

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2023



TASMANIAN

MUSEUM

ART GALLERY

&

FOUNDATION

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Right: 'Warwick Oakman' by Amanda Davies. Photography: Rosie Hastie





*Romy Morgan Deputy Chair and Editor TMAG Foundation, Minister for the Arts Madeleine Ogilvie, Director TMAG Mary Mulcahy
Photography: Rosie Hastie*

We are delighted to announce that our Christmas Party raised in excess of \$30,000! Thank you, to the extremely generous donors of the two auction prizes – The Bett Gallery & Colin Thomas, for Joan Ross’ limited edition digital print and the Van der Woude family for the 4 night Port Davey Escape Expedition with On Board, and of course, to the successful bidders.

Together with the beautiful photos taken on the night by Rosie Hastie, Harriett England has submitted an account of the festivities.

You may remember reading about Jane Stewart’s recent rehang of artwork at Government House, featured in the first edition of our electronic newsletter, back in July. Imagine our delight when the TMAG Foundation were invited to a function at Government House, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, specifically to view the work. It was a fabulous evening where our guests were treated to a behind the scenes art tour led by well renowned Hobart artists

From the Editor

Romy Morgan

It seems surreal to be compiling the TMAG Foundation Christmas Newsletter already – surely, I’m not alone in wondering where has 2023 gone! However, here it is, and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

I think it’s fair to say, that everyone who was able to join us for our recent Christmas Party, will agree that it was a truly memorable occasion. What an incredibly special privilege to be invited to ‘New Town Park’, the extraordinary home of our very generous host, Warwick Oakman. Thank you, once again, Warwick. We were also pleased that the new Minister for the Arts, Madeleine Ogilvie, was able to join us for part of the evening and meet some of our members and experience such a fabulous event.

David Keeling and Michaye Boulter, who's work is included in the hang. One of our newest TMAG Foundation board members, Megan James, has contributed an account of the evening.

It takes a phenomenal amount of work behind the scenes to make what we do at the TMAG Foundation happen. Our board is a small team of dedicated volunteers who passionately believe in what we are doing - raising money to enhance the state collection of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Of course, the support of our members is vital. We thank each and every one of you for your membership contribution, for purchasing tickets to our events and for making donations to the Annual Appeal. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the TMAG Foundation, then please, direct them to our membership link here <https://tmagfoundation.org.au/join-us>

Early next year, we should be able to reveal the details of a very significant historical acquisition which has been in negotiations over the last couple of months, as well as a very exciting contemporary art announcement, so watch this space! In the meantime, we wish you all a fabulous festive season and we will look forward to seeing you at one of our functions next year!



From left to right: Sara Pateraki, Mark Huber, Kate Cuthbertson, Trevor McKenna. Photography: Rosie Hastie



Left: Colin S Thomas, Chair TMAG Foundation.
Photography: Rosie Hastie

From the Chair

Colin S Thomas

The calendar year 2023 has once again proven to be a fantastic year for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) Foundation. We have made a number of acquisitions for the state collection which will be the subject of an event early in 2024. Thank you, our members, for being so generous in donating and attending our events enabling us to continue to raise funds to assist TMAG.

The year saw our, Deputy Chair John Upcher leave the board. John's contribution to the TMAG Foundation extends back to advice regarding incorporation and ultimately being one of the incorporated entities inaugural directors. All directors appreciated John's considered approach and his logical thought processes which have proven to be a wonderful asset. He will be sadly missed at the board table however, as demonstrated at our most recent event, will continue to support the "Foundation cause" which we all know is very dear to him. Thank you John for all your efforts over the years! Everyone appreciated them!

Nerilie Gilson also left the board and we thank Nerilie for her helpful and generous contribution in recent years to the TMAG Foundation, particularly her time as minute secretary. Again, Nerilie was at our most recent event continuing to support us. A big thank you Nerilie for your valued contribution.

At the recent TMAG Foundation AGM, Romy Morgan was elected to the role of Deputy Chair and the TMAG Board of Trustees made two appointments to the TMAG Foundation Board. Recently retired Hobart solicitor, John Lewinski and consultant Megan James. John who was born, educated and practised law firstly, at Wilson Dowd and then Butler, McIntyre and Butler in Hobart brings a wealth of experience and legal knowledge to us. Megan is a recent arrival in the state however, owned property here for a number of years whilst she worked in the Middle East. Megan had an arts background prior to completing her business degree and embarking on a career, primarily in procurement. Welcome John and Megan to the board.

Our most recent event at Newtown Park, the wonderful stone Greek villa owned by Warwick Oakman was a fantastic culmination to the years activities. Warwick was a most gracious host, and from a personal perspective it is again, fantastic to see an "interstater" care for our heritage to the degree that Warwick has. Restoring Newtown Park to its former glory is an absolute passion for Warwick. Thankfully future generations will benefit from this. It is difficult to believe Newtown Park was not better cared for prior to Warwick's ownership in 2001.

Thank you to Romy Morgan for your efforts with our new electronic newsletter which has been so well received by members. The board appreciates any feedback we receive, as this is the only way we can continue to deliver what you, our members require. Thank you also to all directors, Peter Black our Treasurer and Public Officer, Jo Marshall the Events Committee Chair who leaves nothing to chance, Ian Stewart Chair of our Membership Committee, Harriett England Chair of our Philanthropic Committee and our star "allrounder" Bob Annells who involves himself in everything.

In signing off for 2023, thank you to all members for your continued support! The TMAG Foundation Board wish everyone the very best for a safe and happy festive season with family and friends.

TMAG Foundation Board Members, Bob Annells, Romy Morgan, Jo Marshall, Peter Black, Megan James, Harriett England, Ian Stewart, Colin Thomas, (John Lewinski absent).

Photography: Rosie Hastie



Christmas

Party

Harriett England

On 22 November, 2023 a very privileged group of TMAG supporters gathered in the grounds of New Town Park, determined to celebrate Christmas in style.

As we sipped appropriately festive Red Queen cocktails, created by Spring Bay Mill, the mounting excitement and anticipation of the treat in store, was palpable. Finally, the moment when we could step over the threshold and experience the magic that Warwick Oakman has taken 20 years to create, in his passionate determination to drag this Georgian gem back from the brink of ruin, was upon us.

It did not, could not, disappoint.





Warwick had only one request when he so generously agreed to allow TMAG Foundation members through his doors, and that was that he wanted it to be a real party.

That it was!

We were encouraged to roam through every inch of the house, sit anywhere, and enjoy it as if it was our own.

Superb Levantine Hill wines flowed freely and the most delicious food was served to us by the Hubert and Dan team.

Joan Ross' so appropriately titled "Always the last one to leave the party" (kindly donated by Colin Thomas and Bett Gallery) and the once in a lifetime Tasmanian Wilderness cruise, complete with scenic plane flight (donated with great generosity by the Van der Woude family) both deservedly received spirited bidding in the auction, and enabled us to achieve a record amount for an individual fundraiser for the TMAG Foundation.





*Photography: All images
Rosie Hastie.*

Further demonstrating his seemingly boundless generosity, we announced Warwick's donation of a wonderful portrait by Amanda Davies to TMAG, which was received by Mary Mulcahy (Director - TMAG).

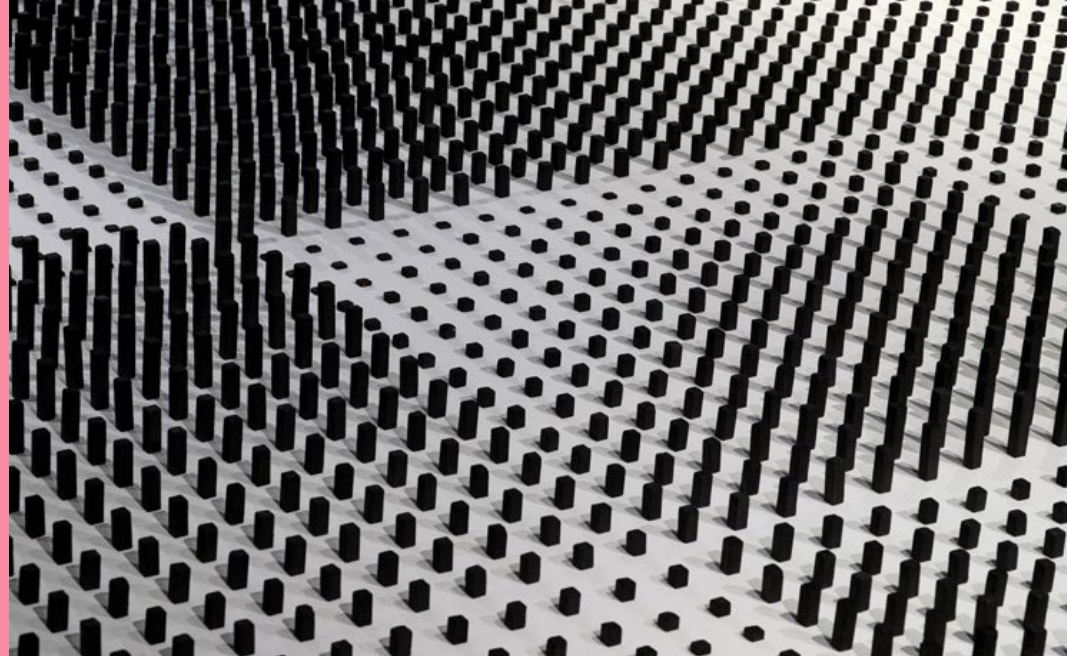


Throughout the wonderful evening guests made themselves at home, nestled in corners and roaming through the rooms, soaking up the atmosphere for many hours, reluctant to leave this magical space and perhaps determined to be the last one at the party.

HOBART
CURRENT
EPOCH

17 NOV 2023 –
11 FEB 2024

EPOCH

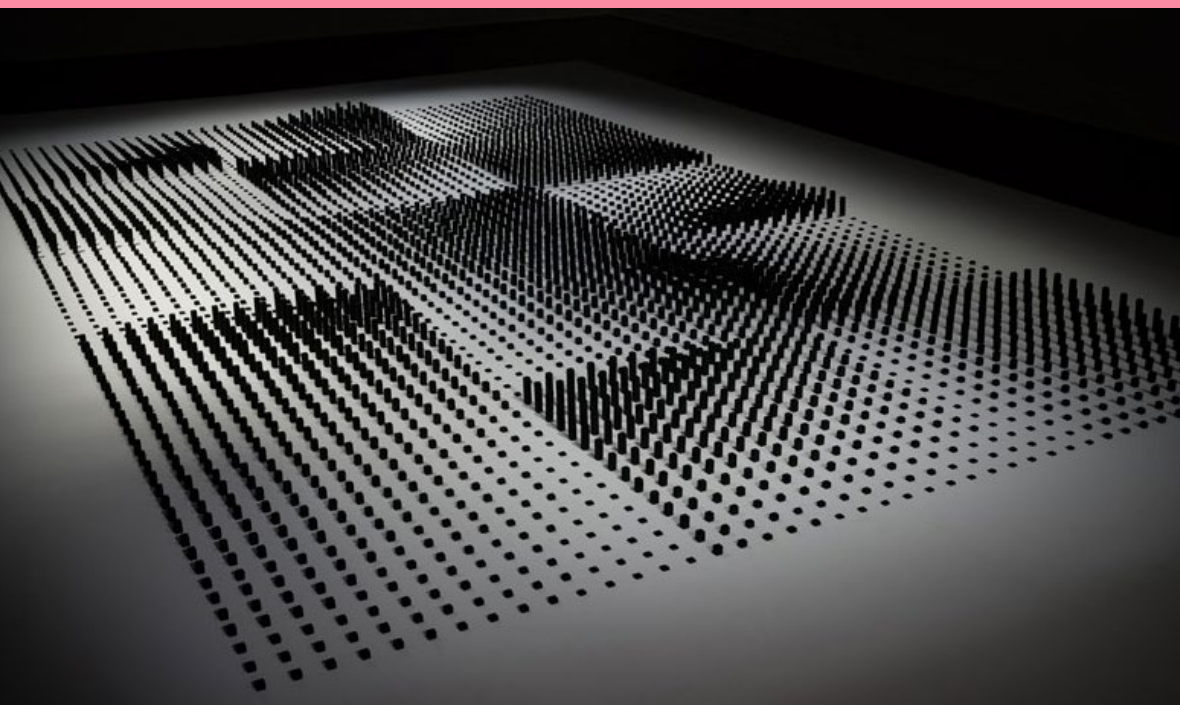


Jane Stewart

Epoch is the second exhibition in the Hobart Current series, which is a major biennial program presented in partnership between the City of Hobart and TMAG. The exhibition is curated by Chris Twite who was chosen after a national callout (incidentally, he was later appointed as the Creative Director of Dark Mofo and moved to Hobart earlier this year).

Right: Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler, Present Being, 2023, installation view. Photography: Peter Whyte

Above: Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler, Present Being, 2023, detail. Photography: Peter Whyte





Top: Lou Conboy, *Ignition*, 2023, installation view. Photography: Peter Whyte. Bottom: Lou Conboy in front of *Ignition*, 2023. Photography: Rosie Hastie

In line with the Epoch theme, Chris sought Tasmanian, national and international artists who were interested in responding to the world before us, particularly in face of significant events and movements such as Black Lives Matter, Me Too, Covid-19, The Great Resignation, and the climate crisis. In his words:

We live in interesting times, plunged into global upheaval, shaken by local change and challenged to personally reflect. Like never before we have been given the opportunity to take stock of our lives, our beliefs and our actions as individuals, communities and nations. As we step towards 2024, one thing is certain: we know that there is a doorway and through it lies a new epoch. A new era that will define us for another generation.

In early 2022, a national callout led more than 140 artists to submit EOIs. The ensuing exhibition ensures that TMAG is exhibiting some compelling contemporary art at TMAG over the popular summer period. Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler, Lou Conboy, Nathan Maynard, Tricky Walsh and Georgia Morgan bring the Argyle Galleries to life, while Florence Shaw's Plenty can be seen in the background can be experienced in the Private Secretaries Cottage which will, unusually, remain open to the public throughout the exhibition. Isabella Maria Foster's neon Post-Cringe can be seen on the outside of TMAG's Argyle Street wall, Rochelle Haley's Skylight Arcade is in Purdy's Lane, and Arushi Jain's audio installation The Depths of Intimacy can be experienced in the St David's Park rotunda.



Above: Tricky Walsh, *The Weight of Things*, 2023, acrylic on paper with embedded augmented reality triggers. Photography: Peter Whyte

Left: Nathan Maynard in front of *Relics Act*, 2023. Photography: Rosie Hastie



ON BOARD

TASMANIAN EXPEDITION CRUISES

On Board offers intimate, exclusive expedition cruises that explore remote corners of Tasmania's World-Heritage-listed wilderness.

From a brand-new boutique expedition vessel, guests are immersed in wilds few will ever reach on daily walks and adventure boat excursions with expert local guides. Back onboard, the reward for the day's efforts includes a feast of Tasmania's finest seafood, wines, and whiskies under a thousand stars, and luxurious lodgings with expansive, ever-changing views of untouched waterways, peaks and forests. On Board's signature 5-day expedition is in Port Davey (Southwest Tasmania), a vast

and spectacular harbour, inaccessible by road, reached via scenic seaplane flight.

On Board won a gold medal on Friday 17th November at the Tasmanian Tourism Awards.

If you missed out on the Auction at the function last week we suggest you check the web site for details of Tasmanian Cruises with On Board www.onboardexpeditions.com.au



taypani
milaythina-tu.
**RETURN
TO COUNTRY**

Mary Mulcahy

In October 2022 the First Peoples Art and Culture department in TMAG launched a major exhibition and associated program taypani milaythina-tu - Return to Country.

taypani is an ambitious long-term program to facilitate Tasmanian Aboriginal community reconnection with historic cultural objects held in institutions globally - many of which have been away from Country since the late 1700's and early 1800's.

The red ochred necklace from the Field Museum in Chicago next to the necklace Andrew Gall made in response and with the painting of Wurati by Thomas Bock and the bust of Wurati by Benjamin Law showing Wurati wearing a similar necklace.



taypani presented the opportunity for twenty contemporary Palawa artists and cultural practitioners to respond to the experience of being reunited with ancestral cultural belongings for the first time since the belongings were removed from Lutruwita and demonstrating the continuing cultural practices of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

The exhibition allowed the broader public to visit, witness, and consider specialised traditional cultural practices of Tasmanian Aboriginal ancestors, to learn from the stories held within each artefact's removal, journey, and potential return home, and to share the heartfelt response from each contemporary maker as they responded through their art or craft practice.

The opportunity for Tasmania's Aboriginal community to visit, see, and feel the energy of their ancestors who made each cultural treasure by sourcing local materials to create the *rikawa* (kelp water carriers), *rraka* (spears), *pila* (waddies), *liwuray* (firesticks), *tirrina* (string baskets), *kanalaritja* (necklaces), *ninga* and *tuylini* (canoes), and bone and stone implements for their everyday use is immeasurable in its value to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

The acquisition of works from this exhibition is testament to the commitment TMAG made to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in its Apology of 15 February 2021 ensuring that its collection better reflects Tasmanian Aboriginal contemporary practices than it has done historically.

A culturally significant, richly informative, and historically important project such as *taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country* has capacity to heal, educate, and unite through the stories and learning shared across all Tasmanians and our visitors. The support from the TMAG Foundation for *taypani* is deeply valued and appreciated.

The *taypani* exhibition was uninstalled in May but the red ochred necklace from Chicago and the *rikawa* from Paris have been moved to *ningina tunapri* – the water carrier has been installed in the same case as the *rikawa* from London. The *rikawa* will remain there until October

2025. The necklace will remain in *ningina* until the end of 2023.

The Community engagement element of the *taypani* program began once the exhibition closed in May 2023 with talks and access to the objects being organised for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community e.g., during NAIDOC week the TMAG First Peoples Art and Culture team ran tours for members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community of the First Peoples collection at Rosny with particular focus on the cultural belongings that were borrowed for *taypani milaythina-tu*. The First Peoples Art and Culture team will run these tours until October 2024 and will include tours of TMAG's city site to include the two *rikawa* and the necklace from Chicago, tours of *Ningina tunapri* and *Parawa Parawa!* galleries as well as viewings of works on paper such as those by Annie Benbow and Thomas Bock and lithographs from the D'Entrecasteaux and Baudin expeditions.

taypani milaythina-tu was well received by the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and TMAG received requests from several groups to extend the exhibitions beyond its initial end date of mid-February 2023. TMAG was able to extend the exhibition to May 2023 after TMAG and the City of

Hobart decided to move the opening of planned exhibition Hobart Current: Epoch from March until November 2023.

In the last months of the exhibition TMAG received a large volume of requests from a wide variety of groups and organisations for guided tours of the exhibition. This interest was piqued by two objects that were returned after the *taypani* exhibition opened: a *rikawa* from Paris that was collected on Bruni d'Entrecasteaux's expedition in 1792 and the red ochred necklace from Chicago that was collected before 1834.

Visitors to *taypani* included the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs the Honorable Linda Burney and Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs from states and territories. The American Ambassador Her Excellency Caroline Kennedy visited TMAG on the 1 May primarily to visit *taypani*. Ambassador Kennedy was accompanied by the American Consul General Kathleen Lively who is a regular visitor to Tasmania (and TMAG). The Ambassador's husband is a museum designer asked several TMAG staff members to pass on his congratulations to the exhibition designers - he said the exhibition was World class and he had never seen cultural objects presented so meaningfully.

The extension of the exhibition meant more education groups were able to visit the exhibition during Term 1 and take advantage of the rich learning opportunities it presented.

TMAG anticipated that the exhibition would be visited by 25,500 people, and this was achieved in November 2023. Overall 48,686 visited the exhibition.

Her Excellency Ambassador Kennedy and Mathina doll with reflections of Janice Ross' responses to Mathina doll and the painting of Mathina by Thomas Bock.





Government House

F U N C T I O N

Megan James

The TMAG Foundation Board is pleased to recount the wonderful evening of fundraising hosted on Friday 6th October, at Government House made possible by your involvement. The event stood as a celebration of community spirit and a shared appreciation for Tasmanian art and heritage.





Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO provided a splendid setting for the event. Along with its beautiful grounds, Government House offered a stunning backdrop, with views stretching across the Derwent River, enhancing the display of contemporary works against the rich tapestry of Tasmania's history.



Tasmanian Artists David Keeling and Michaye Boulter presented their work and that of other artists on display, creating an engaging dialogue between the contemporary and the historical.

We are fortunate to have a Governor who champions contemporary art and, through collective support, we continue to add valuable pieces to the TMAG State Collection. Some of these pieces are now part of the Government House display, allowing visitors to appreciate the evolving cultural narrative of our state.

The success of the evening is a collective achievement that we all share, as it not only highlights the art itself but also the enduring commitment to Tasmania's cultural future.



TMAG Foundation Board Members:

Colin S Thomas (Chair)
Romy Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Peter Black (Treasurer)

Bob Annells
Harriett England
Megan James

John Lewinski
Jo Marshall
Ian Stewart

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*We thank the following for
their support of this magazine.*



**HATTIE
WALLIS
DESIGN**

Photography: Rosie Hastie