mercury*. In 1855, he left the *Mercury* to take over the *Colonial Times*, becoming the editor and publisher.

This venture was not successful and, in 1857, the *Colonial Times* was taken over by the *Mercury* (see below).

The adventures of the copy of the Launceston "Tasmanian", possessed by the proprietors of the "Mercury", would make an interesting story, but they have not been minuted. The "Mercury" set of twenty issues bears apparently the signature of Andrew Bent on each number. The separate issues were probably received by him as the Hobart agent of Howe's newspaper. Early in 1830 Bent sold the "Colonial Times", with its press and stock, to Henry Melville, who in turn passed it on to J.C. Macdougall in 1839. When Macdougall died in 1848 his wife Mary Ann Macdougall carried on the "Colonial Times" until 1855, when she sold out to Henri James D'Emden. In 1859 the Hobart "Mercury" incorporated the "Colonial Times" and

acquired its plant and stock. As the "Mercury's" proprietors have in their possession a collection of several bound volumes of early Tasmanian weekly newspapers, in addition to the Launceston "Tasmanian", including the "Colonial Times", the Hobart "Tasmanian" and others, it seems probable that these volumes were handed on from proprietor to proprietor, commencing with Andrew Bent in 1830, until they finally reached their present owners.

Above: From *Bibliotexts*, Vol 19, No 1 (March 1994).

When the newspaper failed, Henri D'Emden was declared bankrupt and was sentenced to nine months prison for fraud on 15 April 1857. He was released in November 1857 at the direction of the Supreme Court. Commissioner Fielding Browne having agreed to this on the grounds of consideration for several persons, including the creditors, who had signed a petition requesting leniency.

D'Emden then petitioned the Governor, urging that a bill be passed that would protect anyone in his peculiar circumstances in the future. In an advertisement in the *Courier* submitted by D'Emden on Monday 9 November 1857, he claimed that he had not received the summons to appear in court because the name on the summons was spelt incorrectly. After his appeal failed, D'Emden decided to become a lawyer and he was called to the Bar on 19 February 1863.

With the establishment of self-government in 1856 he wrote *The Parliamentary Guide: A Manual for the Electors of Both Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania*. His obituary also credits him with the authorship of two plays, *Willy O'Meara* (an Irish comedy) and *A Fenian Plot* (farce), both produced at the Hobart Town Theatre Royal and probably also in Victoria. On 19 May 1867, the *Launceston Examiner* announced that D'Emden was composing 'an Irish Sensation Drama for Mr Conway Spiller' to be produced in Melbourne.

The Artist

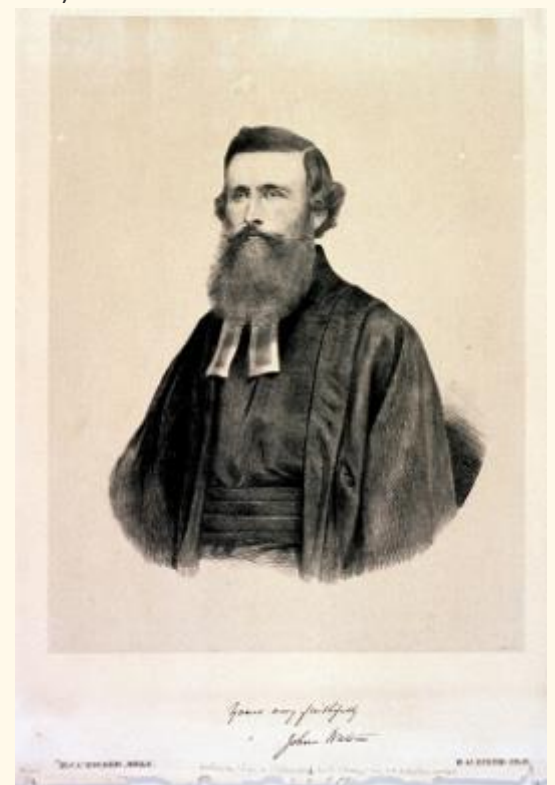
I have not found any information regarding D'Emden's training as an artist, but it is evident that he was an accomplished artist.

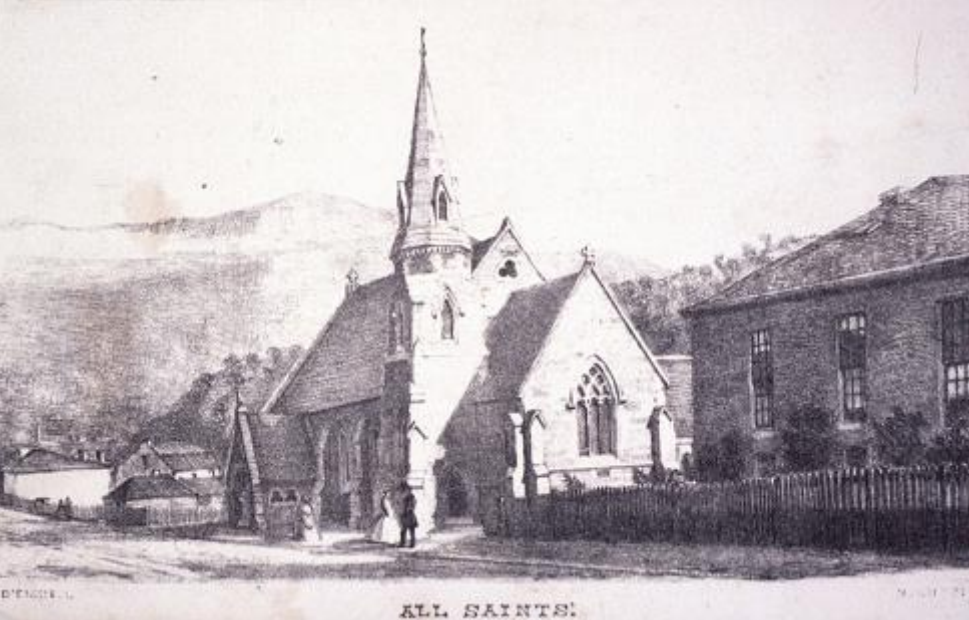
D'Emden worked with Robin Vaughan Hood in January–May 1861, and a number of his drawings from that time remain. They include the portrait of Lady Augusta Young (TMAG), after Letitia Davidson, and those of Rev J Downes, Rev Dr Nicholson and Rev John Watson (see page below) from the interdenominational magazine *Tasmanian Messenger: a religious journal for the family, the Sabbath School and the church* (1861).

He also produced a two-colour lithograph of RV Hood himself (State Library of Tasmania) and a portrait of Rev Henry Dowling (ML) from a photograph by G Cherry (publication dates unknown). He exhibited two watercolours and an oil in the 1862–63 Hobart Town Art Treasures Exhibition (see below).

Far right: *Rev John Watson*. Courtesy of the State Library of Tasmania.

Right: *Rev Dr Nicholson*. Courtesy of the State Library of Tasmania.





Below: *All Saints Church, Hobart.*
 Courtesy of the State Library of Tasmania.

From January to July 1867 D'Emden edited *Hobart Town Punch*, a satirical magazine to which he contributed a number of cartoons. James Backhouse Walker stated that between 12 January and 18 May 1867, D'Emden was *Hobart Town Punch's* major illustrator and at least three cartoons are signed with his cypher. He was also associated with another short-lived, serio-comic monthly magazine, *We*.

Sadly, it appears D'Emden was not a well

man. In June 1872, he was admitted to the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk after suffering hallucinations. Described as 'an inordinate smoker, drank a good deal and said to have committed great venereal excesses', he had dark hair, eyes and beard, a sallow complexion and defective vision.

There appears to be a background of mental illness; his mother died in Hanwell Lunatic Asylum in England. After a period of treatment, at the latter stage of which he amused himself by drawing, he was discharged in October 1872, but re-admitted in November 1873. His condition gradually deteriorated and he died on 12 September 1875, leaving a widow and five children.

DEATH OF MR. HENRI JAMES D'EMDEN.—On Sunday Mr. Henri James D'Emden, a gentleman who was universally known and esteemed in this city, died at the age of fifty-one. The late Mr. D'Emden was born in the year 1824, at Southgate, London. His father was a native of Holland. After completing his studies in England and Holland, Mr. D'Emden's knowledge of the French language obtained for him the appointment of missionary to the French in London. He filled that post for several years, and then left for Tasmania, arriving in the colony in June, 1852. Shortly after his arrival he was appointed Congregational minister at Richmond. He remained at Richmond for about two years, and then accepted the editorship of the *Colonial Times*, printed in Hobart Town. That post he filled, with credit to himself, for about two years, when he evinced a taste for the law, and articulated himself to Mr. J. W. Graves. On the 19th of February, 1863, he was called to the bar, where his talents had full scope until within the past three years, when he began to suffer from mental aberration, through softening of the brain, which, ultimately, caused his retirement from practice. Several years ago he was engaged on this journal as a parliamentary reporter, and, although not a short-hand writer, his reports were always faithful. He possessed the social qualities in a very eminent degree. A few years ago he wrote an Irish comedy, entitled, *Willy O'Meara*, and an amusing farce, *A Fenian Plot*, both of which were produced at the Theatre Royal, Hobart Town, and also, we believe, in Victoria. When the local volunteer force was in full vigour, Mr. D'Emden was a non-commissioned officer, in charge of the Sappers and Miners. The deceased leaves a widow and five children.

Left: Henri James D'Emden's obituary in the *Mercury*, 14 September 1875.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Lithograph

There is only one artwork by D'Emden in the Society's Art Collection. It is a lithograph of Augusta Sophia Young, based on the miniature by Leticia Davidson, and printed by Robin Vaughan Hood.

There are a number of participants who were involved in the creation of this image, so as the production of a lithograph is a collaborative effort, I will also include some biographical information on the other people – apart from D'Emden – involved in the creation of this piece.

Augusta Sophia Fox (née Marryat) (1829–1913)

Augusta Sophia Marryat married Sir Henry Edward Fox in 1848. He was the fifth Governor of South Australia, serving in that role from 2 August 1848 until 20 December 1854. He was then the first Governor of Tasmania, from 1855 until 1861.

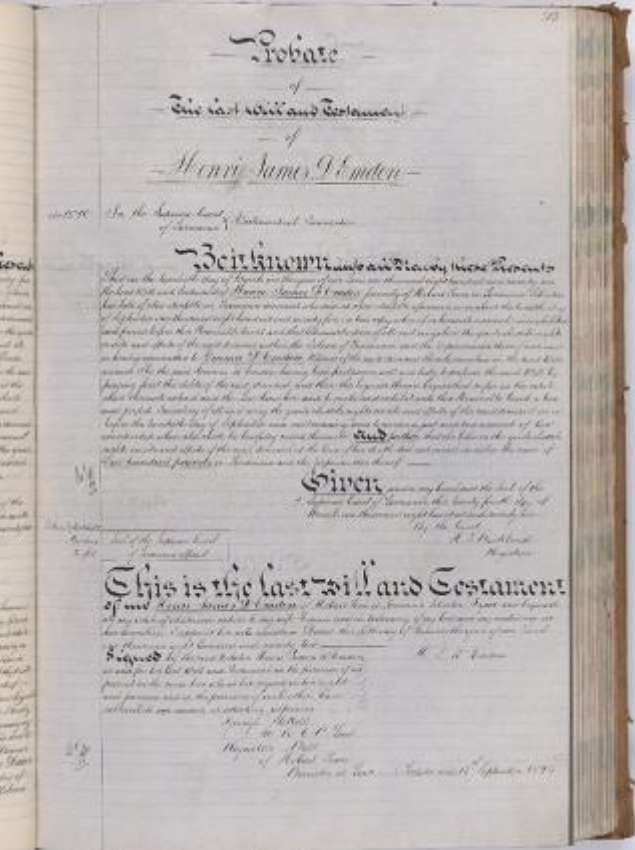
Leticia Davidson (née Frith) (DOB/DOD unknown)

Leticia Davidson was a miniaturist, portrait painter and professional photographer who worked in Melbourne and Hobart in the 1850s and 1860s. She was the sister of photographer Henry Frith, best known for his photographs of Tasmanian convicts.

Robin Vaughan Hood (1802–1888)

Lithographer, printer, frame-maker and fine arts dealer, arrived at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in 1833. No original artwork by Hood is known, but he was an integral part of Hobart's cultural life.





Left: HJ D'Emden's will. State Archives, Hobart.

References for this article:

Design & Art Australia Online (DAAO), Centre for Australian Art, Australian Prints & Printmaking, Stamboom Van Emden, Amsterdam-Suriname-Breda Henri James d'Emden 1824–1875, the *Mercury*, *Colonial Times*, *Biblioweb* and *Australian notes & queries*, Vol. 19 No. 1 (March 1994).

Right: *Henri James D'Emden*, Robin Vaughan Hood, lithograph. Courtesy of the State Library of Tasmania.



Dr Anita Hansen,
RST Honorary Art Curator.



ARCHIVES OF NATURAL HISTORY

VOLUME 37 PART 2 2019



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Vicki Harrison is kindly donating the following journals to anyone who would like them. If you are interested in these, they were the property of Tony Harrison (1939–2023), scientist and writer.

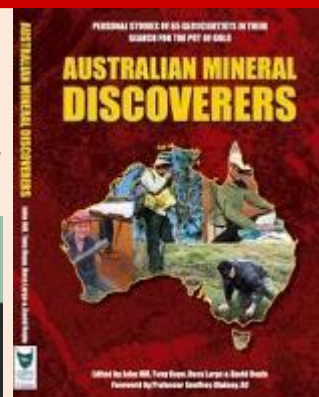
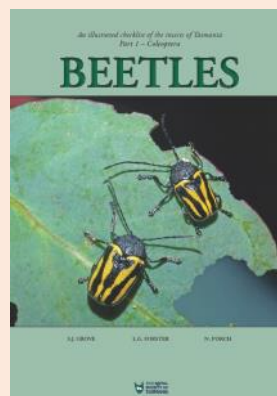
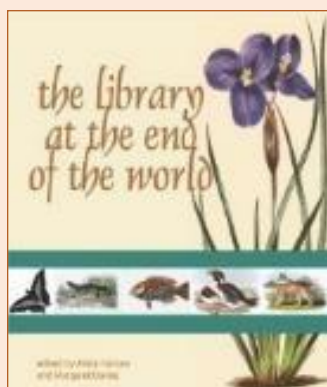
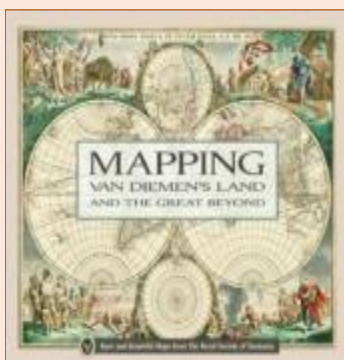
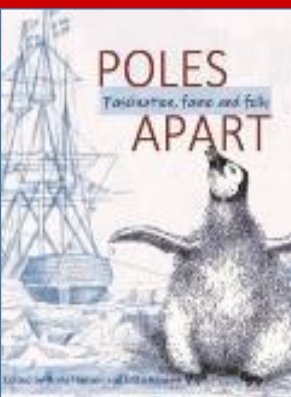
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Janette Burke, University Librarian, Collections,
Library Services | Academic Division, University of Tasmania



Vale Don Gregg, 1927–2023

Donald (Don) Gregg was a member of The Royal Society of Tasmania and Honorary Secretary for nineteen years (1972 to 1991). He was also a Council member of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand from 1965 to 1970.

Don was born in Timaru in New Zealand in 1927, the youngest of three children for James and Tryphosa Gregg. He had a long and productive life, living to the age of 96.

Don completed his formal education at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand with a Master of Science degree in geology. He worked for the New Zealand Geological Survey in Rotorua, which evolved into the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (now dissolved), where he specialised in volcanology. Shortly after Don married Daphne in 1954, they visited Mt Ngauruhoe, in the North Island of New Zealand, where they witnessed a volcanic eruption at close quarters.

A major part of Don's life that made him very happy was working in and visiting museums. Don worked as a geologist at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch for seven years. Museums became an all-consuming passion of his, so much so that he applied for and accepted a Churchill Fellowship to explore museums in the United States, Great Britain, Europe, and Australia. Don, Daphne, and their young family moved to Tasmania from New Zealand in 1972, when he took up the post of Director for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Don directed the TMAG until his retirement in 1992 at the age of 65, although he stayed

involved with the museum well into his retirement.

Don liked to be deeply involved with community organisations. That included membership of the National Trust including as Chairman, a founding member of the Friends of the Museum, Club Historian and Honorary Rotarian of the Kingston Rotary Club over forty-two years, the Kingston Probus Club, the Browns River History Group, the former Genealogical Society of Tasmania, the Kingston Uniting Church, and the Kingston Branch of the University of the Third Age.

Another of Don's passions was genealogy. He and Daphne (sometimes with children in tow) would regularly head off to the United Kingdom to track down relatives.

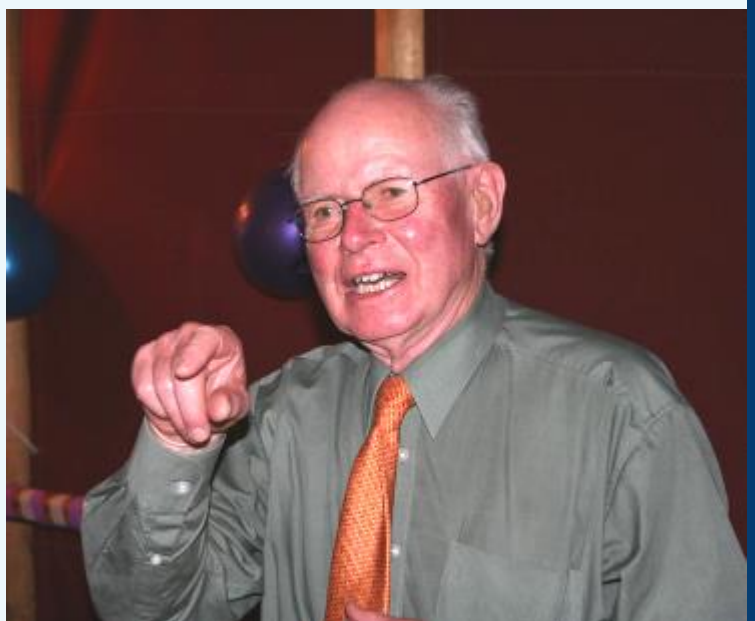
Don is survived by his four children, Jill, James, Kate, and Richard. In the words of many people that met him 'he was a lovely, intelligent, and caring man, and such a gentleman'.

Jill Eastley

September 2023



Above: Don Gregg at the entrance to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.



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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: 1:30 pm 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 Bond Store exhibitions.

Twist exhibition: Closing date: 22-10-2023

This exhibition brings together artwork by exceptional Australian and Irish artists to engage with Dickensian themes – with a contemporary and quirky twist. Charles Dickens (1812–1870) enchanted readers with irrepressible characters while exploring issues such as crime and punishment, the dire impact of poverty on women and children and the grim conditions in public institutions such as orphanages, prisons and workhouses. He was as fascinated by the people and social interactions in the far-flung colonies as he was in those of the dirty streets of London. Many of his characters were transported or immigrated to Australia.

This exhibition brings together artwork by exceptional Australian and Irish artists to engage with Dickensian themes – with a contemporary and quirky twist. It was accompanied by a program of artist talks and special evening events throughout the Dark Mofo festival period.

Twist Exhibition Tour: 11:00 am Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for the duration of the exhibition. Join an art guide for a tour of twists and turns, exploring the array of contemporary and quirky art works that reflect Dickensian themes.



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