

# MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: Monday 21 May 2018

## **QVMAG director announces retirement**

Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Richard Mulvaney, has announced his retirement.

Mr Mulvaney, who has been at the helm of QVMAG for the past seven-and-a-half years, will draw the curtain for the final time on July 6.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at QVMAG and the City of Launceston. It has been a fabulous seven-and-a-half years and I am very pleased with all that we have achieved in that time," Mr Mulvaney said.

"I have been considering this for some time. I reached a milestone year in 2017 and I feel I need to leave myself with enough time to do all the other things I wish to do. I do want to spend a bit more time with my family especially as I am now a grandfather."

Mr Mulvaney has been involved in the museum sector for more than 35 years and has worked for several museums and galleries in the ACT, Victoria, NSW and Tasmania.

He was the founding Director of the Bradman Museum of Cricket for 17 years and helped establish a national cricket centre honouring Sir Donald Bradman AC in Bowral NSW.

His most recent position was Chief Executive of NSW Rail Heritage, where he was involved in the \$30 million development of a new rail museum at Thirlmere.

He has served on several external committees in Tasmania since taking up his role at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. These include the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (Tas), the Conservation Committee Port Arthur Historic Site, Theatre North Board and Museums Galleries Australia (Tas) where he was president for several years.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Tasmania. There is a strong appreciation of the arts and culture across Tasmania with an enviable representation of nearly 150 museums. It has been an honour to be the Director of the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, which is one of Australia's best museums," Mr Mulvaney said.

"There has been many highlights - a few standouts are the opening of the permanent exhibition Tasmanian Connections at the Museum within a few weeks of my arrival, the opening of the refurbished Art Gallery in 2011, establishing the QVMAG Aboriginal Reference Group in 2014, which led to the opening of the permanent exhibition The First Tasmanians - Our Story at the Art Gallery in 2017, and the opening of the World War I exhibition at the Museum by the Governor-General in 2014.

"And living in Launceston has been a bonus. It is a fabulous city that has all the benefits of a major regional centre without the down issues of living in a major capital city. I would like to thank all the people that have helped me during my time here at the City of Launceston and the wider community. I have been enriched by the experience."

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City of Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten paid tribute to Mr Mulvaney, adding that his contribution to not only the museum, but the wider Northern Tasmanian community has been invaluable.

"Richard will be sorely missed at Council - his leadership and dedication to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery - and the wider arts community in Launceston has been exemplary," Mayor van Zetten said.