

Royal Society of Tasmania  
(Northern Branch)



2009 Lecture Series

**Dr William Russ Pugh**  
*Innovative Anaesthetist and Natural Scientist*  
*and His Contributions to The Royal Society*

to be presented by

**Dr John Paull**

Retired Consultant Anaesthetist  
7.30 pm Monday 9 November 2009

Nuala O'Flaherty Auditorium  
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery @ Inveresk

Admission: \$5 General Public, \$3 Friends of the Museum, \$2 Students  
FREE for members of the Royal Society

Bookings essential: please telephone 6323 3718 or email [bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au)

During the late 1840s Dr Pugh was a corresponding member and later a resident member of the Tasmanian Society and of the Royal Society. His presentations dealt with minerals, fossils, poisonous plants and meteorological observations over three years. These provide a basis for comparison with today's climate. Pugh may have been a medical student at Edinburgh University in about 1826, when Charles Darwin was also a student. In this 200th Anniversary Year of Darwin's birth it is interesting to speculate whether Darwin's enthusiasm for natural history inspired Pugh's interest. Darwin landed in Hobart the day before Pugh left Hobart on his marathon walk to Launceston in 1836. Did they meet?

**Dr John Paull** was born in 1937, in London, to Australian parents. His career has ranged from being a cycle assembler during University of Melbourne vacations, through hospital intern and resident, to general practitioner on Nauru Island.

He qualified as Specialist Anaesthetist in Melbourne in 1971. Then followed 19 years at the Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne, including 11 years as Director of Anaesthetics and Operating Theatre Services. He then spent six years as Director of Anaesthetics at Box Hill Hospital in Melbourne. Here, he achieved a major change in the way drug addicted anaesthetists were rehabilitated and supervised younger doctors in the science and art of anaesthesia.

In 1999 he moved to Launceston to a mix of private and public hospital anaesthetics, spiced by a 4-year membership of the crew of the *Lady Nelson* in Hobart. He now spends a significant amount of time pursuing the historical facts surrounding Dr Pugh's life in Launceston and Melbourne.