

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: Wednesday 14 November, 2018

Black Man's Houses: 25th Anniversary Film Screening

An anniversary screening of *Black Man's Houses* will have a significant relationship with *The National Picture: The Art of Tasmania's Black War* exhibition, which opens at the Queen Victoria Art Gallery at Royal Park on Saturday, 24 November.

25 years after the multi-award winning documentary *Black Man's Houses* premiered on ABC TV, a restored digital version of the film will be screened at a special event at the Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk at 2.30pm on Saturday 17 November.

Black Man's Houses followed the search by the Aboriginal community on Flinders Island for the graves of their ancestors at Wybalenna, the site where the last resistance fighters were taken in the 1830's, thus ending the Black War in Tasmania. As a film about Aboriginal survival, resilience and identity it still has strong relevance today.

Film participant and co-curator of *The National Picture: The Art of Tasmania's Black War*, Dr Greg Lehman said:

'*Black Man's Houses* played an important part in expressing the growing confidence of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to assert not only our place in history as contemporary cultural practitioners and knowledge holders, but also offer our own interpretations of history.

The National Picture builds on this process, demonstrating that Australia's visual archive can be reframed to acknowledge the strength and resilience of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture, while at the same time demonstrating the power of art to document the 'unfinished business' of our colonial heritage.'

City of Launceston's Director of creative arts and cultural services, Tracy Puklowski said:

'The timing of the Black Man's Houses screening this weekend is very important with *The National Picture: The Art of Tasmania's Black War* exhibition opening in Launceston the week after. Elements of the exhibition are confronting and may be challenging for some visitors, but it's crucial we acknowledge our history. Only by doing this can we move forward together as a strong community.'

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by film participant Greg Lehman. The panel will discuss the significance of the documentary, its longevity and what has or hasn't changed from the perspective of Aboriginal Tasmanians. Panellists include: maikutena Vicki-Laine Green, Henry Reynolds, filmmaker Steve Thomas.

Black Man's Houses 25th Anniversary Screening will take place on 17 November 2018, 2.30 to 5pm at the Queen Victoria Museum Auditorium at Inveresk. Tickets are \$10 per person, available online at www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/BlackMansHouses

The event is organised by Neika and Greg Lehman, with the film's director, Steve Thomas, and supported by Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.