

OPENING AT TMAG on 18 December is a new exhibition called *Pattern Play*, and the

Friends of TMAG are playing along by donating \$15,000 to develop a special display for this exciting exhibition aimed at young and old.

Pattern Play is made up of *Pattern Bandits*, an immersive exhibition featuring Los Angeles-based Australian artist Jemima Wyman, who shares with young visitors her interests in the relationships between pattern, people and architecture, and *Patterns in Nature*, an exhibition drawing on TMAG's own rich collections to highlight the many

“This is an exhibition to bring out the child in all of us”

—Andy Baird, TMAG Acting Deputy Director

the child in all of us,” he says. “And it also has its serious side, as an important early skills development is seeing patterns in different aspects of life.”

While *Pattern Bandits* explores the way patterns can express who we are, where we live, and transform our view of the world, *Patterns in Nature* draws attention to spots and stripes, spirals and speckles, natural number patterns and patterns of behaviour that can form the patterns we see

and variations among beetle species from around the world.

This exhibition, specifically focused on families, shows how TMAG is exploring new ways to build on its role as an intergenerational learning environment. And the Friends of TMAG are proud to support this important initiative.

PATTERN PLAY
18 DEC 2015 TO 22 MAY 2016



George Bornemissza's *Forest Beauties of the Beetle World* collection

spectacular patterns that occur in the natural world.

Pattern Bandits is a major Touring Exhibition from the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA). This interactive family exhibition encourages young and old alike to enter the brightly coloured and highly patterned world of the artist and explore different patterns in kaleidoscopes, tessellations, camouflage and harlequin, with specially designed hands-on multimedia and activities. Andy Baird, TMAG Acting Deputy Director, suggests that adults should bring along their own inner child as well. “This is an exhibition to bring out

every day. It uses items from TMAG's much-loved science collections and interactive elements to engage visitors with the patterns that occur in nature, with particular reference to Tasmanian plants and animals.

The Friends are sponsoring a display from the wonderful collection *Forest Beauties of the Beetle World* presented to TMAG by Dr George Bornemissza in 1998–2012. Using about a third of the collection, this display draws our attention to patterns by creating striking arrangements of beetles organised into groups that reveal similarities



Miguel de Salas, Senior Curator of Botany, collecting *Dicksonia antarctica* for the *Patterns in Nature* exhibition.



Your new Friends committee

AT OUR AGM in September, long-standing committee member **Julie Hawkins** was elected President, taking the reins from John Sexton who served in the role for six years.

Julie works as a graphic designer and interpretation professional, having operated her own design consultancy for many years. As Secretary for the past few years, she has worked to implement the online membership management system, and also designs and produces the regular newsletter.



Julie Hawkins

Christopher Thomas continues to serve as Vice President, **Andrew Ross** is Secretary and **Noel Harper** is Treasurer. Other committee members are **Jean Boughy, David Coleman, Digby Longhurst, Matt Spencer** and new faces **Suzy Cooper** and **Gabrielle Balon**.

John Sexton serves on the committee as Immediate Past President.

Suzy Cooper



Gabrielle Balon



Address by the Director

YOU MIGHT RECALL that when TMAG Director Janet Carding first spoke to the Friends she had only been in the job for a few weeks. By the time she gave an address at our AGM in September, she had been at TMAG for six months.

Janet's address contains an insightful summing up of the year's highlights, and an outline of her approach to the development of a strategic plan. It makes for interesting reading for Friends members — I think you will agree that we are in good hands. A few extracts from the address are included below: the full text is available in the News section on our website.

“ Around the world museums and galleries are changing as we see more programs and events alongside the exhibitions and educational activities, evening openings, collaborations around research, new initiatives for early years, wellness and medical, and an increase in collections online. Over the next few years we'll see increasing use of big data, and gain a better understanding of how museums strengthen communities — giving people a strong sense of identity grounded in history, art and landscape — in this globalised world.

Within Tasmania we're seeing a push to increase tourism to 1.5 million visitors, but also initiatives around educational attainment — in all of these areas TMAG can and will play an important role.

With the first stage of the redevelopment completed, now is

the time to build on what we've achieved and focus on how we bring the museum and art gallery to life every day. We're working on our plans for the future and by the end of the year will have a new strategic plan, but what I can tell you today is that we should be:

- The leading destination to explore the stories of Tasmania
- A must-do for tourists and popular with locals

We do this by being:

- Compelling for adults, families and school students
- A centre for volunteering, philanthropy and citizen science/humanities
- The State's collections content hub, supporting culture, tourism, research and education state-wide. ”



Janet Carding

“ Looking ahead we've signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Natural History Museum, Le Havre, in conjunction with six other museums around Australia to be part of a touring exhibition throughout 2016 and 2017 of original artworks from Baudin's expeditions to Australia. ”

“ I've already been struck by the joy, enthusiasm and generosity of the Friends, always enjoying learning and new experiences, whilst supporting TMAG. Thank you for making me welcome, and I look forward to talking more with you as each new idea for TMAG takes shape. ”

Recent Friends events



Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens



RTBG staff members Natalie Tapson and Lorraine Perrins inspired members with their overview of the incredible scientific and conservation work that is done quietly behind the scenes as we enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Gardens. The efforts of RTBG staff contribute to the long-term survival of Tasmania's rare and endangered native species.

When we visited Narryna in November, Scott Carlin, Manager, House Museums at TMAG spoke about the ongoing work at Narryna. Then Alan Townsend, 'wallpaper nerd', gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Fifty Shades of Grey: Colour, Excess and Luxury in Van Diemens Land 1834-1870'.

Narryna Heritage Museum



Theatre Royal

Members had a wonderful opportunity to see behind the scenes at not one but two tours of the Theatre Royal. For most of us it's the only time we are likely to be on stage looking out at the audience, rather than in the audience enjoying the happenings on stage.



Upcoming Friends events

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY planning next year's events. We have something in place for every month, and set out below are our first few events for 2016. Please note that exhibitions and dates are still to be confirmed.

Keep an eye on your inbox (or your mailbox) for invitations a few weeks ahead of each event. Details will also appear on our website friendsoftmag.org.au, where you will be able to book and pay for events. The site is frequently updated with news and photos of past events, as well as early advice of future events, so it's worth checking in regularly.

February **Pattern Play**

An interactive family exhibition, *Pattern Play* presents *Jemima Wyman: Pattern Bandits*, a Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) Touring Exhibition. The exhibition also incorporates *Patterns in Nature*, drawing on TMAG's own rich collections to highlight the many spectacular patterns that occur in the natural world, with particular reference to Tasmanian plants and animals. We hope you will bring along your children or grandchildren.

March **New members night: Australian ceramics**

The Anthony Howard ceramics collection, including Japanese-Australian potters Hiroe Swen, Shiga Shigeo and Mitsuo Shoji as well illustrious Australian potters such as Milton Moon, Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Col Levy, Derek Smith and Stephen Benwell.

April **Botanical illustrations**

Professor Rod Seppelt of the Tasmanian Herbarium is held in high esteem within the botanical community as one of Australia's most accomplished botanical illustrators. This exhibition presents several of his illustrations of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts).

May **Snapshot: European migration to Tasmania 1945-75**

Guest curated by Dr Nicola Goc, this exhibition will give Tasmanians the chance to hear the fascinating stories of migrant women, told through their snapshots and their own voices retelling their experiences.

Speaking of rewards, the TMAG Shop is offering a special **20% pre-Christmas discount** members of the Friends and other TMAG support groups.

Membership that rewards you



THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY collects, houses and safeguards our natural and cultural heritage and provides an insight into other cultures.

The Friends are a group of people formed to bring the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to Tasmanians and Tasmanians to TMAG. The Friends aim to help TMAG with our time, our talents and our money and to make more information available to the community about the TMAG and its collections. Part of the function of The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Inc. is to raise funds to assist with the purchase of significant items for the TMAG.

The Friends of TMAG are part of a wider Australian group with similar aims, the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums (AFFM).

You can read more about Friends on our website friendsoftmag.org.au

The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery Incorporated

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Vice President: Christopher Thomas
Treasurer: Noel Harper
Secretary: Andrew Ross
Immediate Past President: John Sexton

Committee Members:
Gabrielle Balon Jean Boughey
David Coleman Suzy Cooper
Digby Longhurst Matt Spencer

Ex Officio:
Janet Carding, Director, TMAG

OFFICE HOURS

We are run entirely by volunteers so we can't staff our office on a fulltime basis. Our website friendsoftmag.org.au carries lots of information and we encourage you to use it for booking and paying for events. If you need to ask a question, an email to friends@tmag.tas.gov.au will get our prompt attention.

We almost always answer the phone at TMAG on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 and 12, so that's the best time if you need to call.

Views expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and not necessarily those of the editor, the Friends of the TMAG or the TMAG.

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SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Corinda's Cottages
Ewe-nique
Hair 156
E.R. Henry Wherrett & Benjamin
Mona Nails
Yellowpoint Vineyard

CORPORATE MEMBERS

 In Graphic Detail



