

MEDIA RELEASE

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QVMAG celebrates the weird and wonderful objects we treasure

The intriguing art of collecting will be showcased at a new exhibition opening this weekend at the City of Launceston's Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Community Collector is an annual QVMAG exhibition and this year focuses on the eclectic treasures of Launceston-born psychiatrist Dr Eric Ratcliff.

Ratcliff and his late wife Patricia accumulated their treasures over many decades, each piece reflecting the life and love they shared.

QVMAG is honoured to display the couple's collections, showcasing the objects they cherish and offering a glimpse into the Ratcliff couple's treasured memories.

Whether it's a passion for buttons, Barbies, records, model planes or pineapples, this *Community Collector* has an interesting mix for everyone to enjoy, displaying goods from vast lands and bridging distant eras.

QVMAG Visual Arts and Design Curator Ashleigh Whatling said QVMAG has often worked closely with prestigious Tasmanian collectors and looks forward to this exciting new exhibition for the community to enjoy.

"The things we collect echo what we value, who we are and the people we strive to be. These precious items can take years to gather, but it's the thrill of finding these treasures that keep us dedicated to the hunt."

"These pieces can be nostalgic and they can help us make new memories, creating excitement, purpose and even legacy."

"*Community Collector* is another great contribution from Dr Ratcliff to our Launceston community and is a fun way of reminiscing about the items we love to own and to also learn what's valuable to those around us."

Community Collector opens on Saturday and runs until August.

You're invited to preview the exhibition and chat to Ashleigh Whatling today at 11am at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.