



QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

# ANNUAL REPORT

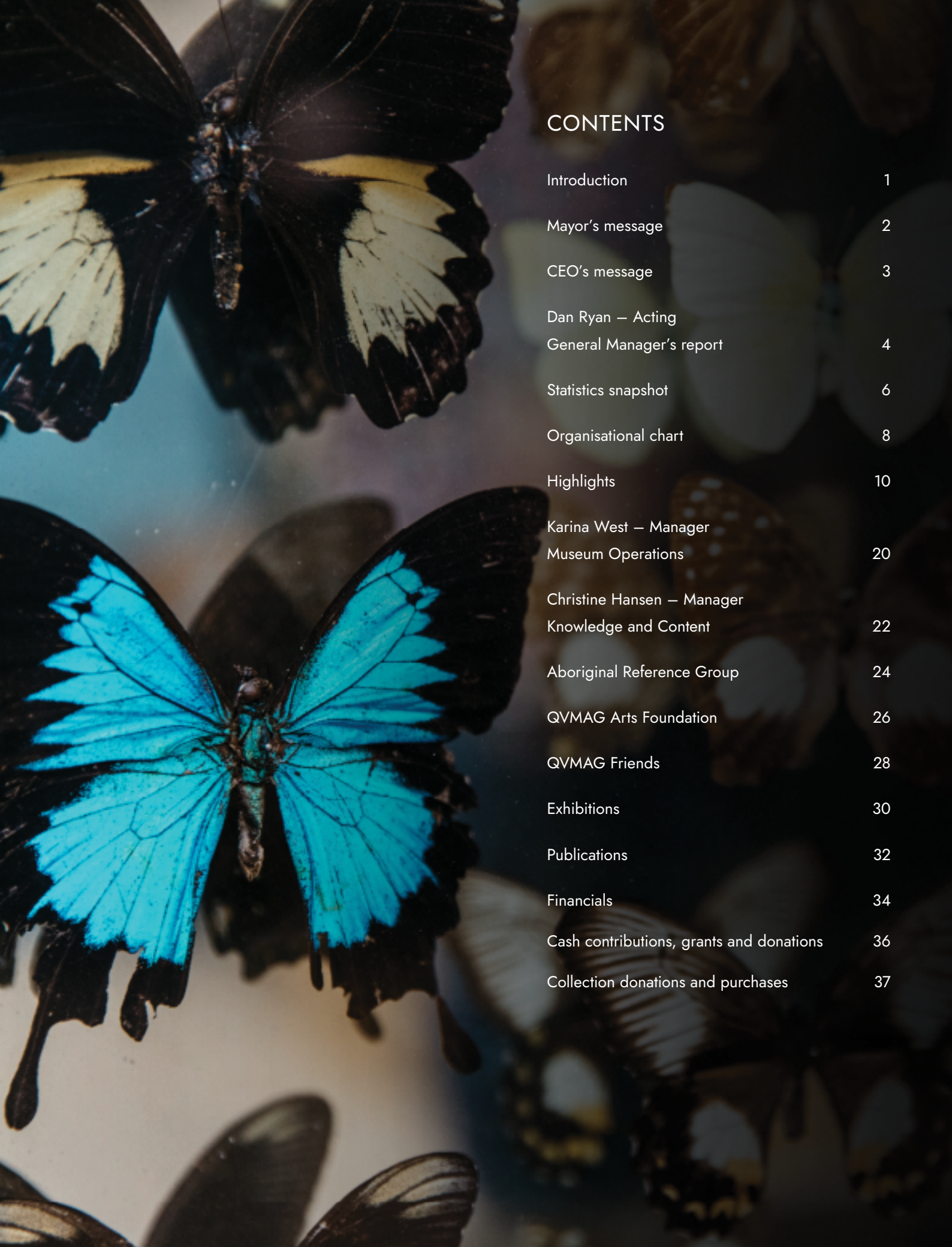
2020-2021



City of  
LAUNCESTON







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# INTRODUCTION

## > LAUNCESTON'S CULTURAL HUB

With a collection in the making since 1842, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) is proud to care for significant donations and acquisitions from across the globe. It is Northern Tasmania's home of art, natural science and history, where our community is inspired to explore and connect with the Collections.

QVMAG spans two locations—the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum at Inveresk—both of which are open 363 days of the year and offer an immersive, educational and fun experience for all ages to enjoy.

QVMAG is owned and operated by the City of Launceston, with ongoing support from the Tasmanian Government.

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Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery  
PO Box 403 Launceston TAS 7250



# ALBERT VAN ZETTEN

## > MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In its 130<sup>th</sup> year, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery has plenty of reasons to celebrate. Despite the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020/21 saw QVMAG firmly established as Launceston's premier cultural experience, welcoming 92,158 visitors across the two sites.

QVMAG has worked collaboratively with the community to care for their treasures and share the stories of Northern Tasmania and its place in the world. A productive year has seen an unprecedented 16 new exhibitions open to the public.

*The Summer Season* launch revived the Royal Park galleries post-COVID with the launch of five new exhibitions; *Nest*, *Herself*, *Skin*, *Lost Landscapes* and *Wrapped in Culture*.

Co-creating with the community is core to QVMAG. The breadth of community exhibitions of 2020/21 displayed the community's diversity and provided opportunity for creative expression. Finding new ways to engage with our community resulted in innovative experience delivery. Our Visitor Operations team delivered guided tours at Royal Park, to an enthusiastic public response.

The QVMAG YouTube channel hosted the first ever virtual *Science Week* in 2020.

QVMAG's collection audit continues, with a dedicated audit team inventorying and location tracking.

The QVMAG shop diversified its offering, launching an e-commerce stream with the QVMAG online shop. By opening to a wider audience the shop grossed its biggest year of sales ever.

For younger members of our community, our school holiday programs were booked-out. In total we welcomed 3,643 school students across the year with inspiring and innovative educational experiences.

The beloved Launceston Planetarium welcomed its 250,000th visitor and delivered the dynamic *Summer of SciFi* program including a Cosplay Day, which was extremely popular with science fiction fans.

The cornerstone of QVMAG's operational and curatorial decisions are three guiding pillars: Our Country, Our People and Our Stories. You can see all of these themes resonating strongly through out the 2020/21 program.

I congratulate the QVMAG team on their efforts across the year. Be proud of collaborating with resilience, ingenuity and passion to drive Launceston's premier cultural experience.

There is an air of anticipation for the future of QVMAG, a radically regional facility making positive change for our community.





# MICHAEL STRETTON

➤ CEO, CITY OF LAUNCESTON

## TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Launceston are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery for the year ending 30 June, 2021.



# DAN RYAN

## > GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

***This report respectfully acknowledges that the land on which QVMAG is built is at the heart of the Stoney Creek Nation, made up of at least three clans, Tyerenotepanner, Panninher and letteremairrener. The clans lived along the river in harmony with the seasons for several thousand generations. Today they are remembered as the traditional owners of this land.***

As the Acting General Manager, Creative Arts & Cultural Services, I feel extremely privileged to be able to contribute to this year's annual report, particularly in QVMAG's 130th year.

While my time in the role has been short, the significance of sitting in this position of responsibility for one of Tasmania's most important cultural assets, if only for a short while, has not been lost on me.

Over this period, I have often been asked what my observations have been while acting in this role. Upon reflection on this question, one word keeps re-entering my mind — passion. This ranges from our wonderful team of staff who work so passionately to deliver exceptional experiences to locals and tourists alike, to our volunteers who commit their time and expertise across a range of areas in order to progress the value that this institution provides to its community. This passion extends well beyond those who are currently active in the day-to-day operations of QVMAG.

I have been fortunate to have had many conversations with our stakeholders, and the community more broadly, who have passionately recounted stories of

their own connection to the QVMAG sites. Be it their involvement in the Inveresk redevelopment in 1998, their stories of exploring with wonder the Royal Park site as a youngster, or as in my own case, a father who worked in the Blacksmith shop at Inveresk in the 70's before yours-truly was even a twinkle in his eye.

There is a deeply valued relationship between QVMAG and our community that reaches much further than the here-and-now — relationships that will continue to be formed for many generations to come.

As I write this, QVMAG has just opened its latest exhibition, a new permanent gallery at Royal Park. This has seen a significant move away from the traditional colonial and Federation narratives to reflect a more diverse selection of stories that set a bold new direction for Launceston's premier cultural institution; stories that shine light on the histories, identities and stories of Northern Tasmania with a fresh and contemporary context.

Much like the year prior, the past 12 months have continued to present obstacles, as the impact of COVID-19 continues to force both QVMAG and our community to adapt, adjust and embrace new ways of working. Our teams have proven to be resilient and adaptable, and we will continue to apply these traits as we navigate another year of uncertainty due to the impacts of COVID-19. We will continue to explore new and creative ways to connect and engage with our audiences and continue to introduce new stories such as those now on display at Royal Park.



This year the City of Launceston formally endorsed its inaugural Cultural Strategy. It is not surprising that this strategy recognises the opportunities QVMAG creates for Launceston, and the role that this institution will play in supporting the delivery of this strategy.

The formation this year of a new Cultural Advisory Committee will also provide valued guidance to the City of Launceston in ensuring that the Council is able to continue to position cultural factors front-and-centre in its decision making.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Mayor and the Councillors in enabling this pro-active approach to building cultural awareness.

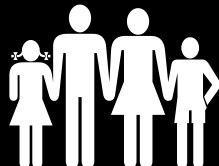
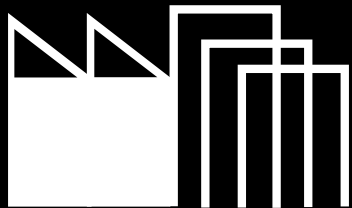
Museums and galleries represent a significant part of our cultural and creative landscape and make an important contribution to positive economic, environmental and social outcomes. They bring communities together, they encourage socialisation and they create opportunities to explore new ideas – all of which apply to QVMAG as Australia's largest regional Museum and Art Gallery.

To our staff, our volunteers, our stakeholders, and our community, I say 'thank you'.

Thank you for your warm welcome, your advocacy, your guidance and of course, your passion.



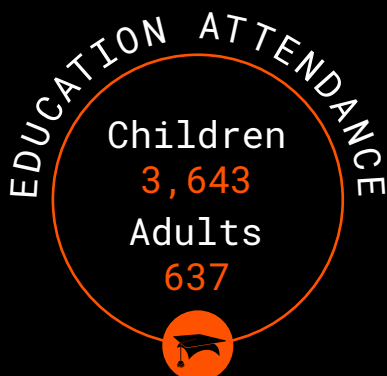
# > STATISTICS SNAPSHOT



92,158

visitors across the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum in Inveresk\*

\*Visitor numbers were impacted during the reporting period as a result of site and border closures due to COVID-19. The Art Gallery was closed until 12 July 2020.



## Staff Numbers

Total staff.....	65
Full-time staff.....	30
Part-time staff.....	24
Casual staff.....	11
Honorary researchers.....	5
Volunteers.....	60





WEBSITE  
PAGE VIEWS = 248,516



FACEBOOK  
LIKES = 10,861



INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS = 2,141

## Collections



### Loans in:

Visual Art and Design....	38
History.....	1
Natural Science.....	0
Library.....	8

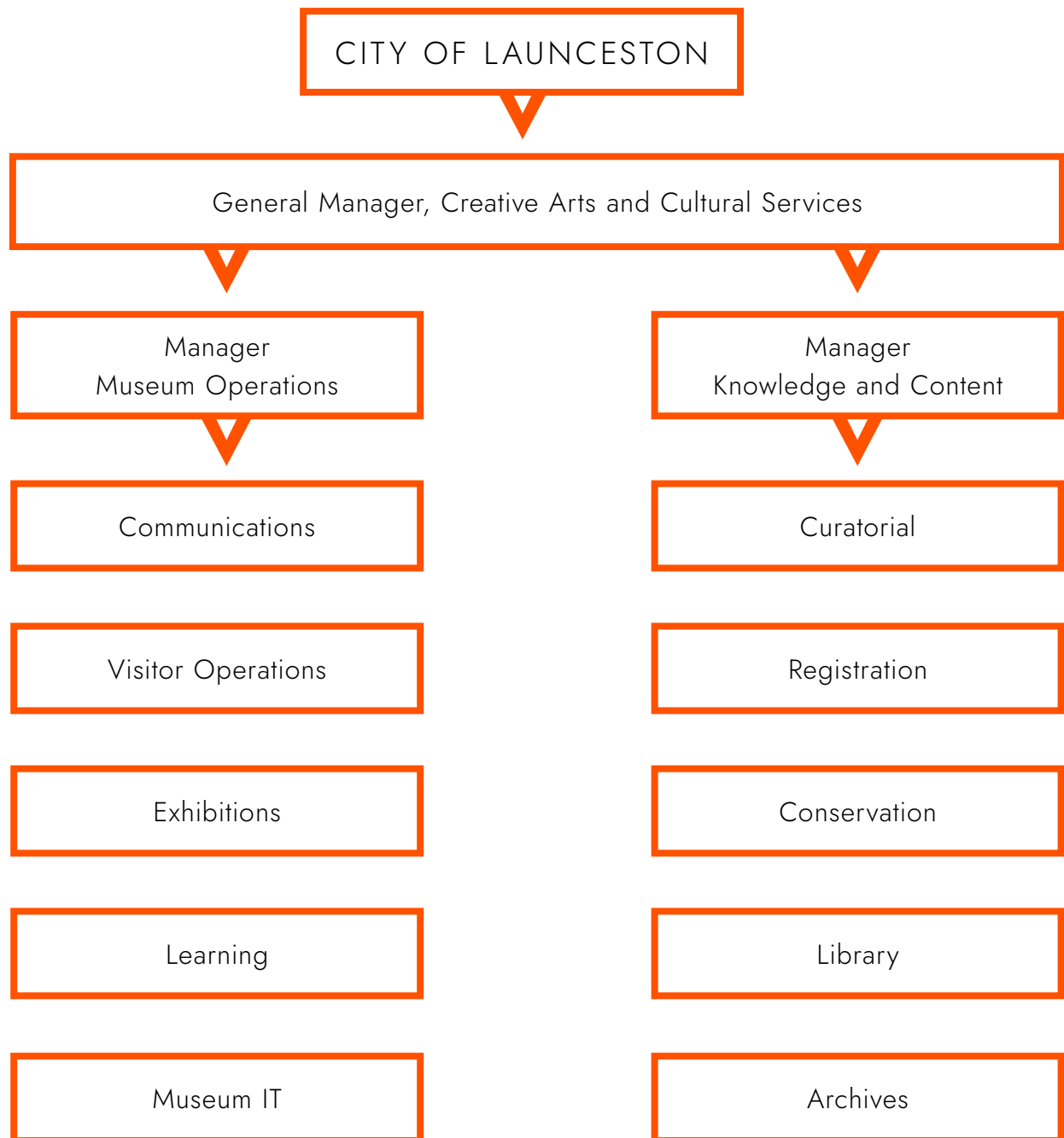


### Loans out:

Visual Art and Design.....	2
History.....	3
Natural Science.....	280
Exhibitions.....	0
Library.....	11



# > ORGANISATIONAL CHART









# STIGHTS







## 150 YEARS OF RAILWAYS IN TASMANIA

To mark this event, the Museum put together a foyer display, featuring the iconic carved Huon Pine wheelbarrow used by the Duke of Edinburgh for the turning of the first sod for the building of the Launceston and Western Railway, alongside a selection of other objects relating to the operation of the railways.



## REPAINTING THE GALLERIES AT ROYAL PARK

Having been dark green and dark blue for over a decade, the two main upstairs galleries were painted white. The Exhibitions team worked with the Registration team to remove the artworks from the galleries. While the spaces were empty, they were future-proofed by changing the house lights to LEDs, lowering the lighting track to facilitate maintenance and skinning the walls for easier installations.



## MAKE IT PLACE AND THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

During 2020, as we were unable to run our usual school holiday program due to social distancing, we created the *Make it Place*.

*Make it Place* provides an opportunity for families to build amazing creations from craft and recyclable materials. Families built robots, trains and animals. A father and son even built a rocket as tall as the ceiling!

The School Holiday Program was able to resume in December, but with limited places. During the Christmas and Easter holidays, children enjoyed a range of activities including building Mars rovers, making musical instruments, creating Frankentoys and writing and illustrating their own animal creation story.



## THE MARVELLOUS CORRICKS

Together with the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA), QVMAG keeps and maintains the Corrick Family Collection.

The Corricks were vaudeville-style entertainers who toured the world in the early 1900s, with the family finally settling in Launceston.

The collection includes a set of JC Deagan Aluminium Chimes purchased and played by the Corricks from 1912. In March 2021 we collaborated with the NFSA and Ten Days on the Island festival in contributing to the performance of *The Marvellous Corricks* at the Princess Theatre. The chimes were played in the performance and displayed with some of the handbells recently added to the collection.



## THE LAMBKIN-KNIGHT BUTTERFLY COLLECTION

In 2020 our Natural Sciences team received the second instalment of the nationally significant Lambkin-Knight butterfly collection. This instalment included an important collection of crow butterflies from Torres Strait islands, swallowtail butterflies covering the entire eastern seaboard from Torres Strait to Tasmania and specimens of giant birdwing butterflies collected in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in the 1950s.

The collection of 12,000 butterflies will support species discovery and help us understand how insects are responding to the warming climate. Included in this shipment was a bonus collection of beetles, which are equally important in climate-related research.

The Natural Sciences section received two generous financial donations to help fund the butterfly cases needed to house this collection.

Sadly, donor Ian Knight passed away recently. We have fond memories of Ian working with us to curate the collection. His legacy has been acknowledged by the Australian entomology community. The Natural Sciences section was privileged to have Ian's co-donor, Trevor Lambkin, visit the collections twice this year to assist with the curation of the collection.



## NATURAL VISIONS: THE CAMERA AND CONSERVATION IN TASMANIA

In August 2020 we completed the installation of *Natural Visions* on the mezzanine at the Museum at Inveresk. This exhibition looks at changing attitudes to photography, conservation and the perception and representation of the beauty of Tasmania's landscape from 1863 to the present day.



## NEW ONLINE SHOP

The QVMAG Shop has had a tremendous year, boasting its strongest results in over 20 years! Achieving shop sales of \$338,868 and gross profits up by 26.1% on the previous financial year, our Shop Officer did not stop there. Our online shop (the first in QVMAG's history) was launched in August and with over 400 products available. Alongside the online shop, the Visitor Operations team launched a QVMAG shop Instagram page, further boosting our reach into the community.



➤ Lambkin-Knight  
Butterfly Collection











## SUMMER SEASON 2020/2021

After a tough year for everyone, a suite of four new exhibitions were launched at the end of 2020 at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

The Visual Art and Design team were pleased to present two solo exhibitions; *Nest* by Alastair Mooney and *Lost Landscapes* by Anne Zahalka.

In *Nest*, Alastair Mooney debuts a series of works that capture the resilience and beauty of Tasmania's native bird life in the face of human consumption and environmental destruction. This exhibition is accompanied by an online publication featuring an essay by Senior Curator of Visual Art and Design, Ashleigh Whatling.

Anne Zahalka breathed new life into QVMAG's beloved dioramas of the Fingal Valley, Tamar Island and Macquarie Island by digitally manipulating photographs presented as light boxes. By reviving the original dioramas and comparing them with her newly staged ones, Zahalka reminds us that museums are political spaces. What at first glance appears like an objective natural history display, actually contains powerful messages about the way institutions privilege particular narratives about the environment.

Upstairs at Royal Park two exhibitions drew directly from QVMAG's collections: *Herself* and *Skin*.

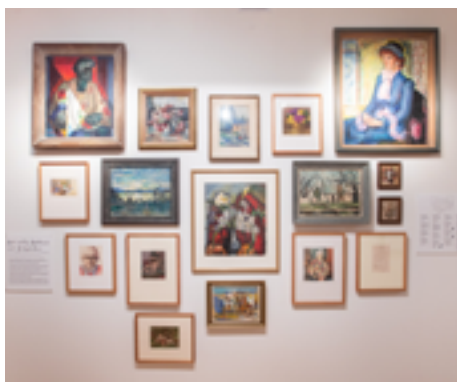
*Herself* is a sweeping exhibition showcasing works by female-identifying artists in the QVMAG collections. This exhibition celebrates the range and richness of art by women in QVMAG's collection and participates in a global conversation about the diversity of artists represented more broadly in museums.

Featuring sculptures, instruments and three recently acquired masks, *Skin* showcases Garry Greenwood's internationally acclaimed mastery of leather and his boundless imagination for its uses.

### New acquisitions and commissions

In the lead-up to the new permanent displays of QVMAG's collections 1 August 2021, 9 works were commissioned from artists of both local and international significance.

- *Tasmanian Mother* and *Tasmanian Child* by Amanda Davies
- *I speak to uncover the mouths of silence* by Mandy Quadrio
- *MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. Trace Her Silhouette; My Mother Who Died* by Katherine Barnes
- *A new kind of union* by Mish Meijers and Tricky Walsh





## BUSH BLITZ 2020

The Natural Sciences team participated in the federally funded species discovery program *Bush Blitz*. The team spent 10 days sampling insects and spiders at the Stony Head Military Range in Northern Tasmania.

Over 500 species of insects were collected, including species that have not previously been recorded in Tasmania, and many which have not yet been identified. Also collected were 124 species of spiders, of which an astounding third are undescribed or are new to science.



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Highlights for 2020/21 include *Art at Speed* where participants were split into four groups and introduced to our *Summer Season* exhibitions in quick-fire succession. Groups rotated through galleries spending 10 minutes with the artists and curators.

In January we concluded the *Summer of Sci-Fi* with *Cosplay Day*. In partnership with *TasPop*, the Inveresk site was invaded by sci-fi characters. In February the original *Tasdance* cast from the production of *Skin Deep* directed by Garry Greenwood in 1999 gathered to activate the exhibition *Skin: Garry Greenwood*. Together the cast and crew shared their memories of the production and experiences working with Greenwood.



## SCIENCE WEEK

Due to COVID-19 *National Science Week* was taken online. Staff created a series of ocean science experiment videos for schools. The experiments ranged from exploring how temperature drives the ocean current to experiencing first-hand how blubber keeps whales warm.

Our public programs were live-streamed and included *The ExoMars 2020 Mission*; *Why the Tamar is an estuary, not a river*; and *The role of marine plants in climate change*. The Science Week videos are still popular on the QVMAG YouTube channel and have received more than 4,000 views.





➤ Night time collecting  
Bush Blitz 2020



## HISTORY BACK OF HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

The History team has had a productive year, with a great deal of work carried out on the collections. Collection storage conditions have been improved in several areas, with major advances made in the efficient storage and locating of general collection items, as well as increased registration of both backlog and new collection items.



## WRAPPED IN CULTURE

A touring show from the Ottawa Art Gallery, *Wrapped in Culture* was a world-first collaboration between the First Nations People of Canada and Australia.

A powerful reclamation project grounded in community, this project was developed in November 2017 when 10 artists created traditional robes (a buffalo robe and possum skin cloak) over a three-week workshop in Ottawa, Canada.

The international joining of these two groups of artists was a community project celebrating two culturally distinct, yet similar, artistic traditions that were used historically for both sacred and practical purposes.



## PLANETARIUM

Between the installation of plush new cinema-style seating and working through a major upgrade of our digital projection system, the Launceston planetarium has had a busy year.

The new system uses two projectors, rather than the previous single projector and mirror system previously used, creating a high definition screening experience for our visitors.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Planetarium has managed to meet or exceed average monthly attendance figures this year. July 2020 was our best on record since the Launceston Planetarium first opened in 1968.



➤ Continuity of culture workshop





# KARINA WEST

> MANAGER MUSEUM OPERATIONS

During a year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit our shores, while museums and galleries across the world grappled with safely welcoming visitors, I'm proud of what our team has achieved. With border restrictions in place we welcomed fewer tourists, but continued to offer a vibrant and diverse suite of exhibitions and programs for our local community and the state more broadly, on site and online.

Our Visitor Operations team have been at the forefront of this transition, with the development of COVID-19 safety plans, increased cleaning regimes, and a new-found appreciation for what 1.5 metres looks like. With smaller groups and the need for a new offering at our Art Gallery — while we prepared our new exhibitions for opening in December 2020 — our Visitor Operations team jumped on board, delivering new guided tours showcasing our collections, and some of the more weird and wacky offerings in our stores.

When our Exhibitions team returned to site after a period of closure, they moved into full swing, working with our History and Natural Sciences teams to rapidly develop two new exhibitions at the Museum at Inveresk: *Estuary* and *Natural Visions*. With striking lighting design, large-format graphics and a co-curated display of images of nature, these exhibitions use a range of techniques to present an elegant and engaging insight into the power of nature photography to open hearts and minds to the important ecosystems that surround us in Tasmania.

Following on closely from launching these shows, our Exhibitions team, alongside our Visual Arts and Design team, designed and installed five new shows at the Art Gallery at Royal Park: *Nest*, *Herself*, *Skin*, *Lost Landscapes* and *Wrapped in Culture*. These shows breathed new life into the Art Gallery, signalling the beginning of the gallery's renewal. On encountering the giant eagle, the central piece in the *Nest* exhibition, it was hard not be impressed; not only with the work itself, but with the difficulty of transporting and installing an

object of this scale. Upstairs in the *Skin* exhibition, the playful Pocopods interactive allows visitors not only to see but to hear how Garry Greenwood's leather instruments sound. It has been wonderful to see the joy it brings to our visitors and also to the team members who had a kernel of an idea and realised it so successfully.

Alongside our work with artists and our own collection, our Exhibitions team delivered a range of community and touring shows, including the crowd favourite *ArtRage 2020*, profiling the impressive work of young artists across Tasmania, and *For Country for Nation*, touring from the Australian War Memorial, telling the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have served in the military forces during wartime and peace.

Across the year the Museum Operations team helped to deliver 16 exhibitions, and welcomed 92,158 visitors to our sites to enjoy these new offerings. Any exhibition is the result of many hands, and at QVMAG almost everyone is involved in delivering some aspect of them — this year the team effort was particularly notable with a focus on our new exhibition development process and scheduling tools to help streamline the process and encourage more effective collaboration.

While mounting exhibitions was a key activity for our Exhibitions team in 20-2021, so was preparing for the redevelopment of our permanent gallery relaunch at Royal Park in July 2021. This started with the gallery preparations, including skinning the walls, repainting, redesigning our lighting system, and planning object movements, design and install ahead of the gallery opening in July. The completion of this work will mark the full renewal, and a new era, for the Royal Park Art Gallery.

Our Learning team continued to do what they do best: creating new and engaging ways for our audiences to learn and experience art, history and science; fostering

partnerships; and making meaningful connections with our community. This included establishing outreach programs with UTAS pre-service teachers and the Children's University, hosting the DFAT South East Asian Ambassadors, welcoming the Cosplay community to our sites for our *Summer of Sci-Fi* program, creative program delivery through our *Art at Speed* program, and hosting a private Tasmanian Aboriginal ceremony to welcome our First Nations *Wrapped in Culture* exhibition. Our School Holiday Program and *Make it Place* continued to be a popular offering for new and returning families. After a reduction in school visits as a result of COVID-19, our team were thrilled to hear the sounds of young people through the buildings again, as we welcomed schools back for guided programs, Planetarium sessions, and to see their own art on the walls of the Art Gallery as part of *ArtStart*.

This year saw us take our *Science Week* offering online with the program offered on YouTube and through our social media channels. This has been a great example of pivoting to new ways of program delivery and building new skills in the team as a result. And as we welcomed our 250,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to the Planetarium, this year we bid farewell to the old aircraft seats and introduced new more flexible seating, ready to welcome the next generation of visitors.

While our venue hire and events bookings have necessarily reduced as a result of COVID-19, we were thrilled to partner with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra to host the *Royal Park Series* at the Art Gallery. Our Visitor Operations team worked tirelessly to ensure the events ran smoothly. The *Royal Park Series* was well received by 518 people who came to enjoy the performances. Other collaborations included MONA FOMA and TasDance who utilised QVMAG spaces to showcase new performances.

The QVMAG Shop continues to be a go-to destination for quality gifts, carefully curated by our Shop Officer, and as a result, has seen its strongest year yet with gross profits up by 26% on the previous year. Our online shop was launched early in the year with an elegant and functional user interface design, and a growing range of product offerings with a focus on Tasmanian artists and producers.

Communicating what's on at QVMAG, seeking media opportunities, and sharing the stories of Northern Tasmania beyond our walls is a critical activity to build our reach and engagement. Our communications area had a busy year doing this, with strong media and marketing campaigns to support our new exhibitions and programs and a vibrant mix of stories on our social media platforms. The most popular content continues to be behind the scenes stories providing an insight into the work of QVMAG and our large, diverse collection.

This year we bid farewell to our General Manager, Tracy Puklowski, and I'd like to acknowledge her guidance of QVMAG since joining in 2018, and in particular I thank her for her support of the Museum Operations team.

Congratulations to the staff of QVMAG for an impressive program, and thank you for your tireless work, passion and care for this place. Thank you to our community, stakeholders and supporters for your continued support and passion for the collections we care for, and the stories we share.

The year ahead is shaping up to be another exciting one for QVMAG and I'm looking forward to working alongside you all to achieve great things.





# CHRISTINE HANSEN

> MANAGER KNOWLEDGE AND CONTENT

As the COVID-19 pandemic rolled through Tasmania in early 2020, the curatorial team paused to gather research materials before retreating to their homes. Boxes of files, stacks of library books and photos were stock-piled in spare rooms and studies across Launceston. A year on, the archives, galleries and database are reaping the benefits. The deep research by the Visual Art and Design team resulted in the opening of two permanent exhibitions in December 2020 with a slew of (COVID-safe) events to welcome the public back:

*Skin* is a phantasmic peek into the creative genius that was local leatherworking legend Garry Greenwood. *Herself* shines a light on the range and richness of art by women in QVMAG's collection. The galleries of *Herself* display two hundred years of practice, with a tour through the evolution of Tasmanian culture via textiles, photography, painting, video, ceramics, jewellery and furniture.

As this report goes to press, the main galleries at Royal Park are re-opening with an extravaganza of Tasmanian art which illustrates the themes Our Country, Our People, Our Stories. This contemporary re-fit of the Royal Park Galleries has been helped along by 19 new acquisitions including nine specially commissioned works.

Meanwhile, the Public History team sank their teeth into the remarkable Kaw Collection, an amazing trove of objects and papers that illuminate Launceston's Chinese heritage. This family archive opened a window into the little-known world of 19th century Chinese Tasmania and thanks to the team's detailed research, school children around Australia can now meet some of Launceston's most fascinating characters through the augmented reality app *Chin Kaw's Shop: The Keys to History*.

Thousands of photographs and glass plates were added to our digitised archives ready for uploading to the new database in 2022. All of this focus led to the QVMAG

archives receiving a reorganisation on a scale that has left the precious records we hold in tip-top condition.

As for the scientists, their lockdown research turned to their backyards, with the long-term observation of the behaviour of a nesting endemic Tasmanian digger wasp on a property along the Tamar resulting in a peer-reviewed paper for the Royal Society, just one of the six publications generated by the team this year.

But if 2020/21 is remembered for anything within the sciences at QVMAG, it will be as the year we received the Lambkin-Knight butterfly collection. This absolutely unique gift of over 12,000 butterflies is the newest jewel in the museum's crown and will be enjoyed by generations to come.

The team bounced out of lockdown with a field trip to a local bush reserve for the annual Bush Blitz survey, where they collected over 2000 specimens across 59 sites, many of them not yet described, growing our understanding of Tasmanian entomological biodiversity exponentially.

A long overdue project within our collection stores was to fully review the conservation needs of the complex collections held at QVMAG. With the help of some of Australia's best conservators we produced a comprehensive report on the condition of the collections which will now inform our conservation program for the next five years.

And of course, our tireless team of experts once again answered over five hundred public enquiries, spending more than 230 hours researching and responding to requests.

Thank you to all the marvellous staff that make up the Knowledge and Content team.





➤ Art store:  
Art Gallery, Royal Park

# > ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

Throughout the year the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) has continued to provide guidance and advice on a wide range of matters to do with Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge, education and protocols.

The ARG have continued to provide valued consultation with QVMAG, and have delivered Welcomes to Country for the opening of exhibitions, including the *Summer Season* program, *Wrapped in Culture* and *For Country, for Nation*.

The ARG co-Chair, David mangenner Gough, accepted a position on the QVMAG's Museum Governance Advisory Board (MGAB). Importantly, this will ensure that any advice the MGAB provides to staff, members of the

community and other stakeholders will advance the aim of ensuring that QVMAG contains an Aboriginal voice.

The ARG have worked in conjunction with QVMAG to commemorate the following publications:

- Peter Sims OAM's monograph on the Preminghana petroglyphs was celebrated at a small event held in *The First Tasmanians: Our Story* at Royal Park
- ARG co-Chair Aunty Patsy Cameron also launched her children's book, *Sea Country*, at Royal Park





➤ Buffalo hide cloak:  
Wrapped in Culture



# > ARTS FOUNDATION

The QVMAG Arts Foundation has enjoyed a successful year with many highlights in line with the Foundation's constitution and engagement with Arts Foundation members and the public.

There has been a concentrated effort to market the Arts Foundation more proactively, with the introduction in May of a quarterly e-newsletter, a digital donor board at Royal Park and the development of a QVMAG Arts Foundation website to be launched in August.

Highlights for 2020-21 include:

- The inaugural QVMAG Arts Foundation Award was presented to Kenneth Von Bibra as the founding Chairman of the Arts Foundation in 1985.
- The inaugural Arts Foundation medallion, featuring Tasmanian Native Hens and designed by Michael McWilliams, was a wonderful initiative facilitated by Committee member Peter Watt.
- QVMAG Arts Foundation medallions were presented to Keith Adkins and Sandra Campbell (Patron) for their enormous contribution to the Arts Foundation since 1985.

Arts Foundation-funded acquisitions for QVMAG's Collection include:

- *Still life*, Dorothy Stoner, 1965  
oil on canvas, 86.0 x 71.0 cm.  
QVM:2020:FP:0011
- *Bull Kelp Water Carrier*, Eva Richardson, 2013  
bull kelp, tea tree sticks, oil, 9.0 cm x 30.0 cm x 10.0 cm.  
QVM:2020:D:0014
- The fourth Arts Foundation Masterpiece for Tasmania was launched in June. A major work by Raymond Arnold called *Elsewhere World* was selected, with a public call for donations from Tasmanians and those further afield to support the acquisition.
- Ben Quilty donated a significant work  
*Majda's Birthday* 2019,  
oil on canvas, 180.0 cm x 2020.0 cm.  
Gift of the artist through the Cultural Gifts program, 2020.  
QVM:2020:FP:0002

- Professor Coleman O'Flaherty has continued to support the QVMAG Arts Foundation Lecture Series in Memory of Nuala O'Flaherty. A sub-committee of the Arts Foundation Management Committee will assist with the lecture series into the future.

- In February, with the *ArtRage* exhibition curated by Ashley Bird, the QVMAG Arts Foundation Award was presented to Iman McGregor.

- The QVMAG Arts Foundation was once again supported by the Hon. Elise Archer MP, Minister for the Arts, who provided the Foundation with \$50,000 in matched funds from the Tasmanian Government's *Philanthropic Support Fund*.

I thank my fellow committee members for their knowledge, time and experience. They are: Mrs Carol Westmore (Vice-Chair), Mr Leigh Myers (Treasurer, Public Officer, Secretary), Mr. John Cauchi AM SC, Mr Brian Hartnett, Ms Vivienne Gale, Mrs Caryl McQuestin, Mr Peter Watt, Ms Mary Machen.

The Arts Foundation would like to thank Dan Ryan, Acting General Manager, Creative Arts and Cultural Services, and QVMAG former General Manager, Tracy Puklowski, and staff at QVMAG, through whom the Foundation has been able to achieve common goals for QVMAG, Arts Foundation members and the public.

Thank you to retiring committee members Anne Moulden, Janet Tomlinson and Anne Holyman, who have given many dedicated hours to the Arts Foundation over the years.

Finally, and importantly, thank you to QVMAG Arts Foundation members and donors for your ongoing generosity and support without which the Arts Foundation would not be where it is today.

**JENNIE CHAPMAN CASWELL**  
CHAIR, QVMAG ARTS FOUNDATION



➤ Elsewhere World:  
Ray Arnold 2015

# > QVMAG FRIENDS

The QVMAG Friends contribute finances, skills and volunteer hours as one of the support groups of the QVMAG. We support the building of collections alongside the organisation of events and activities to engage members and the community with the QVMAG collections.

We work to promote QVMAG and advocate for its continued development as a unique resource for our community

## OUR PEOPLE, THEIR STORIES: ORAL HISTORIES OF NORTHERN TASMANIA

COVID-19 halted our popular Morning Coffee Lecture Series. The inability to provide morning coffee led to the rebranding of the series to: *Our people, their stories: oral histories of Northern Tasmania*. Six local identities shared their stories: Dr Kim Rooney, OAM; Ella Dixon, CEO of the Migrant Resource Centre, Northern Tasmania; former teacher Carol Fuller; Professor Margaret Robertson of Emeritus and Rob Shaw, sports journalist.

## SPOT THE TREASURES

A series of discovery trails were developed by our committee. *Spot the Treasures* encourages children to explore QVMAG with their parents, grandparents or carers. Two editions were developed for both sites in print and digital versions.

## BUS TOURS

Special bus tours for members were reintroduced, starting in April with Burnie, visiting the Burnie Print Prize at the Burnie Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) and the Makers' Workshop.

This visit re-established the Friends' relationship with the Friends of BRAG with reciprocal visits to the QVMAG being planned for 2021/22.

## SUPPORT FOR QVMAG EVENTS

The volunteer energy of the QVMAG Friends contributed to the successful presentation of QVMAG public events *Art at Speed* and *Cosplay Day*.

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO QVMAG

A second contribution of \$6,000 was made for the acquisition of more cabinets for the safe storage of the Lambkin-Knight Butterfly collection.

Bursaries to the value of \$600 were provided for members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community to attend the *Continuity of Culture Workshop* to learn the art of possum skin cultural practices with artists Maree Clarke and Vicki West.

A donation of \$9,000 to QVMAG was also made in recognition of the administration support provided by QVMAG to the Friends.

## STREAMLINING OUR WAYS OF WORKING

Behind the scenes the QVMAG Friends have been preparing for the introduction of an online membership processing system in 2021/22.

The Committee has also worked with QVMAG to review the ways we work together to maximize the potential of the Friends to sustainably and effectively support QVMAG.

## THE QVMAG FRIENDS COMMITTEE FOR 2020-21

Elected members:

President: Kaye Dowling

Vice-President: Vicki Dewsbury

Secretary and Public Officer: Prue McCausland

Treasurer: Lesley Reed

General Committee Members:

Amelia Digney, Trish Haeusler, Alison Hugo, Jill Macpherson and Deborah Malor

Ex officio:

Mayor Albert van Zetten

General Manager of Arts and Cultural Services,

Tracy Puklowski (to mid-May 2021)

Acting General Manager of Arts and Cultural Services,

Dan Ryan (mid-May to end June 2021)

## KAYE DOWLING

CHAIR, QVMAG FRIENDS





➤ Members of QVMAG Friends  
at the Summer Season launch 2020

# > EXHIBITIONS

## > TEMPORARY AND TOURING

### INVERESK

- *Estuary: below the surface*  
15 August 2020 to July 2022
- *Natural Visions: the camera and conservation in Tasmania*  
29 August 2020 to 31 July 2022
- *10 Objects – 10 Stories*  
10 April 2021 to 27 June 2021  
Touring exhibition by Arts Tasmania
- *Artrage 2020*  
19 December 2020 to 21 March 2021
- *Looking for Paradise*  
13 March 2021 to 19 May 2021
- *For Country for Nation*  
17 April 2021 to 11 July 2021  
Touring exhibition by the Australian War Memorial
- *Foyer displays*  
*150 years of Railways in Tasmania*  
*World's Largest Wasp Nest*  
*Ant's Nest.*

### ROYAL PARK

- *Skin: Garry Greenwood*  
5 December 2020–
- *Herself*  
5 December 2020–
- *Lost Landscapes: Anne Zahalka*  
5 December 2020 to 21 November 2021
- *Nest: Alastair Mooney*  
5 December 2020 to 21 November 2021
- *Wrapped in Culture*  
22 January 2021 to 18 July 2021
- *Favourites from the Audit*  
14 September 2020 to 27 June 2021
- *Vicki West*  
5 December 2020 to 25 April 2021
- *Sea Country*  
30 May 2021 to 1 November 2021
- *ArtStart*  
*Above, Beyond and Beneath*  
13 November 2019 to 25 October 2020  
*Connection to Place*  
11 November 2020 to 30 May 2021  
*Thoughts, Dreams and Memories*  
17 June 2021 to 1 November 2021
- *Calculating Infinity: Josh Foley*  
closed 30 August 2020

## > PERMANENT

### INVERESK

- *Transforming the Island: Railways in Tasmania*
- *Tasmanian Connections*
- *Tasmanian Tiger: Precious Little Remains*
- *Southern Skies*
- *Phenomena Factory*
- *ABC QVMAG Collections*
- *The Blacksmith Shop*

### ROYAL PARK

- *The First Tasmanians: Our Story*
- *Guan Di Temple*

## > QVMAG TOURING

- *ArtRage 2020 tour*  
Hobart 8 May 2021 to 30 May 2021  
Devonport 3 September to 1 October 2021



*We used to think  
he was missing*

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

➤ For Country For Nation:  
Travelling exhibition from the Australian War Memorial



# > PUBLICATIONS

## > PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Maynard, D; Pugh K; Fearn, S; Douglas, J and Denning, D, (2020). Urban Bushland Survey Pilot: Havelock Street Reserve, Launceston, *The Tasmanian Naturalist*, no. 142, pp. 45–60. [Peer-reviewed journal].
- Fearn, S (2020). Sap flow feeding by adult golden stag beetles *Lamprima aurata* (Scarabaeoidea: Lucaninae) in Northern Tasmania, *The Tasmanian Naturalist*, no. 142, pp. 91–94. [Peer-reviewed journal].
- Jeong-Hun Song; Andrew W. Osborn & Kee-Jeong Ahn (2021). A Taxonomic Review of the coastal genus *Iotarphia* Cameron (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae) with a description of new species based on morphological and molecular characters, *Zootaxa* vol. 4920, no. 3, pp. 417–427. [Peer-reviewed journal; Honorary Associate].
- Maynard, D & Fearn, S (2021). Ecological and behavioural observations of a nesting aggregation of the endemic Tasmanian digger wasp *Williamsita tasmanica* (Smith, 1856) (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Crabroninae), *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* vol. 155, no. 1, pp. 43-50. [Peer-reviewed journal].
- Maynard, D (2021). Torres Strait to Tasmania: Nationally Significant Butterfly Collection Housed at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, vol. 155, no. 1, pp. 69–70. [Peer-reviewed journal].
- Mesibov, R & Rodriguez, J (2020). A new genus and species of narrow-range millipede (Diplopoda, Polydesmida, Dalodesmidae) from Tasmania, Australia. *Zookeys*, 966:1–8. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.966.56308>. [Peer-reviewed journal; Honorary Associate].

## > ELECTRONIC EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

- *Nest: Alastair Mooney* by Ashleigh Whatling



**Didemnum**  
*Didemnum*  
 (Sea Fan)  
 This species is found in the lower estuary and is a common sight in the rocky areas. It is a colonial invertebrate that forms a large, branching structure. The polyps are small and numerous, giving it a delicate, lace-like appearance. It is often found in the same areas as the sea urchins and sea stars.



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## CITY OF LAUNCESTON QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

The City of Launceston annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Local Government Act 1993. The following accounting policies used in the preparation of this report should be noted:

(i) Grants, Contributions, Bequests and Donations are recognised as:

Revenue when received, or when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, bequests or donations, and no specific performance obligations exist that would require the recognition of a liability under AASB 1058.

Where Council has an obligation to repay grants until conditions are met, a liability is recognised until Council has unconditional access to the funds.

(ii) Competitive Neutrality and Full Cost Attribution expenses are City of Launceston internal service charges.

The below information as extracted from the Audited Financial Statements of the City of Launceston for the Year Ending 30 June 2021.

	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
<b>Museum Collection</b>		
Opening Balance	252,744	249,779
Additions	202	3,215
Disposals	-	(250)
Collection Revaluation - taken to Equity	(14,731)	-
Collection Revaluation - Expensed	(34,523)	-
Collection Carrying Value	<b>203,692</b>	<b>252,744</b>

The independent valuation of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery collection, by Simon Storey FAVAA of Simon Storey Valuations was completed during the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

This amount has been disclosed as a separate asset class in the Statement of Financial Position with reference to the Audited City of Launceston Annual Report.

### Accounting Policy for the Museum Collection

The Museum collection assets have been assessed to have indefinite lives. These heritage and cultural assets are stored, managed, displayed, repaired and restored in ways that will maintain their cultural or heritage value over time. Where conservation, restoration and preservation activities demonstrate that an asset will be maintained for an indefinite period, these items are considered to have indefinite useful lives and are therefore not subject to depreciation. Revaluations will be made with sufficient regularity to maintain the collection at fair value.

### Change in Accounting Estimate

For the 30 June 2021 valuation a change was made to the valuation method for the majority of Natural Sciences specimens from market value to a recollection cost.

This resulted in a large decrease to the overall value of the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery Collection.

Source: Note 6.4 (Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery) as disclosed in the Audited City of Launceston Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021.



#### Museum Collection Additions

The Collection Additions comprise collection pieces donated, collection purchases from bequests, and Capital Grants/Contributions for Collection Acquisitions.

Related Bequest and Capital Grant/ Contribution funding is recognised when received with reference to AASB 1058, and as such the income may be recognised in a financial year prior to the Collection Piece being acquired.

Significant additions to the collection between revaluations are brought to account at curator's valuation. Significance is defined at a threshold value of \$5,000. Additions below this amount are brought to account on revaluation of the whole collection.

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
<b>Results from Operations</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fees and Charges	357	453
State Government Operations Grant	1,521	1484
Other Grants	62	1073
Bequests and Donations	148	226
Interest	7	33
Other Income	173	219
	<b>2,268</b>	<b>3,488</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Provision of Services	6,311	7,702
Bequest Expenditure	46	27
Depreciation	933	977
Full Cost Attribution	366	366
	<b>7,656</b>	<b>9,072</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(5,388)</b>	<b>(5,584)</b>
Add Collection Contributions	85	3,215
Add Capital Grants and Contributions	53	34
Less Collection Revaluation Reduction	(34,523)	-
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(39,773)</b>	<b>(2,335)</b>

Source: Note 6.4 (Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery) as disclosed in the Audited City of Launceston Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021.

#### Comment

The amount expensed upon revaluation of the Natural Sciences Collection is in reference to a change in valuation method from market value to recollection cost for the majority of the Natural Sciences Collection. This occurred in the year ending 30 June 2021 upon the QVMAG Collection being revalued by an authorised valuer. The total decrease in the Museum Collection was \$49.254 million, and absorbed in part by the asset revaluation reserve. The remaining \$34.523 million is disclosed as an expense below the Operating Deficit.

For comparative purposes the prior financial year's operating deficit disclosed significant income and expenditure for the Digital Cultural Experience, which was unique to the 2019/20 financial year. This included \$1,000,000 grant income and expenditure of \$1,250,000 being attributable to the Digital Cultural Experience.

## > CASH CONTRIBUTIONS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021		
INSTITUTION/INDIVIDUAL	PURPOSE	VALUE
Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service	Sydney Cove collection cataloguing and photography	\$20,000
Department of Education	Towards employment of Aboriginal Learning Facilitator	\$19,900
Estate of the late Margaret Catherine Deacon	Donation to History Section	\$1,000
QVMAG Arts Foundation	Eva Richardson <i>Bull Kelp Water Carrier</i>	\$818
QVMAG Arts Foundation	Dorothy Stoner <i>Still Life</i>	\$3,430
University of Tasmania	Support for Anne Zahalka Residency	\$2,000
University of Tasmania	Towards Science Week 2020	\$2,000
University of Tasmania	Towards Science Week 2021	\$2,000
QVMAG Arts Foundation	Towards Mandy Quadrio artwork commission	\$25,000
Belinda Corbett	Butterfly collection case	\$1,500
Friends of QVMAG	Cabinets for the Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection	\$6,000
		<b>\$83,648</b>

## > DONATIONS AND PURCHASES

### QVMAG COLLECTION ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

The below table reflects registered items in the QVMAG collection database. There may be a timing difference between the item being registered and recognition in the City of Launceston's Audited Financial Statements. ie. Collection items may be recorded in the database upon receipt, but recorded in the Audited Financial Statements in a different financial year upon Council controlling the asset and a reliable value being determined.

VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN				
ARTIST	TITLE / YEAR	MEDIUM	ACQUISITION METHOD	VALUE
Allan Lane	<i>Spoon collection</i> 1986–2018	various timbers	Donation	\$8,500
Bea Maddock	<i>Der Sturm</i> 1965	oil on composition board	Purchase	\$17,614
Ben Quilty	<i>Majda's Birthday</i> 2019	oil on canvas	Gift	\$66,000
Dorothy Stoner	<i>Still Life</i> 1965	oil on canvas	Purchase	\$3,430
Eva Richardson	<i>Bull Kelp Water Carrier</i> 2013	bull kelp, tea tree sticks, oil	Purchase	\$900
Julia Davis	<i>Undercurrent</i> 2017	HD video, stereo sound 16:9	Purchase	\$4,000
Julie Gough	<i>Ancestors (the Call)</i> 2019	hand-coloured copper plate etching	Purchase	\$2,600
Julie Gough	<i>Stolen</i> 2019	hand-coloured copper plate etching	Purchase	\$2,600
Julie Gough	<i>Attack of historians</i> 2019	hand-coloured copper plate etching	Purchase	\$2,600
Julie Gough	<i>Survival story</i> 2019	hand-coloured copper plate etching	Purchase	\$2,600
Nell Frankcombe	<i>Boronia</i> date unknown	oil on board	Purchase	\$550
Nell Frankcombe	<i>Tasmanian berries</i> date unknown	oil on board	Purchase	\$550



## > DONATIONS AND PURCHASES

QVMAG COLLECTION ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN				
ARTIST	TITLE / YEAR	MEDIUM	ACQUISITION METHOD	VALUE
Pat Brassington	<i>All in a dream</i> 2020	monochrome pigment print	Purchase	\$17,745
Les Blakebrough	<i>Oval, Kelp embossed II</i> 2010	Southern Ice Porcelain ceramic	Purchase	\$3,400
Nell Frankcombe	<i>[untitled – gum trees]</i> date unknown	oil paints	Donation	\$500
Nell Frankcombe	<i>[untitled – river scene]</i> date unknown	oil paints	Donation	\$500
Peg Pedley	<i>Vessels</i> c.1979	stoneware with local Relbia clay and Coles Bay granite	Gift	\$800
Peg Pedley	<i>Vase</i> c.1979	local Relbia clay with iron glaze	Gift	\$500
Rodney Pople	<i>#12 Returned Soldier</i> 2018	egg tempera on linen	Donated	\$60,000
Sue Pedley	<i>Low Head Portrait (self)</i> 2021	cyanotype using onion bag	Purchase	\$1,500
Sue Pedley	<i>Low Head Portrait (other)</i> 2021	cyanotype using sea sponges and onion bag	Purchase	\$1,500
Tom O'Hern	<i>Mongrel Misery Guts (from here to Launceston) Thylacine</i> 2012	acrylic on board	Purchase	\$3,200

## > DONATIONS AND PURCHASES

QVMAG COLLECTION ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN				
ARTIST	TITLE / YEAR	MEDIUM	ACQUISITION METHOD	VALUE
Amanda Davies	<i>Tasmanian Mother</i> 2021	oil on linen	Commission	\$10,000
Amanda Davies	<i>Tasmanian Child</i> 2021	oil on linen	Commission	\$10,000
tayenebe Artists	<i>Basket</i>	combined weaving fibres	Donation	\$10,000
Katherine Barnes	<i>MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. Trace Her Silhouette; My Mother Who Died</i> 2021	black and white darkroom composite photography on canvas	Commission	\$5,000
Mandy Quadrio	<i>I speak to uncover the mouths of silence</i> 2021	steel, steel wool, acrylic, rope, river reed, fishing line, tin, glass	Commission	\$35,000
Mehrangiz Modarres Tabatabaei	<i>Windows</i> 2021	acrylic paint, polymer clay, gems, stone, mirror and embroidered fabric on canvas	Commission first payment	\$5,000
Mish Meijers and Tricky Walsh	<i>A New Kind of Union</i> 2021	acrylic and flashe on birch, ceramics, mixed media,	Commission first payment	\$12,500
				<b>\$289,089</b>

## > DONATIONS AND PURCHASES

QVMAG COLLECTION ADDITIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

NATURAL SCIENCES		
ITEM	DONOR/ACQUISITION	VALUE
Installment 2 of 3, a collection of 5,407 butterflies and other insects	T Lambkin and I Knight	\$1,351,750
2,000 specimens collected from 80 sites	Fieldwork	\$23,220
2,041 specimens collected from 59 sites	Fieldwork	\$571,480
		<b>\$1,946,450</b>



*Windows*  
 Mehrangiz Modarres Tabatabaei 2021  
 assisted by Azita Rezaei Chalehzeini, Maryam Haidari,  
 Dina Saffar Alkhalili, Zahra (Marjan) Godazgar



## HISTORY

ITEM	DONOR/ACQUISITION	VALUE
Set of handbells owned by the Corrick family	Family of Norm and Rita Tilley	\$8,000
Set of 37 aluminium chimes owned by the Corrick family	Family of Norm and Rita Tilley	\$25,000
J Walch and Sons brass printing blocks x 8	Purchase	\$110
Lantern slide projector	Bequest of the Estate of Daisy Glennie	\$350
Lantern slide projector	Bequest of the Estate of Daisy Glennie	\$1,200
Bicycle	Mrs Stephanie Leonard	\$2,000
Clothes pegs with bag	Mr Bob Brown	\$60
T-shirt	Mr Bob Brown	\$50
Badge	Mr Bob Brown	\$20
Badge	Mr Bob Brown	\$20
Badge	Mr Bob Brown	\$20
Badge	Mr Bob Brown	\$20
Stamp	Purchase	\$30
Die	Purchase	\$30
Cased cameras and accessories	Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service	\$1,430
Wickerwork doll's pram	Ray and Julie Wright	\$200
Wooden doll's cot	Ray and Julie Wright	\$200
Model Hills Hoist clothes line	Ray and Julie Wright	\$350
Alexander Tennis Racquet	Ray and Julie Wright	\$120
Brass steam locomotive whistle	Mr David Atkins	\$160
		<b>\$39,370</b>



## CONTACT US

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[www.qvmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au)

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PO Box 403 Launceston TAS 7250