

MEDIA RELEASE

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Deep human history of Tasmania explored in major new exhibition

The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery is proud to present a new, ongoing exhibition program, *The First Tasmanians: Our Story*, which offers one of the most complete accounts of Tasmania's deep human history that has ever been attempted.

Under the guidance of QVMAG's Aboriginal Reference Group members Dr. Patsy Cameron AO, Lola Greeno, Denise Robinson, Vicki West and David Mangenner Gough, the exhibition at the Art Gallery at Royal Park has been developed to present the ancient and continuing story of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

Archaeology, climate change, fire management, technology, art and architecture are themes explored in the exhibition generously supported by the Tasmanian Community Fund.

The gallery design symbolises northern Tasmania's beautiful tea-tree forests, and includes rarely seen objects such as basketry by Trucanini and a shell necklace by Lucy Beeton. QVMAG's renowned planetarium also has a presence in the gallery, taking visitors on a journey back through 40,000 years of changing night skies and associated creation stories.

An app has been developed to guide visitors through the gallery, and will accompany a comprehensive education program to complement the National Curriculum. This means students will be able to appreciate the full scope of Tasmanian history not only through gallery visits, but also in the classroom.

"We are proud to be able to showcase the strength, beauty and diversity of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture by exploring the deep human history of our island alongside the perspectives and artistic expressions of today," says Project Manager and Curator Greg Lehman.

"We thank the Tasmanian Community Fund for its support of what is a truly significant exhibition. We invite people to explore the interactive gallery space and reflect on 40,000 years of Aboriginal people in Tasmania," says QVMAG Director Richard Mulvaney.

The First Tasmanians: Our Story will be officially opened at a ceremony tonight by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, with the exhibition open to the community tomorrow at 10am.

Over the weekend, cultural practice demonstrations, discussions and film screenings will be held at the Gallery to celebrate the exhibition opening and NAIDOC week.

You're invited to preview the exhibition and speak to the following people today at the Art Gallery at Royal Park at 12noon:

- QVMAG Director Richard Mulvaney
- Project Manager and Curator Greg Lehman
- Aboriginal Reference Group members Dr Patsy Cameron AO, David Mangenner Gough and Lola Greeno
- Tasmanian Community Fund Chairperson Sally Darke
- Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten

For more information please contact QVMAG Marketing and Media Coordinator Claire Todd on 03 6323 3702 or 0438 691 066.