

## **Annual General Meeting - 12 December 2024 Attachments**

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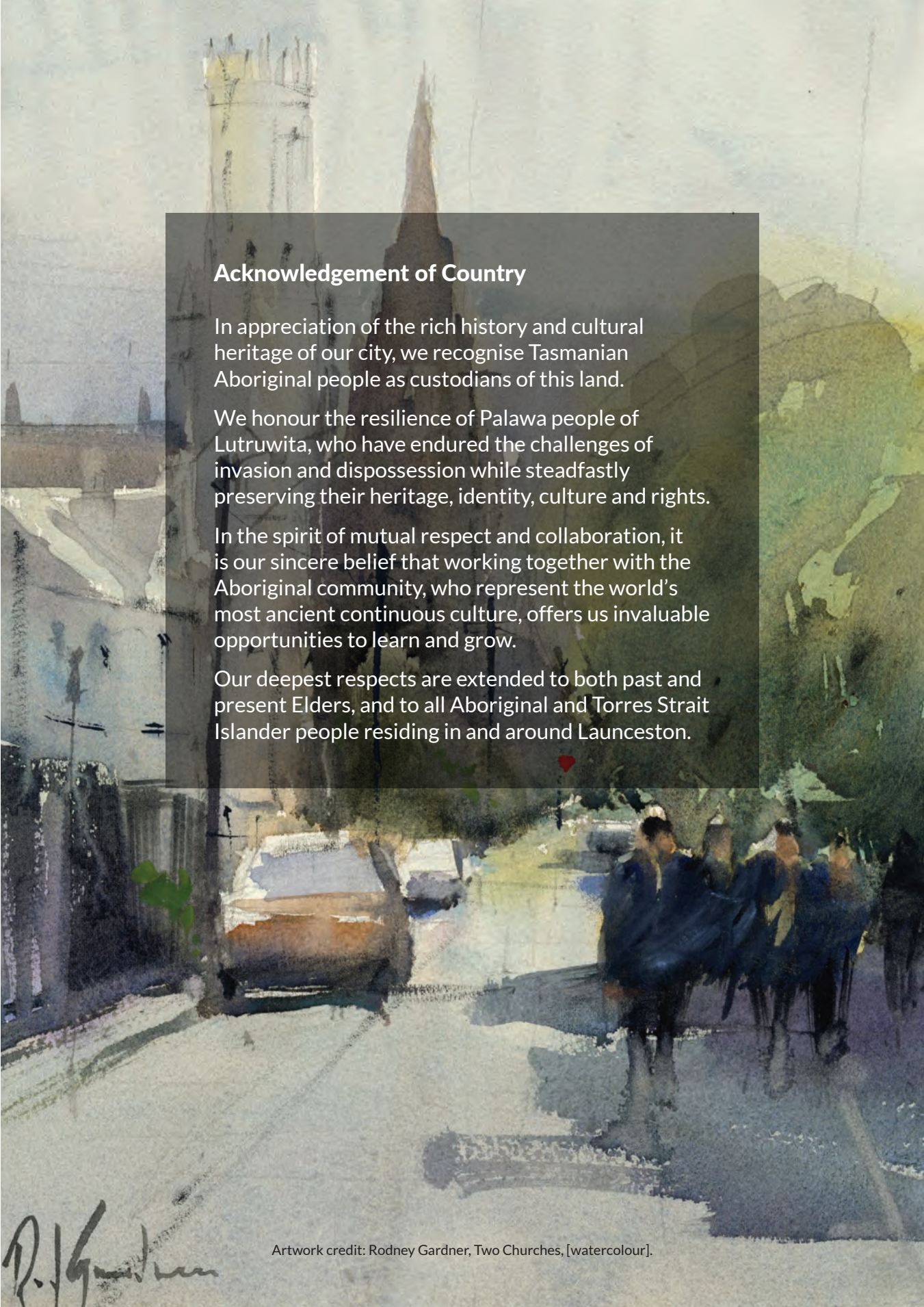


# CITY OF LAUNCESTON ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24







### Acknowledgement of Country

In appreciation of the rich history and cultural heritage of our city, we recognise Tasmanian Aboriginal people as custodians of this land.

We honour the resilience of Palawa people of Lutruwita, who have endured the challenges of invasion and dispossession while steadfastly preserving their heritage, identity, culture and rights.

In the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, it is our sincere belief that working together with the Aboriginal community, who represent the world's most ancient continuous culture, offers us invaluable opportunities to learn and grow.

Our deepest respects are extended to both past and present Elders, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in and around Launceston.

Artwork credit: Rodney Gardner, Two Churches, [watercolour].

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## Mayor's Message



**The 2023-24 financial year has seen continual progress on a range of projects across the City of Launceston municipality.**

Our Council is determined to work collaboratively with the Northern Tasmanian community to make our city the envy of regional Australia, and we have made some great gains over the past 12 months.

The breadth of work the Council has overseen this year has been wide-ranging, and I am really excited to see such a visionary program of works and initiatives being delivered in partnership with the people of Launceston and other tiers of government.

From significant infrastructure projects to community-based initiatives, the depth and breadth of projects we have on the books are testament to the vision of Northern Tasmania and its community.

As Mayor I've been really grateful for the engagement of the Launceston community over the past financial year.

I look forward to this collaborative and responsive relationship continuing as you have your say and help us get the best outcomes for our city.

Your voice is important.

This Annual Report represents the hard work of many dedicated people and the entire Launceston community, who share a passion for our city and a desire to leave it better than they found it.



**MATTHEW GARWOOD**  
Mayor



## Chief Executive Officer's Foreword



**With a raft of transformative projects on its books, the City of Launceston is open for business, and working hard to attract new investment to our municipality.**

In the 2023-24 financial year, the City of Launceston has approved \$372m worth of development, an increase of \$57m on the previous year.

In total, over the past five years the City of Launceston has approved \$1.52 billion worth of development, across nearly 3,300 individual planning applications.

This is an impressive statistic, and one which demonstrates the will of our organisation to work collaboratively to create new opportunities for Launceston and its residents.

The City of Launceston's portfolio of responsibilities is diverse and continues to evolve in response to the needs of our community.

With challenges across our community in terms of cost of living and housing, we have sought to work in new ways to support our residents, and to trial new programs and initiatives to assist those in need.

We've worked hard to progress game-changing projects like the Albert Hall and Launceston Road Safety Centre redevelopment projects, and to put plans in place for the future upgrade of community assets like the Princess Theatre.

The past 12 months have been challenging and exciting, and the City of Launceston looks forward to delivering more positive outcomes for our city in the years ahead.



**SHANE EBERHARDT**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer





# PART ONE ABOUT THE COUNCIL

## Introduction

The City of Launceston Annual Report for the 2023-24 financial year presents the City's financial and operational performance for the year against the key objectives, strategies and priorities outlined in our Corporate Strategic Plan and Greater Launceston Plan.

The *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas.)* (the Act) requires local governments to prepare an annual report for each financial year. Section 72 of the Act requires Councils to report on progress on annual plan actions, goal and objectives relating to public health, code of conduct complaints and the costs associated with them, financial statements, donated land, along with a copy of the financial audit opinion.

## Where to get a copy

The City of Launceston's Annual Report can be downloaded via the City's website ([www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Reports-Plans-and-Strategies/Annual-Report](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Reports-Plans-and-Strategies/Annual-Report)). In line with the City's ongoing commitment to sustainability, a limited number of hard copies of the Annual Report are produced. These can be viewed by the public at Town Hall, 18-28 St John Street Launceston or a copy can be requested by calling the Customer Service Centre on (03) 6323 3000.





## Organisational Vision and Mission

### Greater Launceston Plan Community Vision Statement

*Sustainable prosperity for greater Launceston will be achieved by consolidating and building nationally and internationally recognised strategic advantages for the region through a focus on creativity and innovation, maintaining exceptional environmental and liveability qualities and ensuring a diverse, connected and inclusive region.*

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### Our Vision

*Inspired people, working together to create the best outcomes for our community.*

### Our Purpose

*We are a progressive organisation, working with our community to create a positive future for Launceston.*

## Organisational Values



### Our people matter

- we value clear and open communication
- we support and encourage each other
- we respect diversity
- we recognise individual needs, experience and strengths



### We care about our community

- we take pride in our work and pursue a standard of excellence
- we genuinely listen, and value collaborative relationships
- we strive towards the best outcome for our community
- we make responsible and sustainable decisions



### We bring an open mind

- we actively seek opportunities to continuously improve
- we respect and explore different ideas and perspectives
- we embrace change that leads to positive outcomes
- we value innovation and creativity



### We go home safe and well

- we show care for people and look out for one another
- we speak up and support others to be healthy and safe
- we take personal responsibility for our own health and wellbeing
- we value work-life fit



## Council Profile

As the nation's third oldest city, Launceston has a long history. It is home to many stories, both told and untold. The region has been home to the Tasmanian Aboriginals for thousands of years. The City of Launceston is committed to collaborating with community to preserve, protect and care for the land and our heritage for future generations. The city is the meeting place of the kanamaluka / Tamar Estuary, surrounded by the State's most sought-after attractions. Launceston boasts attractions like the Cataract Gorge, City Park, UTAS Stadium and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery – all within a short walk of the city centre.

With a diverse community from around the world, our city offers a blend of urban comfort, historic architecture, and walkability. Known for its thriving food, fermentation and drinks scene with agricultural roots and famous markets, Launceston is a UNESCO City of Gastronomy.



## History

Launceston was proclaimed a municipality by an Act of Parliament on 30 October 1852, 47 years after European settlement. The boundaries extended less than two kilometres from the centre of the town. Seven Aldermen were elected to the Launceston Town Council on 1 January 1853, at the first local government elections held in Van Diemen's Land. The Aldermen elected the first Mayor, Alderman William Stammers Button, later that day at the first meeting of the Town Council.

On 8 May 1985, the councils of Launceston City, St Leonards and Lilydale were amalgamated to form the new City of Launceston. After this amalgamation, a number of rural areas were included in the municipal area. The most recent boundary changes took place in 1992 when parts of Prospect and Relbia were included within our local government area.

## Town Hall

Launceston's Town Hall is one of few mid-Victorian buildings still used for its original purpose. The ground floor of the original building contained the Council Chamber and municipal offices, along with a concert hall and meeting room on the upper floor. The building was first occupied in 1867.

The Town Hall has been extended and its interior modified several times – first in 1906 and again in 1936.

The Town Hall Annexe was developed in 1986-88 using the late nineteenth century Federation - Queen Anne styled building, known as the old Mail Exchange, on the southwest corner of Cimitiere and St John Streets.





## About the City of Launceston

Estimated Resident  
Population 


**71,788\***

Working Age  
Population  
(aged 15-64 years) 

**46,159** 64.3%

Estimated Resident Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Population

**3,202\*\*** 4.4%

Persons born  
overseas 

**11,285\*\*** 15.7%

Median price of  
established house  
transfers 

**549,000\***

 Total number  
of businesses  
**6,007\***

Land area (ha)  
**141,363.1\*\*** 

Total protected  
land area (ha)  
**8,192\*** 2.7%

**2023**  
Internal and overseas  
migration - year ended 30 June\*

Internal arrivals / departures

**3,858**  
Arrivals   
**4,751**  
Departures


Net migration

**740**  
Overseas   
**-893**  
Internal

Overseas

**1,155**  
Arrivals   
**415**  
Departures

Road Network

 City of Launceston  
maintains **765.28 km** of  
road including:  
• **394.71 km** of urban roads and  
• **371.83 km** of rural roads

**93** bridges 

 There is approximately  
**34.33 km** of privately  
maintained roads in the  
Launceston municipality

**2021**

Occupation of employed  
persons - Persons aged 15  
years and over\*\*

Managers  
**11.2%** 

Professionals  
**20.6%** 

Technicians and  
trades workers  
**12.9%** 

Community  
and personal  
service workers  
**14.4%**

Clerical and  
administrative  
workers  
**11%**


Sales workers  
**9.6%**


Labourers  
**11.6%**

Machinery  
operators  
and drivers  
**7%**

Occupation  
inadequately described  
or not stated  
**1.7%**

Parks and Recreation

**269** Council owned,  
maintained and/or  
managed parks, reserves,  
and conservation areas 

**67** Play spaces 

 **25,925** Trees  
(excluding bushland trees)

**1829** Hectares  
of parklands 

\* Australian Bureau of Statistics, Launceston Local Government Area Data | \*\* 2021 Census

## Council and Elected Members

### Elected Members

Councillors have specific powers, responsibilities and duties as set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas). The City of Launceston is served by 12 Councillors, one of whom is the Mayor.

Councillors are elected for a four-year term. Local government elections were held in November 2022. Following the resignation of Mayor Danny Gibson on 15 May 2023, a by-election was held to fill the vacant position, and Councillor Matthew Garwood was elected as Mayor in July 2023.





## Mayor Matthew Garwood

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Living in the Northern Suburbs with his wife Michelle, daughter Billie and his dogs, Matthew was born and raised in Launceston. With a heart for community and a passion for people, Matthew is heavily integrated into the Launceston municipality and after 8 years working in local radio with LAFM & CHILLI FM, has jumped fully into the role of Mayor.

Having performed throughout the country and represented the city around the world, Matthew has stepped up to continue contributing to a community that has given him so much, and is honoured to be the City of Launceston Mayor.

As Mayor, Matthew's vision is one of connectedness. Connected through infrastructure, transport, arts and culture, identity, gastronomy, sport and recreation, bringing a focus on communication and conversation and creating a sense of pride, purpose and belonging.

Exuberating fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm, Matthew also brings a wealth of leadership experience from his varied roles on State and local committees.

**Special Committees:** Community Grants (Organisations) Program, Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel, Launceston City Heart Reference Group, Northern Youth Coordinating Committee, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Governance Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Group

**External Committees:** Local Government Association of Tasmania, TasWater Owners Representative, and Community Representative on David Chapin Memorial Trust

**Mayor Garwood is Patron of:** Friends of the Library Launceston, Launceston Competitions Association, Launceston Henley Association and Northern Tasmanian Junior Soccer Association

**Mayor Garwood is Vice Patron of:** Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania Ltd and Surf Lifesaving Club



## Deputy Mayor Hugh McKenzie

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Councillor Hugh McKenzie was first elected to Council in October 2011 and to his current position of Deputy Mayor in July 2023. He comes from a strong business background, having been a partner in business advisory firm KPMG for 24 years. Since retiring from that position, he has spent his time giving back to his community in a variety of ways, not the least in his role as Councillor.

He determined in order to do this role, the way he wanted (which is full commitment) he needed to be free from a permanent fulltime role and as such now focusses on board positions and community roles outside his councillor duties. He makes himself available to meet with community members to discuss matters important to them and assists them in their interactions with Council and/or advocates where appropriate.

In the theme of giving back, he is the current President of the Northern Suburbs Community Centre, is Chair of philanthropic organisation The Cape Hope Foundation, which funds "hand up" type projects across the northern region. He also sits as the City of Launceston endorsed director of Launceston Airport, and is the current Chair and holds non-executive board positions with The Hobart Clinic and Tasmanian Irrigation.

Councillor McKenzie believes he brings a strong governance and strategic focus with a can-do attitude to Council. He has lived his whole adult life in Launceston, has been happily married for forty years, raised and educated four children and now proud grand parent of four boys who live in Launceston, which provides added motivation to continue to involve himself in our community, to grow a future for them.

He is an avid sports fan who has participated in many sports including, AFL, cricket, tennis, golf and cycling and is heavily invested in the Arts through an actor son and wife, and his role on the Theatre North Board.

He lives by the mantra of "don't say do" as actions speak louder than words.

**Special Committees:** Audit Panel, Municipal Emergency Management Committee (Chair) and Tender Review Committee

**External Committees:** Australian Pacific Airports Launceston, Theatre North Inc. and University of Tasmania Northern Campus Engagement and Advisory Group





## Councillor Danny Gibson

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Danny is currently serving as Councillor at the City of Launceston, having previously been elected as both Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

His philosophy is, 'Love where you live.  
Live where you love.'

Danny believes in evidence-based decision making and seeks to balance the diverse needs of the community, small business sector, the arts, sport and recreation, and the future sustainable development of the city.

He understands the importance of community-based events to the cultural fabric of Launceston, having served as a volunteer, supporter and patron of many not-for-profit organisations in Northern Tasmania.

Danny has a passion for grassroots, community-driven projects and initiatives, and seeks to be a positive, collaborative and proactive contributor to the betterment of the city. He has been a successful advocate for improved recreational infrastructure and facilities, disadvantaged communities across Northern Tasmania, youth education, public art, strategic planning and sustainable development.

Throughout his career, Danny has directed or assisted more than 50 local theatre productions for a range of performing arts companies - many performed at Launceston's iconic Princess Theatre.

He has been involved in many significant community fundraisers, including for families affected by the 2013 Tasmanian bushfires.

In addition, Danny coordinated Launceston's popular family-friendly Carols by Candlelight event for eight years.

Danny is a proud Northern Tasmanian, who has enjoyed a career in print media, arts education, the small business sector, events and the performing arts.

Danny believes Launceston's best days are still to come, and is committed to making Launceston one of Australia's most successful, vibrant and dynamic regional cities.



## Councillor Andrea Dawkins

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Andrea Dawkins was elected to City of Launceston in 2014, leading to a stint in state parliament from 2015 to 2018. Councillor Dawkins also has over 20 years in small business and six years in the not-for-profit sector. Her strengths are in social enterprise, place-making and animal welfare.

In her 2022 campaign, Andrea highlighted the need to reduce pollution in the valley. Having moved a successful joint motion, Council is now developing a Clean Air Strategy as a matter of priority. Regulation on removing of single-use-plastics from our local government area has somewhat stalled after Councillor Dawkins' successful motion to phase out their use. As the environmental impacts of the products that replaced single-use-plastics are unfolding, another solution is being sought by the industry with urgency. Councillor Dawkins continues to raise the importance of furthering investigations regarding confining cats to property for biosecurity and safety reasons.

Councillor Dawkins continues to bring the voices of the broader community to the council table with recent motions to develop an Inclusion Strategy and the importance of imbedding child safety practices into every aspect of City of Launceston's operations in the wake of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse in Tasmania.

In 2023, Councillor Dawkins was inducted to the Tasmanian Honour Roll for Women for service to community, advocacy and inclusion; government and public service.

Andrea also serves as the CEO of RSPCA Tasmania.

**Special Committees:** Access Advisory Committee

**External Committees:** Newstead College Association



## Councillor Alan Harris

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Councillor Alan Harris was first elected to Council in 2018 and was re-elected in 2022. Councillor Harris was born, educated and lives in Launceston, married to Katrina with two adult children and his interests include community service through Rotary, cycling and classic motorcycles.

Councillor Harris has a wealth of business knowledge and skills, gained over a 40+ year career, working as a Senior Executive in Telstra, Federal politics and in the aged care sector.

Councillor Harris has been an active Rotarian since 2003, holding many leadership positions including Club President, Assistant District Governor, led a Rotary International Exchange team to Denmark in 2012 and is the current Rotary Community Leader for all Rotary Clubs in Northern Tasmania. He is the past Chairman of the Carrick Community Committee and the Southern Launceston Community Development Committee.

Councillor Harris is committed to bringing new ideas, a strong business acumen and leadership to the Council. He supports TasWater's \$130M project to clean up the Tamar River by significantly reducing sewerage overflows into the Tamar but he also recognises there is much more to be done. He supports the introduction of 60-minute free parking in CBD Council owned car parks to encourage more CBD retail activity and also revised planning laws to encourage more medium density living in the inner city area. He supports expanded CBD pedestrian areas; increased street trees throughout our city; new dedicated off-road cycle paths to connect our suburbs to the city and improve safety & traffic flow management around the city centre.

**Special Committees:** Launceston City Heart Reference Group, Tender Review Committee and Transport Committee (Chair)

**External Committees:** Economic Development Working Group, Franklin House Management Committee and University of Tasmania Northern Campus Engagement and Advisory Group



## Councillor Tim Walker

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E tim.walker@launceston.tas.gov.au

Councillor Tim Walker was elected to Launceston Council in 2018. He has a diverse career including journalism, teaching, carpentry and set building, a support worker, event manager and political adviser. He sees Launceston as one of the great small cities in the world, with the potential to become even better: connected, equitable and sustainable. He has an active interest in our built heritage, arts, environment and outdoor activities.

Tim knows Launceston faces big challenges in terms of population growth, traffic management and housing availability and affordability, and looks forward to working with the broader community to find long-term solutions that are sustainable. These include improving public transport options and dedicated cycle ways, encouraging affordable and sustainable housing, improving resource recycling and reuse, developing a meaningful, ongoing relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, improving the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and our other waterways, supporting local fresh food security, and championing thoughtful urban development that does not detract from our enviable and unique community lifestyle.

He considers it an honour to serve the City of Launceston as a Councillor, and is always available to hear from you about your ideas or concerns for our community.

**Special Committees:** Audit Panel, Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (Chair), Cultural Advisory Group (Chair), Homelessness Advisory Committee (Chair) and Tender Review Committee

**External Committees:** Economic Development Working Group



## Councillor George Razay

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Councillor and Clinical Professor George Razay was elected in October 2022. He has spent the last 27 years working as a General Physician and Geriatrician, Director of the Dementia Research Centre at the Launceston General Hospital and (Clinical School of Medicine) University of Tasmania. He was a 2021 Tasmanian Australian of the Year nominee.

Prof. Razay's research has contributed greatly to increasing our understanding of the risk factors and treatment of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. His research was the first to report: a) the link between obesity, abdominal obesity, the metabolic syndrome and Alzheimer's disease; b) improvement in cognitive and physical functioning following exercise in Alzheimer's disease and; c) the high incidence of idiopathic Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, a treatable form of dementia that is often misdiagnosed and that can be treated with shunt surgery which improves cognition, balance, and gait.

Prof. Razay was active in raising funds for the Clifford Craig Foundation and provided education to the community through regular public lectures and media interviews. He was also the Patron of B4X (Before X generation) group (2005-2010), whose main aims included promoting healthy living and raising funding for medical research.

He was the Tasmanian representative in the Clinical Reference Group of the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council Care of Older Australians Working Group in 2003-04. He was also a member of the Clinical Reference Group for Tasmania Dementia Care Plan 2000 and beyond, and also participated in a state-wide review of geriatric and rehabilitation services in 2002.

Prof. Razay is proud to serve the Launceston City as a Councillor. His campaign goals included promoting a healthy and active community, combating traffic congestion and air pollution, supporting the homeless people, improving the Tamar River, revitalising the city centre, promoting respect for our seniors and supporting the young generation.

**Special Committees:** Launceston City Heart Reference Group and Homelessness Advisory Committee.



## Councillor Joe Pentridge

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Councillor Joe Pentridge is Launceston-born and raised, but also proud of his Croatian heritage. He was brought up to believe that hard work created opportunities and has continued to apply that throughout his working life.

Joe joined Launceston's workforce as a boilermaker-welder and through the opportunities that created has become a developer of industrial and residential sites throughout the city.

Commercial developments have been a specialty and he has acquired expertise in this style of development.

He firmly believes in the principle of reuse, and applies it to restoring and reusing machinery, land sites and residential properties. Joe loves Launceston's heritage buildings and believe that they must be retained and reused and, where necessary, transformed for modern use.

He also believes everyone deserves a fair go and is committed to representing the community to the best of his ability, taking things on with passion and drive.

**Special Committees:** Heritage Advisory Committee, Launceston Sister City Committee, Tender Review Committee and Transport Committee.





## Councillor Andrew Palmer

T 0428 379 739

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Andrew has immersed himself in community representation since being elected to Launceston Council last year.

Andrew is passionate about our city and increasing opportunities throughout northern Tasmania.

He understands the value of supporting employers and employees in our diverse local economy and is particularly interested in growing the arts and cultural sector as a way of attracting visitors and growing the local economy.

With a focus on family and as a small business owner for almost 20 years, Andrew wants to see our region continue to thrive, which is why he is listening to the concerns and aspirations of ratepayers and retailers.

It is through this consultation that drives Andrew to deliver for local communities:

- Securing \$50,000 for the Lilydale playground upgrade
- Pivotal in the deduction of City of Launceston hall hire fees
- Helping providers work with people facing the prospect of homelessness
- Advocating for and achieving disability access ramps in Newstead
- Working with a local farmer to secure Russell Plains Road farm at Rocherlea
- Helping residents streamline local rubbish collections
- Clearing of dumped rubbish from West Launceston

**Special Committees:** Community Grants (Organisations) Program, Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel, Launceston Sister City and Scholarships and Bursary Committee.



## Councillor Lindi McMahon

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Prior to election Councillor Lindi McMahon was:

- a local business owner of Hope & Me in the Quadrant Mall for 13 years
- Camp Quality companion for 10 years
- Cityprom Board member for 5 years - 3 as Chairperson, Marketing Committee for 4 years - 3 as Chairperson and Governance committee member for two years
- member of the City of Launceston Lions Club 5 years, 1 year as Treasurer
- winner Launceston Chamber of Commerce Retail Entrepreneur Award 2018
- S Group Top 5 #Wonder100 Wonderchaser 2018
- finalist Telstra Business Women's Award 2019
- Patron and Honorary Member Soroptimist International Launceston
- creator of the free community event 'The Mad Hatters Twilight Festival' running for six years prior to COVID.

Lindi has real experience in finance, governance, marketing, events and community engagement. She is a committed community leader, dedicated to understanding the challenges and barriers of all our people.

She has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, and is the creator of the 'Get Vocal Buy Local' initiative and facilitator of 'Lifting the Lid on Mental Health' information sharing platform.

Passionate about Launceston, its businesses and people and she looks forward to having a positive impact on the future success of our municipality. People Passion Purpose

**Special Committees:** Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee, Community Grants (Organisations) Program, Events Sponsorship Assessment Panel (Chair) and Youth Advisory Group

**External Committees:** Communities for Children kanamaluka (in Launceston and the Tamar Valley) and Launceston College Association.



## Councillor Susie Cai

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Susie arrived from China with her family in 1987 and has lived in Launceston for 36 years. She co-owns and manages a Chinese restaurant business with her husband and is a mother of 3 children. Since the age of 11 Susie has worked in her parents and now in her own restaurant. She was educated in Launceston at Glen Dhu Primary, Queechy High and Launceston College. Susie has an understanding of and concern for members of the community who must deal with health and financial challenges affecting their daily lives. Homelessness and creating safer communities are high priorities.

Her personal experiences have always motivated her to act on behalf of people who may feel powerless and to work co-operatively with Council to improve the circumstances of those experiencing disadvantage.

“Fairness and equity are always what I seek to achieve around the council table. It is an honour to be a member of the council team. I work hard to achieve open and fair representation. I take my responsibilities as a member of the council team seriously.

I am proud of Launceston and its natural and built heritage. There is still much to do to ensure Launceston is measured in its progress yet imaginative in making it a happier and safer city in which to live.”

**Special Committees:** Heritage Advisory Committee and Scholarships and Bursary Committee.

**External Committees:** Launceston Safer Communities Partnership.



## Councillor Alex Britton

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Councillor Britton was born in Launceston and attended Larmenier Primary and St. Patrick’s College.

Alex is passionate about small business and the role that it plays in shaping our Northern Tasmanian community.

He is a huge supporter of the tourism and hospitality sector and believes Launceston can capitalise on the ever-growing opportunities in this area. Furthermore, he wishes to see more opportunities for young people in Launceston and Northern Tasmania, and believes it is important to attract and keep them here in our wonderful city.

Alex is proud of the authentic relationships that he builds whilst running his busy Launceston hospitality venues.

He looks forward to applying his sound business experience to the Council decision-making processes.

**Special Committees:** Cultural Advisory Committee and Launceston Sister City Committee

**External Committees:** Economic Development Working Group

## Councillor Allowances and Expenses Statement

Section 72(1)(cb) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to provide a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

In 2023-24 the City of Launceston provided allowances and reimbursements for reasonable expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. This included telephone rental and calls, travelling and care of any child of a Councillor. The total amount of these expenses is shown below.

Allowances: \$640,349 Expenses: \$16,320

## Council Meetings

At the City of Launceston, Council meetings are held every second Thursday in keeping with the schedule published on the Council's website.

Council meetings start at 1pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers and are open to the public. Members of the public can ask questions of the Council during public question time at the start of each meeting, or can speak to an item in the agenda.

From time to time, a special meeting of Council is convened in accordance with regulation 4(1)(b) or (6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*. Additionally, section 72B of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires Council to hold an Annual General Meeting.

## Councillor Meeting Attendance

Section 72(1)(cc) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to state the attendance of each Councillor at meetings of the Council or any Council committee during the preceding financial year.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, there were a total of 24 ordinary Council meetings, 15 Closed Council meetings, 23 pre-Council Workshops and 22 Workshops. There was a special ordinary meeting held on 14 September 2023, which included a closed session. The Council's Annual General Meeting was held on 7 December 2023.

	Pre-Council Workshops	Council	Closed Council	Workshop	Special Council Meeting (including Closed session) 14 Sept 2023	Annual General Meeting
<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Mayor Councillor Matthew Garwood	22	23	15	19	1	1
Deputy Mayor Councillor Hugh McKenzie	19	23	14	18	1	1
Councillor Danny Gibson	23	24	15	21	1	1
Councillor Andrea Dawkins	19	20	12	21	1	1
Councillor Alan Harris	23	24	14	21	1	1
Councillor Tim Walker	20	24	15	21	1	0
Councillor Prof George Razay	19	20	13	18	1	1
Councillor Joe Pentridge	18	22	14	20	1	0
Councillor Andrew Palmer	18	24	15	20	1	0
Councillor Lindi McMahon	22	22	14	18	1	1
Councillor Susie Cai	22	24	15	22	1	0
Councillor Alex Britton	20	22	14	20	1	1



## Committees and Councillor Representation on External Bodies

A number of committees, which include Councillors and members of the public, have been established to provide community participation and engagement. Elected Members may also represent the community on external bodies and provide input from a council and local perspective.

### Special Committees convened under section 24 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

#### Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee

The Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee was established to assist the Council in achieving the 2030 vision for the Cataract Gorge Reserve and Trevallyn Nature Recreation area as outlined in the Re-imagining the Cataract Gorge Final Plan endorsed by Council on 14 December 2015.

The objectives of the Cataract Gorge Reserve Advisory Committee are to:

- Provide input into the strategic direction and opportunities for the Cataract Gorge Reserve
- Participate in the review of management actions to achieve the endorsed strategic outcomes
- Strengthen the connection between reserve managers and the community.

#### Community Grants (Organisations) Program

The Community Grants Assessment Panel reviews and assesses grant applications in accordance with the Community Grants Policy and Guidelines. The Assessment Panel recommendations allow for informed decision making by Council when approving funding allocation for projects.

The primary role of the Community Grants Assessment Panel is to:

- Consider the clear community need that may benefit from a grant application
- Review and assess applications on the potential social connection and community participation
- Consider whether the project for which the grant is sought includes clear engagement and collaboration with the community
- Provide recommendations to Council on grants to be approved for funding.

The Councillors nominated to the Assessment Panel have a secondary role by providing input into the annual recommendation to Council for Community Organisations seeking assistance via the Concessional Entry to the Council's Waste Disposal Facilities.



**Cultural Advisory Committee**

The primary purpose of the Cultural Advisory Committee is to provide Councillors and employees with strategic advice and informed feedback on matters pertaining to cultural development in the City of Launceston including the implementation of the Cultural Strategy. It also assists in promoting awareness and understanding of arts and culture in the municipality.

The objectives of the Cultural Advisory Committee include:

- Provide advice and support for cultural development within the municipal area, consistent with the Council's strategies and policies, including the implementation of City of Launceston's Cultural Strategy 2020-2030
- Advocate for the arts in Launceston
- Facilitate communication and joint initiatives between local business and industry, educational institutions, community groups and the Council in arts and cultural related disciplines
- Provide high-level advice to the Council on matters relating to public art and other commissions in the City of Launceston
- Advise the Council on delivering inclusive and diverse cultural services
- Promote integration across other committees and advisory groups of Council such as, but not limited to, the Heritage Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Group, the Access Advisory Committee and Aboriginal Reference Group.

**Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel**

The Event Sponsorship Assessment Panel reviews and assesses sponsorship applications in accordance with the Event Sponsorship Policy and Guidelines. The Panel's recommendations allow for informed decision making by Council when approving funding allocations for events.

The role of the Panel is to:

- Consider, review and assess event sponsorship applications against the relevant Event Sponsorship Program assessment criteria
- Provide recommendations to the Council on events to be approved for funding.

**Heritage Advisory Committee**

The Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the Council on heritage matters and to promote the value of heritage places within the municipality.

The role of the Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee is to:

- Provide advice and recommendations on the development of Council policy relating to heritage matters
- Provide advice on and participate in the overview of heritage studies undertaken by the Council
- Provide advice and recommendations on applications made by the Council for heritage funding
- Consult with stakeholders to determine community aspirations relating to heritage places and objects
- Promote the Council's objectives and the principles of reuse of heritage assets in the city
- Promote community participation in, and awareness of, heritage activities
- Provide advice to the Council on development proposals involving heritage values on properties either heritage registered or covered by heritage precinct or overlay.



The Avenue, Launceston



**Homelessness Advisory Committee**

Homelessness is a complex issue and there are many factors that contribute to a person's homelessness. Many of these factors lie outside the remit of local government, however through an educated, collaborative and needs-focussed approach, the City of Launceston is committed to playing a constructive role in the provision of strategies and actions to support the homeless community.

The primary purpose of the Homelessness Advisory Committee is to:

- Enable a collaborative approach between key sector service providers, community members and relevant levels of government in addressing the short, medium and long-term needs of Launceston's homeless community
- Identify, support and coordinate achievable actions which will assist in addressing the evolving needs of Launceston's homeless community
- Develop a greater and shared understanding of the roles, responsibilities and priorities within the community in responding to homelessness.

**Launceston Access Advisory Committee**

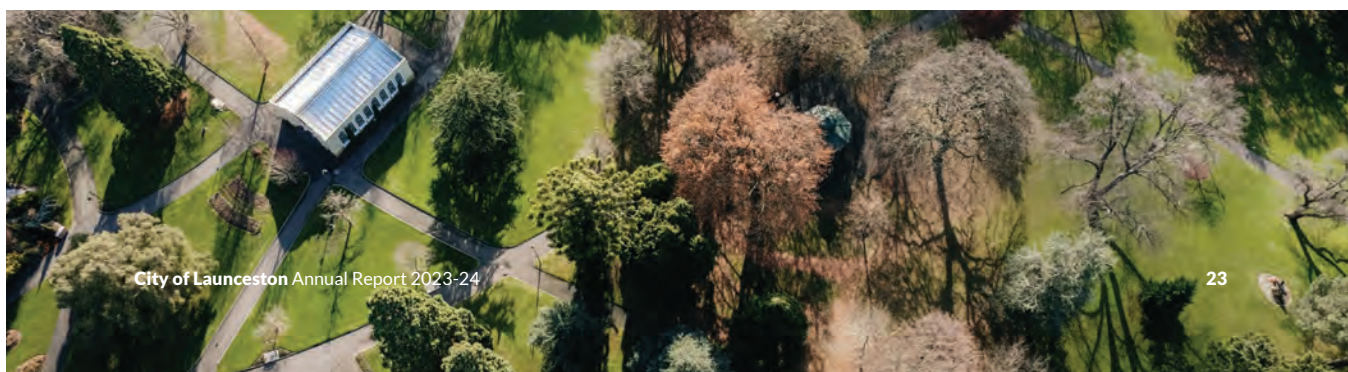
The Launceston Access Advisory Committee's purpose is to provide high level strategic advice to the Council on matters relevant to access. It aims to promote accessibility issues within the municipality and to bring together agencies and service providers to raise the profile of accessibility in line with the Access Plan.

The objectives of the Launceston Access Advisory Committee are to:

- Review the City of Launceston's Access Plan every four years
- Provide an annual report to the Council of actions undertaken against the Access Plan
- Present any new Access Plan to the Council for adoption
- Review up-and-coming capital projects from the aspect of accessibility, and provide strategic high-level advice to the City of Launceston
- Advocate to other levels of government or other agencies for action on identified accessibility priorities
- Promote the benefits of being accessible to local businesses
- Provide advice to the Council on specific matters relating to accessibility
- Promote community participation in and awareness of access activities.

**Launceston Safer Communities Partnership**

The Launceston Safer Communities Partnership is an inter-organisational committee which addresses community safety issues as they relate to the greater Launceston area. Included in its membership are representatives from Local Government, State Government departments, community-based organisations and the business sector. The Partnership initiates action in relation to safety issues which affect the amenity and quality of life of the greater Launceston area. Through advocacy it develops appropriate responses to community safety issues from a strengths-based community perspective that builds stronger communities through partnerships, coordination and resource sharing.





**Northern Youth Co-ordinating Committee (NYCC)**

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee comprises more than 100 members who work with youth in and around the Launceston municipality. These members engage with youth through a mix of local government organisations, non-government organisations and community groups. The NYCC meets bimonthly and provides the opportunity for members to share resources and network with others in the sector.

The NYCC provides an opportunity for Federal, State, Local Government and non-government youth service providers to come together to achieve a more coordinated approach to youth issues across Northern Tasmania.

The aim of the NYCC is to provide a mechanism for services to work cooperatively on youth issues. By working together, agencies can share resources to provide the best range of appropriate services to young people to:

- Create a forum for networking, sharing information and discussing youth issues relevant to Northern Tasmania
- Form member working groups for undertaking collaborative cross-agency youth projects
- Provide representation on external committees as agreed to by members
- Provide advice to the Council and its officers on specific matters relating to youth
- Provide advice to State and Federal Governments on specific matters relating to youth
- Provide professional development opportunities for Committee members.

**Launceston Sister City Committee**

The purpose of the Sister City Committee is to discuss sister cities matters and provide advice to Council on the maintenance of sister city relationships. The Committee is convened and resourced by Civic Affairs.

The role of the Sister City Committee is advisory and designed to build on established sister city relationships.

**Municipal Emergency Management Committee**

The key functions of the City of Launceston's Municipal Emergency Management Committee include:

- To promote, facilitate and advocate for continuous improvement in emergency management within the municipality including emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery
- To institute and coordinate emergency management in the Launceston municipal area
- Providing a forum for liaison between organisations with emergency management responsibilities in the municipality
- Reporting to the Regional Controller on any municipal matters that relate to the function of the Regional Committee
- Working with stakeholders to facilitate the assessment of major risks within the Launceston municipality
- Working with stakeholders to develop and implement risk treatment strategies for the Launceston municipality
- To identify actions to reduce the incidence and impacts of emergencies
- Reviewing the management of emergencies that have occurred in the municipality, and identify and support opportunities for improvement.



**Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery  
Governance Advisory Board (MGAB)**

Consistent with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery’s (QVMAG) status as a community cultural enterprise and its stated mission to be a leader in the intellectual and creative development of Launceston and Tasmania by increasing the community’s enjoyment and understanding of Launceston’s, and Tasmania’s natural and cultural heritage, MGAB has the role to advise the Council, the Chief Executive Officer, and the General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services in respect of a number of matters relating to QVMAG.

The MGAB is directly accountable to the Council, which is the QVMAG’s ultimate governing body. Its responsibilities include:

- Advise on the determination of QVMAG policies
- Advise on strategic planning
- Engage with management of QVMAG’s annual business/enterprise planning
- Review the recommendations in relation to proposed QVMAG collections acquisitions and de-accessions
- Be advised on QVMAG’s annual programming, marketing and promotion issues where appropriate.

**Scholarships and Bursary Committee**

The purpose of the City of Launceston’s Scholarship and Bursary Committee is to oversee the provision of financial assistance to students to enable them to undertake further education in areas which complement the vision of the City of Launceston. The scholarship and bursaries are awarded to students who reside in the Launceston municipality and who meet the selection criteria.

The role of the Scholarship and Bursary Committee is to provide links between:

- The Council and the University of Tasmania and
- The Council and the state high schools within the municipality.

**Transport Committee**

The Transport Committee champions and progresses the achievements of the Greater Launceston Transport Vision and Launceston Transport Strategy with a focus on our transport vision of:

- Our community will have access to diverse transport choices that connect them to our places
- Our focus on partnerships and innovation will promote our community’s wellbeing and improve Launceston’s liveability.

The Committee specifically provides advice on achieving our strategic direction of:

*A Liveable Launceston*

- L1 - Support vibrant places
- L2 - Enable a sustainable transport lifestyle
- L3 - Work with partners and community to deliver transport outcomes
- L4 - Create innovative transport solutions

*A Healthy Launceston*

- H1 - Promote healthy transport choices
- H2 - Work ‘Towards Zero’ road casualties

*A Connected Launceston*

- C1 - Optimise transport networks and services
- C2 - Ensure adequate infrastructure is in place
- C3 - Encourage the right modes on the right streets
- C4 - Provide multimodal transport choices
- C5 - Help people get to where they want to go
- C6 - Help goods get to where they need to go
- C7 - Promote evidence-based planning
- C8 - Respond to future transport trends





The role of the Transport Committee is to support the successful delivery of the Greater Launceston Transport Vision and Launceston Transport Strategy by:

- Providing a communicative/consultative link between the Council and relevant stakeholders
- Advising and make recommendations to the Council on issues and matters relating to the transport objectives
- Championing the implementation of best practice transport initiatives within the City
- Reviewing and commenting on the development of Government policies and legislation that have implications for key stakeholders in the municipal area and the Northern region
- Making transport recommendations for consideration in the Council's long-term planning processes.

#### **Tender Review Committee**

The Tender Review Committee has the delegated power to accept tenders in accordance with the recommendation of a Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) for:

- Projects that are in the current year's budget or are carryover projects from previous years, providing the projects are within budget allocations or conform to the exceedance criteria established in the operating procedures
- Periodic supply tender lists
- Preferred supplier lists or pre-qualified contractor lists.

#### **Youth Advisory Group (YAG)**

YAG is a special committee committed to empowering youth who live, study, and work in Launceston. The group acts as a link between the youth of Launceston and the City of Launceston; it provides young people with the opportunity to have their voices heard and to share information directly.

YAG's objectives are to:

- Enable a representative group of young people to respond to and offer advice to the Council, other agencies and all other levels of government on specific matters relating to youth in Launceston
- Provide an avenue for young people to raise issues or make comments on matters of importance to them
- Take action where appropriate on issues of importance and priority to young people
- Ensure that young people are involved in their community's economic, social and cultural development
- Positively promote youth within the municipality, especially in regards to the potential value which the community can gain from youth input.

This year, Skate of Mind was a notable achievement in December of 2023, with YAG collaborating with big hART to deliver this community event. Skate of Mind offered skateboarding workshops to a variety of ages, complete with live music. The event was a great success. In May of 2024, The Youth Network of Tasmania's 'Youth Forum' was attended by the Council's Youth Officer and was a beneficial opportunity to connect with young people from across the State. However, a recent survey highlighted that 85% of respondents were unaware of the YAG program. In response YAG has met with a variety of schools and community groups to highlight the benefits of the program. It has also developed new promotional posters for distribution to schools, community centres and local facilities.





### Audit Panel convened under section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*

The Audit Panel, formerly Finance and Audit Committee, was established in 2003 to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas.)* and operates in line with the *Local Government (Audit Panels) Order 2014*. The panel consists of an independent chairperson, two elected representatives and two independent members, selected through a recruitment process based on their skills and experience.

The key objectives of the Audit Panel are:

- a. to assist the Council in the effective conduct of its financial reporting responsibilities;
- b. the management of risk;
- c. maintaining a reliable system of internal controls;
- d. facilitating the conduct of the Council's activities in an ethical and responsible manner; and
- e. review the accounting, internal control, anti-fraud, anti-corruption and risk management policies, systems and controls that the Council has in relation to safeguarding its long-term financial position.

In 2023-24, the panel consisted of existing members Ric de Santi (Chair) and Independent Member Ken Clark and Councillors Hugh McKenzie and Tim Walker. Kathleen Sales was appointed as a second Independent Member by Council at its meeting on 24 August 2023.



## Executive Leadership Team



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

**1. Michael Stretton**

*Chief Executive Officer*

1 July 2023 to 2 February 2024

**2. Shane Eberhardt**

*General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network*

1 July 2023 to 2 February 2024

*Acting Chief Executive Officer*

5 February 2024 to 30 June 2023

**3. Dan Ryan**

*General Manager Community and Place Network*

1 July 2023 to 21 November 2023

**4. Michelle Ogulin**

*Acting General Manager Community and Place Network*

22 November 2023 to 20 February 2024

**5. Chelsea van Riet**

*General Manager Community and Place Network*

21 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

**6. Shane Fitzgerald**

*General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services Network*

**7. Leanne Purchase**

*Acting General Manager Organisational Service Network*

1 July 2023 to 29 September 2023

**8. Louise Foster**

*General Manager Organisational Service Network*

2 October 2023 to 30 June 2024

**9. Nathan Williams**

*Chief Financial Officer*

**10. Michael Newby**

*Chief Infrastructure Officer*

*Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Assets Network*

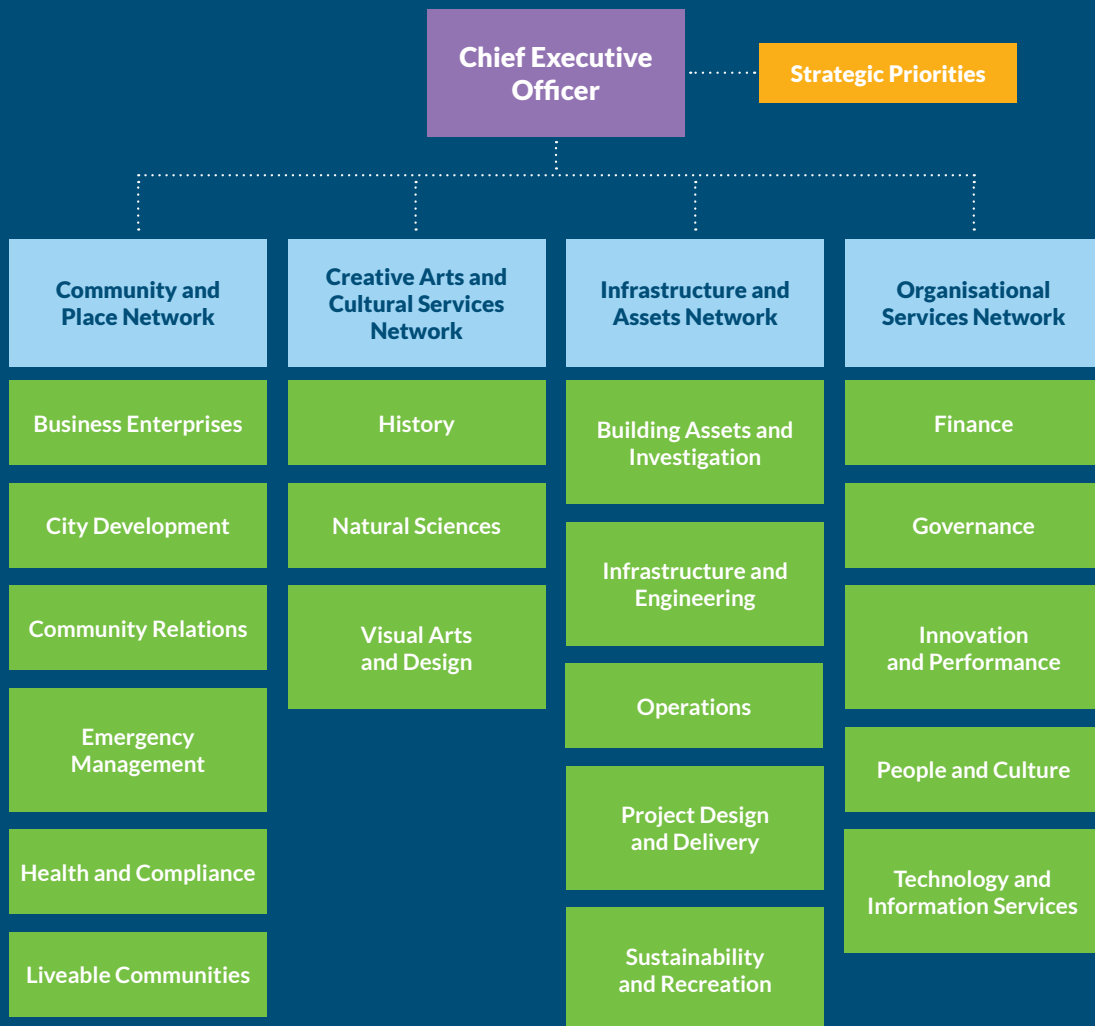
4 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

## Organisational Structure

Within our organisational structure are four Networks of teams. These Networks are in place to improve collaboration, engagement, and communication in a dynamic way and provide more equitable distribution of work across the organisation.

Each Network is led by a General Manager who reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. The General Managers are supported by a strong leadership structure of Managers and Team Leaders.

These Networks are:





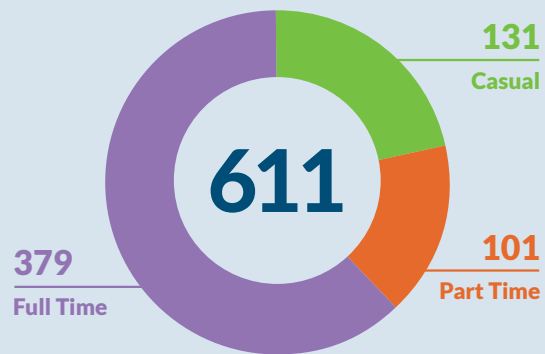
## Our People

Human Resources Reporting (as at June 2024)

### Apprentices and cadets



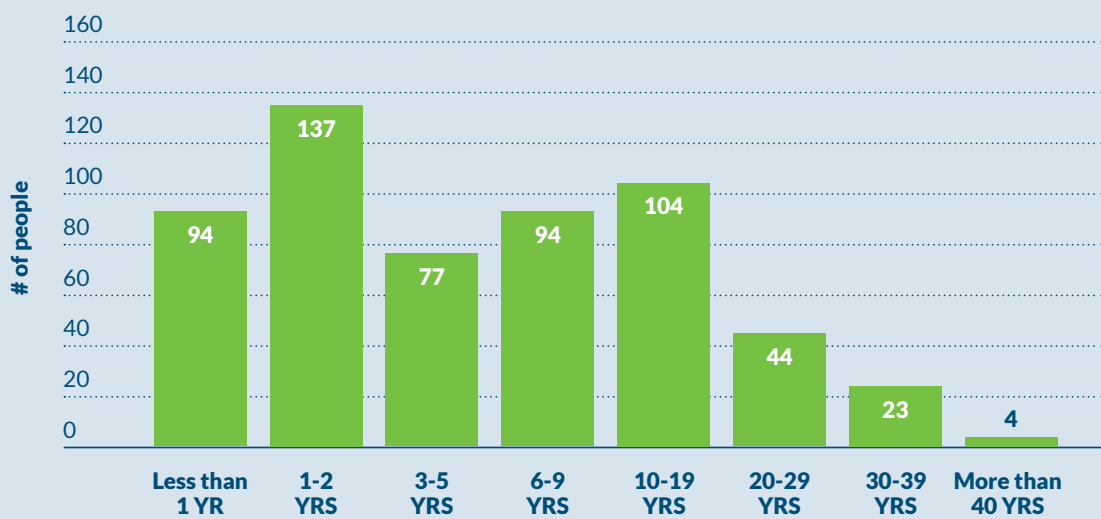
### Current Employees



### Gender balance



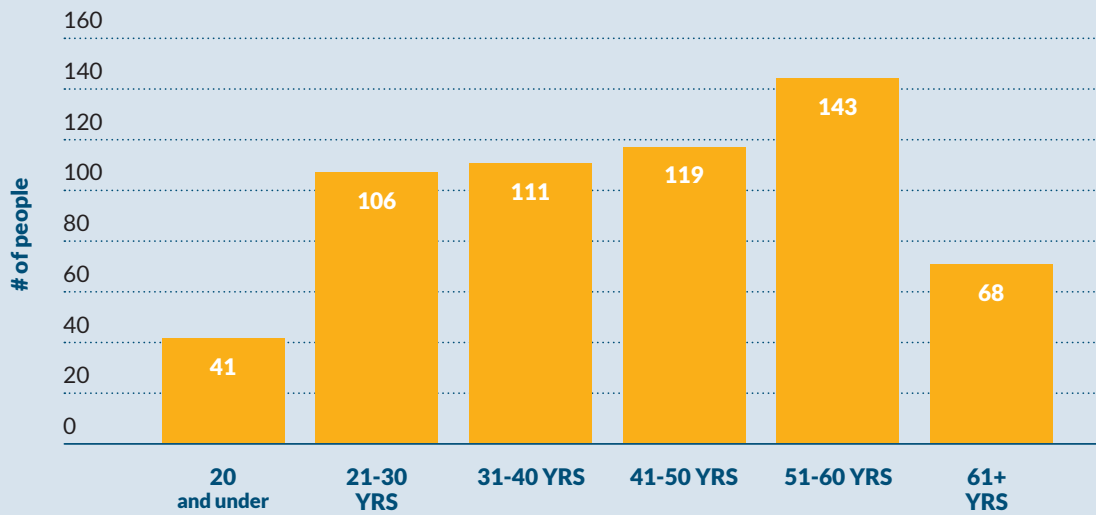
### Length of service



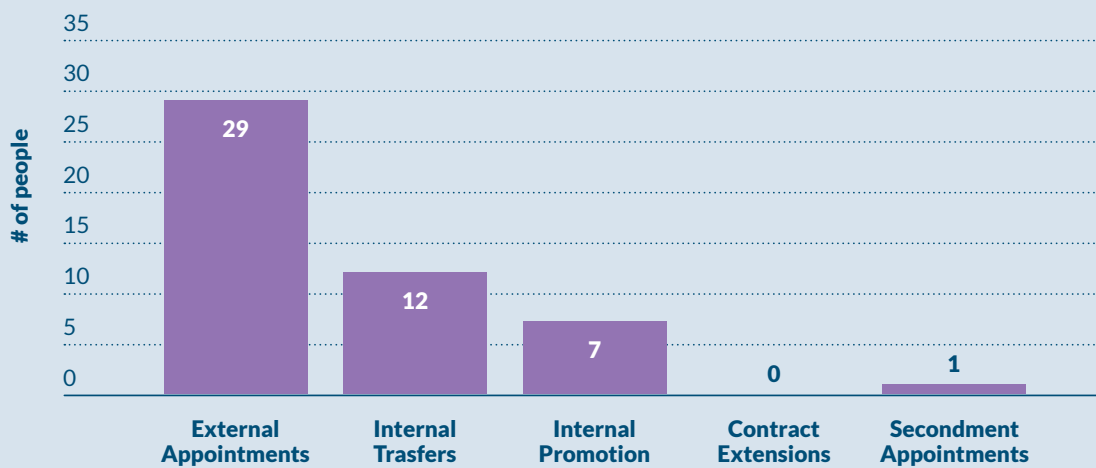
## Our People

Human Resources Reporting (as at June 2024)

### Age Banding



### Recruitment



Average Recruitment Time  
**46 Working Days**

Internal Promotions  
**4 - Male**  
**3 - Female**

## A Year in Review

# City of Launceston actioned 25,211 community requests



Roads and  
footpaths

**3,496**



Parks and  
recreation

**810**



Stormwater  
and drainage

**606**



Tree  
management

**1,254**



Parking

**4,286**



Environmental  
health

**1,240**



Bookings  
(Halls, Heat Kits, Malls)

**542**



Building and  
planning

**1,391**



Waste  
management

**5,486**



Dogs

**1,013**



Nature strips

**278**



Graffiti

**138**



Cleansing

**1,358**



Sleeping rough

**243**



Toilets

**386**



Other

**2,684**

## Parking

**1,391,153**

**EasyPark  
transactions**

**\$119,502**

**in parking  
concessions**

**December 2023**  
was the busiest month with

**122,790**

EasyPark transactions  
recorded

## Civic Affairs

Citizenship

**299**

**Conferees**

at four public  
citizenship  
ceremonies

Civic Functions

**8**

**Civic Functions**

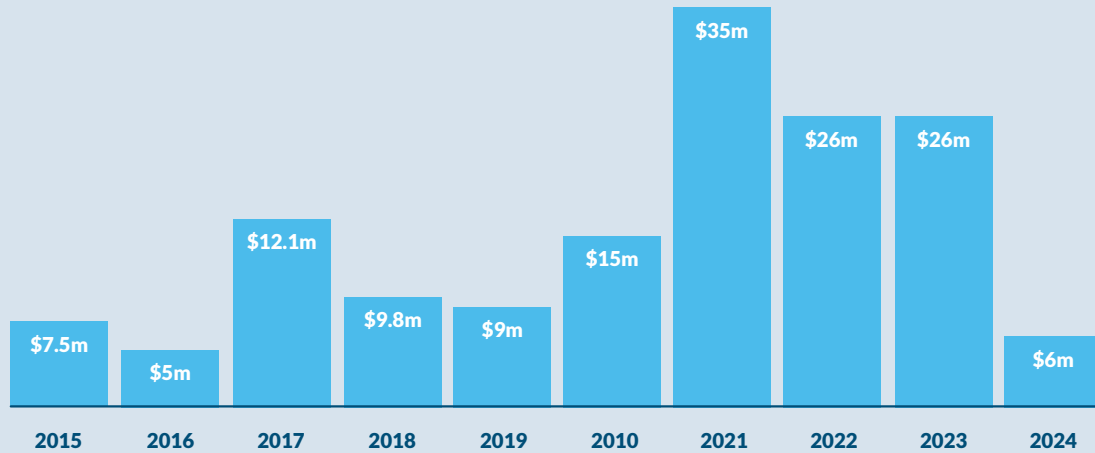
to mark anniversaries  
for community  
organisations



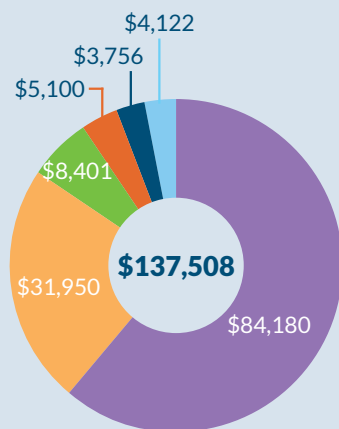


## Outstanding Loans

Year ending 30th of June.

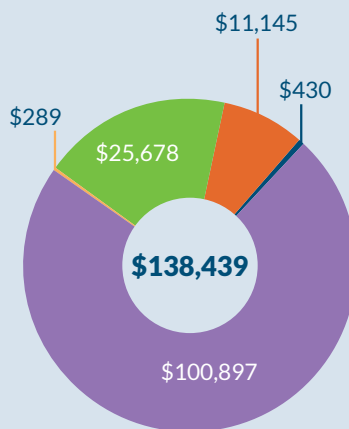


### Where the Dollars Come From



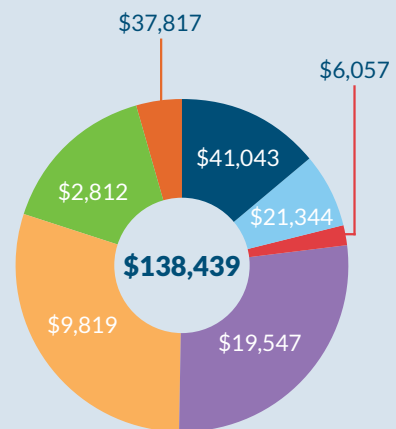
- 61.2% Rates
- 23.2% Fees and Charges
- 6.1% Operational Grant Revenue and Contributions
- 3.7% Interest Revenue
- 2.7% Investment Revenue
- 3.0% Other Revenue

### Where the Dollars Go



- 72.9% Provision of Services
- 0.2% Finance Costs
- 18.5% Depreciation
- 8.1% State Government Fire Service Levy
- 0.3% Rate Remissions and Abatements

### Expenditure by Program



- 14.1% General and Public Services
- 7.1% Public Order and Safety
- 2.0% Health and Welfare
- 27.3% Housing and Community Amenities
- 29.6% Recreation and Culture
- 15.4% Roads Traffic and Parking
- 4.4% Other

## Supporting the Community

### Access

Officers have commenced work on a range of initiatives to improve access for our community including improving the access widget on the City of Launceston and Leisure and Aquatic Centre websites; progressing Auslan signage in our parks; and starting work on access maps for our community and visitors to easily identify accessible parking spaces, accessible buildings and accessible toilets. Asset mapping across the city commenced with Elafent with officer support.

### Homelessness

In June 2024, the Homelessness statement of commitment was endorsed by Council. Illustrated using the works of Palawa watercolourist Rod Gardner who has lived experience of homelessness, the inaugural statement is organised by seven guiding principles from which quarterly action plans are developed.

In the last year, over 10,000 Reach Out cards were created and distributed, incorporating plain English contacts and descriptions of services and mapped amenities across Launceston. Feedback from people experiencing homelessness has highlighted the cards' utility, particularly for newcomers to Launceston or those undergoing recent changes in their living circumstances.

### Former YMCA site (8A Blaydon St), Kings Meadows

Until mid-2022 this site was operated as a community recreation facility by the YMCA. Following the YMCA's departure the Council received multiple requests for community groups to use the site, with St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) commencing a shower and laundry service for homeless people in 2023. Following a consultation process with multiple community organisations in late 2023, the Council decided to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with SVdP to operate the site for people experiencing homelessness and to also return the site to its former community roots – enabling increased social connectedness and recreational activities.

### Homelessness Advisory Committee

The City of Launceston leads the Homelessness Advisory Committee, which aims to facilitate cohesive service provision and advocacy on behalf of those experiencing homelessness. The committee is comprised of service providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and representatives from neighbouring councils and the State Government.

### Northern Community Action Group

The City of Launceston is a member of the Northern Community Action Group, a community-led collective which seeks collaboration to address the short, medium and long-term operational requirements of the community, while also meeting the evolving needs of those experiencing homelessness in the North.

### Operational Services

The Council has received and addressed 388 customer service enquiries relating to people experiencing homelessness this financial year. Our operational support services for people experiencing homelessness have included the provision and maintenance of Portaloo's at specific sites, routine cleansing and waste disposal, and the maintenance of other amenities at specific sites based on need. The Council's work in this area is undertaken in coordination with service providers and people experiencing homelessness. The Council has worked with service providers to actively assist at least two people to obtain housing offers. The City of Launceston continues to advocate to the State and Federal Governments and other stakeholders on the issue of homelessness.

### Data and Research

The Council is currently working to develop a by-names list for Launceston which will improve cohesive service provision for those community members sleeping rough. We are working with UTAS, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Centre (AHURI) and the new UTAS Homelessness CoLAB, a hub for collaborative research and advocacy on homelessness for priority populations.

The Council is also working with businesses on the provision of supplies including blankets and toiletries for distribution by service providers, along with the development of emergency response plans for natural disasters.

### Sleep Outs

The City of Launceston is a supporter of service provider activities, and City of Launceston staff once again participated in the Salvo's Sleep Out and the Vinnies CEO Sleep Outs.

**ABCDE Learning Site**

The City of Launceston's ABCDE Learning Site was held in Invermay for an extended period of 18 months, concluding in December 2024. Local community builders worked with the Council's community connector to identify, connect and mobilise their community assets in order to take action, make positive change and directly shape their community's future.

The final six months in Invermay concluded with:

- the transfer of the Heritage Forest Community Garden management to Welcome Cultural Services (former Migrant Resource Centre North)
- free public WIFI installed
- an updated Rocherlea Asset Map with the local community
- various Builder Time events connecting the community
- a final celebration at the Invermay Bowls and Community Club with the launch of the Invermay Report.

The community builders are supported to sustain their initiatives through the Council's community continuity plan.

The ABCDE Learning Site program has significantly grown since its inception in 2017, when it was originally created by Bank of I.D.E.A.S and adapted by the Council to deliver in communities. After six Learning Sites delivered in six suburbs the Council has undertaken a review of the current model to identify potential growth and improvement. Alongside this, a social impact research project is taking place which will complement the ABCDE Learning Site reflection and growth work in 2024. The Council is in a unique position to undertake longitudinal analysis of the social impact of six previous sites. The conclusion of the review and social impact research will occur at the end of 2024.

**Seniors Week**

The City of Launceston is dedicated to fostering an age-friendly community by providing activities for seniors and their caregivers. The City of Launceston hosted morning and afternoon teas at the two Neighbourhood Houses, featuring "Just Imagine" sing-along activities. Additionally, Dr George Razay delivered a presentation on Healthy Ageing. The Council also supported local events by illuminating Town Hall for 16 Days of Activism, Anti-poverty Week, the Walk Against Elder Abuse, and Volunteer Week.

**Children's Week**

To celebrate Children's Week, the City of Launceston partnered with Libraries Tasmania to offer a week of free outdoor activities in Civic Square for preschool-aged children. The activities included Rock & Rhyme, Storytime, music, chalk drawing and bubble-making in the picturesque Civic Square. The City of Launceston also supported sensory-based activities for adults and young children, along with arts-based early literacy activities such as singing, speaking, and storytelling with the Northern Early Years Group at the Children's Week kipli & kani event in Ravenswood. Additionally, a fun-filled "Milo & Magic" afternoon celebrating Children's Week was held at Waverley Primary School, featuring engaging activities for all and a community BBQ.

**Suicide Prevention**

Although the state-funded Launceston Suicide Prevention Trial has concluded, the City of Launceston remains committed to supporting suicide prevention efforts. The Council continues to support events such as the annual "Out of the Shadows" walk in City Park, organised in partnership with Lifeline to commemorate World Suicide Prevention Day, as well as the inaugural International Survivors of Suicide Loss.





**My Place My Future**

My Place My Future is a City Deal priority, supported by all three levels of government. This strategic plan dedicated to enhancing the liveability of Launceston's Northern Suburbs through infrastructure development, public space improvements, better transportation options, and improved social and economic outcomes for the community.

The City of Launceston is actively implementing place-based, community-focused programs and initiatives under this plan. It is committed to fostering strong relationships across the Northern Suburbs by engaging with stakeholders and community groups, supporting existing programs, advocating for necessary changes, and pursuing funding opportunities for new projects. Over the past financial year, council has facilitated the following:

- **Business Connect Program:** This program continued to deliver valuable resources to small business owners and entrepreneurs through informative workshops, panel sessions, and an online hub. Business Connect is designed to help small businesses start, grow and thrive by offering access to grant funding opportunities and links to local business services. The online hub also provides resources and information on upcoming events and workshops.
- **Celebrating Community Strengths:** This initiative focuses on promoting positive outcomes, fostering inclusion and connectivity, and celebrating community assets. It includes strategic collaborations through co-designing and planning with community members and service providers to support cultural, heritage, and significant place-based events. These events, attended by over 1,000 people, included the participation of Northern Suburbs schools in Science Week at QVMAG, Spring Clean Rocherlea, Christmas in Rocherlea, the Connected Women's Cookbook launch, School Holiday Fun Time, International Women's Day artwork and morning tea, celebrating Harmony Week, Youth Week in Torrens Park and the Refugee Week Art Exhibition and Digital Storytelling.
- **Community Leadership and Participation:** The My Place My Future Plan is dedicated to developing and supporting a network of place-based community action groups in the Northern Suburbs, in partnership with Project North (City Mission). The goal is to build resilient communities by empowering local residents to lead projects and events that are meaningful to them. Currently, there are three active groups: the Rocherlea Action Project Group, Community Together 7248 (Newnham/Mowbray/Mayfield), and a new group in Waverley/Ravenswood. These groups aim to create strong, supported, and connected communities.



Harmony Week



- **Digital Inclusion Wi-Fi Project:** This ongoing initiative aims to enhance and improve liveability in the Northern Suburbs by providing place-based solutions. Free public Wi-Fi is now available at ten locations, enabling those without home internet access to seek employment opportunities, access information, pay bills, and connect with the community. The Community Development Officer Northern Suburbs continues to advocate for sustainable digital inclusion, monitor the established Wi-Fi sites, analyse data usage, and explore opportunities for additional sites.
- **The Food and Resilience Movement (FaRM) Project:** This collaborative initiative focuses on food security and well-being in the Northern Suburbs, formed through a strategic partnership between the City of Launceston, the Northern Suburbs Community Centre and Starting Point Neighbourhood House. The FaRM project successfully secured a lease with the City of Launceston for a market garden site. This project aims to promote well-being, social inclusion, food security, and the development of a social enterprise.

- **Community Safety:** Following the success of the “Slow Down Save Lives” and the “Full Gear” programs, road safety remains a priority in the Northern Suburbs. During National Road Safety Week, the Community Development Officer Northern Suburbs hosted a community workshop, followed by another for stakeholders, service providers, and government agencies. The goal is to collaborate with the community to pursue advocacy or campaigns focused on road safety issues that matter most to them.

#### Music in the Park

Six free community concert series events under the Music in the Park banner were held in the band rotunda in City Park in January and February 2024. These events were free for the community to attend. There were a variety of music performances over the six occasions to appeal to a wide cross section of the City’s music lovers. In addition to the music performances, the City Park train operated free for families during the events which was well utilised by many who attended. Once again very positive feedback from the public was received.



### Visitor Economy

Launceston, affectionately known as Launnie, is a city where history, creativity, and community spirit converge to create an atmosphere unlike any other. Beneath the surface of our vibrant city lies an undercurrent that defines our character—an essence that you might not see immediately but will undoubtedly feel as soon as you arrive. It's in the streets, among the historic architecture, within the lush parklands, and along the picturesque waterways. This unique energy is born from generations of hard work, resilience, and a deep connection to both the land and its people. As Australia's third-oldest city, Launnie is not just a place to visit but a destination where stories of the past seamlessly blend with the innovation of today.

For those seeking more than just a beautiful landscape, Launceston is a haven for foodies, design enthusiasts, and experience seekers. The city's commitment to paddock-to-plate dining is celebrated every Saturday at the Harvest Market, where locals and visitors alike gather to connect with the artisans, winemakers, chefs, and producers who make this region so special. Whether you're exploring the 96 hectares of parklands, wandering through historical streets, or indulging in the vibrant food, wine, and beer culture, Launnie offers an authentic and enriching visitor experience. Our city is ready to share its unique stories with the world, inviting our temporary locals to be a part of our ongoing narrative.

In the year ending March 2024, Tasmania welcomed 1.277 million visitors, with Launceston playing a pivotal role in this resurgence. Our city saw 1.26 million visitor nights, reflecting a growing interest among travellers. International visitation also marked a significant return to pre-COVID levels, with 16.5% of visitors hailing from overseas, reaffirming Launceston's status as a destination of choice on the global stage. Launceston remains highly accessible: 81% of tourists arrived by air and 19% via sea routes.

Our tourism initiatives continue to be bolstered by the Launceston Place Brand, which has set an unrivalled benchmark for cohesive destination marketing for the second consecutive year. The seamless integration of this brand by key partners like Launceston Central, Launceston Airport and Brand Tasmania demonstrates the powerful synergy that emerges from aligning Launnie's unique identity with the vision of our partnering agencies. This collaborative approach not only amplifies our city's appeal but also drives visitor engagement, stimulates population growth, attracts private investment, and enhances liveability.

At the heart of our marketing strategy is the Launceston Place Brand digital asset platform, [www.launnie.com.au](http://www.launnie.com.au), a comprehensive repository offering 2,580 freely accessible promotional assets, including video, imagery, illustrations, a colour palette, typography, and the Launceston wordmark. The platform's reach has expanded significantly, now boasting 400+ registered users who are integral to spreading our brand's message far and wide. Complementing our digital efforts is our growing social media presence, where a vibrant community of 3k Instagram followers (@launnie\_tasmania) actively engages with our content. This platform not only showcases the creative utilisation of our brand assets but also fosters a deeper connection between Launceston and its diverse audience, further solidifying our reputation as a vibrant, welcoming, and creative city.

\*The data included in this report is captured from the Tasmanian Visitor Survey conducted by Tourism Tasmania 2024.





## Community Engagement

**Tomorrow Together** is the City of Launceston's Strategic Community Engagement Program, committed to coordinating its efforts on how we engage and involving our community in our decision making.

Using a themed approach we are able to connect with our community on a variety of subject areas at the same time. This ensures high response rates and reduces community engagement fatigue often faced by Councils who engage frequently on a project by project approach.

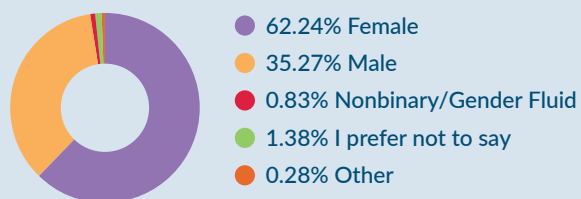
### Who we heard from through our strategic community engagement program *Tomorrow Together* - Resilient City theme

- Tomorrow Together online engagement platform subscribers **4,465** people
- Launceston suburbs - **33/54**
- Social Media - Impressions **244,057**, Link clicks **7,856**, Reactions **487**
- Nearly **7,000** people visited the Tomorrow Together site in 2023/24 FY

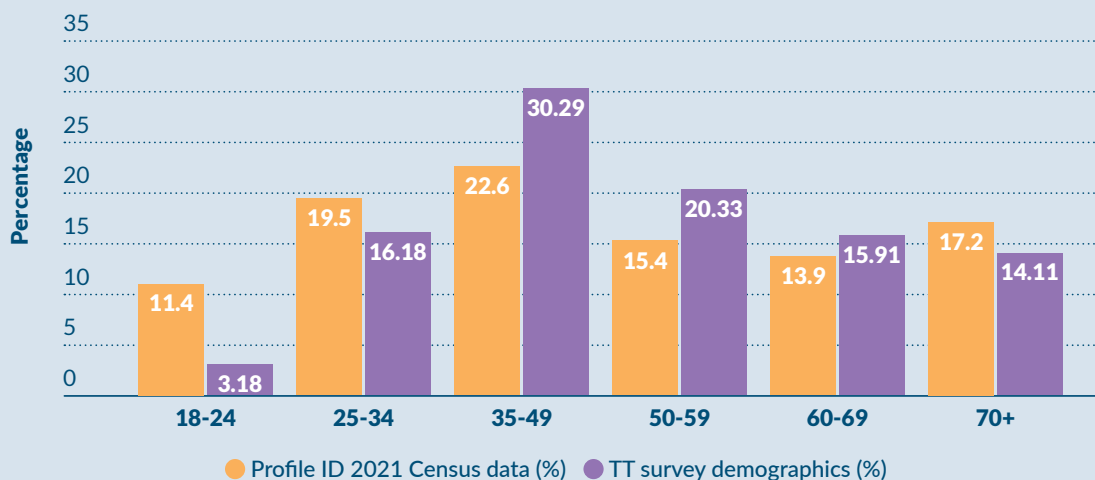
#### Age Demographic Comparison

Age	Profile ID 2021 Census data (%)	TT survey demographics (%)
18-24	11.4	3.18
25-34	19.5	16.18
35-49	22.6	30.29
50-59	15.4	20.33
60-69	13.9	15.91
70+	17.2	14.11

#### Gender



#### Age Demographic Comparison



**Ways we intend to make our demographics more representative of the Launceston community in 2024-25:**

- Increasing our youth response rates  
e.g. through the development of a Youth Engagement Strategy
- Increasing our male response rates  
e.g. using targeted marketing campaigns.

**Examples of where Tomorrow Together Community Engagement data helped shape the following strategies and plans in 2023-24:**

- Launceston's Urban Greening Strategy
- Launceston's Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2023 - 2040
- Tracks, Trails and Path Networks – to inform the Recreational and Open Space Strategy 2023 - 2040
- FOGO, Recycling and Waste – to help shape the future of waste recovery management through service review and strategy development
- Events in Launceston – to update the Events Strategy
- Future Planning for Carr Villa Memorial Park – to develop the Cemetery Management Plan
- Launceston's Ten Year Strategic Plan.

**Alongside our Tomorrow Together program we also undertake further engagement at a project/action plan level. Examples of these include:**

- Community Emissions Reduction – to develop the Towards Zero Emissions Community Action Plan
- Aboriginal Partnership Implementation Plan
- Low Carbon Launceston – Towards Zero Emissions Community Action Plan
- Urban Greening Implementation Plan – Mayfield
- Dog Management – to update our Dog Management Policy
- Emergency Preparedness – to identify gaps in how we prepare for emergencies



## Emergency Management

We are dedicated to ensuring our residents are well prepared in times of emergency and natural disasters.

The City of Launceston has a long history of natural disasters. With the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events it is even more important that we consider the safety and wellbeing of our community.

With this in mind, in January 2024 the City of Launceston officially launched its online Emergency Management Hub <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Emergency-Management-Hub>

Preparing for a disaster is everyone's responsibility and the 'Hub' has been developed to help inform residents about understanding their risk of disasters as well as help guide them on how to make an emergency plan. While the City of Launceston is not responsible for responding to most emergencies, we are responsible for ensuring that our community has access to information and resources to help prepare for, and recover from, a disaster.

The hashtag #ReadyTogether formed part of the new campaign to encourage community members to create a plan for not only themselves but to also consider their family, friends, loved ones, pets and business. The Emergency Management Hub brings resources together into one location to make it easier to understand risks and consequently to make a plan for specific hazard types. The hub is not only located online, but has been set up as a physical display in the Customer Service Centre in Town Hall where people can go to get physical brochures and information to assist them in their preparedness journey.

The first step is to **understand risk**, then **make a plan**.

**During an emergency event**, the hub will provide direction on where to find information about the status of an emergency and where to seek out help, such as information about evacuation centres and emergency services. During an event, seek out information from the stay informed and stay safe during a disaster page.

**Following an emergency event**, the hub will provide information and guidance during recovery including information on grants, support services and recovery resources. At this stage, helpful and up-to-date information will be available via the recover after a disaster page.

The Hub walks people through the following 5 steps:

### 1. Understand your risk

Before you can make your emergency plan you should understand the specific risks that are likely to affect you and your household. Once you understand your biggest risk you can then develop your personal plan.

### 2. Know your warnings and alerts

Warnings provide individuals and communities with real time information on what is happening and what they need to do.

### 3. Make a plan

Preparing for an emergency can minimise the impacts on you, your family and community.

### 4. Stay safe during a disaster

Access information and guides on how to stay safe during a disaster.

### 5. Recover after a disaster

Recovery after a disaster can be a long process. The Emergency Management Hub contains helpful information about support, resources and guidance.

**Did you know that fire and flood are our two biggest risks?**

**What will you do?**

The City of Launceston's Emergency Management Hub can help you answer these questions and more.

To get started, simply visit [www.launceston.tas.gov.au/emergency-management](https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/emergency-management), scan the QR code or collect your resources from the hub in Town Hall, Civic Square.

City of LAUNCESTON

## Sustainability

In January 2022, the City of Launceston Council formally endorsed the Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2030 as the full implementation plan of the Sustainability Strategy. It sets out how we will improve environmental sustainability across the City of Launceston's operations, service delivery and assets, and how we will support and advocate for our community.

The Sustainability Action Plan has 28 targets and 139 actions across six key priority areas.



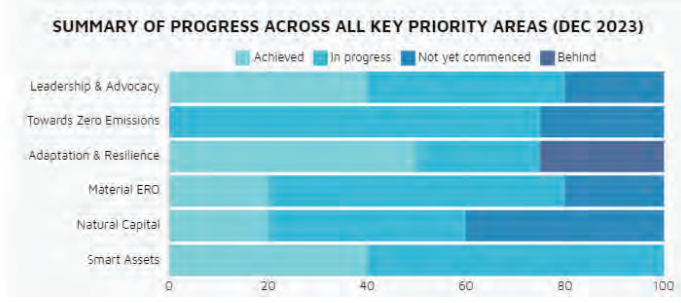
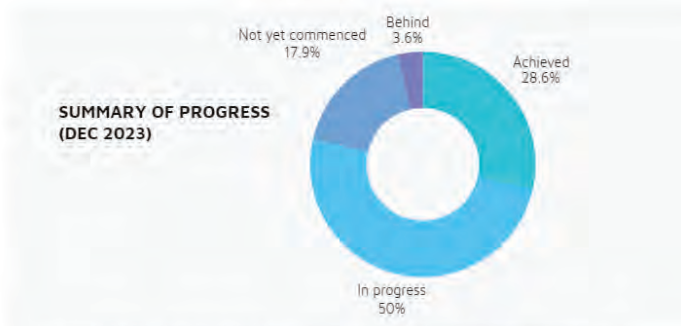
Since its endorsement, eight targets out of 28 have been achieved, 14 targets have actions in progress to achieve target (as per planned timeframes) and one target is behind schedule (Target 3.2 in Adaptation & Resilience) due to limited resourcing. Actions to achieve Target 3.2 will commence in 2024.

Out of 139 actions, 43 actions have been achieved (including 23 ongoing), 59 actions are in progress, 35 are yet to commence (as per planned timeframes) and two are now discontinued (refer to Section 3.2).

A summary of the Sustainability Action Plan's progress to date (as of January 2024) is presented below.

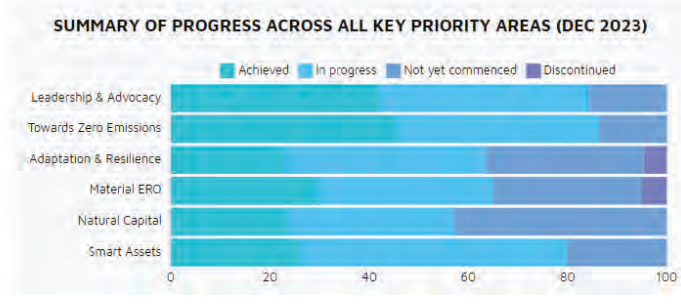
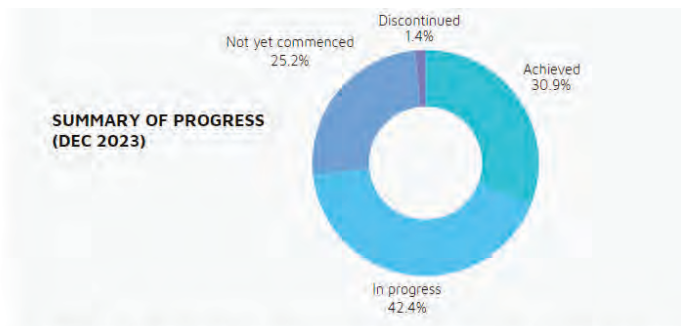
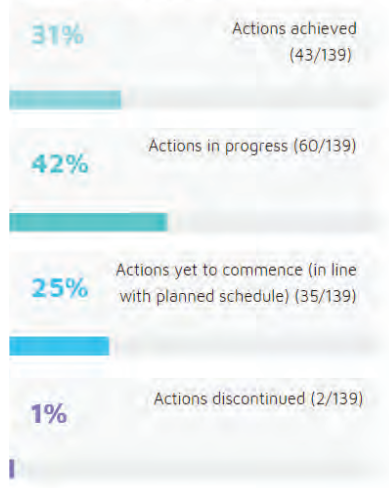
**TARGETS**

**PROGRESS TO DATE**



**ACTIONS**

**PROGRESS TO DATE**





**Key highlights of the Sustainability Action Plan's implementation include:**

In our continued transition to electrify our fleet, an electric light vehicle and an electric truck (the first for any Tasmanian Council) were added to our fleet, which now totals four electric vehicles overall. We also trialled the addition of an electric bike and scooter to our fleet at Town Hall. The Town Hall bike storage area was broken into on two occasions resulting in a stolen e-scooter and tracking devices which limited our data collection and reporting regarding trips taken and distance travelled.

The expansion of the landfill gas extraction infrastructure was completed in new landfill cells increasing methane gas capture and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are reported under the City of Launceston's corporate emissions boundary. The increased capability of landfill gas capture has reduced the landfill gas contribution to our annual carbon footprint by 35% of the previous year's footprint.

The Launceston Waste Centre's Organics Processing Facility received 12,873 tonnes of food and garden organic material which produced 4,248 tonnes of high-quality compost resulting in the avoidance of over 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (the equivalent of 43% of our 2018-19 baseline emission footprint). The City of Launceston continues to utilise compost on our parks and reserves and has held compost and native plant giveaways at various community events.

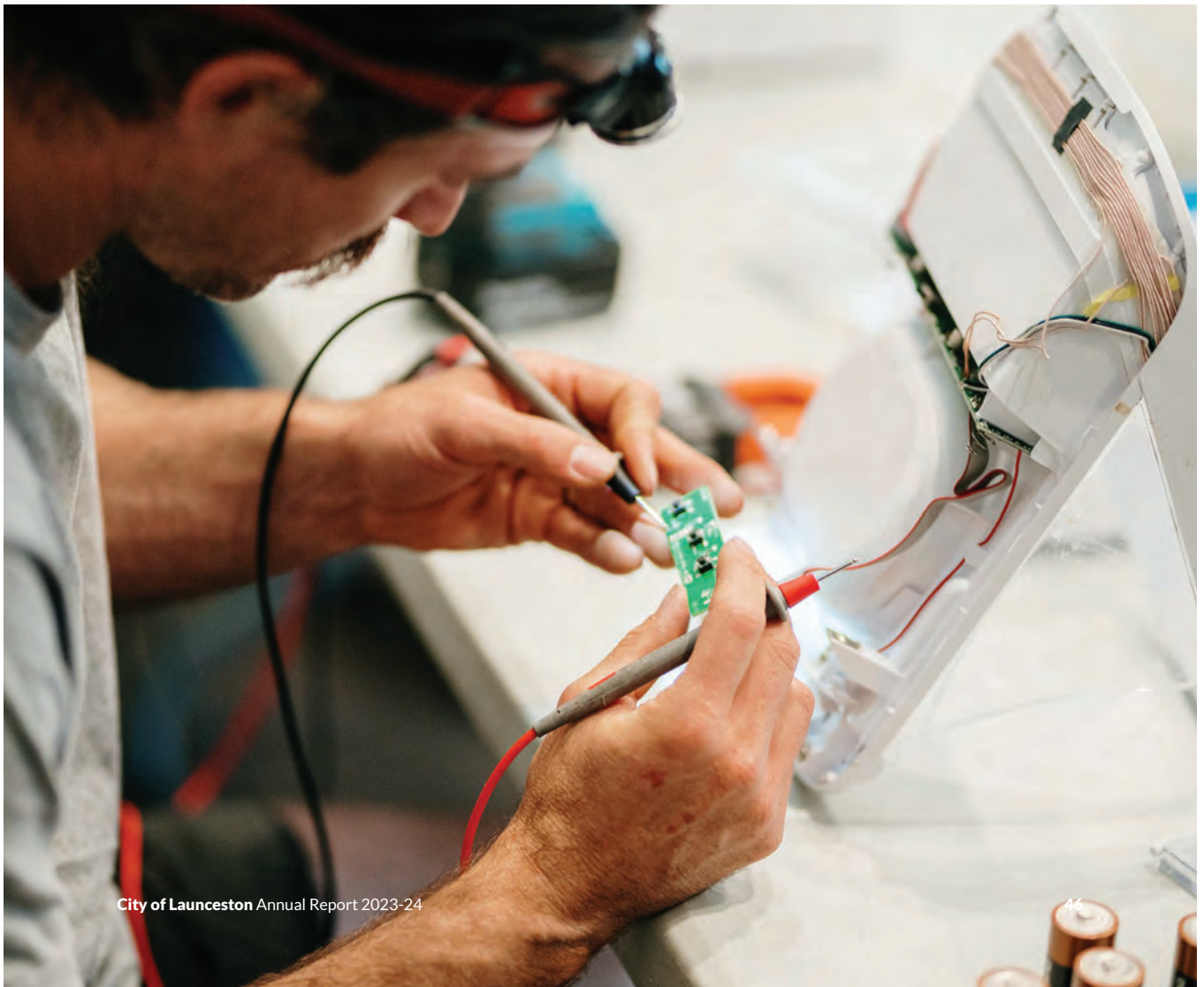
The Urban Greening Strategy and Plan was developed and endorsed in November 2023 and aims to increase our tree canopy cover from 19% to 40% by 2040. Plan implementation commenced in 2024 and over 1,600 plants have been planted, 700 plants involved in native plant community giveaways and six engagement sessions delivered to the community.





The Low Carbon Launceston engagement program kicked off in February 2024 to provide a pathway for the development of the Community Emissions Action Plan. Engagement started with six Engage for Change: Community Talk Series sessions covering a range of topics relating to climate change at a local level and presented by subject-matter experts. Topics included climate modelling, getting off gas, health implications of climate change, sustainable finance and disaster management. Over 250 people attended the sessions and recordings are available on the Tomorrow Together website. The Low Carbon Launceston engagement program continued with community and business surveys and workshops and the Community Emissions Action Plan is now in development.

Launceston's first Repair Café was launched in March 2024, promoting the circular economy principles of keeping items in circulation and out of landfill. The initiative's first four months resulted in 80 items being repaired and 194 kg of material diverted from landfill. Another key community-facing sustainability initiative was the Reusable Cloth Nappy and Sanitary Product Rebate Program which was utilised by 222 residents from March to June 2024.



City of Launceston Annual Report 2023-24

## State of the City Report

In November 2023, the City of Launceston and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce partnered in an evening event to explore the State of the City report, attracting 50 members of the public.

The State of the City report examines local, state and federal government data, as well as other sources, to understand trends in Launceston across a range of sectors and to collate information about Launceston in one convenient report.

Using data and reports from the 2022-23 financial year, or the most recent information available, the Council has examined Launceston specific data relating to population, employment and trade, transport and mobility, sport and recreation, culture, and development.

This year's State of the City report included four interactive maps exploring parks and recreation, health and demographics, flood risk and business activity.

The biggest growth business areas were Construction (107 new businesses), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (61 new businesses) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (48 new businesses).

A new Business Activity Survey conducted by Launceston Central and the City of Launceston shows 1053 businesses are currently trading in the City's central activities district, equating to an occupancy rate of 91 per cent.

The new survey is the most comprehensive ever undertaken in Launceston and covers a total of 1177 businesses; nearly twice the number included in previous surveys.

The survey shows only 31 ground level premises in the city centre are currently empty. A further 13 ground level premises are currently renovating, and a further 13 are being advertised for lease.

Within Launceston's central activities district, the State of the City Report found there are 131 cafes and restaurants, 82 hairdressing and beauty businesses, 76 medical and health care service providers, 94 businesses providing professional, scientific or technical services, as well as a host of other business and service provision categories.

### Business Connect

The Business Connect program continues to develop. The initiative has grown to be a comprehensive program that supports local businesses involving a series of ongoing workshops each with their own key theme, valuable resources, feedback channels, and networking opportunities designed to support collaboration and growth within the business community. Three business events were held over the year attracting a total of 180 attendees. In the time since it started, the program is well regarded in the region, with other Councils adopting similar programs.

During 2023-24, significant efforts were dedicated to developing the Business Connect brand by creating an online hub. The hub offers small businesses a range of valuable resources including contacts, links to local business services, information on upcoming events and access to funding and support opportunities. To enhance visibility and encourage new registrations, Business Connect was promoted through QR code posters distributed locally.

Additionally, two newsletters were sent out reaching over 300 small businesses. There was also extensive engagement with businesses in the Northern Suburbs to explore ways they could support the local community through sponsorship.





**Minecraft**

The City of Launceston developed three custom Minecraft worlds that are available to the community free for download. The worlds were developed for the 2023 National Science Week event hosted by QVMAG with approximately 900 students taking part.

The development of the custom worlds was made possible by using existing LiDAR imagery captured in 2022, the original purpose being to develop a high-resolution 3D model of the city.

The 3D city model is also available at <https://launceston.maps.arcgis.com/home/webscene/viewer.html?webscene=f8af009c3c244d84a065dece89393d43>. The conversion to Minecraft worlds was achieved using the specialist tool, FME Desktop.

Three prominent Launceston sites are available to download as Minecraft worlds; Riverbend Park, City Park and the Cataract Gorge. The worlds have been tested on Microsoft Windows, Apple iPad and Android; however, they may also work on other devices.



## Facilities

Our city is recognised for its vibrancy, which not only makes Launceston a great place to live but also presents us as a very attractive tourism and conference destination. The Council owns or operates many notable cultural facilities including the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Princess Theatre, Earl Arts Centre and Albert Hall.

The City of Launceston owns and operates the Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre, used by locals and visitors alike, as well as the University of Tasmania Stadium, which hosts major sporting events including AFL and Big Bash League matches.



### Leisure & Aquatic Centre

- Average Daily Users:  
**1,300 visitors per day**
- Busiest Month:  
**February 2024**
- The Centre's swim school program had over **2,100 enrolments**, a 2.4% reduction from the previous year.
- The swim school has an average occupancy rate of **93%**

### Carr Villa Annual Burial and Cremation Statistics

- **192 Burials**
- **405 Cremations**
- **354 Ash placements**

### UTAS Stadium

Biggest events

- **15,112** 11 May 2024 AFL: Hawthorn v St Kilda
- **12,480** 13 August 2023 AFL: Hawthorn v Western Bulldogs





**Carr Villa Memorial Park**

Carr Villa Memorial Park continues to be the principal cemetery and crematorium complex serving Launceston and the wider Northern Tasmania region.

During 2023-24, the Carr Villa Memorial Park Cemetery Management Plan 2024-2028 was developed, providing a clear direction for the management, operation, and future planning of cemetery and crematorium services. Key activities completed during this period include the development of a Bushland Management Plan, Tree Infrastructure Assessment, Rose Management Review, and initial steps towards creating a site Masterplan. In the latter half of the year, the Carr Villa Team introduced key initiatives to further support the community, including a Mother's Day Memorial Service held in the Carr Villa Chapel.

**Capital Works Project Delivery**

In October 2023, a comprehensive review of the Carr Villa Memorial Park cremator, originally installed in 1985, was conducted. The review determined that the PLC (cremator program operating system) needed replacement, which was successfully completed in May 2023, using the 2023-24 operational budget. Additionally, the review highlighted the need to replace the main chamber, and possibly the sub chamber, floor, and walls. To make this project financially feasible, Council approved a budget amendment, reallocating all available funds from the existing Carr Villa Memorial Park Capital Works budget. The project is expected to be completed by September 2024.

Due to the redirection of capital funding to the Cremator Refurbishment Project, only two projects were completed to support drainage and road infrastructure requirements on site. New drainage infrastructure was installed in April 2024, to allow surface water to be effectively drained from the new 'Garden of Memories' ash placement garden; and small section of road in the Monumental Cemetery A1 was resealed due to damage from the surrounding tree root systems.

In addition to the above Carr Villa Memorial Park Chapel's internal refurbishment was finalised, following the upgrade of all lighting to LED, the refresh of the catafalque exterior, and replacement of lectern and entrance desk.





**Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre**

The Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre continued to be a community favourite over the past year, hosting a range of activities that catered to all ages and fitness levels. We offered 429 learn to swim classes a week to our 2100+ learn to swim students throughout the year. Our gym and group fitness classes remained popular with 70 group fitness classes offered across a week ranging from Spin classes to AquaFit, the Centre has been buzzing with energy.

A significant highlight has been the number of schools enjoying their swimming carnivals at the centre. This year 19 individual school carnivals were hosted at the facility, as well as 14 Swimming Tasmania events and two regional swimming championships. These events attracted participants from across Tasmania and brought a great atmosphere to the centre.

**University of Tasmania Stadium**

The University of Tasmania Stadium is a nationally accredited sporting and events facility in northern Tasmania. The stadium has a spectator capacity of 18,000 people and is located just minutes from Launceston's city centre.

The stadium hosts a variety of sporting, entertainment and private events throughout the year including AFL and Cricket Big Bash League matches. On 4 November 2023, a concert by Irish Celtic infused pop icons, The Corrs supported by Toni Childs and Natalie Imbruglia, was well attended.





## Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

QVMAG remains the premier cultural destination in northern Tasmania attracting and engaging more visitation than the total population of the Greater Launceston region twice over, and more than the population of the entire Tamar Valley region. The importance of this impressive milestone cannot be overstated as it places QVMAG as the most visited cultural destination in northern Tasmania, and demonstrates without any doubt, that Northern Tasmanian communities value, are entitled to, and will support high-quality cultural experiences.

It highlights the critical role the institution plays as a key contributor in Tasmania's cultural offering, establishing a distinct point of difference and cultural destination of substance as part of a broader holistic portfolio within what is recognised as a uniquely Tasmanian experience.

Of the 45 exhibitions presented during 2023-24 (an increase from the 43 presented in the year prior) the QVMAG developed Wetlands exhibition proved popular with a staggering 50,291 visitors recorded to the exhibition during its display period.

Complex multidisciplinary projects, such as Wetlands, require twelve to twenty-four months in development and the realisation of these projects during the reporting period provide a demonstrable achievement in the institution's commitment in the delivery of high-quality cultural experiences that engage and inspire audiences - be they local, national or international visitors.

They are also deeply satisfying to present as they not only represent stories of our region, they're also a testament to the professionalism of the QVMAG team in the provision of local content, local product and local creative and cultural practice.



City of Launceston Annual Report 2023-24

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## Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

Total number of <b>Exhibitions</b>	<b>45</b>
Total general visitation <b>Exhibitions</b>	<b>118,207</b>
Total number <b>Public Programs</b>	<b>1,026</b>
Total visitation <b>Public Programs</b>	<b>27,713</b>
Total number <b>Education Programs</b>	<b>348</b>
Total visitation <b>Education Programs</b>	<b>7,883</b>
Total number <b>Volunteers</b>	<b>64</b>
Total <b>Volunteer Hours</b> contributed	<b>2,770</b>
Total <b>Marketing</b> and <b>Communications</b> reach	<b>12,363,927</b>
Total \$ <b>Donations / Bequests / Grants</b>	<b>\$567,203</b>
Total \$ <b>Commercial Result</b>	<b>\$655,198</b>
Total <b>Enquiries / Inquiries</b>	<b>2,666</b>
Total number <b>Acquisitions</b>	<b>135</b>
Total \$ <b>Acquisitions</b>	<b>\$208,592</b>
Grand Total number <b>Programs</b>	<b>1,374</b>
Grand Total <b>Visitation</b>	<b>153,803</b>



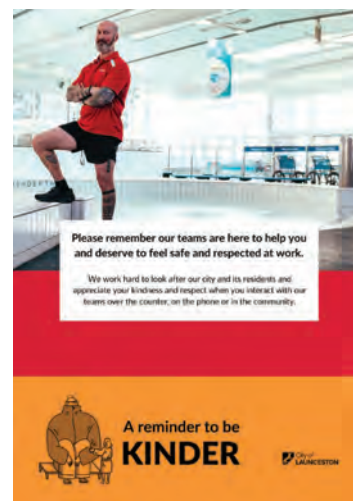
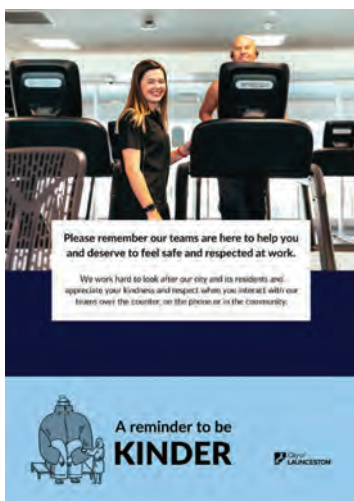
## In the News

### A Reminder to be Kinder Campaign

A Reminder to be Kinder is an initiative of the City of Launceston aimed at encouraging respect and kindness and discouraging anti-social behaviour in the community towards customer service representatives. Launched just prior to Christmas, the campaign is available to all businesses and organisations in Launceston to help spread a message of kindness during the peak shopping period. Businesses in the Launceston Central catchment were provided with merchandise and collateral, and all businesses have access to editable social media and poster templates to share their own message of kindness and respect.

The campaign is aimed at turning the tide on retail worker abuse and other forms of antisocial behaviour. It was supported by posters in Launceston's CBD, advertisements on Metro Tasmania's bus fleet, social media posts, and via downloadable templates which can be customised and displayed by local businesses.

More information on the Reminder to be Kinder campaign, including downloadable resources for businesses, can be found at <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Community/Projects-and-Initiatives/AReminder-to-be-Kinder>



### Cataract Walk closed following retaining wall failure



The City of Launceston closed the Cataract Walk to the public from July 2023 to February 2024 due to safety concerns following the failure of a privately-owned retaining wall at a property on South Esk Road. The retaining wall was built on steep terrain above the 1km-long walking track which links Kings Bridge with the Cataract Gorge's Cliff Grounds.

As a consequence, the City of Launceston closed the walkway to the public carried out temporary works to prevent damage to the track. The Trevallyn Steps track, between South Esk Road and Kings Bridge, were also closed to the public.

Council officers worked with the property owner and a range of experts to remove the retaining wall and prioritise the reopening of the Cataract Walk and Trevallyn Steps trails to the public.

Works to re-open Launceston's popular recreational trail required more than 1500 tonnes of bluestone and wall material be removed from above the walkway. Given the difficult terrain, the stone and earth was removed from the site using a custom fabricated rail trolley system, similar to those operating in the mining sector.

The Council took advantage of the walkway's closure to undertake other remediation works on a 60m section of track at the walkway's western end.

### Speed limit reductions endorsed for some Launceston roads



Speed limits on some Launceston roads changed in October after the City of Launceston's application to lower speed limits on some of Launceston's roads was confirmed by the State's Transport Commissioner in September, following a unanimous Council decision in June.

The Council introduced the changes to reflect real-world travel speeds and to improve safety for all road users.

Public consultation was undertaken on the proposed changes, with the majority of those surveyed in favour of lowered speed limits. Tasmania Police, the Road Safety Advisory Council, the Department of State Growth, the RACT, Metro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Transport Council all indicated their support for the move.

Speed limits were lowered on the following Launceston roads:

Reductions from 60km/h to 50km/h:

- Bathurst Street
- Wellington Street – between William and Howick Streets
- High Street – between David and Arthur streets
- Invermay Road – between Forster Street and Vermont Road
- Elphin Road, Penquite Road and Hoblers Bridge Road, near the Newstead Shopping Centre.

Reductions from 50km/h to 40km/h:

- Launceston CBD area bordered by Cimitiere, York, Wellington and Tamar Streets
- Mowbray Shopping Centre, Invermay Road between Vermont Road and Haig Street
- Kings Meadows shopping centre, Hobart Road between Riseley Street and Opossum Road.

More information can be found at: <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Roads-and-Parking/City-of-Launceston-Speed-Limit-Changes>



**2023 WorkSafe Tasmania Awards**

The City of Launceston’s commitment to workplace health and safety was demonstrated as part of the 2023 WorkSafe Tasmania Awards.

The Council’s Workplace Health and Safety Team, with input from our Work Health and Safety Committee, submitted seven nominations across five categories in the awards, presented in Hobart on Friday, November 3.

The biennial awards are heavily contested by private and public sector organisations across Tasmania and our organisation put forward a quality array of nominations.

Each of the projects nominated was interesting in its own right, with many of them representing ideas and solutions designed and implemented by our own employees.



Brandon Murphy, Winner in Excellence Achieved by a Health and Safety Representative category – 2023 WorkSafe Tasmania Awards

The City of Launceston had seven submissions in five out of the eight categories, including:

- Two nominations in the ‘Excellence in implementing a work health and safety solution’ category – the first detailing the Flagtrax system which was installed to allow safe replacement of promotional street banners throughout the city, and the second explaining a custom FOGO sprinkler system developed by employees at the City of Launceston’s organics processing facility and its Mechanical Workshop.
- Health and Safety Representative Brandon Murphy was nominated for the category ‘Excellence achieved by a Health and Safety Representative’. Brandon represented 30 employees across the Cleansing and Waste Centre Teams and was nominated for his commitment to workplace health and safety.
- Team Leader of Workplace Health and Safety Garry Wellman and the City of Launceston’s Workplace Health and Safety Committee received nominations in the ‘Excellence in contributions to work health and safety’ category.
- The Council’s Injury Management Procedure, developed with input from the People and Culture team and employees across the organisation was nominated in the ‘Excellence in injury management’ category.

**Below is a summary of awards received:**

Category	Category Details	Result
Category 3: Excellence in work health and safety culture	This award recognises demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement of work health and safety outcomes through the creation and continuation of an outstanding safety culture	Finalist (Organisation) - City of Launceston
Category 4: Excellence in contributions to work health and safety	This award recognises individuals or teams who have made an exceptional difference to work health and safety	Finalist (Individual) - Garry Wellman
Category 5: Excellence achieved by a health and safety representative	This category acknowledges elected health and safety representatives (HSRs) who have made a significant contribution and improvement to work health and safety within their designated workgroups	Winner(Individual) - Brandon Murphy

### Council supports new road safety agreement



The City of Launceston and the Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ahead of Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week in May. Launceston was the first Tasmanian council to officially partner with the program.

The MoU commits the two organisations to promoting road safety in the Launceston municipality.

The SARAH group was founded by Peter Frazer OAM, whose 23-year-old daughter Sarah was killed by a distracted truck driver in 2012 in a completely avoidable road crash on the Hume Freeway in regional NSW. Mr Frazer established National Road Safety Week the following year, which is now recognised annually by Federal, State and local governments across Australia.

The SARAH program seeks to improve road safety outcomes through policy development, community education, advocacy and collaboration with community and government organisations.

The City of Launceston welcomed the opportunity to improve road safety outcomes in Northern Tasmania, a goal set out in our Launceston Transport Strategy. Using the SARAH program in Launceston helps promote safe road practices, not only during Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week, but every single day so when you see a vehicle sporting a Yellow Ribbon, it is a moving billboard and a reminder to 'Drive so others Survive'.

# PART TWO REPORTING, STRATEGY AND PLANNING



### Greater Launceston Plan

The Greater Launceston Plan 2014 is a 20+ year vision for the sub-region that comprises the City of Launceston, George Town, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and West Tamar municipalities. 10 years into the plan and the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC), on behalf of the five participating Councils, worked with consultants from the University of Newcastle's Institute for Regional Futures, to review the Greater Launceston Plan in light of a number of contextual changes in Tasmania.

The Greater Launceston Plan Review was completed in September 2023 and received by the City of Launceston. NTDC are project leading a revised Greater Launceston Plan with the five participating Councils.

### Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 to 2024:

The Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 to 2024 was adopted on 24 November 2014, following Council's endorsement of the Greater Launceston Plan on 10 June 2014.

Section 70E of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) requires Council to review its strategic plan at least every four years. The last review of the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024 commenced in 2018. As part of the results of the review, the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024 was repositioned to make it clear that the plan is the City of Launceston's response to the community's vision for Launceston as expressed in the Greater Launceston Plan.

The reviewed Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review was adopted on 30 May 2019. It provides the structure for subsequent Annual Plans, demonstrated by the seven strategic priorities, 10-year goals and focus areas.

The development of a new Strategic Plan spanning the years 2025 -2035 has commenced and is scheduled for completion in the next financial year.

### Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP)

Section 70B of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) requires the Council to prepare a SAMP for the municipal area.

The SAMP covers almost 35,000 individual assets with a combined current replacement value of \$2.5 billion, and outlines Council's capital works program over the next 20 years based on currently available asset data. Strategic challenges are examined and addressed. The SAMP also puts forward its approach to ensure the discipline of asset management is applied across Council and the use of a continuous improvement plan to achieve a mature state of ongoing asset management across the organisation. A key part of this work is to align the asset management objectives collectively and individually with the achievement of Council's corporate objectives.

The SAMP was adopted by Council on 27 July 2023.

### Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

Section 70 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) requires Council to prepare a LTFP for the municipal area.

City of Launceston has taken the view that the LTFP should be used as a decision-making tool with respect to having more informed future planning and greater means of achieving long-term sustainability.

The LTFP estimates the future operating revenues and expenses associated with operating requirements, capital expenditure and asset management renewal, in support of the deliverables in the Corporate Strategic Plan. It also provides a mechanism for us to deliver asset renewal requirements as determined in the SAMP, by making provision for the estimated costs associated with our management of the assets that are considered in that plan. The LTFP can be used in support of strategic decision making, as it allows for detailed scenario analysis to be undertaken. The SAMP provides the mechanism for the LTFP to be able model the capital and ongoing operational cost associated with asset management, at a whole of organisation level.





The LTFP 2022-2032 was adopted by Council on 25 August 2022. An updated LTFP is expected to be adopted by Council in 2024-25.



## Annual Plan 2023-24

The following pages provide an update on the final status of Annual Plan 2023-24 actions for the period ending 30 June 2024. The Annual Plan 2023-24 and its reporting takes its structure from the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 to 2024: 2019 Review, therefore progress against the Annual Plan 2023-24 is reported in terms of the plan's contribution to the achievement of the strategic priorities.

### Outcomes

Action Status	No. of Actions	%	
Not Progressing	1	2%	
Not Started	0	0%	
In Progress	13	32%	
Complete	27	66%	
<b>Total Number of Actions</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Performance and Progress Report

The following pages provide a summary of the status of each action from the Annual Plan as at the end of the 2023-24 year.

The full Progress Report including the expanded status of each action will be tabled for adoption at a Council meeting to be held in September 2024. The minutes of this meeting will be publicly available and accessible through the City of Launceston website or upon request through our Customer Service Centre.

## City of Launceston Annual Plan 2023-24

The Annual Plan sets out the high-level actions for the financial year ahead that City of Launceston officers will undertake to achieve the goals and strategies set out in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review. These high-level actions are considered to be of greatest significance and interest to the community and our stakeholders, and are based on the seven strategic priorities, 10-year goals and focus areas presented in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024: 2019 Review.

Progress on the 41 action items stated in the Annual Plan 2023-2024 is reported to Council every quarter throughout the financial year, and is summarised in the corresponding Annual Report.

**Figure 1: lists the Strategic Priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024: 2019 Review.**

<b>Strategic Priority 1</b>	We <b>Connect with our Community and our Region</b> through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.
<b>Strategic Priority 2</b>	We <b>Facilitate Prosperity</b> by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.
<b>Strategic Priority 3</b>	We are a <b>Progressive Leader</b> that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.
<b>Strategic Priority 4</b>	We value our <b>City's Unique Identity</b> by celebrating our special heritage and culture and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit
<b>Strategic Priority 5</b>	We <b>Serve and Care</b> for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.
<b>Strategic Priority 6</b>	We <b>Protect our Environment</b> by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities.
<b>Strategic Priority 7</b>	We are a <b>City Planning for our Future</b> by ensuring our approach to strategic land-use, development and infrastructure investment is coordinated, progressive, and sustainable.



## Strategic Priority 1

We **Connect with our Community and our Region** through meaningful engagement, cooperation and representation.

Our interactions with our community are authentic, timely, accurate and open. We want to build strong and productive relationships with our community and regional partners.

### 10-Year Goal:

To seek out and champion positive engagement and collaboration to capitalise on the major opportunities, and address the future challenges facing our community and region.

### Focus Areas:

1. To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes.
2. To lead the implementation of the Greater Launceston Plan via collaborative and constructive relationships with our regional partners.
3. To advocate and collaborate to enhance regionally significant services and infrastructure for the benefit of our communities.

#### Focus Area 1

To develop and consistently utilise contemporary and effective community engagement processes

#### Action

#### Network

Continue to engage with our community on:

- Aboriginal Partnership Plan
- Tomorrow Together themes
- Key infrastructure projects
- Key projects and initiatives of community impact

Organisational  
Services



**100%**

#### Comment

The City of Launceston continues to engage with its community on topics that may impact its residents/ ratepayers (community) in a way that affects their lifestyle and amenity. The following engagement initiatives have taken place during the fourth quarter:

#### Aboriginal Partnership Plan:

- Aboriginal cultural awareness training program (action item 10) prepared and the first training delivered to Council and the Executive Leadership Team in May 2024. The program will continue to be rolled out across the organisation.
- Invited to join the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's holiday program held at the Punchbowl Reserve to seek input into the playground upgrade and how Aboriginal culture can be recognised with the play spaces/parks.

**Tomorrow Together theme:**

- A Resilient City included seven topics; Trails and Networks, Dog Management, Community Emissions Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, Events, Future Planning for Carr Villa, Waste Management. The engagement period spanned 21 February to 3 April 2024 and resulted in 723 responses. The engagement overview is published and available online via our Tomorrow Together website.
- The data and insights captured is being reviewed and analysed. A summary highlighting what we have heard will be available to the community and stakeholders in August 2024.

Project specific engagement included the Urban Greening Implementation and Low Carbon Launceston: Engage for Change program.

**Key infrastructure projects:**

- Urban Greening Implementation - as a part of the Urban Greening Strategy, precinct plans are being developed for priority suburbs and Mayfield has been selected as the first of the precinct plans. During April and May 2024, the Mayfield community were invited to share their ideas during a number of engagement activities, these included the Youth Festival held in Torrens Street Park, drop-in information session held at the Muylatina Child and Family Learning Centre, sessions with the East Tamar Primary School and online. Each engagement provided an opportunity for the Mayfield community to have their say on the future of street trees and planting within their neighbourhood.

**Key projects and initiatives of community impact:**

- Low Carbon Launceston: Engage for Change - following the initial engagement using surveys, three focus group sessions were held in late April/early May 2024 with interested community members to review the survey findings and assist in developing a set of guiding principles for decision making and prioritising potential initiatives, projects and programs to reduce community carbon emissions. The findings from all engagement activities are being analysed and a report summarising the findings will be available in late quarter one 2024.

**Focus Area 3**

To advocate and collaborate to enhance regionally significant services and infrastructure for the benefit of our communities

Action	Network	
Develop a City of Launceston Regional Sports Facility four-year implementation program and where possible, commence addressing identified areas of need.	Infrastructure and Assets	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Regional Sports Facility Management Plan was completed in August 2023. Recreation and Parks officers have developed an implementation action plan and are working through the identified actions. Prioritised actions include progressing the Northern Tasmania Cricket Association (NTCA) masterplan, commencing the St Leonards Sports Complex masterplan, resurfacing netball courts at the Hoblers Bridge Netball Centre and creating opportunities to use local parks such as West Launceston Community Park as informal training grounds to ease pressure on other venues.

## Strategic Priority 2

We **Facilitate Prosperity** by seeking out and responding to opportunities for growth and renewal of our regional economy.

We use our influence and resources to deliver the foundations for ongoing economic development. We want Launceston to be the heart of a thriving regional economy.

### 10-Year Goal:

To have realised opportunities that grow and sustain our economy, and foster creative and innovative people and industries.

### Focus Areas:

1. To actively market the City and Region and pursue investment.
2. To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth.
3. To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality.
4. To promote tourism, and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston.
5. To understand and support the establishment and growth of new and creative industries and businesses in Launceston.

### Focus Area 1

To actively market the City and Region and pursue investment

Action	Network	
Finalise and progress Smart Cities Strategy.	Organisational Services	 <b>100%</b>

### Comment

The City Innovation Strategy was developed in place of a Smart City Strategy, encompassing Smart City themes yet also allowing scope for projects that are not necessarily technology focused. Taking a people first approach was identified throughout community engagement rather than a 'tech for the sake of tech' approach.

The Strategy was completed in 2023 and endorsed by Council with a 5 year life span. It is publicly available via the City of Launceston webpage. The implementation plan is also nearing completion and is expected to be reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team by the end of June. The implementation plan will include an action plan, a framework for measuring success and a decision making framework to assess the desirability, viability and feasibility of potential projects.

Council officers continue to engage in identification and implementation of projects that align with the opportunities detailed in the City Innovation Strategy. Extension of the Council public Wi-Fi network, enhancing the flood intelligence system and assessing the future direction of Council's electric vehicle charger network are all current examples.



### Focus Area 2

To facilitate direct investment in the local economy to support its growth

#### Action

Implement Economic Development Strategy including Business Friendly Council and night-time economy initiatives.

#### Network

Organisational Services



100%

#### Comment

We achieved a significant milestone by securing a major food court investment by coordinating and assisting an interstate investor. This not only injected substantial investment into our local economy but also promises to enhance our night-time scene with exciting new activities. Our collaboration with Launceston Central has been crucial in improving our economic development initiatives. Together, we're getting ready for an upcoming business workshop aimed at empowering local businesses. Furthermore, our joint work to enhance the Business Activity Survey provides detailed insights into vacancy rates, sector-specific trends like retail and hospitality, and overall night-time economy trends. This tool is proving crucial for guiding investment decisions and urban planning efforts in City. Additionally, our partnership with Future Isles successfully ended with a well-attended job fair. This event highlights our commitment to supporting workforce development in Launceston, working with other organisations and candidates from Workforce Australia to improve job opportunities and community involvement.

### Focus Area 3

To provide an environment that is supportive to business and development within the municipality

#### Action

Work with Stadiums Tasmania to finalise the transfer of UTAS Stadium and to embed key agreements with respect to content and events.

#### Network

Chief Executive Officer



100%

#### Comment

In December 2022 Council made a decision to commence a process to transfer UTAS Stadium to the newly formed State Government owned Stadiums Tasmania. This process consists of these key components:

- The Stadium is on what is defined as public land, under the *Local Government Act 1993* for Council to transfer the Stadium it needs to go through a public process to allow the community to identify their concerns prior to Council making a decision. The public call for comments occurred in November and December 2023 with 3 objections received. The objections were considered and Council made a decision to transfer the land as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*. The transition is still dependent on the successful completion of the following two points:
  - The Stadium requires a subdivision to create an individual title to transfer to Stadiums Tasmania.
  - A contract for the transfer is required to document transitional and ongoing support arrangements, Council expectations of Stadiums Tasmania and the detail mechanisms of the transfer. This has commenced and expected to be considered by Council in the last quarter of 2023-2024.

The Council and Tasmanian State Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which documents the future commitments and expectations of AFL content at the Stadium with the establishment of a Tasmania's AFL men's and women's team. The minimum requirement is to maintain the current content of 4 roster games and one pre-season game.

The Federal and Tasmanian State Government have made a \$130m investment in the future of the Stadium to improve accessibility and improve user experiences. This will be delivered by Infrastructure Tasmania with oversight from Stadiums Tasmania.

Councillors and Council Officers are working with Stadiums Tasmania and the State to progress the transition by December 2024.

The key decisions required by Council to complete the transition are:

1. Provide consent to the Transfer Notice as required by the Stadiums Tasmania Act 2022.
2. Consideration of the detailed survey plan for the land to be transferred.
3. Engagement in an agreement which specifies the details of the transition to Stadiums Tasmania and any support arrangements.

Action	Network	
Work with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) to implement the Northern Economic Development Strategy.	Chief Executive Officer	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

NTDC operate with three key focusses - economic development, regional collaborations and organisation strength. The key tasks the NTDC and the City of Launceston have worked in partnership on are:

1. Residential Demand and Supply Study completed
2. Advocating for funding a pilot for freight aggregation
3. Review of the Greater Launceston Plan
4. Facilitation of the Regional Sports facility Plan
5. Advocacy on State budget, Federal Immigration Policy and State Sustainability Strategy
6. Identification of regional priority projects through the Regional Collaboration Framework

It is expected a review of the Population Strategy will be commenced in the third quarter by NTDC as well as finalisation of the Greater Launceston Plan Review and alignment of regional priorities. NTDC will provide an update to Councillors at Workshop on their program of work in May 2024.

Councillors received a presentation on the supply and demand for housing in the region.

**Focus Area 4**  
To promote tourism, and the development of a quality tourism offering for Launceston

Action	Network	
Partner with the State Government’s International Engagement Program where there are clear benefits to the City of Launceston which are aligned with our Sister City relationships.	Chief Executive Officer	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

There have been no opportunities identified in this quarter to partner with the State Government’s International Engagement Program. Council Officers will continue to engage with the relevant Government Departments to identify opportunities.

In terms of our Sister City relationships it was fantastic for the Mayor to meet tourists (Carol and Derek) from Napa California who personally know Napa City Mayor Scott Sedgley. In the lead up to them arriving, Mayor Sedgley advised City of Launceston that two of his constituents were coming to Town Hall to visit.

The City of Launceston arranged a visit through Town Hall to showcase the gifts shared between the cities and a meeting with Mayor Garwood.

Launceston locals have requested advice on what and when events will be entertained in Launceston and in Ikeda in regard to the Sister City Ikeda and the relationship anniversary of 60 years in 2025.

Wayne the Wombat, a Guinness World Record holder, has created its own media which again comes back to the Sister Cities and our warm relationship we have with Ikeda.

Arrangements were made to support a local Launceston family to visit Ikeda City Hall and meet with their own Civic Affairs officer to have lunch and a meet and greet. In 2025 a Launceston College language teacher is taking his Japanese class to Japan and we have provided contact details in Ikeda. Civic Affairs are having a student/teacher visit Launceston in July 2024 from Ikeda and an Ikeda teacher will also be visiting Launceston Schools in August 2024.

Action	Network
Update Launceston Strategic Tourism Plan.	Community and Place  <b>70%</b>

**Comment**

Now referred to as the Visitor Strategy, this continues to be developed by the Tourism and Events team. A presentation is scheduled for council workshop in July 2024 before being released for consultation. The Strategy has a strong focus on visitation and data gathering to help the council make strategic and informed decisions about how to increase visitation to Launceston. The Strategy will be underpinned by the Launceston Place Brand to help market the city with the aim of enhancing the economic benefit of visitation to Launceston.

To support the strategy’s development the team has completed a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis and will present this to Councillors in July, along with a new vision and focus areas for improving visitation to Launceston.

Progress against this action will be reported on under the Annual Plan 2024-25 against the Action Item ID 2.2.





### Strategic Priority 3

We are a **Progressive Leader** that is accountable to our governance obligations and responsive to our community.

Our decision-making and actions are evidence-based, strategic, transparent and considered. We are ethical, fair and impartial in complying with and enforcing the law.

#### 10-Year Goal:


To ensure decisions are made in a transparent and accountable way, that effectively meet our statutory obligations, support quality services and underpin the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

#### Focus Areas:

1. To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community.
2. To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations.
3. To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information.
4. To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains, and adopting technological and other process innovations.
5. To maintain a financially sustainable organisation.

#### Focus Area 1

To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community

Action	Network	
Develop and implement a flood resilient community program.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

#### Comment

The development of a flood resilience community program is now at a stage where the City of Launceston is able to introduce a number of initiatives publicly.

The City of Launceston ‘CoL Emergency Management Hub’ was launched in late December 2023. The hub provides a single location where the public can access all information in regard to emergency management including flood, fire and storm. There is no other website in Tasmania that currently provides this function. The Hub was promoted through a media campaign in March 2024 via the Examiner and was supported by the newly developed City of Launceston Guide to Emergency Preparedness brochure. The Hub also has a physical presence in the Customer Service area for those members of the public wanting physical resources. Further promotion of the Hub will continue.

In June 2024, the City of Launceston, in conjunction with the Resilience Canopy, ran Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training. This aims at providing community leaders with the tools to help guide their community develop resilience. This will be the second program run in Tasmania since its inception and the first for the north of the state. There were 22 participants in the workshop in June.

Work continues on Councils Recovery Planning. This Council led initiative in conjunction with Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (DPAC), aims to support the community by comprehensively outlining recovery actions prior to a large flood event. The objectives of the project are to ensure a planned, coordinated and adaptable recovery approach between recovery partners and cohesion between recovery partners including all levels of Government, business and industry, and the community. Recruitment for a Project Officer is in its final stages.

Council officers are on the advisory committee for the Person Centre Emergency Preparedness project being run by TFS and SES. This project works with people with disabilities to make a preparedness plan for emergencies. The council is in the initial stages of engaging community around this project.

### Focus Area 2

To fairly and equitably discharge our statutory and governance obligations

#### Action

#### Network

Commence a review of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Organisational  
Services



#### Comment

The project team presented to Councillors at workshop on 3 April 2024 and outlined the approach to the development of the Plan. Resourcing challenges were experienced in the latter part of the quarter resulting in some delays. These resourcing issues have been addressed and resolved, enabling the project team to get back on track to progressing the works, including a review of the current timeline.

The project to review our current Corporate Strategic Plan 2014-2024 and revision of the new Strategic Plan for the 2025-2034 period will continue as planned into the new 2024-2025 financial year with an action item allocated in the new Annual Plan (Action Item ID 3.6).

### Focus Area 3

To ensure decisions are made on the basis of accurate and relevant information

#### Action

#### Network

Continue the level of service project.

Organisational  
Services



#### Comment

Another phase of the trial was completed in late 2023 with internal stakeholders and a draft Framework was developed. Trials have now been completed with our Geographic Information System (GIS) team and with the Visitor Information Centre.

Recruitment for the vacant Level of Service Officer role has now been successful after a considerable delay. The successful applicant has commenced and is building understanding of trials conducted to date and data sets available. Officers will continue to look at the opportunities presented through our Corporate Applications Replacement Program for better data around of levels of services.

The level of service project will be considered as a component of Council's business as usual work from 2024-2025 and will no longer be represented as an annual plan action.

### Focus Area 4

To continually improve our service delivery via a continuous improvement mindset, pursuing efficiency gains and adopting technological and other process innovations

#### Action

#### Network

Update the Cultural Roadmap based on findings and insights from our Organisation Cultural Inventory Survey.

Organisational Services



85%

#### Comment

Culture Survey Action Planning has been completed by Team Managers. A process is in place to check in on progress of the Team Action Plans and outcomes being achieved will be shared via leadership meetings, on Viva Engage and in Chatter and Frontline Newsletters.

The Cultural Roadmap has been cross-referenced with the action plans and is being updated with a Briefing Paper to the Executive Leadership Team following consultation with the Values Champions, Senior Leadership Team, the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), and the People and Culture Team.

Work continues on implementing our Employee Development Program with the leadership team and employees.

The Values Champions have prepared their 2024 Plan and Our Value of “Our People Matter” is their current focus across the organisation.

Progress against this action will be reported on under the Annual Plan 2024-25 against the Action Item ID 3.4.

#### Action

#### Network

Undertake the Corporate Application Replacement Program.

Organisational Services



80%

#### Comment

The Corporate Application Replacement Program (CARP) project has progressed with 80% of Phase 1 of the project now complete. Three critical-path risks have been identified that impact the successful delivery of the project. This includes payroll integrations, reporting and assets/finance module integrations. To address these delays additional resources have been provided by the vendor and the Council to finalise integrations and to reload data to resolve issues identified during User Acceptance Testing.

Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024-25 under Action Item ID 3.5.

### Focus Area 5

To maintain a financially sustainable organisation

#### Action

#### Network

Implement recommendations of the QVMAG Futures Plan.

Chief Executive Officer



100%

#### Comment

Key deliverables identified for the reporting period were met. The development, endorsement and implementation of the QVMAG Strategic Plan and supporting operational frameworks which combined encompass the Organisational Strategic Development Program reached 100% completion. Key Directions 3 and 4 are ongoing annual recommendations and were successfully delivered to 100% completion in this period.



## Strategic Priority 4

We value our City’s **Unique Identity** by celebrating our special heritage and culture, and building on our competitive advantages to be a place where people choose to live, work and visit.

We facilitate our community’s sense of place by enhancing local identity. We want people to be proud to say that Launceston is “my city”.

### 10-Year Goal:


To sustain and promote Launceston as a unique place to live, work, learn and play.

### Focus Areas:

1. To promote and enhance Launceston’s rich heritage, culture and natural environment.
2. To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston.
3. To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar.
4. To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night.
5. To support sustainable growth in the Northern Region.


#### Focus Area 1

To promote and enhance Launceston’s rich heritage, culture and natural environment

Action	Network	
Launceston Heritage List Review and Precincts - continue the review of the City of Launceston’s local heritage list.	Community and Place	

#### Comment

Council is due to consider initiating an Amendment PSA-LLP0012 to the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. This amendment seeks to add 38 new properties to council’s local heritage listings as well as supply new information to support new and existing listings. Progress continues in the new Annual Plan with reporting for 2024-25 under Action Item ID 4.3. This is a long term project that will take multiple reporting periods to complete.

Action	Network	
Implement the first year of the four year action plan from the Cultural Strategy.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Cultural Advisory Committee resumed meeting in June and provided strategic advice to the council about upcoming public art opportunities, including the Northern Gateway, murals in Criterion Place and the establishment of a creative hub.

The recruitment for the Cultural Development Officer was ultimately unsuccessful with the position to be re-advertised in the new financial year.

Work has commenced on providing interpretation for public art in the city, with this project to be rolled out in more detail in the 2024-2025 financial year.


Action	Network	
Implement the Public Art Strategy.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

Criterion Lane toilet block mural artists have been selected and the public art project will commence in July. The artists were selected with guidance and advice from the council’s Cultural Advisory Committee. Following the success of the Paterson St murals, a private business in the Criterion Place laneway has agreed to install an additional mural in proximity to the toilet block to contribute to the transformation of the often graffitied space.

The final sculpture of artist Dan Kershaw has been installed in Civic Square. It is located on the garden bed wall facing Charles St adjacent to the former Macquarie House fountain.

**Focus Area 2**  
To continue to offer an attractive network of parks, open spaces and facilities throughout Launceston


Action	Network	
Undertake a review of the City of Launceston Open Space Strategy.	Infrastructure and Assets	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

Population growth coupled with urban expansion, increased urban densities, changing demographics, community needs, and outdated Open Space and Play Space strategies, are some of the triggers for the City of Launceston’s review and update of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy (ROSS). The ROSS will provide a 20-year vision and a list of initiatives that can be implemented by the City.

Stages 3-5 of the project were completed during Quarter 4. The project team engaged with the Councillors on the Strategy to provide an overview and update on the project. The draft ROSS is nearing completion; it is anticipated to be delivered in July 2024.

All activities planned for 2023-24 are complete. The project is on track to be completed by the end of 2024.

Action	Network
Develop and commence staged implementation of an improvement plan for the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre upgrade.	Infrastructure and Assets  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

A Project Working Group has been established to guide the multi-year project to refresh the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre to improve accessibility, building compliance and user experience. The Group comprises of Theatre North and City of Launceston officers and receives expert advice as required. The Group has overseen:


1. The appointment of architects Lovell Chen to undertake design.
2. Review of recent upgrades to the Regent Theatre to better understand the challenges and opportunities of working in heritage theatres.
3. Working with key stakeholders on the conceptual design.
4. To improve access to seating in the Earl Arts Centre a hand rail has been installed.

To improve accessibility to the theatre, stage works have commenced in preparation for installation of a lift.

Engagement with Councillors and key stakeholders was undertaken in May. Part of the engagement was showing a project timeline and draft concept plans.

Council will be shown conceptual plans for the Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre, with the intent to submit a Development Application in August 2024.

**Focus Area 3**  
To promote and attract national and international events and support the sector to ensure a diverse annual events calendar

Action	Network
Undertake a review of the City of Launceston Events Strategy.	Community and Place  <b>80%</b>

**Comment**

Councillors were presented to twice on the outline and intent of the new Events Strategy. The draft strategy includes three pillars - economic, social and brand. These pillars align with the Tasmania Government’s Events Strategy 2023-2027. Further work is being done on the economic benefit of events to Launceston post-COVID.

Actions that support the activations in the Events Strategy will be reported on under Action Item ID 2.2 from the Annual Plan 2024-25.



**Focus Area 4**

To support the central business district (CBD) and commercial areas as activity places during day and night

**Action**

**Network**

Develop and commence implementation of Stage 2 Launceston City Heart Project which includes the following key areas of investment:

- Greening of our City
- Improved public transport infrastructure
- Creating greater opportunities for pedestrianisation of the CBD

Community and Place



**100%**

**Comment**

The first phase of City Heart included a refresh of key civic spaces in the Central Business District (CBD) including the Brisbane Street Mall, The Quadrant, Civic Square, and improvements in community amenities including wayfinding and public Wi-Fi. These projects were successfully completed in the 2018 financial year.

The original focus of City Heart 2 was to renew streetscapes in selected areas of the CBD including removal of buses from St. John Street, turning one-way traffic into two-way on Paterson Street, greening and realigning footpaths. The initiation of phase 2 of the project relied upon the availability of a new location for buses and the availability of Tasmanian and Australian Government funding. These preconditions have met with some challenges including availability of a suitable location for the bus depot and changes in Australian Government funding sources.

Staff have been working with WSP Australia on a revised approach to the implementation of City Heart 2 that includes the development of:

1. An urban design manual that will establish key guidelines for streetscapes and civic spaces that will apply not only in the CBD but to the broader urban footprint; and
2. A pilot Place Plan for the City Heart activity centre. The Place Plan will include approximately six character management areas that identify the unique features of the area and identify those elements that should be protected and those that should be changed. The Place Plan will include an action plan to support implementation as funding is available.

The planning process incorporates feedback from the extensive community engagement activities that have occurred to date, a review of all previous planning documents and evaluation of new information since the previous planning was undertaken.

In the past quarter, WSP Australia has finalised input from planning workshops in the six character management areas including identification of opportunities to leverage existing investments (i.e. refurbishment of the Princess Theatre), identification of physical constraints (i.e. underground infrastructure), and availability of resources to support implementation. An initial draft of the City Heart Place Plan has been prepared and circulated for technical review within the Council. The aim is to have a final draft available for a workshop with Councillors in September with final Place Plan adoption in October 2024.

Concurrent with the final phase of planning, Council staff are completing some preliminary investigations on early stage implementation options so on-ground works can begin quickly.

Target completion of the place planning project is October 2024, with on ground implementation beginning as early as mid-Financial Year 2024-25.

## Strategic Priority 5

We ***Serve and Care*** for our community by providing equitable and efficient services that reflects needs and expectations of our community.

We are invested in our community’s long-term health, well-being, safety and resilience. We want to be trusted and respected by our community.

### 10-Year Goal:

To offer access to services and spaces for all community members, and to work in partnership with stakeholders to address the needs of vulnerable communities.

### Focus Areas:

1. To plan for and provide services and facilities that recognise the changing demographics and needs of our community.
2. To define and communicate our role in promoting social inclusion and equity.
3. To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community.
4. To support the delivery of programs and events for people to connect with each other through participation in community activities and civic life.
5. To promote and support active and healthy lifestyles of our community.
6. To enhance community awareness of the impacts of uncertain weather patterns, natural and other disasters, and build community resilience.
7. To develop and manage infrastructure and resources to protect our community from natural and other hazards.

### Focus Area 1

To plan for and provide services and facilities that recognise the changing demographics and needs of our community

Action	Network	
Implement Council commitments from the My Place My Future Plan, and support State and Federal Governments on implementation of their actions.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

### Comment

#### Programs and Events:

- A 10-week Multicultural Start-up Program took place with three participants from the Afghan community completing the program.
- City of Launceston and Beacon Foundation held a Career Day in City Park for 20 Lilydale Year 10 students.
- The Refugee Week launch took place at Town Hall together with an art exhibition and digital storytelling at the library (partners included Libraries Tasmania, Migrant Resource Centre North and Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania).


- A Road Safety workshop was held for the community in the northern suburbs, followed by a workshop with stakeholders, service providers and government agencies, with a further meeting to follow to put solutions into action.
- Digital Inclusion meeting with Department of Premier and Cabinet, showcasing learnings and successes from My Place My Future Digital Inclusion Wi-Fi Project.

**Network of Community Action Groups:**

Community action groups in Rocherlea and Newnham/Mowbray continue with monthly meetings. Waverley/Ravenswood group started in April with approximately 15 participants and was also attended by parliamentarians Bridget Archer and Nick Duigan.

**Food Security in the northern suburbs:**

The Food and Resilience Movement (FaRM) lease has been signed by the Northern Suburbs Community Centre. New funding has been sourced which will enable the project to progress fencing and water connections. The FaRM will also consult with the council's planning team to discuss their plans and requirements.


Action	Network	
Finalise and commence implementing a master plan for Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association (NTCA) precinct and associated action plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The NTCA Concept Masterplan was released to clubs for broader consultation, and constructive feedback received. Club feedback has been collated to inform the next stage of design. In the coming year, the masterplan will be reviewed and progress to detailed design, staging and costing.

The State Government has committed funding to completing some stages of the masterplan centered on the Elphin Sport Centre, including improved access and parking, three additional basketball courts, shared function centre between Elphin Sport Centre and Launceston Tennis Centre and improved change facilities. Discussions have progressed with the State regarding this project.

**Focus Area 3**  
To work in partnership with community organisations and other levels of government to maximise participation opportunities for vulnerable and diverse members of the community

Action	Network	
Implement the action plan for the Access Framework.	Community and Place	 <b>60%</b>

**Comment**

The Access widget used by the council is being investigated to see whether additional languages can be added. The Access widget will also be reviewed at contract renewal as we currently do not have affordable and cost effective options available for five of the top ten additional languages spoken in Launceston.

Across May and June we conducted two community consultation sessions in the northern suburbs regarding access to safe and accessible transport and roads. A report on the outcomes of these sessions is being drafted by City of Launceston and Project North (City Mission).

We have established a collaborative relationship with Northern Occupational Support Services (NOSS) who will be key co-designers in the equity and inclusion framework and the youth framework.


We have commenced attending regular participant sessions to hear the challenges and opportunities for people living with disabilities in Launceston.

The notice of motion presented by Cr Dawkins in June regarding establishing an Inclusion Action Plan and Community Consultation was endorsed by council. The Access framework, which was due for review in 2024-25, will now be considered in a broader sense as an equity and inclusion strategy. This action will continue in the Annual Plan 2024-25 Action Item ID 5.2.

Action	Network
Continue to roll out the ABCDE Learning Sites community development program, including the conclusion of the Invermay Learning Site in December 2023.	Community and Place  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The social impact research project is underway and the consultant has visited Launceston to interview participants. Interview summaries of findings for testing and sense making will occur in July 2024. The Community Connector is leading the strategic review and has undertaken the internal business analysis review and the community partnerships review. Recommendations are now in draft stage to be presented to leadership for endorsement before being presented to council in late 2024.

Action	Network
Develop and implement the Homelessness Action Plan through collaboration with the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Community and Place  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Homelessness: Statement of Commitment (HSoC) was adopted formally by council in June 2024. The HSoC outlines the approach the council will take to address and respond to homelessness, including advocacy, community education and linking those experiencing homelessness to outreach workers.

Over the last quarter, City of Launceston officers have successfully worked with service providers to find a transition home for one of our homeless community. Officers have also worked with the council’s cleansing crews to undertake regular cleaning of areas where homeless people camp, including at the Silos and at the Roundhouse. The Council also continues to provide portable toilets in certain locations in the city where a lack of facilities has been identified.

Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with St Vincent de Paul to operate the former YMCA site in Kings Meadows. This will see the availability of the showers for homeless people continue in addition to provision of other services.



## Strategic Priority 6

We **Protect our Environment** by caring for our unique natural assets and amenity and sensitively managing future development opportunities.

We strive to minimise the impact of our actions on the environment, while planning for, adapting to and managing the impact of climate change. We want to protect the special character and values of our city for future generations.

### 10-Year Goal:


To enhance the unique natural character, values, and amenity of our city by minimising the impacts of our organisations and our community's activities in the environment.

### Focus Areas:

1. To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment.
2. To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.
3. To manage the risks of climate related events, particularly in the area of stormwater management and riverine flooding.

### Focus Area 1

To reduce our and the community's impact on the natural environment

Action	Network	
Implement the City of Launceston Urban Greening Action Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	 <b>100%</b>


### Comment

The Urban Greening Action Plan has been translated into a four-year delivery plan, and implementation has commenced. The first of the tree order for 2024 has arrived at the City of Launceston's nursery, ready to be prepared for planting in the coming years. Council officers have participated in community engagement activities, including a week of focused engagement in Mayfield, and a wrap for The Examiner newspaper. The city's first Precinct Plan, for the suburb of Mowbray, is complete, and will form the template for other suburbs. This has been translated to a planting plan, and implementation commenced in June 2024. Work has progressed on the development of a Significant Tree Register for the City, focussed on Council-owned trees. Significant trees may be of outstanding aesthetic significance, very large or very old (venerable), commemorative, a significant component within the landscape, a variety that is rare or of horticultural or genetic value, and/or important to the ecological community.

Quantitative risk assessments have been completed for the trees within Royal Park.

Council officers have worked through design options for Central Business District planters and urban micro greening options. Urban greening elements will also be delivered through the Launceston City Heart Project. Refurbished planter boxes with the Launceston Place Brand began rolling out in the CBD in June.

City of Launceston officers participated in an organisational capacity assessment to set a framework for improved delivery and management of Launceston's urban forest to achieve the canopy cover targets within the Strategy.


Action	Network
Implement the City of Launceston Urban Greening Action Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Sustainability team continue to deliver ongoing and new projects outlined in the Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2030 (SAP). The recent biennial review of the SAP provides a snapshot of progress towards the 139 actions identified in the plan. To date, 43 actions have been achieved, 60 are in progress, 35 are yet to commence and one has been discontinued. Key actions completed include increased gas capture capacity from the landfill, expansion of kerbside FOGO to cover the entire municipality, completion of the Urban Greening Strategy and a water audit across Council assets. Targets achieved include 25% of community organic waste diverted from landfill and disaster guidance for high climate risks has been developed and made available to the public.

Highlights for this financial year include:

- Emissions profile completed.
- Major methane gas capture infrastructure installed at the Launceston landfill site at Cavalry Road which has doubled landfill gas capture capacity.
- Landfill diversion facility audit and feasibility report has commenced with draft report received for review.
- Water efficiency project implemented with significant leaks detected leading to water and financial savings.
- The reusable nappy and sanitary products rebate project has commenced.
- Launceston's first repair cafe commenced in April. The initiative will continue monthly for six months and then its future will be assessed.
- Low Carbon Launceston presentation series has delivered community engagement workshops targeting business, youth and general community.
- Low Carbon Launceston presentation series delivered six weekly presentations. Presentations ranged from electric vehicles, resource recovery, low carbon investing, circular economy and health implications of climate change. The sessions were well attended and all were professionally filmed so that the information can continue to be shared with the community.

Action	Network
Implement Urban Waterway Health Management Program.	Infrastructure and Assets  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Urban Waterway Health Management Program was finalised in March 2023. The program was written to document threats to waterways from urbanisation, highlight the natural values of urban waterways and identify strategies around implementation actions. Implementation of this program is an ongoing action.

Key activities undertaken over the past few months include:

- Completion of rehabilitation and revegetation work on urban waterways for Financial Year 2023-24, sites completed include Newnham Creek at the University and a small tributary to Jinglers Creek within the Jinglers Drive Reserve.
- Ongoing weed management works, including willow removal.
- Identification of revegetation works to be completed during Financial Year 2024-25, including some preliminary weed management works at these locations.

**Focus Area 2**

To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston

**Action**

**Network**

Support the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce including supporting the implementation of the 10-year vision for the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary.

Chief Executive Officer



**100%**

**Comment**

In August 2023, the Tasmanian Government adopted the Vision and Implementation Plan for the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary as recommended by the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce. The Taskforce is made up of the five northern councils in the catchment, state government (Infrastructure Tasmania and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania), Hydro Tasmania, TasWater, Launceston Chamber of Commerce and NRM North.

The Vision is designed to reframe Launceston’s relationship to the estuary, recognising and embracing its transformation from an industrial landscape to a focal point for community events and recreation. Based on feedback from the community, the vision is underpinned by three values which help to guide the future direction of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary:

1. Creating community spaces to bring people together
2. Enhancing recreational connections around the estuary
3. Preserving natural values for future generations.

The vision focuses on two priorities to develop the estuary as a focal point for community events and recreation, while supporting its natural ecology to better manage sediment and water quality.

- Priority 1 focuses on creating a cultural and recreational precinct.
- Priority 2 focuses on the long-term sustainable management of sediment.

In August 2023, the Tasmanian State Government adopted a four-year Implementation Plan (2023-2027) and has committed seed funding of \$2.4m to scope immediate priority actions including:

1. Improving connectivity and amenity of the foreshore through:
  - b. development of a masterplan to connect people with the estuary - including infrastructure and revegetation plans;
  - c. identifying priorities and implement improvements; and
  - d. clean-up of disused infrastructure, weeds, and rubbish
2. Trial wetland and water’s edge vegetation restoration projects on the North Esk River.

City of Launceston representatives are collaborating with other members of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) on initial planning of the priority actions.

In the first half of this financial year, Council staff participated in the scoping of a project, and preparation of tender documents, to secure a qualified consultant to prepare a masterplan for both sides of the estuary from the Tailrace/Ti Tree Bend to the Charles Street Bridge. The aim of the masterplan is to revitalise the waterfront and activate the space by bringing people to the water’s edge, creating new and enhance existing cultural and recreational precincts, connecting key areas of the city, educating users and visitors about the environmental importance of the estuary, and enhancing visual amenity by restoring natural values to the foreshore.

TEMT staff sent the tender documents for advertising in the first half of July.

In the October - December quarter, the Tasmanian State Government established a project Steering Committee and a project Working Group, including representatives from the City of Launceston, to plan and oversee the trial wetland and water’s edge vegetation restoration projects on the North Esk River.

The project aims to restore wetlands in the North Esk River to reduce sediment in the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and improve water quality and aquatic habitat to benefit native species and provide community access to nature and urban green space. Activities will increase community access to the estuary by increasing the tidal prism and in turn, decrease the extent of sediment/mudflats.

The Tasmanian State Government is finalising procurement of services to:


- conduct site surveying of the trial wetland to develop baseline ecosystem inventory, biological and water monitoring, soil sampling and conducting LiDAR and aerial surveying; and
- prepare a plan for trial revegetation work between the Charles Street and Tamar Street bridges and conduct a vegetation assessment for the foreshore of the upper estuary.

Representatives from the City of Launceston participated in TEMT project planning and engagement planning workshops in the recent quarter.

The next phase of work will include mapping, communications and public engagement activities, revegetation trial planning and permitting, and the preparation of a project management plan and budget for works.

The Tasmanian State Government has negotiated with the Australian Government on a Federation Funding Agreement securing \$8m from the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program to progress the wetland restoration priority project.

No Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce meetings were held in the last quarter.

Action	Network
Support TasWater and NRM North with the implementation of the \$129.2M River Health Action Plan to improve catchment management and reduce overflows from the combined system.	Infrastructure and Assets  <b>100%</b>

**Comment**


The City of Launceston continues to support TasWater to deliver their component of the River Health Action Plan. This project is to improve the operation of Launceston’s combined system which manages the flow of both sewage and stormwater. The projects will help to divert sewage and stormwater flows away from kanamaluka/Tamar estuary, reducing the frequency and volume of overflow events. There are three main components:

- Upgrades of existing and construction of new pump stations to increase pumping capacities,
- Constructing new network storages to reduce overflows, and
- Building additional pipelines to transfer greater flow volumes.

Project updates:

- Successful completion of the second river crossing between Margaret Street and West Tamar Silt Ponds - 1.1 km of the new pipeline was pulled through the drilled tunnel, depth of up to 45 m. The Kings Park reinstatement works will be undertaken following completion of construction in this area.
- Substantial completion of the trenched (West Tamar) pipeline section.
- Continued installation of electrical switchboards, electrical cabling and pipework at Margaret Street Pump Station. Commencement of installation of screens at this pump station.
- Continued ground improvement earthworks at Ti Tree Bend in preparation for the Storage Tank construction. Installation of site storage undertaken during May to replace infrastructure removed to enable the storage tank construction.




Action	Network	
Develop a Clean Air Strategy and a supporting implementation plan.	Community and Place	

**Comment**

The opportunity for a Clean Air Strategy has been discussed with relevant State Government agencies. Resourcing for development of the Strategy and implementation plan needs to be identified prior to any substantial commencement of this project.

This action will continue in the Annual Plan 2024-25 - Action Item ID 6.5.

**Focus Area 3**  
To manage the risks of climate-related events, particularly in the area of stormwater management and riverine flooding


Action	Network	
Review Stormwater System Management Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	

**Comment**

The Stormwater System Management Plan is the overarching document for management of the stormwater system within the urban areas of Launceston. The focus for this year has been to update the hydraulic modelling that underpins the Stormwater System Management Plan. This update was required due to significant changes in industry standards and will incorporate climate change predictions that were previously not considered within the Stormwater System Management Plan.

The update to the hydraulic modelling is now complete and will be incorporated into the reviewed document.

Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024-25 under Action Item ID 6.8.

Action	Network	
Integrate development policy and assessment to facilitate best practice stormwater management, including consideration of water quality.	Infrastructure and Assets	

**Comment**

The policy has been drafted. Resourcing constraints delayed the development of the implementation plan however this work has recommenced and will be actioned in 2024-2025.

Progress against this action will continue through to the Annual Plan 2024-25 under Action Item ID 6.8.

## Strategic Priority 7

We are a **City Planning for our Future** by ensuring our approach to strategic land-use, development and infrastructure investment is coordinated, progressive and sustainable.

We play a leading role in balancing the enviable amenity of our municipality with the needs of future development and growth. We want to influence the delivery of the right investment for our city and region.

### 10-Year Goal:


To facilitate appropriate development via integrated land-use planning, infrastructure investment, and transport solutions within our municipality and region.

### Focus Areas:

1. To ensure that our application of the land-use planning system at a local and regional level is effective and efficient.
2. To take a strategic approach to development sites and infrastructure investment within the municipality to maximise public benefit and encourage development and investment.
3. To improve and maintain accessibility, transport options, and infrastructure within the Launceston area, including its rural areas.
4. To ensure our suite of strategic planning initiatives are coordinated, and representative of our community's needs and aspirations.

### Focus Area 1

To ensure that our application of the land use planning system at a local and regional level is effective and efficient.


Action	Network	
Participate in the Northern Regional Land Use Strategy Review.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

### Comment

The Northern Regional Land Use Strategy review process is ongoing and the council continues to participate as required. A key outcome this year was the completion of the Residential Land Demand and Supply study by REMPLAN which was presented to council at Workshop in April. Participation of council officers will be ongoing beyond this year as the process remains underway.

**Focus Area 2**

To take a strategic approach to development sites and infrastructure investment within the municipality to maximise public benefit and encourage development and investment

Action	Network	
Continue work on St Leonards Residential Growth Strategy and Masterplan.	Chief Executive Officer Community and Place	 <b>15%</b>

**Comment**

After being put on hold due to resourcing constraints, project planning has re-commenced with the intent of delivering this project over the coming two years.

The Council successfully applied for Federal Government funding under the Housing Support Program.

St Leonards is identified in Local and State Planning Policy as a location for growth, with up to 3,500 new homes proposed. The project is required to ensure:

- Launceston can address its critical land supply shortage.
- The growth is coordinated and contributes high amenity neighbourhoods for Launceston.
- Infrastructure funding and delivery is considered from the outset of the project.

The project will:

- Prepare a structure plan for the St Leonards growth corridor; and
- Prepare an infrastructure funding framework.

The project will be led by a consultant and involve internal collaboration and engagement with stakeholders and the community. The Executive Leadership Team and Council workshops will be scheduled throughout the project.

Progress will continue in the Annual Plan 2024-25 under Action Item ID 7.2.

Action	Network	
Continue work on “South Prospect” Residential Growth Strategy and Masterplan and initiate planning scheme amendments to facilitate development with the South Prospect Growth Corridor.	Community and Place	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**


Land south of Prospect, located between the Midlands Highway and the Bass Highway, adjacent to the Kate Reed Nature Recreation Area was included in the Greater Launceston Plan and the Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy as a priority investigation area to determine suitability for residential and non-residential development.

Between 2017 and mid-2024, the Chief Executive Officer and council officers worked with landowners, key infrastructure and service providers, consultants, and several agencies of the Tasmanian State Government on feasibility studies with the aim of preparing a Framework Plan and narrative for land south of Prospect. The purpose of the Framework Plan and narrative (including feasibility studies) was to provide the strategic justification to support potential rezoning of the land to accommodate housing and neighbourhood serving non-residential uses. The total private land area is approximately 335 hectares, with approximately 200 hectares of development potential.

In late 2023, the private landholders advised Council they would like to pursue rezoning applications on their own land.

In late February 2024 council officers sought direction from Council on next steps for the project and subsequently paused work on the draft joint framework plan.

The project returned to the Community and Place Network in June 2024 when Council received an application for a Planning Scheme Amendment from one landowner. The application is for a rezoning only, with any development and subdivision subject to a future development application if the rezoning is approved. The application will be assessed under the statutory process required by the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Action	Network	
Finalise Building Bulk and Massing Report (Building Heights).	Community and Place	 <b>30%</b>

**Comment**

A request for quotation was released in January 2024. Urbis was successful and the project was awarded in May 2024. The project commenced in June 2024 with the lead consultant commencing the background analysis phase of the project.

A project reference group has been established, comprised of individuals across the City of Launceston Networks. Executive Leadership Team and Council workshops are scheduled over the coming months. Stakeholder and community engagement is forecast for Quarter two of the 2024-25 financial year.

**Focus Area 3**  
To improve and maintain accessibility, transport options and infrastructure within the Launceston area, including its rural areas

Action	Network	
Action the 2022-2025 Launceston Transport Strategy Implementation Plan.	Infrastructure and Assets	 <b>100%</b>

**Comment**

The Launceston Transport Strategy Implementation Plan was developed to achieve progress towards Launceston’s transport vision; Our community will have access to diverse transport choices that connect them to places. Our focus on partnerships and innovation will promote our community’s wellbeing and improve Launceston’s livability.

Several of the initiatives identified within the Launceston Transport Strategy have been achieved, including the micro-mobility trial, the review and implementation of Central Business District speed limits and the development of the network operating plan. Significant initiatives within the transport strategy are linked to the work being undertaken within the City Heart Stage 2 Project, reported on elsewhere in the annual plan. Progress against focus areas for the past months included:

- Delivery of bicycle infrastructure along Forster Street (Kings Wharf to Invermay Road) - the tender for this project has closed and is currently under evaluation.
- Design of Traffic Signals at Invermay Road / Lindsay Street is ongoing.
- The updated Residential Parking Policy has been drafted and booked for Council Workshop. The On-Street Dining Policy is in the final stages of drafting and internal review prior to presentation to Council Workshop.



**Focus Area 4**

To ensure our suite of strategic planning initiatives are coordinated and representative of our community's needs and aspirations

Action	Network
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<p><b>City Deal Agreement:</b> Continue to work with the Commonwealth and State Governments to successfully implement commitments and projects under the City Deal program that deliver a range of economic and social benefits to the City.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>100%</b></p>
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**Comment**

Work on existing Launceston City Deal commitments is continuing in collaboration with the Commonwealth and State Governments.

The UTAS library at Inveresk was named the winner of the academic library category at The Australian Library and Information Association Library Design Awards in Adelaide during May. The award acknowledged the new UTAS library's contribution as an academic library for the community.

The Shed (Willis Street) is progressing. Levee wall maintenance work continued on a small section of walkway alongside Boland Street, impacting footpath access. Work commenced Monday 3 June and is expected to conclude Friday 19 July 2024.


Progress on the \$43.6 million Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub continues. The tender for the Main Works Package Stage 2 was awarded and works commenced in June 2024. It is envisaged the Main Works Package Stage 2 will support 230 local jobs, including up to 10 apprenticeships, with the use of local goods and services to be prioritised.

The entire project is expected to be completed in late 2025. More information is available on the Infrastructure Tasmania website under the Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub (the Hub).

The Albert Hall redevelopment is continuing to progress well. All footing and blockwork to the underside of the northern foyer slab is nearing completion. The site electrical mains relocation and rectification has now been completed. Commercial Project Delivery have the need for some discussions with the contractor regarding the contingency and budget scope.

Detailing of the facade cladding system is progressing well with the final design details being worked through ready to commence show drawings. The project heritage consultant and Heritage Tas are both supportive of the final design outcome and a Planning minor amendment will be submitted if required by the Town Planning Department.

Action	Network
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<p><b>Implementation Review:</b> A review of each City Deal is scheduled every three years. Plan and deliver the Review from Council's perspective.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>Not Progressing</b></p>
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**Comment**

The Australian Government advised that following the three year review of the Launceston City Deal, published in November 2021, there will be no further implementation reviews.

## Public Health Statement and Activities

Section 72(1)(ab) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to provide a statement of goals and objectives in relation to public health for the preceding financial year.

The City of Launceston protects and promotes the health of its residents and visitors. The Council's Health and Compliance department has statutory responsibilities under the *Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)*, *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)*, *Food Act 2003 (Tas)*, *Dog Control Act 2000 (Tas)* and *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)*.

As part of the City of Launceston's public health goals and objectives, in 2023-24 the Health and Compliance department will seek to:

- Continue to improve public awareness of responsible dog ownership and our Dog Management policy.
- Help residents reduce their wood smoke impacts by providing information and education on correct wood heater operation.
- Protect public health by regulating Launceston's food businesses to make sure they are handling food safely. As part of this, we will consider establishing education forums for food businesses on best practice food handling and food safety.
- Reduce the incidence of preventable illnesses by providing immunisations to our community and by regulating public health risk businesses, such as tattooists and body piercers.
- Provide planning conditions on developments within the city that will maintain and improve the local amenity for residents.
- Provide advice to the community on the water quality of our recreational waterways, including the Cataract Gorge, by undertaking regular monitoring of water quality.

Annual Plan Strategic Priority #6 focus area: To contribute to air and river quality improvements in Launceston.



Section 72(1A)(a) Section 72(1)(ab) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to state the extent to which the Council has carried out its functions under the *Public Health Act 1997* and the *Food Act 2003*.

The Environmental Health Team carried out all of its required functions under the Public Health Act and Food Act. The extent of activities undertaken is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Activities undertaken by the Environmental Health Team**

<b>Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p><b>Place of assembly assessments (POA)</b> Registration of public events which have a duration of longer than two hours with more than 1,000 people attending</p>	<p><b>9</b> POA licences issued including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junction Arts Festival</li> <li>• Festivale</li> <li>• MONA FOMA Gorge Concert</li> <li>• Launceston Cup</li> <li>• Beerfest</li> <li>• A Festival called Panama</li> <li>• Fire &amp; Fog</li> <li>• The Corrs</li> <li>• Lighting of the Tree</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public health risk activities</b> Inspection of health risk activities including tattooing and body piercing. All premises where these activities occur, as well as the operators who carry out the health risk activity, are inspected annually</p>	<p>Inspections carried out: <b>27</b> premises <b>57</b> operators</p>
<p><b>Smoke-free areas</b> Patrols of smoke-free areas. Areas patrolled are those declared by council and under the <i>Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> patrols undertaken</p>
<p><b>Regulated systems</b> Registration of cooling towers and warm water systems to reduce the risk of illnesses like legionnaires disease</p>	<p>Systems registered: <b>5</b> cooling towers <b>0</b> warm water system</p>
<p><b>Private water suppliers</b> Those providing drinking water through a private supply (i.e. not using TasWater's reticulated drinking water network). This includes Council's Myrtle Park</p>	<p><b>5</b> private water suppliers registered and inspected</p>
<p><b>Unhealthy housing</b> Inspection of private residences following complaints of mould or unhealthy living conditions</p>	<p><b>23</b> unhealthy housing investigations</p>
<p><b>Recreational waters – natural</b> Recreational swimming sites tested during the summer months (December–March)</p>	<p>Sites sampled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corra Linn</li> <li>• Waverley Lake</li> <li>• St Leonards picnic ground</li> <li>• First Basin</li> </ul> <p><b>68</b> samples taken</p>
<p><b>Recreational waters – council owned pools and spas</b> Monthly testing of the Launceston Aquatic Centre's indoor pools Summer (December–March) testing of the aquatic centre's outdoor pools, along with the Basin Pool and Lilydale Pool</p>	<p><b>91</b> samples taken</p>
<p><b>Immunisations</b> Provision of immunisations through our schools program and through our weekly clinics which align with the national immunisation schedule</p>	<p><b>4211</b> number of vaccine doses provided</p>
<p><b>Infringements</b> Penalties issued to businesses that fail to register a premises where a public health risk activity occurs</p>	<p><b>1</b> infringements issued</p>

Food Act 2003 (Tas)	Comments
<b>Registered food businesses</b>	
Registration of food businesses that occupy a fixed premises such as restaurants and cafes	<b>803</b> food businesses registered
<b>Registration of temporary food business</b>	
Registration of temporary food providers including school fairs, sporting events, festivals and markets	<b>165</b> temporary registrations granted
<b>Registration of temporary food notifications</b>	
Registration of temporary non-potentially hazardous food/drinks notifications including school fairs, sporting events, festivals and markets	<b>57</b> temporary notifications granted
<b>Registration of state wide food businesses</b>	
Registration of mobile food businesses such as food vans, trailers and stalls	<b>142</b> businesses registered
<b>Food complaint inspections</b>	
Investigations of complaints made by customers about food quality or food premises hygiene which may or may not be justified	<b>74</b> complaints investigated
<b>Registered food business inspections</b>	
Inspections of new food businesses, as well as unannounced and routine inspections of existing food businesses	<b>627</b> inspections undertaken
<b>Improvement notices</b>	
Notices issued to food businesses to rectify food safety issues	<b>34</b> notices issued
<b>Prosecutions</b>	
Court action against food businesses who have been found to be in serious breach of food safety standards	<b>0</b> prosecutions undertaken
<b>Prohibition orders</b>	
Orders issued to food businesses to mitigate an identified and immediate risk to public health	<b>5</b> orders issued
<b>Infringement notices</b>	
Penalties issued to food businesses for failure to comply with the <i>Food Act 2003 (Tas)</i> and/or the Food Standards Code	<b>7</b> infringements issued
<b>Environment</b>	
<b>Environmental pollution investigations (excluding noise)</b>	
Investigations of complaints received about odour, wood smoke and dust	<b>144</b> Investigations undertaken
<b>Noise pollution investigations</b>	
Investigation of noise pollution from commercial, industrial and residential sources	<b>124</b> Investigations undertaken
<b>Infringements</b>	
Penalties issued to people or businesses under the <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)</i> for:	<b>0</b> Infringements issued
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contravening the requirements of a notice issued under the Act</li> <li>causing an environmental nuisance</li> </ul>	



Environment	Comments
<p><b>Environment protection notices and abatements</b>  <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas) environment protection notices (EPNs) and Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) abatements issued to people or businesses found to be causing an environmental nuisance</i></p>	<p>Notices served:  <b>3</b> EPNs  <b>3</b> Amended EPNs</p> <p>Abatements:  <b>1</b> Litter Act  <b>2</b> Local Government Act  <b>1</b> Dog Control Act                      NB: <b>72</b> litter complaints were received</p>

**Section 72(1A)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to state the resources allocated to public health.**

The Environmental Health Team comprises 3 full time Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), 2 part time EHOs, 1 part time EO and a team leader. The team is supported by three technical/administration officers who assist with tasks including food registrations and water sampling. Currently there is 1 full time EHO position vacant.

During the 2023–24 financial year the team was under resourced as team members resigned from their roles for career progression or career changes, we were also unsuccessful in recruiting for the vacant EHO position.

An external consultant was hired to undertake food inspections for council. The external consultant completed 176 food inspections for Council in 2023–2024.

**Section 72(1A)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to state the extent to which its goals, objectives, policies and programs in relation to public health met the needs of persons within the municipality.**

The Environmental Health Team largely met the needs of people in the municipality by carrying out the tasks shown in Table 1. The team was least able to achieve its goals related to undertaking smoke-free patrols due to staff resourcing constraints.

In addition to the items in Table 1, the team undertook the following:

- 54 requests for immunisation records/services
- 72 public health related investigations
- 155 general enquiries

**Section 72(1A)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to include any details of the completion of any strategies (in relation to public health).**

The team is undertaking a strategic review of the complaints handling process related mould.

## Grants, assistance and benefits provided

Section 77(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires us to include the details of any grant, assistance or benefit that is not a legal entitlement to any person during the preceding financial year.

### Community Grants

In 2023-24, the City of Launceston funded \$65,757.00 of community grants to support the community groups and our local young people to participate in state, national and international competitions and events. Fifteen organisations and 47 individuals and teams were assisted.

Community Grants - Organisations		\$
Clifford Craig Foundation - LGH Historical, Visual and Performing Arts Committee	The Role and Power of Live Music in the Healing Process at the LGH	\$5,000.00
Engender Equality	Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Workshops	\$3,735.00
GroWaverley	Growing our neighbourhood impact	\$5,000.00
Just Cats Inc	Community Desexing Project	\$5,000.00
Just Cats Inc	Last Litters Program	\$3,000.00
Launceston Life Saving Club Inc	Inflatable Rescue Boat motor replacement for Launceston Life Saving Club	\$3,714.00
Mainly Music Australia Limited	Launceston Salvation Army Mainly Music Group	\$3,750.00
Northern Suburbs Community Centre	Capturing Smiles	\$2,335.00
Pets In The Park Launceston	Pets of The Homeless	\$3,750.00
Reclink Australia	Reclink Australia	\$4,970.00
RSPCA Tasmania	Safe Beds Program	\$2,625.00
Sawtooth ARI Inc	SAW: Sawtooth Artist Workshops	\$5,000.00
Soroptimist International of Launceston Inc	Connection, Community, Empowerment: Pamper project for women with an intellectual disability	\$1,710.00
The ReDress Hub	ReDress: ReGift - Sharing the skills to keep clothing in use for longer	\$3,450.00
The Salvation Army	Street Teams Rest & Recovery Tent	\$4,518.00
		<b>\$57,557.00</b>

<b>Community Grants - Teams/Groups/Individuals</b>	<b>\$</b>
31 X \$100 or under Individual Grants	\$2,875.00
Futsal Under 12 Team	\$150.00
Kanamaluka Ranger Girl Guides	\$600.00
Launceston Christian School - Science and Engineering Nationals	\$450.00
Northern Tasmania Junior Soccer Association Boys Under 11 Team	\$450.00
Northern Tasmania Junior Soccer Association Boys Under 11 Team	\$450.00
Queechy High School - F1 in Schools National Final	\$375.00
State Soccer Under 16 Team	\$150.00
Stompin Youth Dance	\$150.00
Tasmanian Judo Team	\$150.00
The Tasmanian Showcase team	\$450.00
Touch Football Boys Under 12 Team	\$300.00
Touch Football Boys Under 14 Team	\$300.00
Touch Football Girls Under 14 Team	\$375.00
Touch Football Under 12 Team	\$300.00
Touch Football Under 16 Team	\$450.00
Touch Football Under 18 Team	\$225.00
	<b>\$8,200.00</b>

**Events Sponsorship**

Events play a vital role in creating communities that are engaged, vibrant and have a strong sense of pride and community connectivity. Events deliver a range of positive impacts including economic and tourism benefits, promotion of the City's image as a destination and they provide an opportunity to raise the city profile as a great place to live and invest in. A total of 62 events received sponsorship through the Event Sponsorship Programs in the 2023-24 financial year and one conference event received funding through the Conference, Convention and Championship Incentives Program.

<b>Signature Small Event Sponsorship</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>\$</b>
Interweave Arts Association Inc	Remade	\$5,000.00
Launceston City Mission	Launceston City Community Christmas	\$5,000.00
Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tas Inc	Launceston Community Harmony Day 2024	\$5,000.00
Rotary Club of Youngtown	Soggy Bottom Regatta	\$5,000.00
		<b>\$20,000.00</b>

<b>Signature Major Event Sponsorship</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>\$</b>
Australian Musical Theatre Festival Inc	Australian Musical Theatre Festival 2024	\$20,000.00
DanceSport Australia Limited	Tasmanian Open Dancesport Championships	\$18,200.00
Encore Theatre Company Inc	Encore Theatre Company - two shows per annum	\$30,000.00
Epic Events and Marketing	McGrath Launceston Running Festival	\$17,250.00
Junction Arts Festival Inc	Junction Arts Festival	\$45,000.00
Launceston Festivale Committee Inc	Festivale	\$60,000.00
Motorsport Australia	Rally Launceston	\$3,000.00
Panama Productions	A Festival Called Panama	\$12,500.00
		<b>\$205,950.00</b>

<b>Small Event Sponsorship</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>\$</b>
Backyard Projections	Dinner and a Movie	\$3,000.00
Cancer Council Tasmania	Women's 5K Walk/Run	\$3,750.00
Cancer Council Tasmania	Relay For Life	\$5,000.00
Community of St Patricks River District (Tas) Inc	St Patricks River District Day	\$4,750.00
Dobson Guitar Services	Riverbend Blues	\$750.00
IO Performance	Launceston Summer Series	\$5,000.00
Launceston Carols by Candlelight Inc	Launceston Carols by Candlelight	\$5,000.00
Launceston and Henley Regatta Association	The Launceston and Henley Regatta	\$3,750.00



<b>Small Event Sponsorship</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>\$</b>
Launceston Festival of Dance Inc	Launceston Festival of Dance	\$750.00
Lilydale RSL Sub-Branch	Vietnam Veterans Day	\$1,500.00
Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tas Inc	Launceston Community Harmony Day 2023	\$1,000.00
Mudlark Theatre Inc	One Day 2023	\$3,750.00
Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre Inc	Northern Tasmanian Croquet Easter Tournament	\$1,000.00
RSPCA Tasmania	RSPCA Tasmania Million Paws Walk	\$3,000.00
St. Cecilia Productions (Tas) Inc	St Cecilia Performance Challenge	\$3,750.00
St.Giles Society	St. Giles Balfour Burn	\$3,750.00
Story Locker	Tasmanian Storytelling Festival 2023	\$750.00
Tasmanian Brick Enthusiasts Inc.	Brixhibition Launceston	\$3,750.00
Tasmanian Fashion Festival Inc	Tasmanian Fashion Festival	\$2,042.00
Tasmanian Poetry Festival Inc	Tasmanian Poetry Festival	\$3,750.00
Tasmanian Rock Challenge	Riverbend Rock Challenge	\$5,000.00
The Launceston Players Society Inc	A Clockwork Orange	\$3,062.00
The ReDress Hub	ReDressed: A Slow Fashion Parade	\$2,042.00
Three River Theatre Inc.	Things I Know To Be True	\$3,062.00
		<b>\$72,958.00</b>

<b>Major Event Sponsorship</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>\$</b>
AusCycling	Tour of Tasmania (Level 1)	\$4,603.00
Australian Musical Theatre Festival Inc	Australian Musical Theatre Festival 2024	\$4,000.00
City of Launceston Lions Club	City of Launceston Lions Club, Skoda Buckby Christmas Parade (Level 1)	\$8,000.00
Encore Theatre Company Inc	Priscilla Queen of the Desert	\$3,000.00
Golf Australia	2024 Men's and Women's Tasmanian Open (Golf) and 2024 Tasmanian Inclusive Championship (Level 2)	\$15,000.00
Jacqueline Anifandis	Launceston Ukulele Jamboree (Level 2)	\$11,250.00
Launceston City Cycling Club	Launceston City Cycling Club Two Day Classic (Level 1)	\$5,753.00
Launceston Competitions Association	Launceston Competitions (Level 1)	\$20,000.00
Multicultural Council of Tasmania	Celebrating Harmony (Level 1)	\$9,000.00

Major Event Sponsorship Cont.	Payee	\$
Northern Tasmanian Athletics Inc	Australian 10/11/12 years Track and Field Championships (Level 2)	\$6,137.00
Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc	Small Farm Living Field Day (Level 1)	\$5,630.00
Rotary Club of Central Launceston	Tamar Valley Cycling Challenge (featuring Sally's Ride) (Level 1)	\$5,753.00
Smash Attack Studios Pty Ltd	Fighting Island State Tasmania (F.I.S.T) (Level 1)	\$9,375.00
Tamar Community Peace Trust	Tamar Valley Peace Festival (Level 1)	\$5,753.00
Tasmanian Agrifood Network Ltd	agriCULTURED (Level 2)	\$15,000.00
Tasmanian Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival (BOFA Ltd)	Tasmanian Breath of Fresh Air Film Festival (Level 2)	\$6,137.00
Tasmanian Marching Association Inc	2024 Australian DrillDance Championships (Level 2)	\$15,000.00
Tasmanian Turf Club Inc.	Ladbroke's Launceston Cup & Carnival (Level 2)	\$20,000.00
Thai Association of Tasmania Inc	Thai Food and Cultural Festival (Level 1)	\$5,753.00
Trevallyn Bowls & Community Club	Launceston International Bowls Classic (Level 2)	\$5,481.00
		<b>\$180,625.00</b>

Special Event Sponsorship	Payee	\$
Rooke Productions Ltd	DEKOOR + community workshops (adjacent to Tendrils)	\$11,854.00
TasDance	Launnie Can Dance	\$4,500.00
Vandemonian Touring Pty Ltd	The Corrs Down Under (Launceston)	\$50,000.00
		<b>\$66,354.00</b>

New Years Eve Event Sponsorship	Payee	\$
Beerfest No1 Pty Ltd	Beerfest Launceston NYE	\$46,000.00
		<b>\$46,000.00</b>

Conference and Business Incentives	Payee	\$
Women's Legal Service	Family Violence Conference	\$3,020.00
		<b>\$3,020.00</b>

Contribution Partnership Agreements 2023-24		Payee	\$
Ten Days on the Island	Ten Days on the Island		\$25,000
Moorilla Estate	Mona Foma		\$100,000
			<b>\$125,000.00</b>

**Other Grants, Benefits and Remissions**

Remissions - Rates (Charitable and Hardship Concessions) Section 129 Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)		\$
Central Business District		-
Fire		\$8,619.78
Fire Aged Care		-
General		\$416,804.31
General Aged Care		-
Interest		\$2,256.35
Legal		\$490.50
Penalty		\$570.92
Waste		\$1,357.20
<b>\$430,099.06</b>		

Waste Concessions		\$
Pensioner Concessions		\$63,307.83
Residents Free Vouchers		\$320,103.99
Charitable Concessions		\$34,241.85
<b>\$417,653.67</b>		

Parking Concessions		\$
Parking		\$119,502.36
<b>\$119,502.36</b>		

<b>Charitable Concessions Were Provided to the Following Organisations</b>	<b>\$</b>
Citizen Advocacy Launceston Region Inc	\$103.45
Community Care Tasmania	\$396.25
Community Housing (TAS) Limited	\$7,346.95
Connections Op Shop Inc	\$349.78
Door of Hope Christian Church Inc	\$885.45
Friends of the Library	\$171.28
Gro Waverley	\$127.56
Just Cats Tasmania	\$31.21
Karinya Young Womens Service Inc	\$566.91
Launceston Benevolent Society Inc	\$291.68
Launceston Bowls Club Inc	\$31.40
Launceston City Mission Inc	\$22,308.12
Launceston Players	\$74.04
Launceston Vfc Services Inc	\$330.95
Lions Club Of Kings Meadows Inc	\$76.72
Litter Free Launnie	\$158.67
New Horizons Club Inc	\$28.37
Police & Citizens Youth Club Launceston Inc	\$159.85
Rotary Punchbowl Community Garden	\$119.91
Self Help Workshop Inc	\$4,147.65
St Michaels Association Inc	\$352.88
Starting Point Neighbourhood House Inc	\$125.24
Teen Challenge Tasmania Inc	\$65.30
The Salvation Army	\$1,053.86
Veterans & Community Wood Centre Inc	\$194.10
Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies	\$162.84
Zion Hill Community Care Inc	\$94.16
	<b>\$39,754.58</b>



<b>Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$</b>
Business Events Tasmania	\$51,051.00
Cityprom Ltd	\$563,861.50
Dogs Home of Tasmania *	\$165,000.00
Just Cats Inc *	\$30,000.00
Launceston Flood Authority	\$181,805.00
Local Government Association of Tasmania	\$77,883.46
Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association	\$200,000.00
Northern Tasmanian Development Corp Ltd	\$206,492.88
NRM North	\$70,063.88
Tamar Region NRM	\$142,219.00
Ten Days on the Island	\$125,000.00
Theatre North	\$126,411.46
Tourism Northern Tasmania Inc	\$169,750.00
West Tamar Council	\$26,725.00
	<b>\$2,136,263.18</b>

\* Disclosed in Financial Statements as Community Assistance Grants



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## Tenders and contracts

### Contracts valued at or exceeding \$250,000 excluding GST

Regulation 29(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 requires us to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$250,000 excluding GST, entered into or extended in the 2023-24 financial year:

Contract description	Contract period	Extension option	Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST	Successful contractor and business address
CD025/2022 Albert Hall Renewal Project	November 2023 - March 2025	No	\$13,255,996 (T)	Shape Australia Level 1, 121 Marcus Clarke Street CANBERRA ACT 2601
CD033/2021 Northern Regional Tennis Centre Club House and Community Events Centre	May - December 2024	No	\$2,323,730 (T)	Fairbrother Pty Ltd 12 Stoney Rise Road DEVONPORT TAS 7310
CD038/2023 Road Safety Centre - Stage 3	March - November 2024	No	\$1,401,191 (T)	Zanetto Civil 3 Killafaddy Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
CD040/2023 LWC Borrow Pitt Rehabilitation	December 2023 - April 2024	No	\$1,261,769 (T)	Gradco Pty Ltd 79-81 St Leonards Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
Petrol and Diesel Fuel Supply	July 2023 - June 2024	Extended Annually	\$1,036,784 (T)	Ampol Australia GPO Box 3998 SYDNEY NSW 2001
CD022/2023 Princess Theatre Redevelopment	May 2024 - November 2025	No	\$900,000(T)	Lovell Chen Level 5, 176 Wellington Parade EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
Northern Hockey Centre Upgrade	July 2023 - June 2024	No	\$750,000 (C)	HOCKEY TASMANIA INC PO Box 96 NEW TOWN TAS 7008
Technology One Licence Fees	June 2023 - July 2024	Extended Annually	\$685,737 (C)	Technology One PO Box 96 FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
Revaluation for Municipality	2023/2024	No	\$655,000 (C)	LG Valuation Services PO Box 378 KYABRAM VIC 3620
CD017/2023 Invermay Levee Reinstatement	July 2023 - April 2024	No	\$594,056 (T)	GRADCO PTY LTD (PC CONTRACT) 79-81 St Leonards Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
East Launceston Levee Floodgates	June 2024	No	\$533,288 (C)	Tasrail PO Box 335 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249

<b>Contract description</b>	<b>Contract period</b>	<b>Extension option</b>	<b>Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST</b>	<b>Successful contractor and business address</b>
CD043/2023 Launceston Pump Track	March - September 2024	No	\$467,012 (T)	World Trail Pty PO Box 6108 CAIRNS QLD 4870
CD029/2023 Edinburgh Street Pavement Rehabilitation	February - April 2024	No	\$463,819 (T)	Pro Kerb Tasmania 89 St Leonards Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
Microsoft EA Licencing	August 2024		\$434,748 (C)	Crayon Australia Level 17, 100 Arthur Street NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060
CD029/2023 Edinburgh Street Pavement Rehabilitation	February - April 2024	No	\$408,563 (T)	The Baker Group 9 Hudson Fysh Drive WESTERN JUNCTION TAS 7212
Volvo Truck	November 2023	No	\$378,800 (T)	Webster Trucks & Motors PO Box 412 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Sweeper Truck	September 2023	No	\$358,980 (T)	Tassie Trucks PO Box 212 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
CD033/2023 Brooklyn Road Asset Upgrade	October 2023	No	\$331,600 (T)	Crossroad Civil Contracting 73-79 Lilydale Road ROCHERLEA TAS 7248
CD009/2023 Launceston Aquatic Centre AHU Upgrade	November 2023	No	\$315,351 (T)	Superheat Pty Ltd Suite 14A, 113 Main Road MOONAH TAS 7009
CD020/2023 Home Point Pontoon Refurbishment and Sea Scout Pontoon Repair Works	March 2024	No	\$264,316 (T)	Sub41 Pty Ltd 118 Auld Kirk Road SIDMOUTH TAS 7270
CD020/2023 Home Point Pontoon Refurbishment and Sea Scout Pontoon Repair Works	March 2024	No	\$256,272 (T)	Sub41 Pty Ltd 118 Auld Kirk Road SIDMOUTH TAS 7270
Isuzu Truck	December 2023	No	\$256,272 (T)	Webster Trucks & Motors PO Box 412 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Section 333A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* provides for instances when the requirement to tender for goods or services valued at or above \$250,000 excluding GST does not apply. These instances are detailed at regulation 27 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*.

Regulation 29(2) requires us to report on some of these instances - specifically, when tenders have not been sought because of an emergency pursuant to regulation 27(a), and when a decision of Council has been made pursuant to regulation 27(i).

Reason for not inviting public tenders	Description of goods or services acquired	Value excluding GST	Name of supplier
Regulation 27(a) of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulations 2015</i> - insufficient time to invite tenders for goods or services required in an emergency	South Esk Emergency Works	\$606,202	Andrew Walter Constructions (PC Contract) PO Box 5 CLAREMONT TAS 7011

### Contracts valued at or exceeding \$100,000 excluding GST but less than \$250,000

Regulation 29(3) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015* requires us to report on contracts for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$100,000 excluding GST but less than \$250,000, entered into or extended in the 2023/2024 financial year:

Contract description	Contract period	Extension option	Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST	Successful contractor and business address
By-Election	October 2023	No	\$240,807	Tasmanian Electoral Commission GPO Box 300 HOBART TAS 7001
CD016/2022 Spray and Seal	May 2023	No	\$236,039	Crossroad Civil Contracting 73-79 Lilydale Road ROCHERLEA TAS 7248
Cataract Gorge Remediation of Retaining Walls	November 2023	No	\$231,410	Invision Developments PO Box 549 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
City of Launceston Urban Design Framework	April 2024	No	\$220,694	WSP Australia Level 27, 680 George Street SYDNEY NSW 2034
CD039/2023 Reid Street Road Upgrade	November 2023 - January 2024	No	\$205,197	Crossroads Civil 73-79 Lilydale Road ROCHERLEA TAS 7248
CD064/2017 Compost Screening	July 2023 - June 2024	Yes	\$200,000	Fieldwick Crushing and Screening PO Box 131E EAST DEVONPORT TAS 7310



<b>Contract description</b>	<b>Contract period</b>	<b>Extension option</b>	<b>Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST</b>	<b>Successful contractor and business address</b>
CD030/2023 Emita Parade Pavement Rehabilitation	October - November 2023	No	\$189,980	Stabilised Pavements of Australia 234 Wisemans Ferry Road SOMERSBY NSW 2250
CD012/2023 City Park Playspace - Landscape Architecture and Play Equipment Design	August 2023 - November 2023	No	\$188,150	SBLA Studio Pty Ltd 334 Victoria Street BRUNSWICK VIC 3056
Annual Travel	July 2023 - June 2024	No	\$175,000	RACT Travelworld Pty Ltd Cnr Murray & Patrick Streets HOBART TAS 7000
Development Work	June 2023 - July 2024	No	\$175,000	SER Family Trust 75 Mulgrave Street SOUTH LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Prefabricated Exeloo	January 2024	No	\$171,225	WC Convenience Management 13 Horscroft Place MOORABBIN VIC 3189
Urban Design Framework	July 2024	No	\$166,721	WSP Australia Level 27, 680 George Street SYDNEY NSW 2034
CD045/2023 Gatehouse Operations	May 2024 - May 2026	Yes	\$163,636	Justwaste PO Box 499 PROSPECT TAS 7250
Reconstruction Retaining Walls Ockerby Gardens	July 2023	No	\$163,120	Invision Developments PO Box 549 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
CD015/2022 Reseal Denison Road	August 2023	No	\$155,000	Venarchie PO Box 395 MOWBRAY TAS 7248
CD073/2020 Albert Hall Renewal Project	March 2024	No	\$150,000	Terroir Pty Ltd 181 Elizabeth Street HOBART TAS 7000
CD027/2023 Bridge Maintenance Program	2023-2024	No	\$148,480	Tasspan Pty Ltd PO Box 225 LATROBE TAS 7307
Hino Truck	December 2024	No	\$139,098	Tassie Trucks PO Box 212 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
CD049/2022 Electronic Document and Records Management System	June 2024	No	\$138,915	Konica Minolta 4 Drake Avenue MACQUARIE PARK NSW 2113
Duck Reach stair Replacement	February 2024	No	\$137,666	Invision Developments PO Box 549 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249

<b>Contract description</b>	<b>Contract period</b>	<b>Extension option</b>	<b>Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST</b>	<b>Successful contractor and business address</b>
MRF Gate	December 2023	No	\$135,326	JJ's Waste & Recycling PO Box 400 MOWBRAY TAS 7248
OFP Pad Replacement	May 2024	No	\$133,840	Paul Zanetto 3 Killafaddy Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
Telstra	July 2023 - June 2024	Ongoing	\$133,102	Telstra Level 41/242 Exhibition Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Art Racking	March 2024	No	\$130,000	Australian Storage Solutions 6 Annesley Avenue TRINITY GARDENS SA 5068
CD009/2023 Launceston Aquatic Centre AHU Upgrade	November 2023	No	\$127,717	Superheat Pty Ltd Suite 14A, 113 Main Road MOONAH TAS 7009
CD026/2023 Recreation and Open Space Mapping	2023-2024	No	\$124,180	Realmstudios Pty Ltd 2 / 216 Albion Street BRUNSWICK VIC 3056
Burn Plan Preparation & Planned Burning	March 2024	No	\$121,050	Ground Proof Mapping PO Box 1027 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Replace Roof on Ravenswood Neighbourhood House	April 2024	No	\$120,347	Invision Developments PO Box 549 KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
CD017/2023 Invermay Levee Reinstatement	May 2024	No	\$119,181	Gradco 79-81 St Leonards Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
Australian Parking & Revenue	2023-2024	Yes	\$117,540	Australian Revenue and Parking Control 37 Parramatta Road HABERFIELD NSW 2045
Remount Road Repairs & Maintenance	June 2024	No	\$115,052	Fairbrother Pty Ltd 12 Stoney Rise Road DEVONPORT TAS 7310
Access Hatches for QVMAG Royal Park	March 2024	No	\$113,216	Zanetto Builders 1-3 Killafaddy Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250
CD011/2022 Fire & Electrical Compliance	July - December 2023	Yes	\$111,631	IFE PO Box 41 RIVERSIDE TAS 7250
CD049/2022 Electronic Document and Records Management System			\$107,736	Konica Minolta 4 Drake Avenue MACQUARIE PARK NSW 2113

<b>Contract description</b>	<b>Contract period</b>	<b>Extension option</b>	<b>Tender (T) or contract (C) value excluding extension option and GST</b>	<b>Successful contractor and business address</b>
Supply and Installation of Omnigrip	May 2024	No	\$104,779	Omnigrip Direct PO Box 298 THOMASTOWN VIC 3074
Transport Planning and Traffic engineering	November 2023	No	\$104,000	Complete Streets Pty Ltd 103 Donnelleys Road GEEVESTON TAS 7116
Amy Road Stormwater Upgrade	March 2024	No	\$100,000	Zanetto Builders 3 Killafaddy Road ST LEONARDS TAS 7250

## Enterprise Powers Statement

Section 72(1)(ca) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas) requires us to make a statement of the activities and performance of Council in relation to any activity undertaken pursuant to section 21 as compared with its objectives for the preceding financial year. Section 21 relates to the exercise of enterprise powers.

### Enterprize Tasmania Ltd

We are an initial member of Enterprize Tasmania Ltd. Enterprize Tasmania Ltd is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee.

The primary objectives of Enterprize Tasmania Ltd are to:

- foster and build a start-up ecosystem and entrepreneurial community within Tasmania
- promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Tasmania by assisting innovators to develop, test and commercialise their ideas
- create an entrepreneurial community in Tasmania through the provision of innovation hubs/business workspaces and networking opportunities, including facilitated events and workshops to collaborate and share knowledge, experience and insights
- provide access for all members of the Tasmanian community to events, training and education that encourage and support innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialisation activities
- improve access for all Tasmanians to, and participation by Tasmanians in, an entrepreneurial environment that supports and fosters positive social change through innovation and collaboration; and
- doing such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any or all of those purposes.

Council was represented on the board of Enterprize Tasmania Ltd by Chief Executive Officer, Michael Stretton and was replaced on the board by Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shane Eberhardt after his resignation from the City of Launceston. An outline of Enterprize Tasmania Ltd projects can be found at <https://enterprize.space/> and information about their activities and performance over the past 12 months is available at <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities/4b4ea194-3aaf-e811-a961-000d3ad24182/documents/>.

### TasWater

The *Water and Sewerage Corporation Act 2012* (Tas) requires the Council to form, or participate in the formation of, a proprietary company limited by shares and incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). This corporation is TasWater.

The *Water and Sewerage Corporation Act 2012* (Tas) also defines the principal objectives of TasWater. These are:

- a. to efficiently provide water and sewerage functions in Tasmania
- b. to encourage water conservation, the demand management of water and the re-use of water on an economic and commercial basis
- c. to be a successful business and, to this end -
  - i. to operate its activities in accordance with good commercial practice; and
  - ii. to deliver sustainable returns to its members; and
  - iii. to deliver water and sewerage services to customers in the most cost-efficient manner.

The Council is represented on TasWater's Owners Representatives Group by the City of Launceston Mayor. Detailed performance information is available at <https://www.taswater.com.au/about-us/annual-reports>.



**Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation Ltd**

Council is an initial member and shareholder of Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation Ltd (NTDC).

NTDC is the Regional Development Body for Northern Tasmania tasked with growing Northern Tasmanian prosperity through: Economic development, Regional Collaboration, Advocacy and Communications. They are funded by seven northern councils: City of Launceston, Dorset, Northern Midlands, Meander Valley, West Tamar, George Town and Break O'Day.

NTDC is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee. The purpose of NTDC is to:

- Lead regional collaboration
- Achieve regional outcomes and strategic goals
- Advocate for Northern Tasmania
- Implement their Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Champion regional leadership and local governance
- Create an enabling environment for communities and industry development
- Understand that the community benefits from sustainable regional development.

NTDC is tasked with validating and actioning the valuable strategic planning work that has been undertaken in recent years to underpin effective and sustainable economic transition in Northern and North-East Tasmania, whilst continuing to place the importance of education and health in our communities. This means finding ways to continually boost economic output, increase investment, create more jobs, and to raise average wage levels.

As a member council, the City of Launceston pays an annual subscription fee to NTDC. Information about NTDC's activities and performance over the past 12 months is available at [www.ntdc.org.au](http://www.ntdc.org.au).

**Australia Pacific Airports (Launceston) Pty Ltd**

The City of Launceston holds a 10% share in Australia Pacific Airports (Launceston) Pty Ltd in the form of capital notes.

The fair value of Council's investment is \$3.895m as at 30 June 2024 based on 10% of the Net Assets of the Airport at the end of the reporting period.

These notes entitle Council to a share in the operating results of the company, on an equivalent basis to the shareholders. Councillor Hugh McKenzie is a Director and current Chairman of the Board.

Council decided to invest in this essential local infrastructure as part of its strategy to support local economic development.

In 2023-2024, Council received distributions of \$486,489 for its ownership stake.

**Strata Scheme No. 175691, CH Smith Centre, Launceston**

Council is a member of Strata Scheme No. 175691. This entity acts as the body corporate for the CH Smith Centre.

The primary objectives of Strata Scheme No. 175691 are to:

- administer, manage and improve the common property reasonably and for the benefit of the owners and occupiers of the lots; and
- maintain the service infrastructure in good and serviceable order and condition; and
- prepare and maintain a fire prevention, detection and evacuation plan; and
- prepare and maintain a building security protocol plan over the site;
- exercise its powers under the Act; and
- to enforce the by-laws; and
- to take out and maintain a policy of insurance as required under the Act and any further insurance that may be required by resolution of the lot owners; and
- to carry out other functions for the benefit of the lot owners.

Council is represented on the board of Strata Scheme No. 175691 by Team Leader Governance, Kelsey Hartland. As a member, Council pays its share of the costs incurred by Strata Scheme No. 175691. In 2019-20, the members of the body corporate appointed a body corporate manager to ensure the ongoing alignment of activities and performance with objectives. The members of the body corporate review this appointment annually and the arrangement was continued in 2023-24.

## Code of Conduct complaints

Section 72(1)(ba) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires City of Launceston to state the number of code of conduct complaints that were received and the number that were upheld either wholly or in part during the preceding financial year.

For the 2023-24 financial year, City of Launceston received three code of conduct complaint. One was dismissed, one withdrawn and one was not determined as at 30 June 2024.

Section 72(1)(bb) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires City of Launceston to declare the total costs met by the council during the preceding financial year in respect of all code of conduct complaints dealt with under Division 3A of Part 3 during the preceding financial year.

The total costs met by the council during the 2023-24 financial year in respect of all code of conduct complaints dealt with under Division 3A of Part 3 was \$18,204.

For the 2021-22 financial year, City of Launceston received one code of conduct complaint which was upheld wholly. The total cost of \$3,845 met by the council last financial year was unknown as at 30 June 2023 and is reported here to meet our statutory reporting requirement.

## Public Interest Disclosures

Pursuant to section 86 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002 (Tas)*, City of Launceston makes the following report in relation to each of the matters prescribed by that Act:

Matter	Report
(a) information as to how persons may obtain or access copies of the current procedures established by the public body under Part 7	Copies of the City of Launceston's Public Interest Disclosure Policy are freely available via <a href="http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au">www.launceston.tas.gov.au</a> or by request to <a href="mailto:contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au">contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au</a> .
(b) the number and types of disclosures made to the public body during the year and the number of those disclosures that the public body determines to be public interest disclosures	0
(c) the number of disclosures determined by the public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year	0
(d) the number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman	0
(e) the number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate	0
(f) the number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year	0
(g) the number and types of disclosed matters that the public body has decided not to investigate during the year	0
(h) the number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation	0
(i) any recommendations of the Ombudsman under this Act that relate to the public body	0

## Donation of Land Statement

Section 72(1)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (Tas)* requires the City of Launceston to report on any land donated by the Council during the year.

The Council made two donations of land for 2023-24:

Where	To whom	Reason	Value
18A High Street, East Launceston	TasNetworks	Electricity infrastructure easement	\$24,594.52
26 Beverley Hills Road, Newstead	The Park at Invermay Pty Ltd	Reduction in width of drainage easement - for subdivision	\$15,000.00

The Council may also transfer easements to infrastructure providers from time to time for nominal consideration in relation to proposals to connect services in the City of Launceston.



# PART THREE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024



**Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
<b>Recurrent income</b>				
Rates and Charges	2.1	83,545	84,180	79,210
Statutory Fees and Fines	2.2	5,440	5,712	5,673
User Fees	2.3	25,404	26,238	24,943
Grants	2.4	8,290	8,278	10,944
Contributions	2.5	61	122	321
Interest	2.6	4,946	5,100	3,452
Other Income	2.7	1,376	4,122	3,596
Investment Revenue	2.9	3,269	3,756	3,269
		<b>132,331</b>	<b>137,508</b>	<b>131,408</b>
<b>Capital income</b>				
Capital grants received specifically for new, upgraded or renewed assets	2.4	5,168	5,168	7,834
Contributions Capital Cash	2.5	753	910	251
Contributions Capital Non Monetary Assets	2.5	-	7,042	3,295
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2.8	(695)	(2,637)	(3,765)
		<b>5,226</b>	<b>10,482</b>	<b>7,615</b>
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>137,557</b>	<b>147,990</b>	<b>139,023</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
Employee Benefits	3.1	53,551	48,124	46,276
Materials and Services	3.2	45,025	51,463	48,164
Impairment of Receivables	3.3	16	72	1
Depreciation and Amortisation	3.4	27,182	25,678	26,978
Finance Costs	3.5	330	289	614
Other Expenses	3.6	11,456	12,814	12,887
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>137,560</b>	<b>138,439</b>	<b>134,920</b>
<b>Result from continuing operations</b>		<b>(3)</b>	<b>9,551</b>	<b>4,103</b>
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>(3)</b>	<b>9,551</b>	<b>4,103</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>				
<b>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to net result</b>				
Fair value adjustments on equity investment assets	9.1	-	13,522	8,026
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	311,713	182,569
Actuarial gain/loss on defined benefits plans	6.5	-	1,108	24
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>326,343</b>	<b>190,619</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive result</b>		<b>(3)</b>	<b>335,893</b>	<b>194,722</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2024

	Note	As at 30 June 2024 \$'000	As at 30 June 2023 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4.1	28,791	39,405
Trade and Other Receivables	4.2	7,839	5,833
Investments	4.3	48,109	55,646
Inventories	4.4	1,148	1,068
Assets Held for Sale	4.5	75,793	7,116
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>161,681</b>	<b>109,068</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Equity Investments	5.1	255,835	242,313
Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	6.1	2,029,978	1,779,978
Intangible Assets	6.2	4,087	3,879
Right-of-Use Assets	6.3	112	194
QVMAG Collection	6.4	204,860	204,600
Superannuation Asset	6.5	2,964	2,279
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>2,497,836</b>	<b>2,233,242</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,659,517</b>	<b>2,342,310</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	7.1	9,216	6,662
Trust Funds and Deposits	7.2	3,419	3,372
Employee Provisions	7.3	7,097	6,724
Provision for Landfill Restoration	8.2	19	20
Lease Liabilities	7.4	85	80
Contract Liabilities	7.5	1,405	1,890
Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings	8.1	6,000	20,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>27,241</b>	<b>38,748</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee Provisions	7.3	919	986
Provision for Landfill Restoration	8.2	19,605	20,632
Lease Liabilities	7.4	32	117
Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings	8.1	-	6,000
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>20,556</b>	<b>27,735</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>47,797</b>	<b>66,483</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,611,719</b>	<b>2,275,827</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		1,228,025	1,217,367
Reserves	9.1	1,383,694	1,058,460
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>2,611,719</b>	<b>2,275,827</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

		2024	2023
		Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Provision of Goods and Services (including GST)		(105,089)	(101,276)
Interest Paid		(229)	(278)
State Government Fire Service and Waste Levy		(11,145)	(10,884)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Rates and Charges		83,447	78,683
Fees and Charges (Including GST)		33,495	33,322
Grants and Contributions – Revenue		8,401	11,266
Interest Received		4,990	3,328
Other (including GST)		10,095	6,989
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	9.2	<b>23,965</b>	<b>21,150</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Capital Works (including GST)		(31,617)	(19,856)
Transfers (to) from Investments		7,537	(30,584)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Sale of Assets		226	350
Grants and Contributions – Capital		5,593	8,286
Investment Revenue		3,756	3,269
<b>Net Cash Used In Investing Activities</b>		<b>(14,505)</b>	<b>(38,535)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Loan Repayments		(20,000)	-
Lease Repayments		(74)	(49)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Loan Proceeds		-	-
<b>Net Cash From in Financing Activities</b>	9.3	<b>(20,074)</b>	<b>(49)</b>
Net increase (decrease in cash held)		(10,614)	(17,434)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		39,405	56,839
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	9.4	<b>28,791</b>	<b>39,405</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Statement of Changes in Equity  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Fair Value Reserve	Total Equity
		2024	2024	2024	2024
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2024</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of the financial year</b>		1,217,367	1,069,254	(10,795)	2,275,827
Net result for the year		9,550	-	-	9,550
Other Comprehensive Income:					
Fair value adjustment on equity investment assets	5	-	-	13,522	13,522
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	311,713	-	311,713
Actuarial gain/loss on defined benefits plans	6.5	1,108	-	-	1,108
Total comprehensive income		10,658	311,713	13,522	335,893
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,228,025</b>	<b>1,380,967</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>2,611,719</b>
		2023	2023	2023	2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2023</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of the financial year</b>		1,213,240	886,685	(18,820)	2,081,105
Net result for the year		4,103	-	-	4,103
Other Comprehensive Income:					
Fair value adjustment on equity investment assets	5	-	-	8,026	8,026
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	182,569	-	182,569
Actuarial gain/loss on defined benefits plans	6.5	24	-	-	24
Total comprehensive income		4,127	182,569	8,026	194,722
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,217,367</b>	<b>1,069,254</b>	<b>(10,795)</b>	<b>2,275,827</b>

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes.



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## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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### Note 1 Overview

#### 1.1 Reporting Entity

- (a) The Launceston City Council was established on 30 October 1852 and is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.  
Council's main office is located at 18 St John St, Launceston
- (b) The function of the Council is to:
- provide for health, safety and welfare of the community;
  - to represent and promote the interests of the community;
  - provide for the peace, order and good government in the municipality.

#### 1.2 Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes accompanying these financial statements.

The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1993 (LGA1993) (as amended)*. Council has determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective.

Consequently, where appropriate, Council has elected to apply options and exemptions within accounting standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

This financial report has been prepared on the accrual and going concern basis.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars and unless stated, have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

This financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, except where specifically stated in notes 4.5, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7.3, 7.4 and 8.2.

Unless otherwise stated, all material accounting policy information is consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

All entities controlled by Council that have material assets or liabilities, such as Special Committees of Management, have been included in this financial report. All transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

#### 1.3 Use of Judgements and Estimates

##### *Judgements and Assumptions*

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, Council is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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### Note 1 Overview Cont.

#### 1.3 Use of Judgements and Estimates Cont.

Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. Judgements made by Council that have significant effects on the financial report are disclosed in the relevant notes as follows:

*Employee entitlements*

Assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's employee entitlement provisions. These assumptions are discussed in note 7.3.

*Defined benefit superannuation fund obligations*

Actuarial assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's defined benefit superannuation fund obligations. These assumptions are discussed in note 6.5.

*Fair value of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment*

Assumptions and judgements are utilised in determining the fair value of Council's property, plant and equipment including useful lives and depreciation rates. These assumptions are discussed in note 6.1.

*Equity Investments*

Assumptions utilised in the determination of Council's valuation of its equity investments are discussed in note 5.

*Landfill Restoration Obligations*

Assumptions and judgements are utilised in determining the value of Council's obligations to rehabilitate the landfill and clay quarry at the Launceston Waste Centre. These are discussed in note 8.2.

#### 1.4 Change in Accounting Policy

Council has an ownership interest in the Launceston Airport by way of Notes.

Prior to the reporting date Council disclosed this asset as a deferred receivable at face value.

At the reporting date Council made an irrevocable election under AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* to disclose this asset at fair value through other comprehensive income.

This asset is now disclosed in Note 5 and prior year values have been adjusted.



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1.5 Material Budget Variations

	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance % (positive is favourable)
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>Rates and Charges</b>	83,545	84,180	635	0.8%
Growth in rating base higher than budget due to supplementary valuations received.				
<b>Statutory Fees and Fines</b>	5,440	5,712	272	5.0%
Fees from Building Surveying and Road & Facilities Occupation above budget. Off Street parking infringements above budget while On Street and Late Penalties below budget.				
<b>User Fees</b>	25,404	26,238	834	3.3%
User fees from Launceston Aquatic Centre, On Street Parking, Carr Villa, QVMAG Bookshop sales and gas extraction royalties from Launceston Waste Centre all above budget.				
<b>Grants - Operational</b>	8,290	8,278	(12)	-0.1%
Variance not material.				
<b>Contributions - Cash</b>	61	122	61	100.5%
Contributions received for Museum and infrastructure projects above budget.				
<b>Interest</b>	4,946	5,100	154	3.1%
Interest earned on cash and investments higher than budgeted.				
<b>Other Income</b>	1,376	4,122	2,746	199.6%
Income from insurance recoveries due to damage to Council Property and adjustments to insurance premiums above budget. Delays in transfer of York Park to Stadiums Tasmania resulted income and expenses that were not budgeted.				
<b>Investment Revenue</b>	3,269	3,756	487	14.9%
Distribution received from Australian Pacific Airports (Launceston) which was not budgeted.				
<b>Capital Income</b>				
<b>Capital Grants</b>	5,168	5,168	(0)	0.0%
Variance not material				
<b>Net Gain/ (Loss) on Disposal</b>	(695)	(2,637)	(1,942)	100.0%
A number of assets have experienced early failure and have resulted in the assets being disposed prior to the end of their effective lives, these projects include Emita Parade Renewal, Sandown Road Rehabilitation, Hillside Crescent Pavement Rehabilitation and Flood Levee Defect Rectification. Other losses on disposal have been incurred due to an insurance settlement for a building on Russells Plains Road destroyed by fire, and a small number of land assets which the Office of the Valuer General have removed from the valuation rating roll and therefore are no longer valued.				
<b>Contributions Non-Monetary</b>	-	7,042	7,042	100.0%
Recognition of assets received by Council throughout the year, these are not budgeted for.				
<b>Contributions Capital Cash</b>	753	910	157	100.0%
Variance not material.				

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1.5 Material Budget Variations Cont.

	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance % (positive is favourable)
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	53,551	48,124	5,427	10.1%
Favourable variance in Employee Benefits caused by vacancies across the organisation. While some vacancies are included within the budget, the continuing challenging labour market led to higher level of vacancies. Full Time Equivalent positions increased from 452 in 2023 to 473 in 2024.				
<b>Materials and Services</b>	45,025	51,463	(6,438)	-14.3%
A delay in the Transfer of York Park Stadium to Stadiums Tasmania has resulted in \$3.8 million worth of expenditure that was not budgeted, this is partially offset by income described above that was also not budgeted. Due to staff vacancies contract labour expenses were \$340,000 over budget but offset by labour savings. Cost escalations resulting from higher inflation than budgeted have created a variance in materials and service for various projects including;				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kerbside recycling materials recycling facility costs</li> <li>- Bridge and Road Maintenance</li> <li>- Building Maintenance</li> <li>- Parks Maintenance</li> </ul>				
<b>Impairment of Receivables</b>	16	72	(56)	-352%
Doubtful parking and sundry debtors have increased higher than anticipated for budget.				
<b>Depreciation</b>	27,182	25,678	1,504	5.5%
Favourable variance largely due to changes in useful lives within Roads asset class.				
<b>Finance Costs</b>	330	289	41	12.4%
Variance not material.				
<b>Other Expenses</b>	11,456	12,814	(1,358)	-11.9%
Remissions of Rates above budget due to charitable remission requests. Volunteer expenses and changes in landfill restoration obligations also higher than budget.				

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1.6 Functions and Activities of the Council

(a) Revenue and Expenses for the reporting year have been directly attributed to the following functions and activities.

	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES	PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY	HEALTH	WELFARE	HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES	RECREATION & CULTURE	ROADS & TRAFFIC	OTHER	TOTAL 2024	BUDGET (unaudited)
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>REVENUES</b>										
Rates and Charges	67,201	9,105	-	-	7,580	-	-	295	84,180	83,545
Statutory Fees and Fines	657	323	276	-	2,363	-	2,093	-	5,712	5,440
User Fees	359	1	30	-	12,359	7,102	6,287	100	26,238	25,404
Grants	2,099	-	-	3	647	1,885	3,525	120	8,278	8,290
Contributions - Cash	-	-	-	-	6	117	-	-	122	61
Interest	4,988	13	-	-	-	99	-	-	5,100	4,946
Other Income	333	13	2	-	627	3,074	54	20	4,122	1,376
Investment Revenue	3,756	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,756	3,269
	<b>79,392</b>	<b>9,454</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23,581</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>11,958</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>137,508</b>	<b>132,331</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee Costs (net of capitalised)	14,429	377	1,113	985	8,544	15,834	3,872	2,971	48,124	53,551
Materials and Services	2,992	341	105	365	21,700	16,912	6,225	2,824	51,463	45,025
Impairment of Debts	-	6	6	-	7	-	53	-	73	16
Depreciation and Amortisation	3,133	18	1	-	5,547	6,693	10,219	66	25,678	27,182
Finance Costs	229	-	-	-	58	-	-	1	289	330
Other Expenses	1,455	8,986	-	-	2,276	85	12	-	12,814	11,456
Full Cost Attribution	22,238	9,728	1,225	1,350	38,132	39,524	20,382	5,861	138,440	137,560
Competitive Neutrality	(2,101)	91	159	77	(396)	1,168	806	196	-	-
	(588)	-	-	-	82	351	156	-	-	-
	19,548	9,819	1,384	1,428	37,817	41,043	21,344	6,057	138,440	137,560
	<b>59,844</b>	<b>(365)</b>	<b>(1,076)</b>	<b>(1,425)</b>	<b>(14,236)</b>	<b>(28,766)</b>	<b>(9,386)</b>	<b>(5,522)</b>	<b>(932)</b>	<b>(5,229)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) from Operations</b>										
<b>Capital Grants and Infrastructure Adjustments</b>										
Capital Grants Received Specifically for New, Upgraded or Renewed Assets	-	-	-	-	100	2,889	2,179	-	5,168	5,168
Non Government Capital Cash	117	-	-	-	41	752	-	-	910	753
Contributions - Non-Monetary Assets	-	-	-	-	2,236	145	4,662	-	7,042	-
Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	57	-	-	-	(747)	(685)	(1,263)	-	(2,637)	(695)
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) Before Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>60,017</b>	<b>(365)</b>	<b>(1,076)</b>	<b>(1,425)</b>	<b>(12,606)</b>	<b>(25,665)</b>	<b>(3,808)</b>	<b>(5,522)</b>	<b>9,550</b>	<b>(3)</b>
Infrastructure Assets	49,608	1,503	-	1,696	375,384	365,510	1,236,277	-	2,029,978	-
Other Assets	424,679	-	-	-	204,860	-	-	-	629,539	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>474,287</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>375,384</b>	<b>570,370</b>	<b>1,236,277</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,659,517</b>	<b>-</b>

**Notes to the Financial Report  
for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**  
**1.6 Functions and Activities of the Council Cont.**

(b) Comparative figures for prior year (2023)

	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES	PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY	HEALTH	WELFARE	HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES	RECREATION & CULTURE	ROADS & TRAFFIC	OTHER	TOTAL 2023	BUDGET (unaudited)
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>REVENUES</b>										
Rates and Charges	63,298	8,879	-	-	6,610	-	-	423	79,210	78,933
Statutory Fees and Fines	623	253	261	-	2,485	-	2,051	-	5,673	4,736
User Fees	351	-	34	-	10,769	7,297	6,399	93	24,943	23,302
Grants	2,785	-	-	100	1,048	1,911	4,980	120	10,944	8,431
Contributions - Cash	-	-	-	5	295	21	-	-	321	-
Interest	3,369	11	-	-	4	62	6	-	3,452	1,668
Other Income	252	13	-	-	746	2,453	39	93	3,596	1,299
Investment Revenue	3,269	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,269	3,569
	<b>73,947</b>	<b>9,156</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>21,957</b>	<b>11,744</b>	<b>13,475</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>131,408</b>	<b>121,938</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Employee Costs (net of capitalised)	15,077	403	1,084	914	8,185	14,121	3,615	2,877	46,276	50,521
Materials and Services	2,732	349	90	1,137	18,754	15,641	7,031	2,431	48,165	43,942
Impairment of Debts	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	16
Depreciation and Amortisation	3,191	17	1	-	4,483	6,839	12,396	51	26,978	25,043
Finance Costs	278	-	-	-	332	-	1	3	614	334
Other Expenses	636	8,786	-	-	889	990	1,586	-	12,887	11,172
	<b>21,914</b>	<b>9,555</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>32,644</b>	<b>37,591</b>	<b>24,629</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>134,921</b>	<b>131,028</b>
Full Cost Attribution	(2,078)	88	154	75	(329)	1,130	770	189	-	-
Competitive Neutrality	(574)	-	-	-	79	343	151	-	-	-
	<b>19,262</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>32,394</b>	<b>39,064</b>	<b>25,550</b>	<b>5,551</b>	<b>134,921</b>	<b>131,028</b>
	<b>54,685</b>	<b>(487)</b>	<b>(1,034)</b>	<b>(2,021)</b>	<b>(10,437)</b>	<b>(27,320)</b>	<b>(12,075)</b>	<b>(4,822)</b>	<b>(3,513)</b>	<b>(9,090)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) from Operations</b>										
Capital Grants and Infrastructure Adjustments	-	-	-	-	10	6,986	838	-	7,834	7,834
Capital Grants Received Specifically for New, Upgraded or Renewed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	251	-	-	251	127
Non Government Capital Cash	-	-	-	-	1,115	651	1,529	-	3,295	-
Contributions - Non-Monetary Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	66	-	-	-	(1,276)	(980)	(1,575)	-	(3,765)	-
	<b>54,751</b>	<b>(487)</b>	<b>(1,034)</b>	<b>(2,021)</b>	<b>(10,588)</b>	<b>(20,412)</b>	<b>(11,283)</b>	<b>(4,822)</b>	<b>4,102</b>	<b>(1,129)</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) Before Other Comprehensive Income</b>										
Infrastructure Assets	53,344	1,452	-	1,620	372,405	408,568	942,589	-	1,779,978	-
Other Assets	357,732	-	-	-	204,599	-	-	-	562,331	-
Total Assets	<b>411,076</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>372,405</b>	<b>613,167</b>	<b>942,589</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,342,309</b>	<b>-</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1.6 Functions/Activities of the Council Cont.

(a) Revenue, expenditure and assets attributable to each function as categorised in (c) below:

(b) Reconciliation of Assets above with the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June:

	2024 '000	2023 '000
Current assets	161,681	109,068
Non-current assets	2,497,836	2,233,242
	<u>2,659,517</u>	<u>2,342,310</u>

(c) *General Public Service*

Management of the administrative and financial operation of the Council organisation including elected representatives.

*Public Order and Safety*

Supervision of various by-laws, animal control and public nuisances. The collection of the fire levy on behalf of and paid to the State Fire Commission.

*Health*

Administration of health legislation on behalf of the State Government including food handling control and public health issues. Provision of immunisation services.

*Welfare*

Assistance, education and consultation activities connected with community support, care and development.

*Housing and Community amenities*

Provision of building and development approvals services including the maintenance of the planning scheme. Solid waste services including garbage collection and disposal. The provision of street lighting. Maintenance of a range of public buildings and facilities including cemeteries. Maintenance of the stormwater drainage network including flood mitigation works. Provision of street cleaning services.

*Recreation and Culture*

Maintenance of parks and reserves, sports grounds, playgrounds, swimming pools, halls and related recreational facilities. Funding of Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, University of Tasmania Stadium and the Princess Theatre.

*Roads and Traffic*

Construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths and bridges. Operation of parking facilities including off street car parks and on street metered spaces.

*Other*

A range of services and facilities including the provision of economic development and promotional services.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	2024 '000	2023 '000
<b>Note 2 Revenue</b>		
<b>2.1 Rates and Charges</b>		
Council uses Assessed Annual Value as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipality. The assessed annual value of a property is its assessed rental value.		
<b>Valuation and Rating</b>		
Gross Assessed Annual Value of the City	910,146	892,589
<b>Rates</b>	<b>Cents /\$AAV</b>	<b>Cents /\$AAV</b>
General Rate - Residential	6.1721	5.8975
General Rate - Commercial	7.3587	7.0265
General Rate - CBD Variation	8.0842	8.0647
General Rate - Industrial	6.8145	6.5288
General Rate - Public Purpose	7.3572	7.0315
General Rate - Primary Production	5.8539	5.5864
General Rate - Sporting and Recreation	7.3832	7.0497
General Rate - Quarrying and Mining	5.3303	5.0871
General Rate - Vacant Land	5.7790	5.4642
<b>Service Rates</b>		
Fire Protection - Urban	1.1795	1.1670
Fire Protection - Rural	0.0300	0.2987
Fire Protection - Lilydale District	0.3100	0.3261
	\$	\$
General Charge (Fixed Amount)	326.80	312.80
<b>Minimum Rates apply:-</b>		
Fire Levy	48.00	44.00
<b>Service Charges</b>	<b>\$ Range</b>	<b>\$ Range</b>
Waste Management - on bin size	170.00 - 368.00	148.30 - 317.40
	\$	\$
Waste Levy	10.50	9.60
<b>Rating Revenue</b>		
<b>General Rates</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
General Charge	11,918	11,379
General Rate - CBD Variation	295	423
General Rate - Residential	34,159	32,267
General Rate - Commercial	11,852	11,223
General Rate - Industrial	3,631	3,323
General Rate - Public Purpose	3,626	3,183
General Rate - Primary Production	1,119	1,050
General Rate - Quarrying and Mining	8	7
General Rate - Sporting and Recreation	290	276
General Rate - Vacant Land	598	590
	<u>67,495</u>	<u>63,721</u>
Fire Protection	9,105	8,879
Waste Management	7,580	6,610
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<u><b>84,180</b></u>	<u><b>79,210</b></u>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 2.1 Rates and Charges Cont.

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipality was July 2016, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2017.

A general revaluation was completed in 2023-2024 and will be applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2024.

#### Accounting policy

Council recognises revenue from rates and annual charges for the amount it is expected to be entitled to at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate, or when the charge has been applied. Rates and charges in advance are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

### 2.2 Statutory Fees and Fines

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Infringements and Costs	1,825	2,074
Regulatory Fees	2,983	3,054
Regulatory Services	496	494
Permits and Registrations	408	51
<b>Total statutory fees and fines</b>	<b>5,712</b>	<b>5,673</b>

#### Accounting policy

Fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed, or when the taxable event has been applied and Council has an unconditional right to receive payment.

### 2.3 User Fees

Sport and Leisure Facilities	4,940	4,863
Parking Fees and Charges	6,619	6,718
Waste Charges	10,634	8,998
Health Fees	30	34
Cemetery Fees and Charges	1,537	1,592
Trading Revenue	1,812	2,097
Venue Hire	10	15
Commissions	656	626
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>26,238</b>	<b>24,943</b>

#### Accounting policy

Council recognises revenue from user fees and charges when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than the term of the licence.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**2.4 Grants**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
<b>Summary of grants</b>		
Federally funded grants	9,075	10,422
State funded grants	4,372	8,356
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,446</b>	<b>18,778</b>
<b>Grants - Recurrent</b>		
<u>Commonwealth Grants</u>		
Financial Assistance Grants - General Purpose	1,597	2,318
Financial Assistance Grants - Roads	3,153	4,547
Roads	209	233
Parks	14	-
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	-	307
Other	74	272
<u>State Grants</u>		
Roads	358	327
Parks	-	51
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	643	613
Museum	1,820	1,758
Other	412	518
<b>Total recurrent grants</b>	<b>8,278</b>	<b>10,944</b>

In the 2024 reporting year the Commonwealth paid 85% of the 2025 Financial Assistance Grant in advance. In 2023 reporting year the Commonwealth paid the 2024 Financial Assistance Grant in advance in full.

**Capital grants received specifically for new, upgraded and renewed assets**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Commonwealth Grants</b>		
Roads	2,157	838
Sporting Facilities	80	289
Parks	792	554
Other	1,000	1,064
<b>State Grants</b>		
Roads	22	-
Sporting Facilities	867	4,309
Parks	150	770
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	100	-
Other	-	10
<b>Total capital grants</b>	<b>5,168</b>	<b>7,834</b>
<b>Unspent Grants and Contributions</b>		
Balance of unspent funds at 1 July	1,890	1,690
Add funds not recognised as revenue in the current year	605	811
Less funds received in prior years but recognised as revenue in the current year	(1,090)	(611)
<b>Balance of unspent funds at 30 June</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,890</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 2.4 Grants Cont.

#### Accounting policy

Council recognises untied grant revenue and those without performance obligations when received. In cases where there is an enforceable agreement which contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is satisfied. (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or provides a service.) A contract liability is recognised for unspent funds received in advance and then recognised as income as obligations are fulfilled.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control. Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have a continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

If the transaction is a transfer of a financial asset to enable Council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by Council (i.e. an in-substance acquisition of a non-financial asset), a contract liability is recognised for the excess of the fair value of the transfer over any related amounts recognised and revenue as the unspent funds are expended at the point in time at which required performance obligations are completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred, since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin. For the acquisitions of assets, revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Financial Assistance Grants are general grants and do not have sufficient specific performance obligations. As a result, they are recognised as income when received.

### 2.5 Contributions

#### Contributions Recurrent

(a) Cash	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	-	295
Museum	71	21
Other	51	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>321</b>

#### Contributions Capital

(a) Cash		
Sporting Facilities	727	26
Parks	131	98
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	41	-
Museum	11	127
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>(b) Non-monetary assets</b>		
Roads	4,662	1,529
Parks	30	75
Drainage and Flood Mitigation	2,236	1,115
Museum	115	576
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,042</b>	<b>3,295</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 2.5 Contributions Cont.

#### Accounting policy

Council recognises contributions without performance obligations when received. In cases where the contributions are for a specific purpose to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance and income recognised as obligations are fulfilled.

### 2.6 Interest

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest on financial assets	2,930	1,868
Interest on rates	373	327
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	1,688	1,123
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Asset	110	124
Interest Other	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>3,452</b>

#### Accounting policy

Interest is recognised progressively as it is earned.

### 2.7 Other Income

Rental income	1,174	1,077
Sponsorship	394	462
Donations	39	32
Recycling	125	145
Volunteer services	92	248
Bequests	155	141
Insurance settlements	1,109	518
Utilities recovery	179	174
Cost recoveries	355	344
Other	500	455
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>3,596</b>

#### Accounting policy

**Rental income** - Rents are recognised as revenue when the payment is due. Rental payments received in advance are recognised as a payable until they are due.

**Sponsorship income** - Sponsorship income is recognised upon issue of an invoice.

**Donations** - Donations revenue is recognised as received.

**Recycling income** - Recycling Income is recognised upon issue of an invoice.

**Volunteer services** - Council recognises the inflow of resources in the form of volunteer services where the fair value of those services can be reliably measured and Council would have purchased those services if they had not been donated.

**Bequests** - Bequest revenue is recognised as received.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 2.7 Other Income Cont.

**Other** - Other income is recognised either as received or on the issue of an invoice.

**Operating leases as lessor** - Council is a lessor and enters into agreements with a number of lessees. These include commercial and non-commercial agreements.

Where leases are non-commercial agreements, these are generally with not for profit, such as sporting organisations. In these cases subsidised or peppercorn rents are charged because Council recognises part of its role is community service and community support. In these situations, Where relevant Council records lease revenue on an accruals basis and records the associated properties as part of land and buildings within property, plant and equipment. Buildings are recognised at depreciated replacement cost.

Where leases are commercial agreements, the properties are held for the dominant purpose of enhancing council's operating programs and facilities, Council records lease revenue on an accruals basis and records the associated properties as part of land and buildings within property, plant and equipment. Buildings are recognised at depreciated replacement cost.

### 2.8 Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Proceeds of sale	226	350
Less Carrying Amounts	(2,864)	(4,115)
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>(2,637)</b>	<b>(3,765)</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) on Disposal</b>		
Gain on disposal	79	113
Scheduled Loss on Disposal	(1,499)	(1,136)
Unscheduled Loss on Disposal	(1,218)	(2,742)
<b>Total Loss on Disposal</b>	<b>(2,717)</b>	<b>(3,877)</b>
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>(2,637)</b>	<b>(3,765)</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Gains and losses on asset disposals

The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

### 2.9 Investment Revenue

	2024	2023
<b>Investment revenue from equity investments</b>		
Dividend revenue received from water corporation	3,269	3,269
Distribution revenue received from Launceston Airport	487	-
<b>Total Investment Revenue</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>3,269</b>

Launceston Airport did not pay a distribution in the 2023 reporting year.

#### Accounting policy

Dividend and distribution revenue is recognised when Council's right to receive payment is established and it can be reliably measured.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 Expenses	2024	2023
<b>3.1 Employee Benefits</b>	<b>'000</b>	<b>'000</b>
Wages and Salaries	39,727	36,866
Workers Compensation Insurance	228	553
Payroll Tax	2,570	2,572
Superannuation and Retiring Allowance	6,205	6,115
Fringe Benefits Tax	83	82
Other Costs	1,026	907
	<u>49,839</u>	<u>47,095</u>
Less amounts capitalised	(1,715)	(819)
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b><u>48,124</u></b>	<b><u>46,276</u></b>

### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

	2024	2023
<b>3.2 Materials and Services</b>	<b>'000</b>	<b>'000</b>
Contract payments	24,693	25,527
Utilities		
Street Lighting	1,165	1,016
Gas	143	168
Electricity	1,197	1,205
Water Fixed - Charges	938	840
Water - Volumetric Charges	427	351
Combined Service Charge (TasWater including TERHAP Contribution)	6,211	3,150
Kerbside Collection	8,046	6,979
Rent External	-	11
Land Tax	837	722
Contributions		
LGAT	78	76
CBD Promotional	564	564
Regional cooperation	615	1,282
Community Assistance Grants	264	329
Events Funding	717	485
Provision of Services	377	532
Administrative		
Administration	839	877
Advertising and Promotion	163	206
Computers and Communication	525	407
Expert Advice	851	705
Insurance (Exc. Workers Compensation)	1,311	1,100
Maintenance	234	237
Payment and Debt collection	516	649
Postage Printing and Stationery	315	306
Motor Vehicle Expenses	436	440
<b>Total materials and services</b>	<b><u>51,463</u></b>	<b><u>48,164</u></b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3.2 Materials and Services Cont.

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

3.3 Impairment of Receivables	2024 '000	2023 '000
Parking fine debtors	53	-
Other debtors	19	1
<b>Total impairment of receivables</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised when Council has determined there to be an increase in the credit risk of a financial asset since initial recognition. Council's policy and events giving rise to impairment losses are disclosed in note 4.2.

3.4 Depreciation and Amortisation	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Property</b>	<b>4,411</b>	<b>4,322</b>
Buildings		
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>3,778</b>
Plant, machinery and equipment		
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>10,826</b>	<b>13,144</b>
Roads	2,230	1,884
Drainage	552	516
Flood Protection	1,459	1,511
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	940	615
Refuse Disposal	1,011	651
Landfill Restoration Obligation		
<b>Intangible assets</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>491</b>
Intangible assets		
<b>Right-of-use of assets</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>66</b>
Right-of-use of assets		
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>25,678</b>	<b>26,978</b>

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Right-of-use assets are amortised over the lease term.



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3.4 Depreciation and Amortisation Cont.

#### Accounting policy cont.

Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually.

Depreciation and amortisation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and remaining values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Land and road earthwork assets are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

The museum collection is not depreciated - see note 6.4.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Major depreciation and amortisation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless stated:

	2024 Period	2023 Period
Buildings		
freehold buildings	30 - 250 years	30 - 250 years
leasehold buildings	30 - 250 years	30 - 250 years
structures	30 - 250 years	30 - 250 years
Plant and Equipment		
buildings plant	5- 40 years	5- 40 years
light vehicles	4 - 5 years	4 - 5 years
major plant	5 - 30 years	5 - 30 years
minor plant	3 - 20 years	3 - 20 years
computer equipment	3 - 10 years	3 - 10 years
furniture and equipment	4 - 50 years	4 - 50 years
Stormwater and Drainage	80 - 150 years	80 - 150 years
Stormwater and drainage pump stations	10 - 50 years	10 - 50 years
Roads		
local road pavements	150 years	150 years
arterial road pavements	125 years	125 years
roads sealed surfaces	20 - 40 years	20 - 40 years
roads unsealed surfaces	10 years	10 years
road substructure	300 years	300 years
roads infrastructure	30 - 100 years	30 - 100 years
road kerb and channel	150 years	150 years
Bridges	25 - 100 years	25 - 100 years
Other Infrastructure		
footpaths and cycleways	40 - 80 years	40 - 80 years
Refuse Disposal		
Waste Centre Clay Liner	60 - 100 years	60 - 100 years
Future Landfill Restoration Costs	3 - 30 years	3 - 59 years
Waste Centre Other	10 - 30 years	10 - 30 years

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3.4 Depreciation and Amortisation Cont.

Accounting policy cont.	2024 Period	2023 Period
Parks, open space and streetscapes		
Parks, open space and streetscapes	10 - 150 years	10 - 150 years
Infrastructure	100 - 200 years	100 - 200 years
Plant	20 years	20 years
Intangible assets		
Data Systems	3 - 10 years	3 - 10 years
Plans and Strategies	10 - 15 years	10 - 15 years
Municipal Valuations	6 years	6 years
Right-of-use of assets	Lease Term	Lease Term

3.5 Finance Costs	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Interest - borrowings	229	278
Unwinding of landfill restoration liability	58	332
Interest - lease liabilities	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>614</b>
Less capitalised borrowing costs on qualifying assets	-	-
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>614</b>

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. Finance costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council. Where specific borrowings are obtained for the purpose of specific asset acquisition, the weighted average interest rate applicable to borrowings at balance date, excluding borrowings associated with superannuation, is used to determine the borrowing costs to be capitalised. No borrowing costs were capitalised during the period.

Finance costs include interest on borrowings, leases and unwinding of discounts.

3.6 Other Expenses	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
External Auditors' Remuneration (Tasmanian Audit Office)		
Auditing of the Financial Statements	78	61
Other Audit Services	14	15
Internal auditors' remuneration (internal audit services - Crowe Horwath)	33	32
Audit Panel Sitting Fees	13	13
Councillors' Allowances	640	593
Election Expenses	271	517
Volunteer services	92	248
Fire Levy Paid to State Fire Service	8,977	8,785
Waste Disposal Levy Paid to State Government	2,167	2,099
Remissions and Abatements	430	384
Change in Landfill Restoration Provision	98	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,814</b>	<b>12,887</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3.6 Other Expenses Cont.

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset, or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

### Note 4 Current Assets

#### 4.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash on hand	29	31
Cash at bank trading	3,917	515
At Call Investments	24,820	38,834
Special Committees	26	25
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>28,791</b>	<b>39,405</b>

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number of internal and external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Trust Funds and Bequests	3,419	3,372
Equity Trusts and Bequests	2,913	2,734
Contract Liabilities - Grants in Advance	1,405	1,890
	<b>7,738</b>	<b>7,996</b>
<b>Internal Committed Funds</b>		
Landfill Restoration Provision	19,624	20,652
Employee Provisions	8,016	7,710
	<b>27,640</b>	<b>28,362</b>
<b>Committed Funds</b>	<b>35,378</b>	<b>36,358</b>
<b>Total Uncommitted Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(6,586)</b>	<b>3,047</b>
Total Investments (Note 4.3)	48,109	55,646
<b>Total Uncommitted Funds</b>	<b>41,523</b>	<b>58,693</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

##### Restricted funds

##### Trusts and bequests

Trusts and bequests represent amounts bequeathed to Council for expenditure on specific purposes.

##### Landfill Restoration Liability

Council's landfill restoration liability is significant with most of the liability to be realised within the next ten years. See Note 8.2.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 4.2 Trade and Other Receivables

	2024	2023
<i>Current</i>	\$'000	\$'000
Rates debtors	1,699	1,396
Parking infringement debtors	1,464	1,498
Provision for expected credit loss - parking infringements	(621)	(628)
Other debtors	4,411	2,947
Provision for expected credit loss - other debtors	(151)	(154)
Net GST receivable	1,038	774
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>5,833</b>
<b>Reconciliation of movement in expected credit loss</b>		
<b>Carrying amount at 1 July</b>	782	836
Amounts written off during the year	(81)	(50)
Movement in Provision	72	(4)
<b>Carrying amount at 30 June</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>782</b>

For ageing analysis of the financial assets, refer to note 9.7

#### Accounting policy

##### Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at cost, which represents their transaction value.

##### Impairment

Impairment is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis. When determining whether the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating the ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience, an informed credit assessment and forward-looking information. Council has established a provision matrix to facilitate the impairment assessment.

##### Rate Debtors

For rate debtors, Council takes the view that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

##### Sundry debtors

Sundry debtors are assessed for impairment on an individual basis.

##### Infringement and statutory charges debtors

Infringement and statutory charges debtors are impaired using an aging matrix.

##### Write off of debts

Council writes off receivables when there is information indicating that there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

### 4.3 Investments

	2024	2023
<i>Current</i>	\$'000	\$'000
Term deposits - more than 3 months	48,109	55,646
	<b>48,109</b>	<b>55,646</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 4.3 Investments Cont.

#### Accounting policy

##### Investments

Term deposits with maturities beyond 90 days at the time of investment are measured at principal and interest on an accrual basis.

### 4.4 Inventories

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Inventories held for distribution	901	839
Inventories held for sale	247	229
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,068</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, the cost shall be the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.

### 4.5 Assets Held for Sale

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Carrying Value	75,793	9,208
Revaluation adjustment	-	(2,092)
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,793</b>	<b>7,116</b>

#### York Park Stadium

Council endorsed the transfer of York Park and associated land and assets at 2 Invermay Road at its meeting on 8 February 2024, subject to a term sheet being negotiated with Stadiums Tasmania. These assets include both the stadium and areas associated with York Park, and some surrounding facilities to be transferred to Stadiums Tasmania. The relevant assets have been transferred to held for sale at their current written down value of \$68,676,648. The transfer is expected to be finalised within the 2024/2025 financial year.

#### Brisbane Street Property

Council continues to own property and land at 118-122 and 124 Brisbane Street, with all associated assets still being classified as held for sale assets. The development process regarding the site is ongoing, with a contract for the sale of the site being terminated in May 2024. However, Council has not made any alteration to the formal Council decision on 1 June 2023 to dispose of both properties. The Held for Sale value of these assets is \$6,000,000.



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 4.5 Assets Held for Sale Cont.

#### Road Assets

Council also continues to report assets held for sale associated with an exchange of road assets with the Department of State Growth. The continued delay in gazetting of these roads has caused this process to not be complete. The Held for Sale value of these assets is \$1,116,284.

#### Accounting policy

##### Assets held for sale

A non-current asset held for sale (including disposal groups) is measured at the lower of its carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and is not subject to depreciation.

Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use.

This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

### Note 5 Equity Investments

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>5.1a Investment in Water Corporation</b>		
Opening balance	239,333	232,052
Change in fair value of investment	12,606	7,281
<b>Total investment in Water Corporation</b>	<b>251,939</b>	<b>239,333</b>
<b>5.1b Investment in Launceston Airport</b>		
Opening balance	2,980	2,234
Change in fair value of investment	916	746
<b>Total investment in Launceston Airport</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>2,980</b>
<b>Total Equity Investments</b>	<b>255,835</b>	<b>242,313</b>

Returns derived from equity investments are disclosed in Note 2.9

#### Accounting policy

##### Equity Investments

##### TasWater

Council's investment in TasWater is defined by statute under the *Water and Sewerage Corporations Act (Tas) 2012*.

Council has elected under *AASB 9 Financial Instruments* to irrevocably classify this equity investment as designated at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Subsequent changes in fair value on designated investments in equity instruments are recognised in other comprehensive income (for fair value reserve, refer note 9.1) and not reclassified through comprehensive income when derecognised.

Fair value was determined by using Council's ownership interest against the water corporation's net asset value at balance date. At 30 June 2024, Council holds 13.32% (2023 13.66%) ownership interest in TasWater which is based on Schedule 2 of the Corporation's Constitution.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 5 Equity Investments Cont.

#### Accounting policy cont.

##### Launceston Airport

In 1998 council received treasury approval to invest in the Launceston Airport.

Council has elected under AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* to irrevocably classify this equity investment as designated at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Subsequent changes in fair value on designated investments in equity instruments are recognised in other comprehensive income (for fair value reserve, refer note 9.1) and not reclassified through comprehensive income when derecognised.

Distribution and other revenues associated with the equity investments are recognised in comprehensive income when the right of payment has been established and it can be reliably measured.

### Note 6 Non-Current Assets

#### 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<i>Summary</i>		
at cost	82,944	78,571
Less accumulated depreciation	(39,951)	(39,449)
	<u>42,993</u>	<u>39,122</u>
at fair value as at 30 June	2,757,021	2,488,059
Less accumulated depreciation	(770,035)	(747,203)
	<u>1,986,985</u>	<u>1,740,856</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,029,978</u>	<u>1,779,978</u>
<i>Property</i>		
<b>Land</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	202,721	209,297
	<u>202,721</u>	<u>209,297</u>
<b>Land under roads</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	416,243	146,462
	<u>416,243</u>	<u>146,462</u>
<b>Total Land</b>	<u>618,964</u>	<u>355,759</u>
<b>Buildings</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	336,375	376,986
Less accumulated depreciation	(152,943)	(156,237)
	<u>183,432</u>	<u>220,749</u>
<b>Total Property</b>	<u>802,396</u>	<u>576,508</u>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment Cont.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
Plant and equipment at cost	47,861	50,746
Less accumulated depreciation	(25,767)	(25,778)
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>22,094</b>	<b>24,968</b>
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
<b>Roads</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	1,297,502	1,254,533
Less accumulated depreciation	(469,261)	(448,951)
	<b>828,241</b>	<b>805,582</b>
<b>Drainage</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	304,146	293,405
Less accumulated depreciation	(101,600)	(96,382)
	<b>202,546</b>	<b>197,023</b>
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	59,037	71,942
Less accumulated depreciation	(16,178)	(17,958)
	<b>42,859</b>	<b>53,984</b>
<b>Flood Protection</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	69,142	66,342
Less accumulated depreciation	(13,461)	(12,522)
	<b>55,681</b>	<b>53,820</b>
<b>Refuse Disposal</b>		
at fair value as at 30 June	71,855	69,092
Less accumulated depreciation	(16,592)	(15,153)
	<b>55,263</b>	<b>53,939</b>
<b>Landfill Restoration Obligation</b>		
at cost	18,588	18,683
Less accumulated depreciation	(14,184)	(13,671)
	<b>4,404</b>	<b>5,012</b>
<b>Total Infrastructure</b>	<b>1,188,994</b>	<b>1,169,360</b>
<b>Works in progress</b>		
At cost	16,494	9,142
<b>Total Works in progress</b>	<b>16,494</b>	<b>9,142</b>
<b>Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,029,978</b>	<b>1,779,978</b>

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**Note 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment Cont.**  
Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2024	Balance at beginning of financial year	Acquisition of assets	Revaluation increments (decrements)	Depreciation and amortisation Note 3.4	Written down value of disposals	Impairment losses recognised in comprehensive income	Transfers	Balance at end of financial year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Property</b>								
Land	209,297	-	397	-	(417)	-	(6,556)	202,721
Land Under Roads	146,462	456	269,388	-	(87)	-	24	416,243
Total land	355,759	456	269,786	-	(505)	-	(6,532)	618,964
Buildings	220,749	-	9,041	(4,411)	(135)	-	(41,811)	183,432
Total buildings	220,749	-	9,041	(4,411)	(135)	-	(41,811)	183,432
Total property	576,508	456	278,827	(4,411)	(640)	-	(48,344)	802,396
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>								
Plant and Equipment	24,968	-	-	(3,751)	(213)	-	1,091	22,094
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>24,968</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,751)</b>	<b>(213)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>22,094</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>								
Roads	805,582	4,206	23,498	(10,826)	(1,260)	-	7,043	828,241
Drainage	197,023	2,236	5,268	(2,230)	(60)	-	310	202,546
Flood Protection	53,820	-	1,637	(552)	(620)	-	1,396	55,681
Refuse Disposal	53,939	-	1,643	(940)	-	-	621	55,263
Landfill Restoration								
Obligation	5,012	403	-	(1,011)	-	-	-	4,404
Parks and Recreation	53,984	-	841	(1,459)	(70)	-	(10,437)	42,859
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>1,169,360</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>32,886</b>	<b>(17,018)</b>	<b>(2,010)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,068)</b>	<b>1,188,994</b>
<b>Works in progress</b>								
Total works in progress	9,142	27,708	-	-	-	-	(20,356)	16,494
	9,142	27,708	-	-	-	-	(20,356)	16,494
<b>Total Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>1,779,978</b>	<b>35,009</b>	<b>311,713</b>	<b>(25,181)</b>	<b>(2,864)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(68,677)</b>	<b>2,029,978</b>

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**Note 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment Cont.**

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2023	Balance at beginning of financial year	Acquisition of assets	Revaluation increments (decrements)	Depreciation and amortisation Note 3.4	Written down value of disposals	Impairment losses recognised in comprehensive income	Transfers	Balance at end of financial year
<b>Property</b>								
Land	143,397	74	71,306	-	(1,100)	-	(4,380)	209,297
Land Under Roads	146,455	63	-	-	(56)	-	-	146,462
Total land	289,852	137	71,306	-	(1,156)	-	(4,380)	355,759
Buildings	210,410	-	14,612	(4,322)	(412)	-	461	220,749
Total buildings	210,410	-	14,612	(4,322)	(412)	-	461	220,749
Total property	500,262	137	85,918	(4,322)	(1,568)	-	(3,919)	576,508
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>								
Plant and Equipment	25,910	-	-	(3,778)	(405)	-	3,241	24,968
Total plant and equipment	25,910	-	-	(3,778)	(405)	-	3,241	24,968
<b>Infrastructure</b>								
Roads	757,410	1,470	50,654	(13,142)	(1,940)	-	11,130	805,582
Drainage	184,240	1,116	12,596	(1,884)	(151)	-	1,106	197,023
Flood Protection	50,492	-	3,794	(516)	(15)	-	65	53,820
Refuse Disposal	27,954	-	26,609	(615)	(9)	-	-	53,939
Landfill Restoration	3,403	2,260	-	(651)	-	-	-	5,012
Obligation								
Parks and Recreation	50,763	-	3,000	(1,511)	(27)	-	1,759	53,984
Total infrastructure	1,074,262	4,846	96,653	(18,319)	(2,142)	-	14,060	1,169,360
<b>Works in progress</b>								
Work in Progress	10,924	17,600	-	-	-	-	(19,382)	9,142
Total works in progress	10,924	17,600	-	-	-	-	(19,382)	9,142
<b>Total Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>1,611,358</b>	<b>22,583</b>	<b>182,571</b>	<b>(26,419)</b>	<b>(4,115)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	<b>1,779,978</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment Cont.

#### Accounting policy

##### Recognition and measurement of assets

Acquisitions of assets are initially recorded at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure received in the form of contributions, are recognised as assets and revenues at fair value by Council valuation where that value exceeds the recognition thresholds for the respective asset class. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction and direct labour incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

The following classes of assets have been recognised. In accordance with Council's policy, the thresholds detailed below are minimum thresholds and not all assets are recognised at these limits. Recognition of assets within an applicable asset class, unless otherwise stated, are consistent with the prior year:

	Threshold \$'000
Land	
Land	5
Land under roads	0
Buildings	
Buildings	0
Plant and Equipment	
Plant, machinery and equipment	0
Roads	
Road pavements and seals	5
Road substructure	5
Road kerb, channel and minor culverts	5
Bridges deck	10
Bridges substructure	5
Drainage	10
Refuse Disposal	10
Landfill Restoration Obligation	10
Flood Protection	1
Parks and Recreation	5
Museum collection	5

##### Revaluation

Council has adopted the following valuation bases for its non-current assets:

Land	fair value
Land under roads	fair value
Buildings	fair value
Plant and equipment	cost
Roads	fair value
Drainage	fair value
Refuse Disposal	fair value
Landfill Restoration Obligation	cost
Flood Protection	fair value
Parks and Recreation	fair value

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 6.1 Property, Infrastructure and Plant and Equipment Cont.

#### Accounting policy cont.

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value in accordance with *AASB 116 Property, Plant & Equipment* and *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*.

At balance date, Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset class materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date the class of asset was revalued.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, land under roads, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value.

The valuation is performed either by experienced Council officers or independent experts.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense.

Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

#### Impairment of assets

Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other expenses.

Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other revenue.

#### Land Under Roads

Council recognises land under roads at fair value.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6.2 Intangible Assets

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Data Systems	2,865	2,117
Plans and Strategies	914	1,013
Municipal Valuation	-	44
Work in Progress	308	705
<b>Total intangible assets</b>	<b>4,087</b>	<b>3,879</b>

Reconciliation of intangible assets	Data Systems \$'000	Plans and Strategies \$'000	Municipal Valuations \$'000	WIP \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2022	7,079	2,028	614	625	10,346
Additions	-	-	-	228	228
Transfers out of WIP	148	-	-	(148)	-
Disposals	(3)	-	-	-	(3)
Balance as at 1 July 2023	7,224	2,028	614	705	10,572
Additions	-	-	-	623	623
Transfers out of WIP	1,020	-	-	(1,020)	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2024	<b>8,244</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>11,194</b>
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>					
Balance as at 1 July 2022	4,780	912	512	-	6,204
Amortisation expense	330	103	59	-	491
Disposals	(3)	-	-	-	(3)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 July 2023	5,107	1,015	570	-	6,693
Amortisation expense	272	99	44	-	415
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2024	<b>5,379</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,108</b>
Net book value as at 30 June 2023	2,117	1,013	44	705	3,879
Net book value as at 30 June 2024	<b>2,865</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>4,087</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Intangible assets

Intangible assets with finite lives that are acquired separately are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful life and amortisation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for on a prospective basis.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives that are acquired separately are carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits applied when recognising intangible assets is \$1,000 to \$10,000 and is consistent with the prior year.

The estimated useful lives for current and comparative periods are as follows:

Data Systems	3 - 10 years
Plans and Strategies	10 - 15 years
Municipal Valuations	6 years

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6.3 Right-of-Use Assets

	Property \$'000
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>	
Balance as at 1 July 2023	246
Additions	-
Disposals / derecognition	-
Balance as at 30 June 2024	246
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>	
Balance as at 1 July 2023	51
Disposals / derecognition	-
Amortisation expense	82
Balance as at 30 June 2024	133
Net book value at 30 June 2024	112
	Property \$'000
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>	
Balance at 1 July 2022	294
Additions	111
Disposals / derecognition	(159)
Balance at 30 June 2023	246
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>	
Balance at 1 July 2022	106
Disposals / derecognition	(121)
Amortisation expense	66
Balance at 30 June 2023	51
Net book value at 30 June 2023	194

#### Accounting policy

##### Leases - Council as Lessee

In contracts where Council is a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the commencement date of the lease, unless the short-term or low-value exemption is applied. Refer to note 7.4 for details on accounting policy of lease liability.

A right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost comprising the initial measurement of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made before the commencement date (reduced by lease incentives received), plus initial direct costs incurred in obtaining the lease and an estimate of costs to be incurred in dismantling and removing the underlying asset, restoring the site on which it is located or restoring the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease.

All right-of-use assets are measured as described in the accounting policy for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment in Note 6.1. Also, Council applies AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* to determine whether a right-of-use asset is impaired and accounts for any identified impairment loss as described in the aforesaid Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter period of lease term and useful life of the underlying asset. If a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Council expects to exercise a purchase option, the related right-of-use asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset. The depreciation starts at the commencement date of the lease.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6.4 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

	2024	2023
<b>Museum Collection</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Opening Balance	204,570	203,804
Additions	145	190
Contributions Non Monetary Assets	115	576
<b>Collection Value 30 June</b>	<b>204,830</b>	<b>204,570</b>
Work in Progress	30	30
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>204,860</b>	<b>204,600</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 to 30 June 2021.

This amount has been disclosed as a separate asset class in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### Accounting policy

##### 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 therefore not subject to depreciation. Revaluations will be made with sufficient regularity to maintain the collection at fair value.

Significant additions to the collection between revaluations are brought to account at curators 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.

	2024	2023
<b>Results from Museum Operations</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fees and Charges	605	830
State Government Operations Grant	1,820	1,677
Other Grants	-	80
Bequests and Donations	194	173
Interest	92	58
Other Income	167	275
	<b>2,878</b>	<b>3,093</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Provision of Services	7,487	7,408
Bequest Expenditure	-	7
Depreciation	1,135	1,011
Full Cost Attribution	388	375
	<b>9,010</b>	<b>8,801</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(6,132)</b>	<b>(5,708)</b>
Add Collection Contributions	115	576
Add Capital Grants and Contributions	11	127
Add Gain (Loss) on Disposal	-	35
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(6,006)</b>	<b>(4,970)</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6.5 Superannuation

#### City of Launceston Defined Benefits - Sub Fund of Spirit Super

The members of the City of Launceston defined benefits fund and related assets are a division of Spirit Super on a "successor fund" basis.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
The Council has taken up an Asset /(Liability) of :	2,964	2,279

#### Accounting Policy

##### Superannuation Liability

During the year the Council made the required superannuation contributions for all eligible employees to an appropriate complying superannuation fund as required by the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

##### Accumulation Funds

New employees are able to join an accumulation fund of their choice. Employees who are members of the defined benefits fund are able to transfer to a complying accumulation fund. The default offering for Council employees is provided by Spirit Super.

##### Defined Benefit Funds

The Council contributes, in respect of its eligible employees, to the City of Launceston Defined Benefits Division which was established for employees of the Council. It includes a small number of former employees of the Council that transferred to TasWater. The fund is closed to new entrants.

The details of the actuarial review are:

In respect of the excess of benefit liabilities over assets in the Fund, the Council does not have any immediate requirement to fund the shortfall and continues to fund at the level of contributions assessed by the Scheme's actuary as being required to meet the long term requirements of the Fund.

The calculation of the liability is based on an actuarial review for the purpose of AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* performed by Michael Berg FIAA on behalf of Deloitte, as at 30 June 2024.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
The amount taken up as an employee benefit obligation is made up as follows:		
<b>Balance Sheet Calculation</b>		
Fair value of plan assets	45,243	46,057
Less present value of defined benefit obligation	(42,279)	(43,778)
Asset / (Liability) Recognised	2,964	2,279
<b>Defined Benefit Obligation Reconciliation of Obligation</b>		
Present value of defined benefit obligation - 1 July	43,778	46,576
Current service cost	1,381	1,591
Interest cost	1,644	1,610
Member contributions and transfers from other funds	519	894
Actuarial (gains)/ losses due to changes in financial assumptions	(51)	1,442
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to changes in experience	1,786	826
Benefits and tax paid	(6,778)	(9,161)
Present value of defined benefit obligation - 30 June	42,279	43,778

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 6.5 Superannuation Cont.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of Assets</b>		
Fair value of plan - 1 July	46,057	49,440
Expected return on plan assets	1,754	1,735
Actuarial gains/ (losses)	2,507	1,741
Employer contributions	721	858
Member contributions and transfers from other funds	981	1,444
Benefits and tax paid	(6,777)	(9,161)
Fair value of defined benefit obligation - 30 June	<u>45,243</u>	<u>46,057</u>
<b>Expense recognised in Operating Surplus</b>		
Current service cost	1,381	1,591
Interest cost	1,644	1,610
Expected return on plan assets	(1,754)	(1,735)
Superannuation expense	<u>1,271</u>	<u>1,466</u>
<b>Expense recognised in Other Comprehensive Income</b>		
Actuarial gains/(losses)	<u>1,108</u>	<u>24</u>

#### General Plan Information

The Plan is a division of the "profit for members" superannuation scheme known as Spirit Super ("the Scheme") and the Trustee of the Scheme is Motor Trades Association of Australia Superannuation Fund Pty. Ltd.

The Scheme and the Plan are subject to the requirements of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1992* and related regulations. Under this legislation, the Trustee is required to measure the value of the assets of the Plan against the total members' vested entitlements and to take action if a shortfall in the value of the assets emerges. Such action could include actuarial management of the Plan, including an increase to the amount of employer contributions.

Members of the Fund are entitled to receive lump sum benefits on leaving service due to retirement, death, total and permanent disablement and resignation.

The most recent actuarial investigation into the Fund in accordance with the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act was carried out by Michael Berg of Deloitte as at 30 June 2023.

The actuary recommended that the Employer contribute at the rate of 11% of salaries. The funding method used to make the contribution recommendation was the "aggregate funding method".

The economic assumptions used in the investigation were:

Rate of investment return:	4.50%	4.75%
Rate of inflationary salary increases:	3.50%	2.75%

#### Method of determining Expected Return on plan assets

The expected return on assets assumption is determined by weighting the expected long-term return for each asset class by the expected long term allocation of assets to each asset class. Returns are net of investment tax and investment fees.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 6.5 Superannuation Cont.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Actual Return on Plan Assets</b>		
Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of year	42,279	43,778
Fair value of Plan assets at end of year	(45,243)	(46,057)
(Surplus)/Deficit in Plan	<u>(2,964)</u>	<u>(2,279)</u>
Experience adjustments - Plan liabilities	(1,786)	(826)
Experience adjustments - Plan assets	2,507	1,741
Actual return on Fund assets	4,261	3,476
<b>Principal Assumptions</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Discount Rate p.a.	4.31%	4.03%
Salary Increases	3.50%	3.50%

### Expected Contributions

If the Council follows the recommendations in the actuarial report, the expected contributions to the Fund for the year ending 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Expected member contributions (for defined benefits only)	721	858
Expected member contributions (incl. deemed member contributions)	471	509

### Sensitivity Analysis

The table below shows how the net liability on the Statement of Financial Position would have been affected by changes in the key actuarial assumptions.

Assumption	Change in Assumption	Movement in Net Liability \$'000
Discount Rate	Increase by: 1% p.a.	Decrease by: 52
Discount Rate	Decrease by: 1% p.a.	Increase by: 266
Salary Growth Rate	Increase by: 1% p.a.	Increase by: 246
Salary Growth Rate	Decrease by: 1% p.a.	Decrease by: 51

### Note 7 Current Liabilities

#### 7.1 Trade and Other Payables

Trade payables	2,591	1,103
Accrued expenses	6,625	5,559
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>	<u>9,216</u>	<u>6,662</u>

#### Accounting policy

##### Trade and other payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services provided to Council as at balance date. General Creditors are unsecured, not subject to interest charges and are normally settled on invoice terms.

For ageing analysis of trade and other payables, refer to note 9.7.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**7.2 Trust Funds and Deposits**

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Refundable deposits	832	586
Pre Paid Income	554	585
Rates Paid in Advance	2,025	2,150
Conditional Museum Funding	8	51
<b>Total trust funds and deposits</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>3,372</b>

**Accounting policy**

Refundable Deposits

Amounts received as refundable deposits controlled by Council are recognised as Trust funds until they are returned or forfeited.

Rates Paid in Advance

Rates paid in advance represents amounts received by Council prior to the commencement of the rating period. Revenue is recognised by council at the beginning of the rating period to which the advance payment relates.

Pre Paid Income

Pre paid income represents amounts received by Council prior to the commencement of the charging period. Revenue is recognised by council at the beginning of the charging period to which the advance payment relates, or when the service has been provided.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**7.3 Employee Provisions**

	Annual leave	Long service leave	Accrued time	Retiring Allowance	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2024</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,763	4,861	86	-	7,710
Additional provisions	3,416	775	182	-	4,373
Amounts Used	(3,131)	(763)	(173)	-	(4,067)
Balance at the end of the financial year	<b>3,048</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,016</b>
<b>Current</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,097</b>
<b>Non-current</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,016</b>
<b>2023</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,963	5,145	84	192	8,384
Additional provisions	3,029	636	175	-	3,840
Amounts Used	(3,230)	(920)	(173)	(192)	(4,515)
Balance at the end of the financial year	<b>2,763</b>	<b>4,861</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,710</b>
<b>Current</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,724</b>
<b>Non-current</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>986</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>4,861</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,710</b>

**(a) Employee benefits**

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of employee benefits:

Increase in employee costs

Discount rates

**Employee Numbers - Full time equivalents**

	2024	2023
Increase in employee costs	3.50%	3.50%
Discount rates	4.18%	4.01%
<b>Employee Numbers - Full time equivalents</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>452</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 7.3 Employee Provisions Cont.

#### Accounting policy

##### Employee benefits

###### *i) Short term obligations*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accrued time expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accrued time are recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

###### *ii) Long term employee benefit obligations*

The liability for long service leave which is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

###### *iii) On costs*

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

###### *iv) Personal Leave*

No accrual is made for personal leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, personal leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken personal leave.

##### Superannuation

###### *iv) Defined benefit plans*

See note 6.5

###### *v) Defined contribution plans*

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 7.4 Lease Liabilities

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Lease liabilities	117	197
	<u>117</u>	<u>197</u>
Current	85	80
Non-Current	32	117
	<u>117</u>	<u>197</u>

Lease liabilities are secured by the related underlying assets. Future minimum lease payments were as follows:

As at 30 June 2024	Minimum lease payments due						Total \$ '000
	Within 1 Year \$ '000	1-2 Years \$ '000	2-3 Years \$ '000	3-4 Years \$ '000	4-5 Years \$ '000	After 5 Years \$ '000	
Lease payments	86	32	-	-	-	-	118
Finance charges	(1)	(0)	-	-	-	-	(1)
Net present value	<u>85</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117</u>
As at 30 June 2023	Within 1 Year \$ '000	1-2 Years \$ '000	2-3 Years \$ '000	3-4 Years \$ '000	4-5 Years \$ '000	After 5 Years \$ '000	Total \$ '000
Lease payments	82	86	32	-	-	-	200
Finance charges	(2)	(1)	-	-	-	-	(3)
Net present value	<u>80</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>197</u>

#### Accounting policy

##### Leases - Council as Lessee

The lease liability is measured at the present value of outstanding payments that are not paid at balance date, discounted by using the rate implicit in the lease. Where this cannot be readily determined then Council's incremental borrowing rate for a similar term with similar security is used.

The lease liability is subsequently measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liability (using the effective interest method) and by reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made.

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases i.e. leases with a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets i.e., when the value of the leased asset when new is \$10,000 or less. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 7.5 Contract Liabilities

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Grants received in advance	1,405	1,890
	<u>1,405</u>	<u>1,890</u>

#### Accounting policy

Council recognised the following contract liabilities with customers:

Grants received in advance

These amounts are grants for roads and community infrastructure which are yet to be completed.

Upfront Payments

Upfront payments of funding are recognised as a contract liability until performance obligations in accordance with *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts With Customers* are satisfied and recognition criteria are met.

Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the reporting period

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	1,080	611
Private Contribution	10	-
	<u>1,090</u>	<u>611</u>

### Note 8. Non Current Liabilities

#### 8.1 Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Borrowings - secured	6,000	20,000
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<i>Non-current</i>		
Borrowings - secured	-	6,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<i>Borrowings</i>		
The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:		
Not later than one year	6,000	20,000
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Interest bearing liabilities

The borrowing capacity of Council is limited by the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Interest bearing liabilities are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred.

Subsequent to initial recognition these liabilities are measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 8.1 Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings Cont.

#### Accounting policy cont.

Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period of the liability using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are secured by way of mortgages over the general rates of the Council. Interest is expensed as it accrues and no interest has been capitalised during the current or comparative reporting period. There have been no defaults or breaches of the loan agreement during the period.

### 8.2 Provision for Landfill Restoration

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Provision for Rehabilitation and Aftercare</b>			
Balance at beginning of year		20,652	17,928
Unwinding of discount	3.5	58	332
Repricing of rehabilitation asset	3.6	98	141
Repriced liability adjusted to other income		(96)	-
Repriced liability adjusted against asset		403	2,259
Rehabilitation works carried out		(1,492)	(8)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>		<b>19,624</b>	<b>20,652</b>
		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Current Liability		19	20
Non Current Liability		19,605	20,632
<b>Total Liability</b>		<b>19,624</b>	<b>20,652</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Landfill Restoration Obligation

The Council operates a refuse disposal area (Launceston Waste Centre) which imposes obligations for rehabilitation in the future.

Provision is made for rehabilitation costs to be incurred in future years by estimating the future costs based on current legislative requirements. This future cost is discounted back to present value at balance date. At each balance date the discounting is unwound as a finance cost.

Each year at the balance date the liability is reassessed to ensure the provision represents an accurate reflection of the future costs. Where there is an asset value available an adjustment is made against the asset, otherwise the adjustment is expensed.

Council does not expect to receive reimbursement from a third party.

#### Key Assumptions

Key assumptions used to calculate the rehabilitation liability are:

	2024	2023
Expected Lives - Years	1 to 56	2 to 57
Discount Rate	4.06% to 4.67%	3.95% to 4.34%
Inflation Rate	4.06%	3.86%

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9 Other Financial Information

#### 9.1 Reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Net Surplus	Comprehensive Income	Transfer	Balance at end of reporting year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Asset revaluation reserve					
2024					
Property & Infrastructure	1,069,254	-	311,713	-	1,380,967
<b>Total asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>1,069,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>311,713</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,380,967</b>
2023					
Property & Infrastructure	886,685	-	182,569	-	1,069,254
<b>Total asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>886,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>182,569</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,069,254</b>

The asset revaluation reserve was established to capture the movements in asset valuations upon the periodic revaluation of Council's assets.

#### (b) Fair value reserve

2024					
<b>Equity Investment assets</b>					
Investment in Water Corporation	(13,774)	-	12,606	-	(1,168)
Investment in Launceston Airport	2,980	-	916	-	3,895
<b>Total fair value reserve</b>	<b>(10,795)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,522</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,728</b>
2023					
<b>Equity Investment assets</b>					
Investment in water corporation	(21,054)	-	7,280	-	(13,774)
Investment in Launceston Airport	2,234	-	746	-	2,980
<b>Total fair value reserve</b>	<b>(18,820)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,026</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,795)</b>

Council has to designate its investment in TasWater and Launceston Airport as equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income. Subsequent changes in fair value are reflected in the reserve and will not be reclassified through comprehensive income when derecognised.



**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**9.1 Reserves Cont.**

**(c) Accumulated Surplus**

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Net Surplus	Comprehensive Income	Transfer	Balance at end of reporting year
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2024</b>					
Capital Reserve Government Grants	210,026	5,168	-	-	215,194
Capital Reserve Other Contributions	42,898	7,952	-	-	50,850
General Reserve	924,367	(3,110)	-	-	921,257
CBD Reserve	(343)	(269)	-	-	(612)
Investment in Water Corporation	2,724	-	-	-	2,724
Public Open Space	609	90	-	-	699
Self Insurance	3,995	196	-	-	4,191
Special Committees	32	1	-	-	33
Waste Centre Rehabilitation	20,653	(1,028)	-	-	19,625
Employee Benefits	9,672	373	1,108	-	11,152
Trusts and Bequests - Parks	33	1	-	-	34
Trusts and Bequests - Museum	2,701	178	-	-	2,879
<b>Total Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>1,217,367</b>	<b>9,550</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,228,025</b>
<b>2023</b>					
Capital Reserve Government Grants	202,192	7,834	-	-	210,026
Capital Reserve Other Contributions	39,603	3,295	-	-	42,898
General Reserve	934,462	(10,095)	-	-	924,367
CBD Reserve	(202)	(141)	-	-	(343)
Investment in Water Corporation	2,724	-	-	-	2,724
Public Open Space	511	98	-	-	609
Self Insurance	3,795	200	-	-	3,995
Special Committees	32	-	-	-	32
Waste Centre Rehabilitation	17,928	2,725	-	-	20,653
Employee Benefits	9,648	-	24	-	9,672
Trusts and Bequests - Parks	32	1	-	-	33
Trusts and Bequests - Museum	2,515	186	-	-	2,701
<b>Total Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>1,213,240</b>	<b>4,103</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,217,367</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>					
			2024		2023
			\$'000		\$'000
			<b>2,611,719</b>		<b>2,275,827</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 9.2 Reconciliation of Cash Flows from Operating Activities to Surplus (Deficit)

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Result from Continued Operations</b>	<b>9,551</b>	<b>4,103</b>
<b>Non-Cash Charges</b>		
Depreciation	25,678	26,978
Employee Provisions	728	(65)
Provision for Rehabilitation Movements	(1,028)	473
Allowance for Impaired Debts	(9)	1
Loss (Gain) on Sale of Non-current Assets	2,637	3,765
<b>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Rate and Sundry Receivables	769	94
Inventories	(81)	(43)
Sundry Creditors	2,036	435
<b>Non-Cash Income</b>		
Asset and Infrastructure Contributions	(7,042)	(3,295)
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Investment Revenue	(3,756)	(3,269)
Lease Movements	74	4
Lease Interest	2	4
Grants and Contributions Capital	(5,593)	(8,035)
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>23,965</b>	<b>21,150</b>

### 9.3 Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities

	Interest Bearing Loans and Borrowings	Lease Liabilities	Total
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2022</b>	26,000	235	26,235
Changes from Financing Cash Flows			
Cash Received	-	-	-
Non Cash Movements in Liability	-	11	11
Cash Repayments	-	(49)	(49)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>26,197</b>
Changes from Financing Cash Flows			
Cash Received	-	-	-
Non Cash Movements in Liability	-	(6)	(6)
Cash Repayments	(20,000)	(74)	(20,074)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>6,117</b>

### 9.4 Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash	3,972	571
Short Term Investments	24,820	38,834
	<b>28,791</b>	<b>39,405</b>

Excludes any cash held in Term Deposits with an investment period of 3 months or greater, detailed in Note 4.3

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 9.5 Commitments

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Capital Expenditure Commitments</b>		
Buildings	12,328	1,114
Plant and equipment	1,876	820
Roads	202	1,607
Drainage	101	355
Refuse	184	62
Flood	-	28
Parks	2,867	2,550
Intangible assets	360	622
<b>Total Capital expenditure commitments</b>	<b>17,918</b>	<b>7,158</b>
<b>Operational Commitments</b>		
Buildings	604	236
Plant and equipment	96	29
Roads	397	408
Drainage	4	17
Refuse	35	252
Flood	50	2
Parks	358	323
Other	589	1,182
<b>Total Operational Commitments</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>2,449</b>
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>20,052</b>	<b>9,607</b>

All capital and operational commitments at the reporting date are expected to be settled within the next 12 months.

Amounts disclosed for both capital and operational commitments are exclusive of GST.

### 9.6 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At the reporting date of 30 June 2024 council had no contingent liabilities or assets that would materially affect any of the amounts or disclosure in these accounts.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**9.7 Financial Instruments**

**(a) Interest Rate Risk**

The exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and non-lease financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows. For lease liabilities refer to Note 7.4.

2024	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:				Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Non-interest bearing	
		\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
<b>Financial assets</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents	4.02%	28,791	-	-	-	-	28,791
Investments	4.84%	-	48,109	-	-	-	48,109
Trade and other receivables		-	-	-	-	7,839	7,839
Equity Investments		-	-	-	-	255,835	255,835
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>28,791</b>	<b>48,109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>263,674</b>	<b>340,574</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>							
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	-	9,216	9,216
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	-	3,419	3,419
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	1.57%	-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,634</b>	<b>18,634</b>
<b>Net financial assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>28,791</b>	<b>42,109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>251,039</b>	<b>321,940</b>

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.**

2023

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:				Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Non-interest bearing	
<b>Financial assets</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents	2.58%	39,405	-	-	-	-	39,405
Investments	3.47%	-	55,646	-	-	-	55,646
Trade and other receivables		-	-	-	-	5,833	5,833
Equity Investments		-	-	-	-	242,313	242,313
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>39,405</b>	<b>55,646</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>248,146</b>	<b>343,197</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>							
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	-	6,662	6,662
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	-	3,372	3,372
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	1.07%	-	20,000	6,000	-	-	26,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,034</b>	<b>36,034</b>
<b>Net financial assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>39,405</b>	<b>35,646</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>238,112</b>	<b>307,163</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.

#### (b) Fair Value

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows:

Financial Instruments	Total carrying amount as per Statement of Financial Position		Aggregate net fair value	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	28,791	39,405	28,791	39,405
Other financial assets	48,109	55,646	48,109	55,646
Trade and other receivables	7,839	5,833	7,839	5,833
Equity Investments	255,835	242,313	255,835	242,313
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>340,574</b>	<b>343,197</b>	<b>340,574</b>	<b>343,197</b>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>				
Trade and other payables	9,216	6,662	9,216	6,662
Trust funds and deposits	3,419	3,372	3,419	3,372
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	6,000	26,000	5,815	25,072
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>18,634</b>	<b>36,034</b>	<b>18,450</b>	<b>35,106</b>

#### (c) Credit Risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is represented by the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### (d) Risks and mitigation

The risks associated with our main financial instruments and our policies for minimising these risks are detailed below.

##### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Council's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk. Components of market risk to which we are exposed are discussed below.

##### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk arises from interest bearing financial assets and liabilities that we use. Non derivative interest bearing assets are predominantly short term liquid assets. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk.

Our loan borrowings are sourced from TASCORP in accordance with State Government requirements. Finance leases with the property owner. We manage interest rate risk on our net debt portfolio by:

- ensuring access to diverse sources of funding;
- reducing risks of refinancing by managing in accordance with target maturity profiles; and
- setting prudential limits on interest repayments as a percentage of rate revenue.

We manage the interest rate exposure on our debt portfolio by appropriate budgeting strategies and obtaining approval for borrowings from the Department of Treasury and Finance each year.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1993*. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- conformity with State and Federal regulations and standards,
- appropriate liquidity,
- diversification by financial institution,
- monitoring of return on investment,
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

Maturity will be staggered to provide for interest rate variations and to minimise interest rate risk.

#### **Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss.

Council has no material exposure to credit risk. All investments are first ranked deposits with Australian banks rated S&P A or higher. To help manage this risk:

- we have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities we deal with;
- we may require collateral where appropriate; and
- we only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our Investment Policy.

Credit risk arises from Council's financial assets, which comprise cash and cash equivalents, and trade and other receivables. Council's exposure to credit risk arises from potential default of the counterparty, with a maximum exposure equal to the carrying amount of these instruments.

Exposure at balance date is addressed in each applicable policy note.

Council generally trades with recognised, creditworthy third parties, and as such collateral is generally not requested, nor is it Council's policy to securitise its trade and other receivables.

It is Council's policy that some customers who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures including an assessment of their credit rating, financial position, past experience and industry reputation.

In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that Council's exposure to bad debts is not significant.

#### **Credit quality of contractual financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired**

	Financial Institutions (minimum A credit rating)	Government agencies (AA credit rating)	Other Unrated	Total
<b>2024</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	28,791	-	-	28,791
Trade and other receivables	-	-	7,839	7,839
Investments and other financial assets	48,109	251,939	3,895	303,943
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>76,900</b>	<b>251,939</b>	<b>11,735</b>	<b>340,574</b>
<b>2023</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	39,405	-	-	39,405
Trade and other receivables	-	-	5,833	5,833
Investments and other financial assets	55,646	239,333	2,980	297,959
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>95,051</b>	<b>239,333</b>	<b>8,813</b>	<b>343,197</b>

## **Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.**

#### **Ageing of Trade and Other Receivables**

At balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. The ageing of the Council's Trade and Other Receivables was:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current (not yet due)	4,337	2,527
Past due by up to 30 days	503	283
Past due between 31 and 90 days	288	145
Past due more than 90 days	3,484	3,660
<b>Total Trade &amp; Other Receivables</b>	<b>8,612</b>	<b>6,615</b>

#### **Ageing of Individually Impaired Trade and Other Receivables**

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$151,182 (2022-23: \$153,577) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$151,182 (2022-23: \$153,577). The individually impaired debtors relate to general and sundry debtors and have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of Trade and Other Receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Post due over 90 days	773	782
<b>Total Trade &amp; Other Receivables</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>782</b>

#### **Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements:

- we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction on the date;
- we will be forced to sell financial assets at a value which is less than what they are worth; or
- we may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset at all.

To help reduce these risks we:

- have an investment policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various durations;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and

The Council's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.

The table below lists the contractual maturities for Non-Lease Financial Liabilities. For lease liabilities refer to Note 7.4.

These amounts represent the discounted cash flow payments (i.e. principal only).

2024	6 mths or less \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	1-2 years \$'000	2-5 years \$'000	>5 years \$'000	Contracted Cash Flow \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
Trade and other payables	9,216	-	-	-	-	-	9,216
Trust funds and deposits	-	-	-	-	-	3,419	3,419
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings		6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>18,634</b>
2023	6 mths or less \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	1-2 years \$'000	2-5 years \$'000	>5 years \$'000	Contracted Cash Flow \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
Trade and other payables	6,662	-	-	-	-	-	6,662
Trust funds and deposits	-	-	-	-	-	3,091	3,091
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	20,000	6,000	-	-	-	26,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>6,662</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>35,753</b>

#### (e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, the Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months.

The table below discloses the impact on net operating result and equity for each category of financial instruments held by Council at year-end, if the above movements were to occur.

Cash investments and loans payable are fixed interest.

2024	\$'000	Interest rate risk			
		-1.00% -100 basis points		1.00% +100 basis points	
		Revenue \$'000	Equity \$'000	Revenue \$'000	Equity \$'000
<b>Financial assets:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	28,791	(288)	-	288	-
Investments	48,109	(481)	-	481	-
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>					
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	6,000	60	-	(60)	-

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.7 Financial Instruments Cont.

2023	\$'000	Interest rate risk			
		-1.00%		1.00%	
		-100 basis points Revenue \$'000	Equity \$'000	+100 basis points Revenue \$'000	Equity \$'000
<b>Financial assets:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	39,405	(394)	-	394	-
Investments	55,646	(556)	-	556	-
<b>Financial liabilities:</b>					
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	26,000	260	-	(260)	-

### 9.8 Fair Value Measurements

Council measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Equity Investments
- Property, infrastructure plant and equipment
  - Land
  - Land Under Roads
  - Buildings
  - Roads, including footpaths and cycleways
  - Drainage
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Flood Protection
  - Refuse Disposal
  - QVMAG Collection

Council also has assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis as a result of being reclassified as assets held for sale. These are disclosed in note 4.5.

#### a) Fair Value Hierarchy

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a level in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2	Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3	Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.

#### (a) Fair Value Hierarchy Cont.

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by the Council. The table presents the Council's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 30 June 2024.

The fair values of the assets are determined using valuation techniques which maximise the use of observable data, where it is available, and minimise the use of entity specific estimates.

If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the asset is included in level 3.

This is the case for Council infrastructure assets, which are of a specialist nature for which there is no active market for similar or identical assets. These assets are valued using a combination of observable and unobservable inputs.

Assets held for sale disclosed in Note 4.5 includes \$1,546,216 of plant and equipment held at cost. This amount is not disclosed in the tables below.

#### As at 30 June 2024

	Note	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Recurring Fair Value Measurements</b>					
Equity Investments	5	-	-	255,835	255,835
Land	6.1	-	202,721	-	202,721
Land Under Roads	6.1	-	416,243	-	416,243
Buildings	6.1	-	183,432	-	183,432
Roads, Including Footpaths	6.1	-	-	828,241	828,241
Drainage	6.1	-	-	202,546	202,546
Parks and Recreation	6.1	-	-	42,859	42,859
Flood Protection	6.1	-	-	55,681	55,681
Refuse Disposal	6.1	-	-	55,263	55,263
QVMAG Collection	6.4	-	204,830	-	204,830
		-	<b>1,007,226</b>	<b>1,440,424</b>	<b>2,447,650</b>
<b>Non-Recurring Fair Value Measurements</b>					
Assets Held for Sale	4.5	7,116	52,949	14,181	74,246
		<b>7,116</b>	<b>52,949</b>	<b>14,181</b>	<b>74,246</b>

#### As at 30 June 2023

	Note	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Recurring Fair Value Measurements</b>					
Equity Investments	5	-	-	242,313	242,313
Land	6.1	-	209,297	-	209,297
Land Under Roads	6.1	-	146,462	-	146,462
Buildings	6.1	-	220,749	-	220,749
Roads, Including Footpaths	6.1	-	-	805,582	805,582
Drainage	6.1	-	-	197,023	197,023
Parks and Recreation	6.1	-	-	53,984	53,984
Flood Protection	6.1	-	-	53,820	53,820
Refuse Disposal	6.1	-	-	53,939	53,939
QVMAG Collection	6.4	-	204,570	-	204,570
		-	<b>781,078</b>	<b>1,406,661</b>	<b>2,187,739</b>
<b>Non-recurring fair value measurements</b>					
Assets held for sale	4.5	7,116	-	-	7,116
		<b>7,116</b>	-	-	<b>7,116</b>

## **Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.**

#### **(a) Fair Value Hierarchy Cont.**

##### *Transfers between levels of the hierarchy*

Council's policy is to recognise transfers in and out of the fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

There were no transfers between hierarchies in the reporting year.

#### **(b) Highest and best use**

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, requires the fair value of non-financial assets to be calculated based on their "highest and best use". At the reporting date all assets at fair value are utilised at their highest and best use as public assets.

#### **(c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values**

##### **Level 2 Measurements (recurring and non-recurring)**

Level 2 assets are measured at independent valuation.

##### **Level 3 Measurements (recurring and non-recurring)**

Level 3 assets are measured at their replacement cost. Inputs used are cost of materials, cost of labour and other intangible costs.

#### **Equity Investments**

Refer to Note 5 for details of valuation techniques used to derive fair values.

#### **Land**

Land fair values are measured at the Valuer General's valuation effective 1 July 2023. The next full valuation is planned for 2029/30 with an effective date of 1st July 2029.

In addition, there are four (4) land assets which Council owns that sit within the West Tamar Municipality. These assets have been revalued in line with adjustment factors provided by the Office of the Valuer General for 2023/24.

The indexation rates used are detailed in the following table.

<b>Launceston</b>				
<b>Class</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Residential	35%	60%	100%	full reval
Commercial	30%	60%	85%	full reval
Industrial	30%	60%	85%	full reval
Primary Production	25%	60%	100%	full reval
Community Services	30%	60%	85%	full reval
Other	30%	60%	85%	full reval
<b>West Tamar</b>				
<b>Class</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Residential	50%	full reval	25%	30%
Commercial	40%	full reval	10%	10%
Industrial	40%	full reval	10%	10%
Production	75%	full reval	35%	35%
Services	40%	full reval	10%	10%
Other	40%	full reval	10%	10%

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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### Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.

#### (c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values cont.

##### Land Under Roads

The value of the Land Under Road network at 30 June 2024 is based on valuation data determined by the Valuer-General. The valuation approach uses adjusted land values and areas for all properties within the municipality depending upon its classification and then applying a discount appropriate to the respective classification. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$0.44 and \$260.73 per square metre.

##### Buildings

The fair value of buildings were determined by qualified independent valuers from LG Valuation Services Pty Ltd effective 30 June 2022. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 8.28% as at 1st May 2023 using the Rawlinson's Building Price Index for the period 1st July 2022 to 31st March 2023, and an index of 5.55% as at 1st May 2024 using the Rawlinson's Building Price Index for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The next full valuation is planned for the 2027/28 financial year. Where there is a market for Council building assets, fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size.

Where Council buildings are of a specialist nature and there is no active market for the assets, fair value has been determined on the basis of replacement with a new asset having similar service potential. The gross current values have been derived by our appointed valuers from appropriate costing guides. The overall replacement cost is considered to be a "Greenfield" assessment.

In determining the level of accumulated depreciation the asset has been disaggregated into significant components which exhibit useful lives. Allowance has been made for the typical asset life cycle and renewal treatments of each component, residual value at the time the asset is considered to be no longer available for use.

##### Museum Collection

The museum collection is independently valued at replacement cost. 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 to 30 June 2021. The next full valuation is planned for the 2025/26 financial year.

##### Infrastructure Assets

All Council infrastructure assets were fair valued using written down current replacement cost. This valuation comprises the asset's current replacement cost (CRC) less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Council first determined the gross cost of replacing the full service potential of the asset and then adjusted this amount to take account of the expired service potential of the asset.

CRC was measured by reference to the lowest cost at which the gross future economic benefits of the asset could currently be obtained in the normal course of business. The resulting valuation reflects the cost of replacing the existing economic benefits based on an efficient set of modern equivalent assets to achieve the required level of service output.

The unit rates (labour and materials) and quantities applied to determine the CRC of an asset or asset component were based on a "Greenfield" assumption meaning that the CRC was determined as the full cost of replacement with a new asset including components that may not need to be replaced, such as earthworks.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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### Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.

#### (c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values cont.

The level of accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets was determined based on the age of the asset and the useful life adopted by Council for the asset type. Estimated useful lives and residual values are disclosed in Note 3.4.

The calculation of CRC involves a number of inputs that require judgement and are therefore classed as unobservable. While these judgements are made by qualified and experienced staff, different judgements could result in a different valuation. The table at (d) summarises the effect that changes in the most significant unobservable inputs would have on the valuation.

The methods for calculating CRC are described under individual asset categories below.

#### Roads and Bridges (including footpaths)

Council categorises its road infrastructure into urban and rural roads, then further sub-categorises these into sealed and unsealed roads and then into road function of arterial, industrial, collector, local, and minor. All road segments are then componentised into compacted sub-grade, pavement, sub-pavement and seal (where applicable). Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment. Council also assumes a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials.

Council categorises its bridges based on construction material. Bridge assets are componentised into abutment and pier, deck and superstructure, sub structure and safety barriers. The valuation is based on the material type used for construction and the deck and sub-structure area.

A full revaluation of Road & Bridge assets was undertaken by internal council experts effective 1 May 2022. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 6.9% as at 1st May 2023 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2023 quarter, and an index of 3.1% as at 1st May 2024 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2024 quarter. The next full valuation is planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

CRC of roads is based on the road area multiplied by a unit price; the unit price being an estimate of labour and material inputs, services costs, and overhead allocations. All valuations are based on construction being outsourced, with most unit rates for the calculation of CRC being based on the average of current periodic supply contract rates.

Residual values are disclosed in Note 3.4.

#### Drainage

A full revaluation of drainage assets was undertaken by internal council experts effective 1 May 2022. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 6.9% as at 1st May 2023 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2023 quarter, and an index of 3.1% as at 1st May 2024 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2024 quarter. The next full valuation is planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Consistent with roads, Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment and that a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials. CRC is based on the unit price for the component type. For pipes, the unit price is multiplied by the asset's length. The unit price for pipes is based on the asset location and construction material as well as the depth the pipe is laid.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.

#### (c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values Cont.

##### Flood Protection

A full revaluation of flood protections assets was undertaken by internal council experts effective 1 May 2021. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 5.8% as at 30th June 2022 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2022 quarter, an index of 6.9% as at 30th June 2023 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2023 quarter, and an index of 3.1% as at 1st May 2024 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2024 quarter. The next full valuation was planned for the 2023/24 financial year however due to resourcing issues and current capital works which can be used to inform future valuation rates, approval was given to extend the full valuation out to the 2024/25 financial year.

CRC of flood protection assets is based on assets type and construction material. For levee assets, the unit price is multiplied by the asset's length. The unit rates for levee assets are based on the construction material and height.

##### Refuse Disposal

A full revaluation of refuse assets was undertaken by internal council experts effective 1 May 2023. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 3.1% as at 1st May 2024 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2024 quarter. The next full valuation is planned for the 2025/26 financial year.

##### Parks

A full revaluation of parks assets was undertaken by internal council experts effective 1 May 2022. Since that date to ensure the current values represent fair value, Council have applied an index of 6.9% as at 1st May 2023 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2023 quarter, and an index of 3.1% as at 1st May 2024 using the Annual Hobart CPI for the March 2024 quarter. The next full valuation is planned for the 2024/2025 financial year.

#### (d) Unobservable inputs and sensitivities

Fair Value	\$,000	Valuation Technique	Key Unobservable Input	Effect of Change on Fair Value
Equity Investments	255,835	% of net assets	Value of net assets	Value will increase or decrease as the value of the invested companies moves.
Buildings	183,432	Market Valuation	Movements in market value	Value will increase or decrease with movements in market values
Roads	828,241	Input costs per m2	Input Costs	Value will increase or decrease with movements in input costs
Drainage	202,546	Replacement cost	Individual costs of replacement	Value will increase or decrease with movements in replacement cost
Parks and Recreation	42,859	Replacement cost	Individual costs of replacement	Value will increase or decrease with movements in replacement cost
Flood Protection	55,681	Replacement cost	Individual costs of replacement	Value will increase or decrease with movements in replacement cost
Refuse Disposal	55,263	Replacement cost	Individual costs of replacement	Value will increase or decrease with movements in replacement cost



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.

#### (e) Changes in recurring level 3 fair value measurements

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<i>Balance at beginning of reporting period</i>	1,406,660	1,302,911
Gain/loss recognised in comprehensive income	(16,007)	(17,668)
Gain/loss recognised in other comprehensive income-		
Equity Investments	46,408	106,917
Acquisitions	6,441	2,581
Disposals	(2,010)	(2,141)
Transfers into level 3	13,113	14,060
Transfers out of level 3	(14,181)	-
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>1,440,424</b>	<b>1,406,660</b>

#### (f) Valuation processes

Council's current policy for the valuation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment, equity investments and investment property (recurring fair value measurements) is set out in notes 5.1 and 6.1 respectively.

Non-recurring fair value measurements are made at the point of reclassification by a registered valuer.

The asset valuation is based on the asset replacement cost at the end of its useful life. The asset replacement cost is defined as the total project cost of the asset, which includes design, project management and construction costs including supply of all materials.

Valuations have been prepared with consideration of the current cost of delivering infrastructure projects, contractor rates, modern renewal / rehabilitation practice, asset componentisation and benchmarked rates. Except where stated below all valuations are performed utilising the Council's staff. The method of valuation is reviewed annually.

Asset Group	Basis of Valuation
<b>Drainage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rates per metre for various diameters of pipelines and include house connections and fittings allowance</li> <li>- Rates vary depending on whether beneath private or public land.</li> <li>- Manholes. identify number and allow for an average size</li> <li>- "Chamber Manholes". identify number and allow for an average size</li> <li>- Gully pits. identify number and allow for connections</li> <li>- No allowance for kerb adaptors or connections to kerbs</li> </ul>
<b>Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pavement (road sub base and base) m2</li> <li>- Kerb and Channel in metres left and right</li> <li>- Road surface m2</li> <li>- Footpath m2 left and right</li> <li>- Verge (includes guide posts, table drains, bollards as a count and guardrails in linear metres).</li> <li>- Street Light Poles valued individually (LCC's poles – those with only a light, as distinct from Aurora's – those with wires and a light).</li> </ul>
<b>Bridges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bridge – type includes timber, concrete and steel – for vehicles and or pedestrians in m2.</li> <li>- Culvert – includes box culverts in m2 or reinforced concrete pipe in diameter size and location.</li> </ul>

## **Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **Note 9.8 Fair Value Measurements Cont.**

**(f) Valuation processes cont.**

<b>Buildings</b>	- Independent market valuation.
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	- Improved grounds m <sup>2</sup> - Trees are based on a standard unit price - Fencing is valued based on a linear metre on material type - Furniture and fittings are based total number across facilities - Under surface based on m <sup>2</sup> - Playgrounds based on components and type of system
<b>Museum Collection</b>	- Independent expert valuation.

**(g) Assets and liabilities not measured at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed**

Council has assets and liabilities which are not measured at fair value, but for which fair values are disclosed in other notes.

Council borrowings are measured at amortised cost with interest recognised in comprehensive income when incurred. The fair value of borrowings disclosed in this note is provided by Tascorp (level 2).

The carrying amounts of trade receivables and trade payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature (Level 2).

### **9.9 Events occurring after balance date**

There were no events after the balance date that would materially affect any of the disclosed amounts.

## **Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **Note 10 Other Matters**

#### **10.1 Related Party Transactions**

##### **Accounting Standards Disclosures**

###### **AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures**

AASB 124 requires the disclosure of related party relationships, transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments.

###### **Related Parties**

The Council's Related Parties are those that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

For the reporting year Council has no Related Parties that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

###### **Key Management Personnel**

Key Management Personnel are those who, directly or indirectly, have authority for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council.

The Council has interpreted the definition of Key Management Personnel to include the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, General Manager (CEO) and the Executive Leadership Team.

##### **Local Government Act Disclosures**

###### **Councillor's Disclosure**

###### **Pecuniary Interests**

Councillors are required to disclose pecuniary interests in matters which come before the Council. In addition, under section 84(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Council is required to "specify any interests as notified to the General Manager of any Councillor in respect of any body or organisation with which the Council has major financial dealings."

###### **Allowances**

Section 72(1)(cb) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

###### **Remuneration of Senior Officers**

Section 72(1)(cd) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, requires the Council to report the total annual remuneration paid to employees who hold positions designated by the Council as senior positions. The Council has determined that senior positions comprise General Manager and Executive positions.

##### **Key Management Personnel Compensation**

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Councillors</b>		
Short Term Benefits (Allowances)	640	593
Short Term Benefits (Expenses)	16	19
	<u>657</u>	<u>612</u>
Long Term Benefits	-	-
	<u>657</u>	<u>612</u>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.1 Related Party Transactions Cont.

Senior Officers Remuneration	2024		2023	
	Number of Employees Actual	Annualised	Number of Employees Actual	Annualised
\$0 - \$20,000	1	-	1	-
\$20,001 - \$40,000	2	-	-	-
\$40,001 - \$60,000	-	-	1	-
\$60,001 - \$80,000	1	-	-	-
\$100,001 - \$120,000	1	-	-	-
\$120,001 - \$140,000	1	-	-	-
\$140,001 - \$160,000	1	-	-	-
\$160,001 - \$180,000	-	-	-	1
\$180,001 - \$200,000	1	2	1	1
\$200,001 - \$220,000	1	1	-	-
\$220,001 - \$240,000	1	2	1	2
\$240,001 - \$260,000	1	-	3	3
\$260,001 - \$280,000	-	1	-	-
\$300,001 - \$320,000	-	1	-	1
\$320,001 - \$340,000	-	-	1	-
	11	7	8	8

During the reporting year some executive roles were filled in an acting capacity which has resulted in a variance between the actual staff and the annualised amounts.

Also during the reporting year the role of Chief Infrastructure Officer was added to the Executive Leadership Team.

Senior Officers	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Short Term Benefits	1,449	1,373
Long Term Benefits	15	(3)
Post Employment Benefits	210	191
Termination Benefits	28	-
	1,702	1,561

#### Related Party Transactions Transactions

Sales of Goods and Services	14	7
Purchase of Goods and Services	512	731
Contributed Assets	-	369
	526	1,107
Loans to Key Management Personnel	-	-
Outstanding Balances owed by Key Management Personnel	-	-

#### Sales of Goods and Services

The Council provided goods and services to organisations that Key Management Personnel or their close associates have significant influence or control over during the reporting year. Sales totalled \$14,243 (2022/23 \$7,208). These transactions were at arms length and on normal commercial terms.

## **Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **10.1 Related Party Transactions Cont.**

#### **Purchase of Goods and Services**

The Council purchased goods and services from organisations that Key Management Personnel or their close associates have significant influence or control over during the reporting year.

Purchases totalled \$511,708, (2022/23 \$731,042). These transactions were at arms length and on normal commercial terms or through open tender.

#### **Contributed Assets**

Key Management Personnel contributed assets to the value of \$0 (2022/23 \$369,000)

#### **Ordinary Citizen Transactions**

The City of Launceston enters into transactions with Key Management Personnel and their Related Parties within a normal customer relationship i.e. payments of rates, dog registration and the use of facilities such as car parks. These transactions are at arms length on terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to the broader community.

These transactions are not included in these disclosures.

### **10.2 Special Committees**

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>2024 \$'000</b>	<b>2023 \$'000</b>
Dilston Hall	8	8
Lebrina Progress Association	18	17
Balance - 30 June	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>
<b>Summary of Special Committees</b>		
Balance 1 July	25	19
Receipts	2	6
Expenses	(2)	-
Balance 30 June	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>

### **10.3 Interest in Other Entities**

#### **Launceston Flood Authority**

This is a Single Authority set up under section 30 of the Local Government Act 1993.

This Authority was formed by Council resolution on 1 September 2008 and was established by gazettal on 10 September 2008. The authority was established to "...perform all tasks necessary for the construction and maintenance of flood levees, to initiate and manage effective emergency management procedures and to take all necessary measures, so as to address the flood risk to the 'flood risk area'".

The Authority is 100% owned by Council and holds no assets in its own name.



**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**10.3 Interest in Other Entities Cont.**

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue and Expenses		
Revenue		
State Government Grants	643	613
Launceston City Council	182	182
Other Income	45	17
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>812</b>
Expenses		
Operations Costs	364	309
Depreciation	622	594
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>903</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(115)</b>	<b>(91)</b>
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	675	21
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(790)</b>	<b>(112)</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.4 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Pending Accounting Standards

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(a) Taxation

Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax, Land Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

*Goods and services tax (GST)*

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST) except for the case of receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(b) Impairment of non-financial assets

At each reporting date, Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired.

If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value.

Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

For non-cash generating assets of Council such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the depreciated value of the asset approximated by its written down replacement cost.

(c) Allocation between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled.

The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next twelve months, being Council's operational cycle, or if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

(d) Financial guarantees

Financial guarantee contracts are recognised as a liability at the time the guarantee is issued.

The liability is initially measured at fair value, and if there is material increase in the likelihood that the guarantee may have to be exercised, at the higher of the amount determined in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets and the amount initially recognised less cumulative amortisation, where appropriate. In the determination of fair value, consideration is given to factors including the probability of default by the guaranteed party and the likely loss to Council in the event of default.

At the reporting date Council had no financial guarantee contracts.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.4 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Pending Accounting Standards Cont.

#### (e) Contingent assets, contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value inclusive of the GST payable.

At the reporting date Council had no contingent assets or liabilities.

#### (f) Budget

The estimated revenue and expense amounts in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income represent revised budget amounts and are not audited.

#### (g) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards

In the current year, Council has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

#### (h) Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2024 reporting periods. Council's assessment of the impact of the relevant new standards and interpretations is set out below.

##### **Accounting Standard AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements (Appendix D)**

This Standard sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in the statement(s) of financial performance, the statement of financial position and the statement of changes in equity. This Standard also sets out requirements for the disclosure of information in the notes. AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows sets out requirements for the presentation and disclosure of cash flow information. However, the general requirements for financial statements in paragraphs 9-43 and 113-114 apply to the statement of cash flows.

There are no material effects expected from the adoption of this standard.

##### **Accounting Standard AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback**

This Standard amends AASB 16 to add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements in AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers to be accounted for as a sale.

Council does not now or expect to have any sale and leaseback arrangements.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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### 10.4 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Pending Accounting Standards Cont.

#### (h) Pending Accounting Standards Cont.

##### Accounting Standard AASB 2022-10

##### Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

This Standard amends AASB 13, including adding authoritative implementation guidance and providing related illustrative examples, for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

There are no material effects expected from the adoption of this standard.

##### Accounting Standard AASB 2023-1

##### Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Supplier Finance

This Standard amends AASB 107 and AASB 7 to require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance arrangements. The additional information will enable users of financial statements to assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities, cash flows and exposure to liquidity risk.

Council does not now or expect to have any supplier finance arrangements.

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**10.5 Significant Business Activities**

The operating capital and competitive neutrality costs of the Council's significant business activities:

	Off Street Parking		Launceston Aquatic		LA fit		Building Surveying and Certification	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>								
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
User Charges	3,590	3,526	3,632	3,776	1,517	1,604	582	616
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>3,526</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>3,776</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>616</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>								
<b>Direct</b>								
Employee Costs	175	171	2,470	2,136	507	435	427	301
Materials and Contacts	187	196	904	713	101	84	27	13
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utilities	47	59	467	460	24	14	-	-
<b>Indirect</b>								
Engineering and Administration	604	526	382	297	58	75	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>3,606</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>314</b>



**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**10.5 Significant Business Activities Cont.**

	Off Street Parking		Launceston Aquatic		LA fit		Building Surveying and Certification	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>								
<b>Capital Costs</b>								
Depreciation and amortisation	480	452	1,075	1,004	7	40	7	6
Opportunity cost of capital	2,701	2,159	1,985	1,760	3	6	3	3
Total Capital Costs	3,181	2,611	3,060	2,764	10	46	10	9
<b>Competitive neutrality adjustments</b>								
Rates and land tax	156	151	91	88	7	7	-	-
Full Cost Attribution	212	204	81	78	84	81	84	79
	368	355	172	166	91	88	84	79
<b>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(972)	(392)	(3,823)	(2,760)	726	862	34	214
Tax Equivalent rate	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%
Taxation equivalent	519	530	-	-	219	260	11	64
<b>Competitive neutrality costs</b>	887	885	172	166	310	348	95	143
<b>Net Result Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,491)</b>	<b>(922)</b>	<b>(3,823)</b>	<b>(2,760)</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>150</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.5 Significant Business Activities Cont.

#### Accounting policy

##### Significant Business Activities

##### Competition Policy Compliance

Section 84(2)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the Council's financial statements to contain a statement of the "operating, capital and competitive neutrality costs" in respect of each significant business activity.

The Act also requires specific disclosure of 'significant business activities'.

The Tasmanian Government guidelines for Significant Business identifies a Business Activity as one that operates in a competitive market.

Determining factors on whether the Council activity is significant include, but are not limited to:

- The relevant market

- The size of the local government activity compared to the whole market

- The competitive impact of the Council's activity in the market.

##### Significant Business Activities

The Council conducted a review during the year to identify any significant business activities.

The activities disclosed below have been identified as Significant Business Activities.

The following items have been disclosed:

##### Labour Costs

Labour costs have been discounted by a factor of 20.58% for the variance between private and public sector average weekly ordinary time earnings.

Superannuation costs have been adjusted to the 11% Superannuation Guarantee Levy.

##### Full Cost Attribution

Service costs applied to all the Council's operations in respect of internal services provided (e.g. accounting and computer support).

##### Competitive Neutrality Costs

Notional charges for expenses not normally incurred by Councils (e.g. council rates). As these costs are not actually incurred, the Council's "General Public Services" function has been credited with collection of these notional items.

##### Notional Income Tax

Notional income tax has been applied at the rate of 30% against accounting profit (excluding abnormal asset valuation adjustments) for significant business activities. The amounts are notional only as the entity is exempt from income tax.

##### Capital Costs

Depreciation has been allocated to functional areas within the operating statement. The notional opportunity cost of capital employed in respect of the function has been noted at the foot of the statement for significant business activities. It has been calculated by applying a rate of 5% to net assets employed.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.6 Management Indicators

	2024	2023	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(a) Underlying surplus or (deficit)</b>				
Net result for the year	9,551	4,103	17,186	(36,803)
Less non-operating income				
FAG in Advance - Current Year	(4,534)	(5,283)	(3,485)	(2,353)
FAG in Advance - Prior Year	5,283	3,485	2,353	2,235
Grants for New or Upgraded Assets	(8,753)	(8,522)	(17,260)	(3,687)
Grants for Renewal of Assets	(4,367)	(2,859)	(2,261)	(2,258)
Bequests	(155)	(141)	(121)	(115)
Add non-operational expenses				
Unscheduled Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	1,218	2,742	2,352	2,466
Organisational Restructure Redundancies	-	-	-	60
Covid 19 Pandemic Costs	-	120	283	2,823
Flood Recovery	-	1,411	-	-
Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan	4,500	1,500	-	-
Contribution				
Impairment Loss	72	-	-	-
Emergency Repairs of Private Infrastructure	937	-	-	-
Museum revaluation adjustment	-	-	-	34,523
<b>Underlying surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>3,752</b>	<b>(3,444)</b>	<b>(953)</b>	<b>(3,109)</b>
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The intent of the underlying result is to show the outcome of a council's normal or usual day to day operations.

#### Comment

Council returned an underlying surplus of \$3.752m, against an initial unamended budgeted underlying deficit approved by Council in June 2023 of \$0.681m.

Council's contribution to the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan of \$4.500m, has been excluded from this result along with a number of other variations, as outlined above.

Stronger than budgeted growth in Rates, Statutory Fees and Fees, User Fees and Investment Revenue along with favourable budget variances in Employee Benefits (due to staff vacancies) and Depreciation were the key drivers behind the favourable result when compared with the initial budget. Materials & Services showed a significant unfavourable variance to budget though, as Council deals with ongoing inflationary pressures and unexpected costs which arise during the course of the year. A detailed analysis of material budget variations can be found at Note 1.5.

#### (b) Underlying surplus ratio

Underlying surplus (Deficit)	3,752	(3,444)	(953)	(3,109)
Recurrent Income	138,102	129,468	118,168	111,000
Underlying surplus (Deficit)				
Underlying surplus ratio %	3%	-3%	-1%	-3%
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 10.6 Management Indicators Cont.

This ratio serves as an overall measure of financial operating effectiveness.

#### Comment

Recurrent income growth is strong, however many items of Council expenditure have increased in cost as outlined throughout this report. Council has a benchmark of greater than 0% in its Long Term Financial Plan, with an ideal Underlying Surplus annually of \$1m.

(c) Net financial liabilities	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Liquid assets less	84,740	100,884	86,293	90,005
Total liabilities	47,797	66,483	64,038	75,658
Net financial liabilities	36,942	34,401	22,255	14,347
<b>Benchmark</b>	0	0	0	0

This measure shows whether Council's total liabilities can be met by its liquid assets. An excess of total liabilities over liquid assets means that, if all liabilities fell due at once, additional revenue would be needed to fund the shortfall.

#### Comment

Council retains a strong balance sheet and liquidity position. Council remains in position to be able to meet ongoing liabilities as they fall due, through recurrent operational income. However, Council has significant obligations for future asset renewals that need to be provided for. During the year, Council paid back \$20m in loans. The only loan owed by Council (\$6m) is due for repayment in 2024/2025.

d) Net financial liabilities ratio	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Net financial liabilities	36,942	34,401	22,255	14,347
Recurrent income	138,102	129,468	118,168	111,000
<b>Benchmark</b>	0% - (50%)	0% - (50%)	0% - (50%)	0% - (50%)
Net financial liabilities ratio %	27%	27%	19%	13%

This ratio indicates the net financial obligations of Council compared to its recurrent income.

#### Comment

Council retains a strong balance sheet and liquidity position. Council remains in position to be able to meet ongoing liabilities as they fall due, through recurrent operational income. However, Council has significant obligations for future asset renewals that need to be provided for.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Note 10.6 Management Indicators Cont.

#### (e) Asset consumption ratio

An asset consumption ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>Transport Infrastructure</b>				
<u>Fair value (Carrying Amount)</u>	828,241	805,582	757,410	650,457
Current replacement cost (Gross)	1,297,502	1,254,533	1,167,957	1,002,735
<b>Benchmark</b>	>60%	>60%	>60%	>60%
Asset consumption ratio %	64%	64%	65%	65%
<b>Buildings</b>				
<u>Fair value (Carrying Amount)</u>	183,432	220,749	210,410	185,892
Current replacement cost (Gross)	336,375	376,986	350,987	302,777
<b>Benchmark</b>	>60%	>60%	>60%	>60%
Asset consumption ratio %	55%	59%	60%	61%
<b>Drainage</b>				
<u>Fair value (Carrying Amount)</u>	202,546	197,023	184,240	179,838
Current replacement cost (Gross)	304,146	293,405	272,406	264,181
<b>Benchmark</b>	>60%	>60%	>60%	>60%
Asset consumption ratio %	67%	67%	68%	68%

This ratio indicates the level of service potential available in Council's existing asset base.

#### Comment

Given the age profile of Launceston as a city and many of Council's assets, it is expected that Council will be near the stipulated benchmark for this ratio. An increase in funding for Council's Buildings assets is noted in the Asset Funding Renewal ratio from 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, this highlights the emphasis placed on ensuring this asset class is fit for purpose. Council is constantly reviewing asset data and ensuring levels of service are in line with the adopted Strategic Asset Management Plan.



## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.6 Management Indicators Cont.

#### (f) Asset renewal funding ratio

An asset renewal funding ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>Transport Infrastructure</b>				
<u>Projected capital funding outlays**</u>	85,380	72,855	75,180	82,158
Projected capital expenditure funding***	85,380	72,855	75,180	82,158
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>
Asset renewal funding ratio %	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Buildings</b>				
<u>Projected capital funding outlays**</u>	34,002	19,672	10,257	10,662
Projected capital expenditure funding***	34,002	19,672	10,257	10,662
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>
Asset renewal funding ratio %	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Drainage</b>				
<u>Projected capital funding outlays**</u>	1,500	1,625	1,525	3,410
Projected capital expenditure funding***	1,500	1,625	1,525	3,410
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>	<b>90-100%</b>
Asset renewal funding ratio %	100%	100%	100%	100%

\*\* Current value of projected capital funding outlays for an asset identified in Council's long-term financial plan.

\*\*\* Value of projected capital expenditure funding for an asset identified in Council's long-term strategic asset management plan.

This ratio measures Council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements.

#### Comment

Council annually reviews both its Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan. There is a high degree of coordination between the two, to ensure consistency of information and that the funding requirements as identified in the Strategic Asset Management Plan can be accommodated within the Long Term Financial Plan. Council seeks to fully fund renewal of all assets which are identified for renewal in its Strategic Asset Management Plan.

## Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 10.6 Management Indicators Cont.

#### (g) Asset sustainability ratio

Capex on replacement/renewal of existing	18,508	10,668	12,337	16,552
Annual depreciation expense	25,678	26,978	24,940	23,359
<b>Benchmark</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
Asset sustainability ratio %	72%	40%	49%	71%

This ratio calculates the extent to which Council is maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base.

#### Comment

Council seeks to strike a balance between the need to renew and replace its existing infrastructure and assets, while catering for community needs and expectations that new infrastructure and assets be provided as the municipality continues to grow and diversify. Many capital projects undertaken are a hybrid of renewal/replacement and new works.

2024	Capital renewal expenditure	Capital new/ upgrade expenditure	Total Capital Expenditure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	-	37	37
Buildings	3,038	5,060	8,098
Transport Infrastructure	7,167	579	7,746
Stormwater and Drainage	1,182	477	1,659
Plant	624	215	839
Other	6,497	3,601	10,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,508</b>	<b>9,969</b>	<b>28,476</b>
<b>2023</b>			
Land	-	23	23
Buildings	1,243	2,916	4,159
Transport Infrastructure	5,833	356	6,189
Stormwater and Drainage	326	1,328	1,654
Plant	1,582	177	1,759
Other	1,684	2,520	4,204
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,668</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>17,988</b>

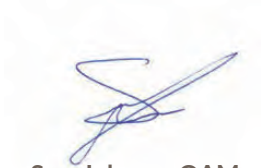
#### Comment

Through the Strategic Asset Management Plan, Council develops its annual capital works program to ensure that decisions are data driven and well informed, but also in line with community expectations. Council saw a significant increase in capital expenditure from the prior year, a testament to the number of projects and works which are ongoing within the City of Launceston. Some significant projects undertaken during the year include; the Albert Hall Upgrade and Refurbishment, the Birch Avenue Facilities Upgrades, Tennis Centre Upgrades, Launceston Aquatic Air Handling Unit Replacement, Newnham Creek Stabilisation, Launceston City Heart design works, Flood Levee upgrades, Road Safety Centre refurbishments and various works at the Launceston Waste Centre.

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**Certification of the Financial Report**

The financial report presents fairly the financial position of the City of Launceston as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.



**Sam Johnson OAM  
General Manager**

**Date :** 17/09/2024



**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**To the Councillors of Launceston City Council**  
**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of Launceston City Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the General Manager.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report, the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 10.6f, nor the Significant Business Activities disclosed in note 10.5 to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

**Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
<p><b>Valuation of property and infrastructure assets</b> <i>Refer to notes 6.1 and 9.8</i></p>	
<p>At 30 June 2024, Council’s assets including land, land under roads, buildings, and infrastructure assets, such as roads, drainage, parks and recreation, flood protection, and refuse disposal assets were valued at fair value totalling \$1.99 billion. The fair values of these assets are based on market value or current replacement cost.</p> <p>Council undertakes formal revaluations on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. In between valuations, Council considers the application of indexation to ensure the carrying values reflect fair values.</p> <p>During 2023-24, Council undertook a full revaluation of land and land under roads assets. Indexation was applied to buildings, roads, drainage, parks and recreation, flood protection, and refuse disposal assets. The valuations were determined by experts and are highly dependent upon a range of assumptions and estimated unit rates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing the scope, expertise and independence of experts involved in the valuations.</li> <li>• Evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodology applied to determine fair values.</li> <li>• Critically assessed assumptions and other key inputs into the valuation model.</li> <li>• Testing, on a sample basis, the mathematical accuracy of the valuation model calculations.</li> <li>• Evaluating indexation applied to assets between formal valuations.</li> <li>• Evaluating the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.</li> </ul>

**Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report**

The General Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the General Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the General Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the General Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



David Bond  
**Assistant Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

18 September 2024  
Hobart

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Carr Villa  
Photo credit: Rob Burnett
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The Corrs Concert, University of Tasmania  
Stadium - 4 November 2023  
Photo credit: City of Launceston

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Aerial image - Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre  
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Brandon Murphy, Winner in Excellence Achieved by a Health and Safety Representative category – 2023 WorkSafe Tasmania Awards  
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Peter Frazer OAM, Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) group and Mayor Matthew Garwood  
Photo credit: City of Launceston
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Carr Villa Cemetery  
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Cataract Gorge Swimming Pool  
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Harvest Market  
Photo credit: Renee Hodskiss Photography
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Walking the Esplanade  
Photo credit: Nick Hanson Visuals
- **Back Cover Image**  
Aerial image - Launceston City Park  
Photo credit: Nick Hanson Visuals



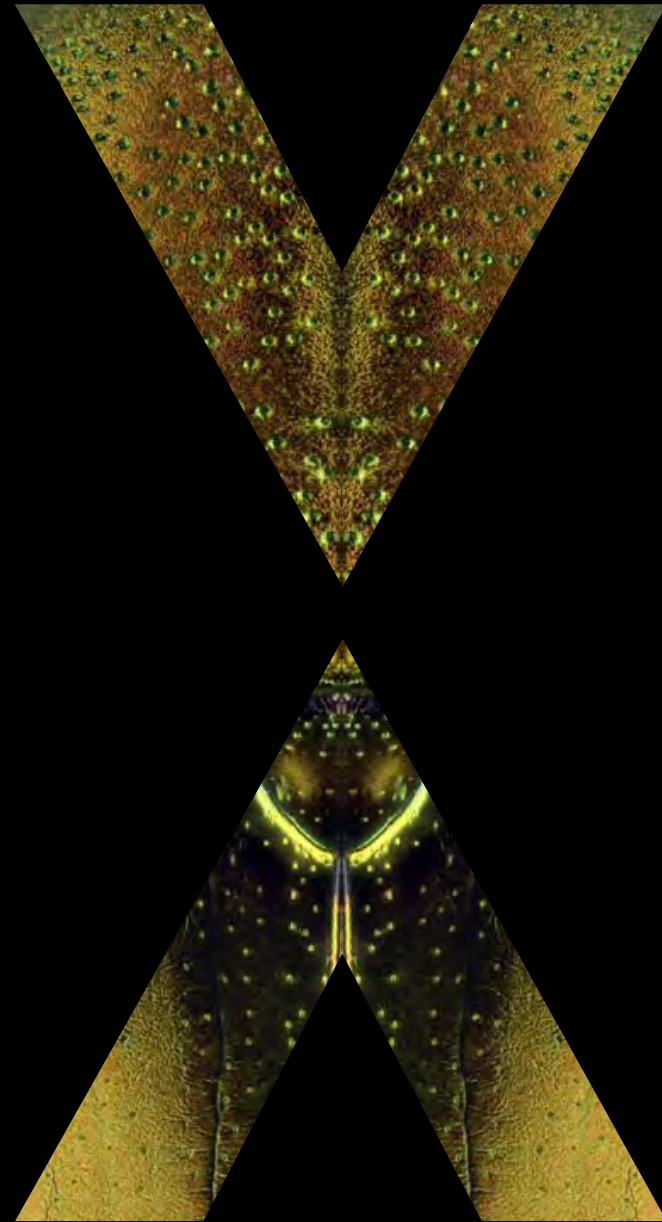
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QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

**2023 – 2024**  
ANNUAL REPORT



*We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we work and live, the Stoney Creek Nation, made up of at least three clans – Tyerenotepanner, Panninher and Lettermairrener.*

*The Stoney Creek Nation clans lived along the riverways in harmony with the seasons for several thousand generations, and today they are remembered as the Traditional Owners of this land.*

*We celebrate the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders of all communities who also work and live on this land.*

Ballawinne stone and ochre,  
Tomahawk, Tasmania.

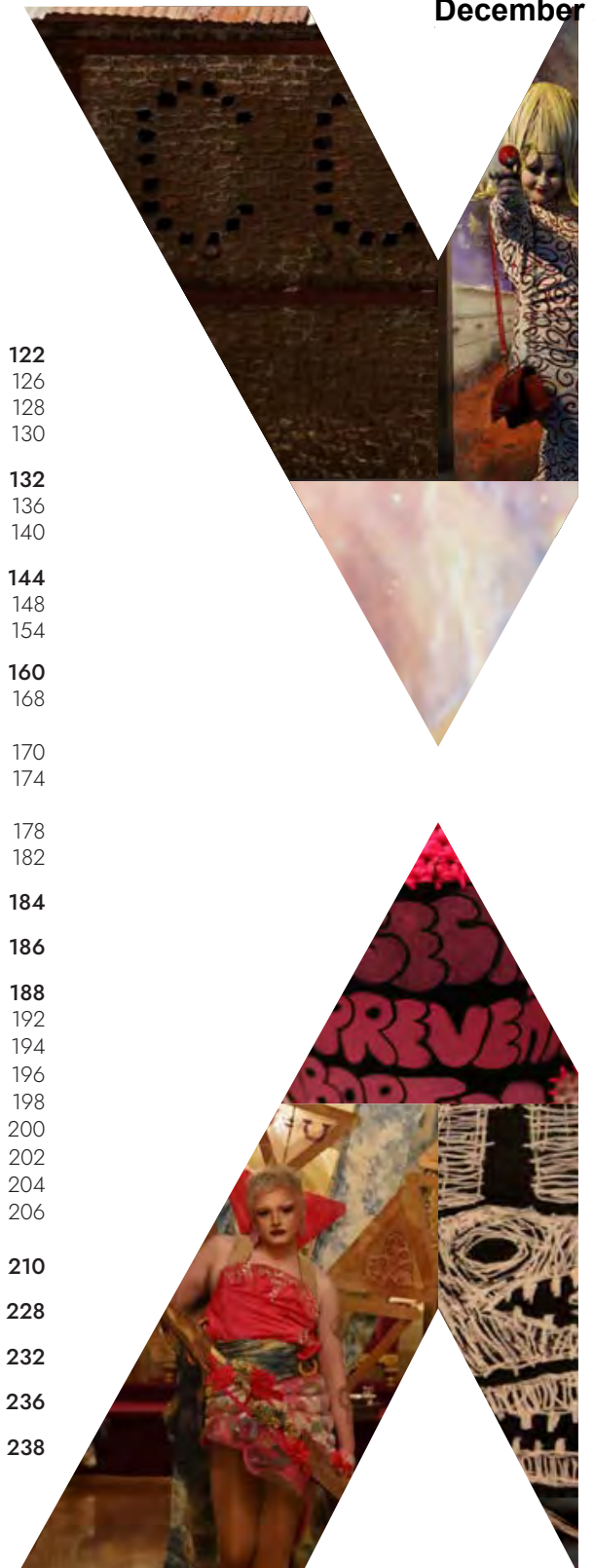
Photo: David Mangenner Gough  
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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2023/24 has been another significant year of progress and achievement for the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG).

Now into the second year of implementing the QVMAG *Futures Plan* endorsed by the City of Launceston in June 2022, we can see that the effort put into strategic development is paying dividends. By almost any measure, the institution is succeeding in its charter.

During the reporting period, 153,803 people came through the doors at the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum at Inveresk, the second-highest visitation number on record.

Through its innovative exhibitions, incredible collection and exciting events, QVMAG has delivered another year of great experiences for the Launceston community and for people visiting the region.

Beyond the physical location, access to the new 3D collection online, social media and video content has extended the institution's reach even further.

This year, I was lucky to enjoy so many of the offerings in the QVMAG program first-hand. The brilliant *Wetlands* exhibition explored the important role of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary in the local ecosystem, supporting our community's active and ongoing conversation around these issues.

The annual student art exhibitions *ArtStart* and *ArtRage* continued to encourage young people to pursue their talents and develop their art practice through the experience of having their work on show to the public. And audiences flocked to the Planetarium for the long-running *Dark Side of the Moon*, celebrating 50 years since Pink Floyd's iconic album launch.

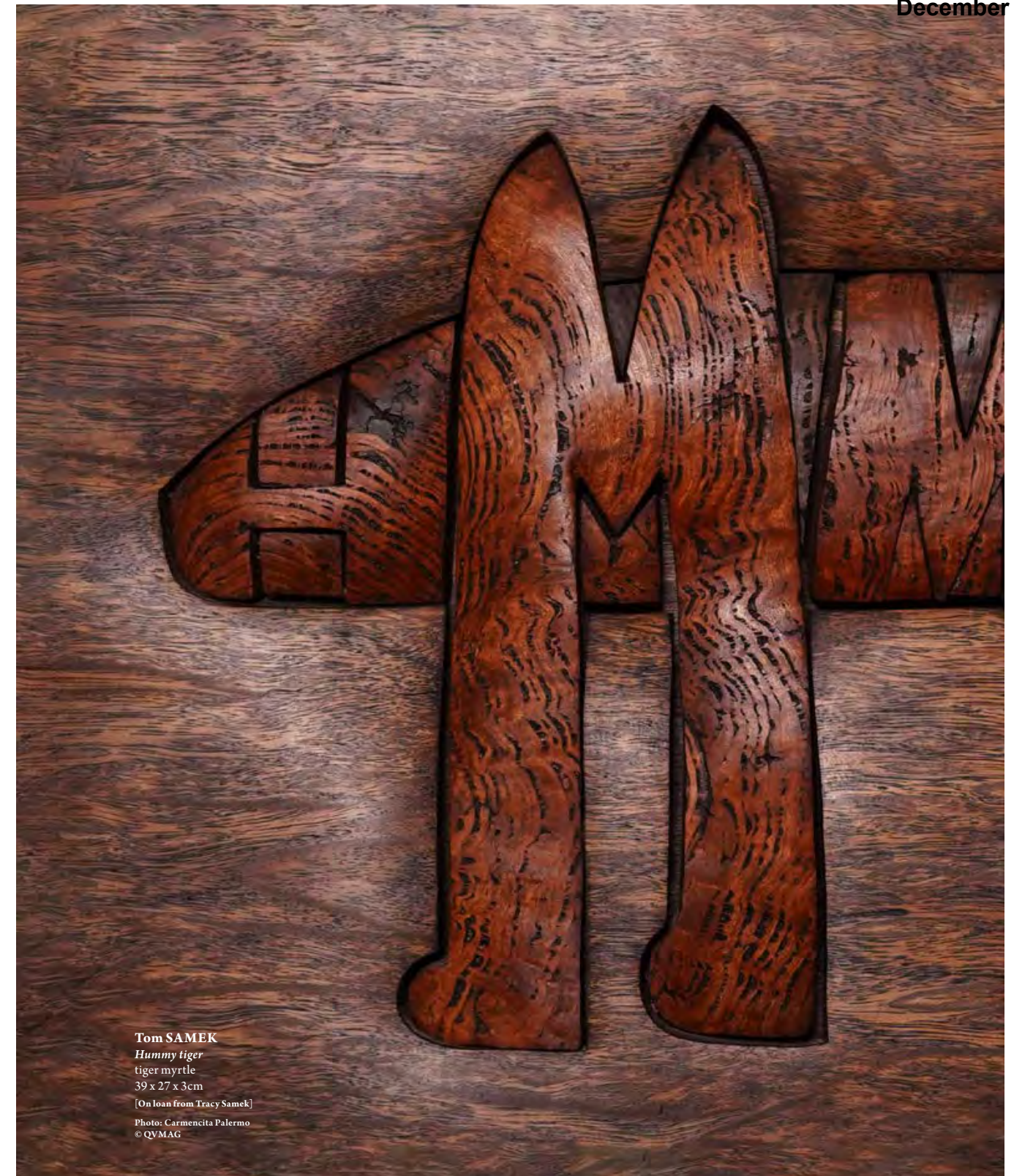
Touring exhibitions exclusive to QVMAG were a major drawcard for Tasmanians and visitors to the island, including the blockbuster interactive family experience *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* and *Action! Film and War* on tour from the Australian War Memorial, an eye-opening look behind the lens of journalism in war-torn regions.

Community outreach was also a key focus, with QVMAG programming supporting Lunar New Year, NAIDOC Week, Pride Month and more, helping to create "an accessible cultural institution of, by and for all culture", a key objective identified in the *Futures Plan*.

There is a deep relationship between QVMAG and the community of northern Tasmania that will continue to grow for generations to come. It is our cultural heart and I encourage everyone to make the most of it and experience what's on offer.

Congratulations to everyone involved in achieving a milestone year on many fronts. I look forward to seeing what's next for this iconic Tasmanian institution.

**Matthew Garwood**  
Mayor  
City of Launceston







Exhibition image of *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* at the Museum at Inveresk  
Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The 2023/24 financial year has been an exciting year of growth for the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG).

During the reporting period, QVMAG achieved its second-highest level of visitation on record. Behind these top line results is a range of organisational achievements.

In 2023/24, the institution delivered more exhibitions, engaged more schools, recorded more new species in Tasmania, attracted more visitors to its website and benefitted from more volunteer hours.

However, QVMAG's value to the community goes beyond the numbers in the Annual Report.

Since joining the City of Launceston as CEO at the start of the new financial year, my early conversations with leadership, elected officials of the City and the wider community reveal that everyone has a story of connection to QVMAG.

As the largest cultural institution located in regional Australia – and the third oldest in the country – QVMAG has a unique responsibility to deliver great outcomes for its community.

The City of Launceston recently endorsed the *QVMAG Strategic Plan 2023-28*, along with the 15 strategic frameworks that underpin it, covering all aspects of the institution's operations, from accessibility and inclusion to sustainability. These important documents define the way forward, ensuring that QVMAG will be well positioned to meet its challenges and capitalise on opportunities. They also focus on measurable outcomes, setting out the milestones to be reached over the next five years. I have every confidence that these outcomes can be delivered.

Cultural institutions are vital for the health and vibrancy of our community. We want the City of Launceston to be the best possible place to live, work and do business – and to be recognised as a unique destination for Tasmanian, Australian and international visitors.

The last financial year's results show that QVMAG continues to play a critical role in supporting the City's *Cultural Strategy 2020-2030*.

This is a good news story, and I commend the entire QVMAG team, volunteers and partners who have delivered these outstanding results for the community. I am delighted to present this year's Annual Report and look forward to the year ahead.

**Sam Johnson**

Chief Executive Officer  
City of Launceston



## QVMAG OVERVIEW

Following from the historically significant results attained in the 2022/23 reporting period, QVMAG has realised another highly successful year of achievement across all areas of activity marking it as both a continuance of the strategic shift in programmatic and artistic direction undertaken in the past two years, but further establishes the 2023/24 outcomes as the second highest on record for visitation, and in some areas of activity eclipsing all records to date.

A total of 153,803 participants engaged with a QVMAG experience during the reporting period across several initiatives spanning exhibitions, public programs, education, research and physical outreach activities.

QVMAG remains the premier cultural destination in northern Tasmania attracting and engaging more visitation than the total population of the Greater Launceston region twice over, and more than the population of the entire Tamar Valley region [figure 1].

The importance of this impressive milestone cannot be overstated as it places QVMAG as the most visited cultural destination in northern Tasmania, and demonstrates without any doubt, that northern Tasmanian communities value, are entitled to, and will support high-quality cultural experiences.

Further, it highlights the critical role the institution plays as a key contributor in Tasmania's cultural offering, establishing a distinct point of difference and cultural destination of substance as part of a broader holistic portfolio within what is recognised as a uniquely Tasmanian experience.

This is further supported when considering that whilst falling 4,460 visitors short of the record achievement of the year prior, in every aspect the 2023/24 visitation result signifies a profound shift in the development and delivery of high quality and relevant programming that clearly resonated with audiences, and community, like never before.

The 2023/24 visitation result was achieved without the inclusion of an annual blockbuster exhibition such as the *Archies 100* which attracted 16,048 visitors, and in the support of community initiatives such as the Niche Markets which attracted over 5,000 visitors during the two museum hosted iterations of the markets in 2022/23.

Of the 45 exhibitions presented during 2023/24 (an increase from the 43 presented in the year prior) the QVMAG developed *Wetlands* exhibition proved popular with a staggering 50,291 visitors recorded to the exhibition during its display period.

Complex multidisciplinary projects, such as *Wetlands*, require twelve to twenty-four months in development and the realisation of these projects during the reporting period provide a demonstrable achievement in the institution's commitment in the delivery of high-quality cultural experiences that engage and inspire audiences - be they local, national or international visitors.

They are also deeply satisfying to present as they not only represent stories of our region, they're also a testament to the professionalism of the QVMAG team in the provision of local content, local product and local creative/cultural practice.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total number of Exhibitions	43	45
Total general visitation Exhibitions	120,353	118,207
Total number Public Programs	1,094	1,026
Total visitation Public Programs	29,304	27,713
Total number Education Programs	390	348
Total visitation Education Programs	8,606	7,883
Total number Volunteers	61	64
Total Volunteer Hours contributed	2,442	2,770
Total Marketing and Communications reach	5,291,229	12,363,927
Total \$ Donations / Bequests / Grants	\$1,859,564	\$567,203
Total \$ Commercial Result	\$872,732	\$655,198
Total Enquiries / Inquiries	4,959	2,666
Total number Acquisitions	263	135
Total \$ Acquisitions	\$876,515	\$208,592
<b>Grand Total number Programs</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>1,374</b>
<b>Grand Total Visitation</b>	<b>158,263</b>	<b>153,803</b>



The successes achieved by QVMAG during the reporting period are not merely confined to the overall quantitative visitation results. Milestone records have been realised across several key priority areas during the year, including impressive qualitative results which will embed future creative and cultural development through initiatives that spanned governance strategies, institutional structural realignment, collections management and facility renewal.

Key among these was the development and delivery of a holistic suite of strategic instruments that underpin the institution's development initiatives from 2023 to 2028.

Representing 18 months of research, consultation and engagement the completion of the *QVMAG Strategic Plan 2023-28*, and the supporting 15 *Strategic Frameworks*, provide the institution with a platform through which to develop relevant and best practice strategies and processes across all areas of activity within the cultural environment.

The *Strategic Instruments* are a contemporary and innovative institutionally focused suite of initiatives that complement, and are aligned with, the objectives of the *Futures Plan*, respond to the findings of the QVMAG Service Level Review, and meet the aspirations of community, industry and the cultural sector as outlined in the Audience Segmentation and Surveying undertaken.

Further detail on the *Strategic Instruments* is outlined further in the Annual Report.

2023/24 represented the second reporting period implementation of the QVMAG brand as we focused on embedding QVMAG through identified key market audiences locally, nationally and internationally, with a suite of highly visible, always on creative campaign activations.

The past 12 months have celebrated a wide range of audience and brand growth goals and milestones being achieved by the institution, with all media, marketing and communication activations throughout this period ensuring clear alignment to the strategic objectives outlined in the endorsed *Futures Plan*.

Total reach for QVMAG marketing and communications programs more than doubled from 5.3 million to 12.3 million in 2023/24, a 132% increase from the year prior and an historical milestone for the institution.

Momentum in the development and delivery of a diverse exhibitions program continued throughout the reporting period with pleasing results realised across a number of key milestones. A total of 45 exhibitions were delivered across our two sites, the Museum at Inveresk and the Art Gallery at Royal Park, with a continued focus in showcasing, supporting and celebrating living practitioners.

Through the exhibitions program 175 living practitioners were engaged throughout 2023/24 representing a 40% increase. Significant increases across temporary exhibitions, education exhibitions, Collection exhibitions and local component exhibitions were similarly realised during the reporting period and are discussed further in the Exhibitions section of the Annual Report.

Engagement featured heavily throughout the year with a commitment in the development and delivery of authentic, relevant and experiential initiatives throughout our education activities, public programs and events.

The reporting period saw a total of 68 practitioners and community members from all over Tasmania engaged by QVMAG in delivering institutional programs with the focus of developing new audiences while providing local content to enhance informal learning activities and further define our place-based programs.

This continued strategic focus on engaging with living practitioners (producers) not only employed, supported and nurtured our region's creative economy but clearly resonated with audiences and the community alike. During 2023/24, a staggering 1,026 public programs were delivered to 27,713 participants.

Similar results were realised in our Planetarium, reaching another historical record with over 13,532 people attending shows during the reporting period. Key amongst the Planetarium programming for 2023/24 proved to be the popular *Dark Side of the Moon: A Pink Floyd Experience*, commemorating the 50th anniversary release of Pink Floyd's iconic album with a limited global Planetarium experience of which QVMAG selected as one of only 100 international venues to host this unique experience.

QVMAG is an extraordinary cultural institution actively engaged in the development of creative, cultural, research, and educational initiatives throughout our community, Tasmania, Australia and globally. The institution is part of, and participates in, a global network of sectors, industries and communities in an ever-increasingly connected global community.

A key focus of development for QVMAG during the reporting period included strengthening and delivering bona fide outreach programs across our services to enable increased access to the institution for those who are unable to physically visit our sites.

Whilst not measured as a visitation metric in this Annual Report, it is important to note that in a contemporaneous global community, cultural institutions worldwide emphasise genuine and authentic outreach engagement as a measure of visitation and accessibility. These measures span a diverse suite of platforms including digital, research, and off-site physical engagements.

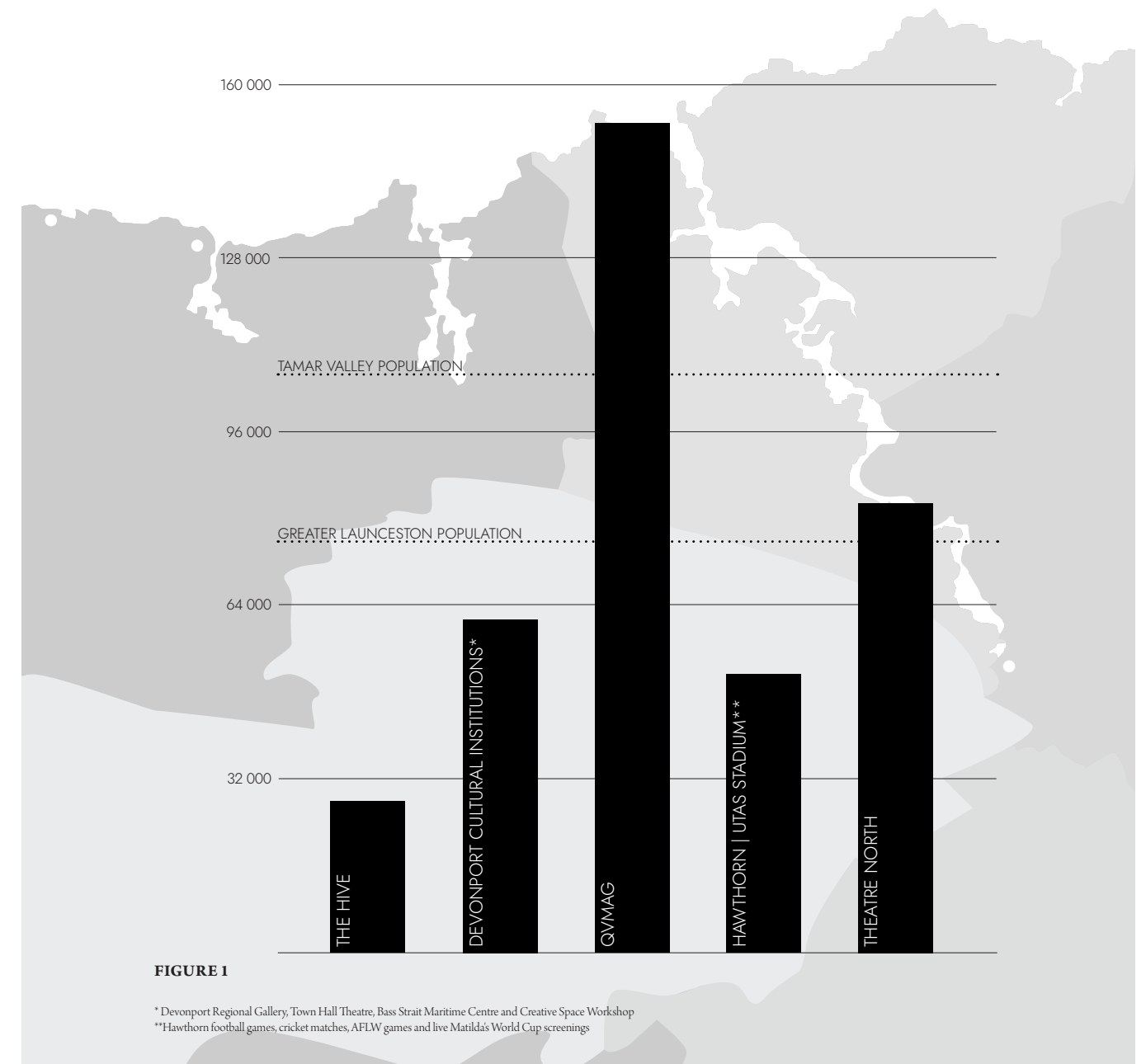
As QVMAG further refines and implements outreach programs to broader audiences world-wide we will summarise and measure these achievements in future reports. Outreach is discussed further as a special In Focus section summarising the significant developments achieved during 2023/24.

There is much to celebrate through the outcomes attained during the reporting period, and from every perspective 2023/24 proved to be another year of historical record-achieving success across the institution and I wish to congratulate the team at QVMAG for their collective passion, professionalism and commitment.

To our patrons, stakeholders, partners and to those members of the Launceston community who "discovered" QVMAG for the first time, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at a QVMAG experience in the future.

**Shane Fitzgerald**  
General Manager  
Creative Arts and Cultural Services

## CULTURAL BENCHMARKS 2023/2024 VISITATION





8,624  
COLLECTION  
OBJECTS  
EXHIBITED



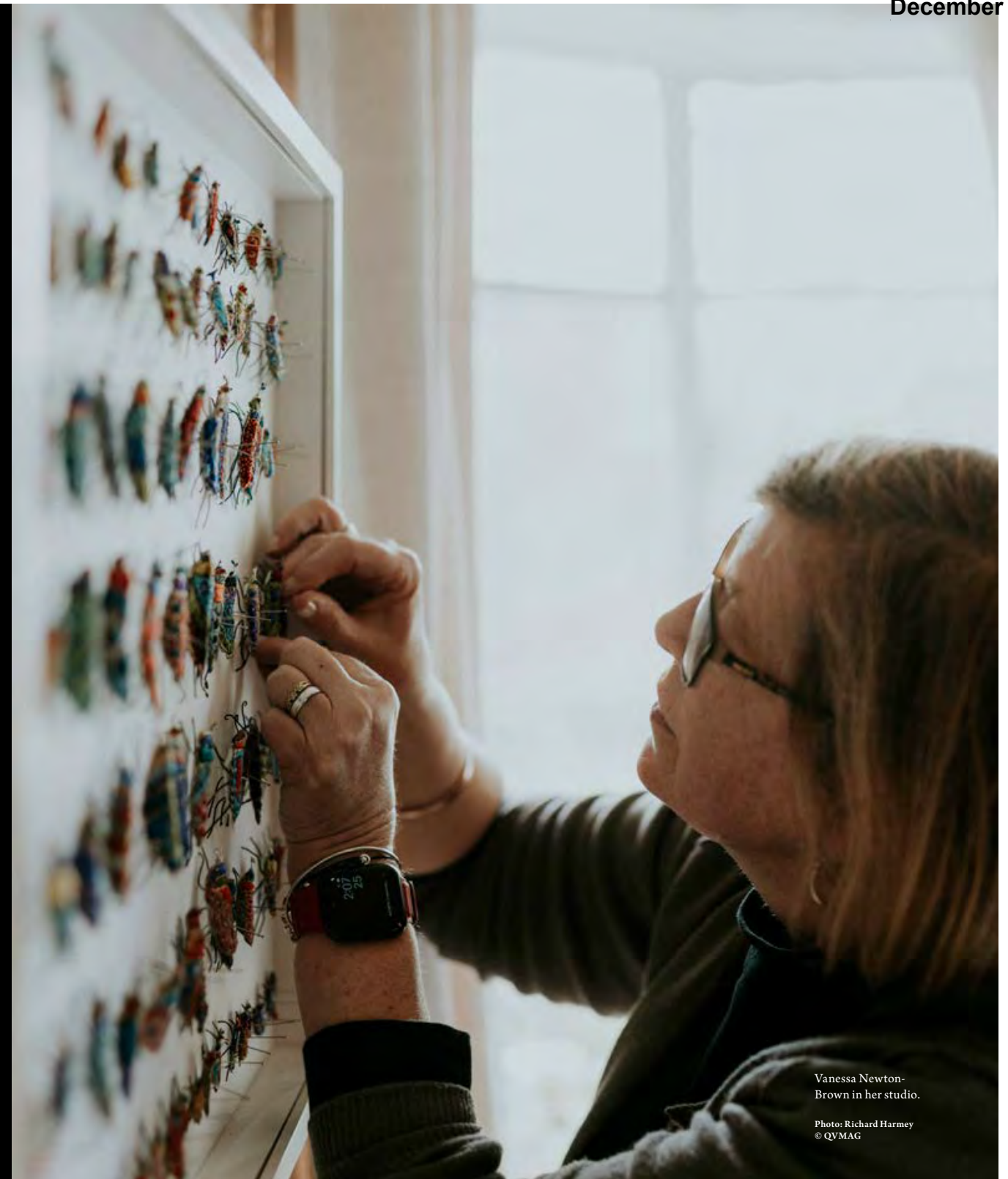
12,218  
COLLECTION  
WORKS DIGITISED



COMMERCIAL  
OUTCOME  
\$655,198



DONATIONS,  
BEQUESTS  
& GRANTS  
\$567,203



Vanessa Newton-Brown in her studio.

Photos: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG





Artwork from the *Make and Create: Strange Nature Embroidered Beetles* workshop

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG

20  
NEW SPECIES  
RECORDS FOR TASMANIA

9,890  
UPLOADS  
TO  
ATLAS OF  
LIVING  
AUSTRALIA

30  
NEW SPECIES FOUND BUT  
UNDESCRIBED BY SCIENCE

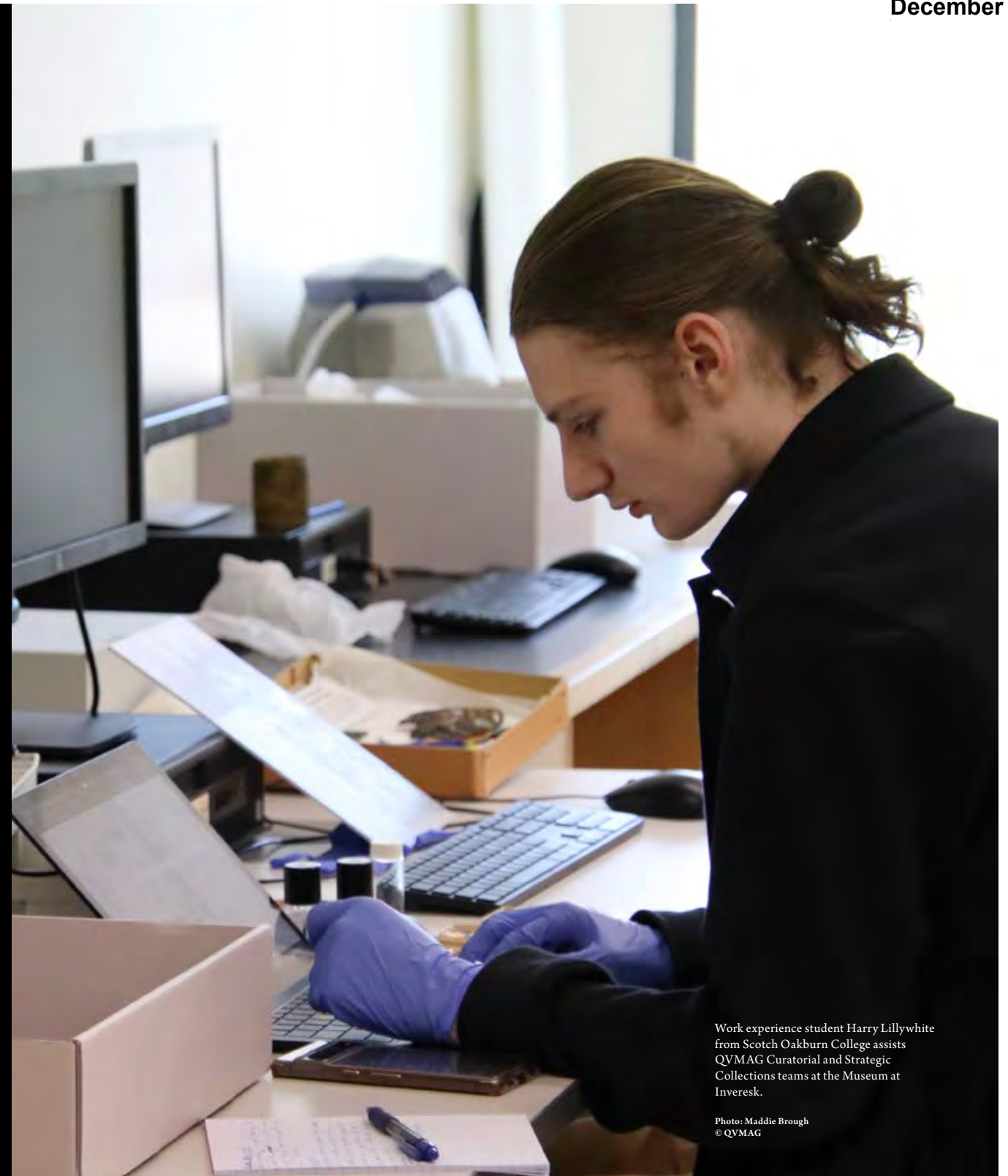


📞 + ✉️  
**2,082**  
PUBLIC ENQUIRIES

**2,770**  
HOURS  
WORKED

BY

**64**  
VOLUNTEERS



Work experience student Harry Lillywhite from Scotch Oakburn College assists QVMAG Curatorial and Strategic Collections teams at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Maddie Brough  
© QVMAG

## QVMAG STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

In June 2022, the City of Launceston endorsed a strategic transformation for QVMAG, as described in the vision document, *QVMAG Futures Plan: a paradigm shift*. In the 2022/23 reporting year, substantial progress was made on a holistic *Organisational Strategic Development Program (OSDP)*, comprising multiple interconnected strategic instruments, each of them informing and supporting the others. Key elements of the OSDP are a *QVMAG Strategic Plan* and a suite of 15 *Strategic Frameworks*.

During 2023/24, the draft instruments were refined and completed. The *QVMAG Strategic Plan 2023-28* aligns from and is informed by the *QVMAG Futures Plan*. The *Strategic Plan* defines the Vision, Purpose, Values and priority Goals of QVMAG for the five years of the *Strategic Plan*.

The eight Goals of the *Strategic Plan* are set to deliver on strategic directions of the *Futures Plan*.

Those Goals are:

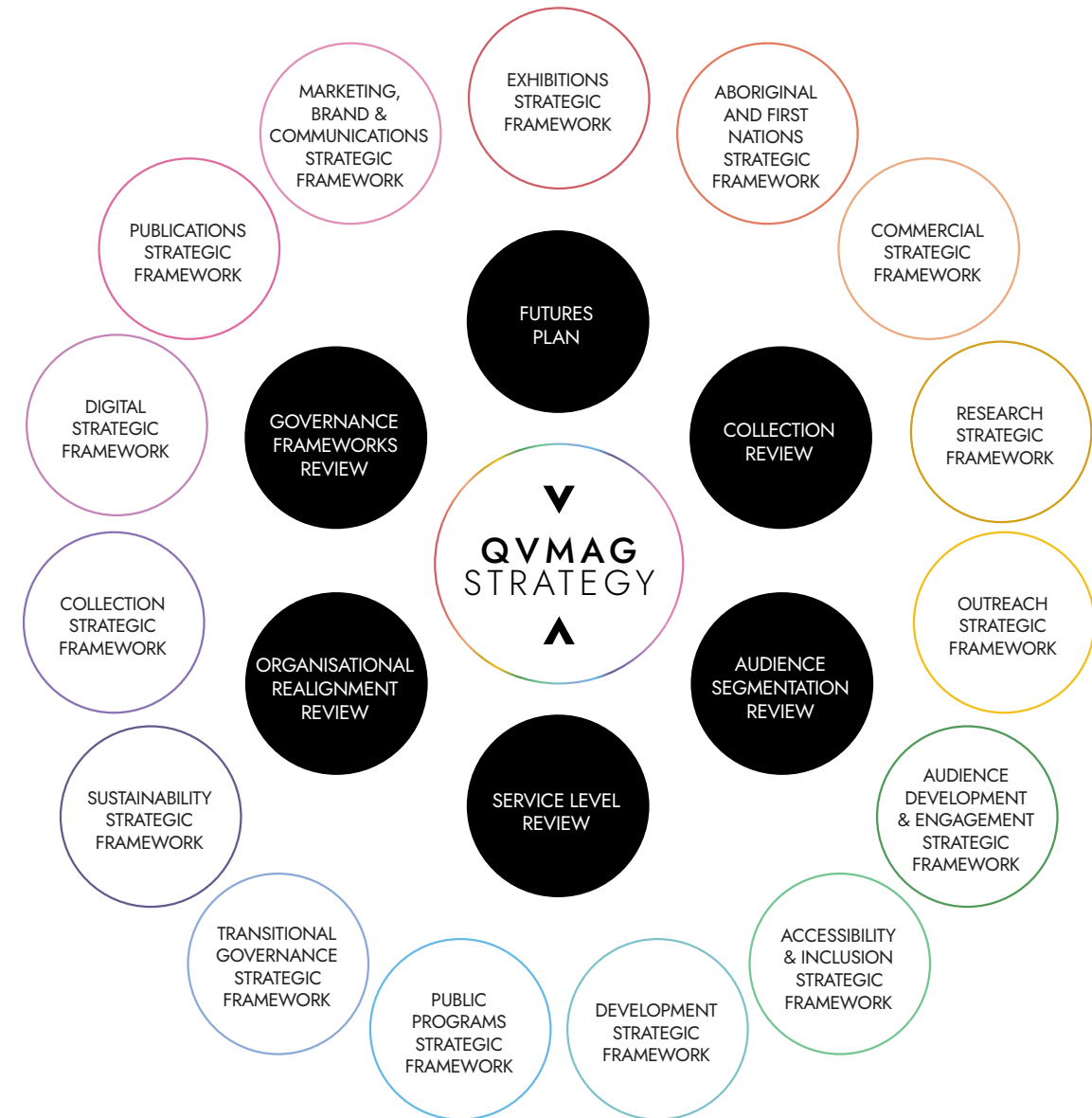
- + Fit-for-purpose governance
- + Sustainable funding
- + An accessible and well-managed collection
- + Engaging with audiences, communities and partners
- + Engaging with First Nations people and communities
- + A powerful brand
- + Priority capital projects
- + A strong organisational culture.

The *Strategic Plan* in turn informs all aligning strategic instruments such as the 15 *Strategic Frameworks*.

The *Frameworks* span all areas of QVMAG operations:

- + *Aboriginal and First Nations Framework*
- + *Accessibility and Inclusion Framework*
- + *Audience Development and Engagement Framework*
- + *Collection Framework*
- + *Commercial Framework*
- + *Development Framework*
- + *Digital Framework*
- + *Exhibitions Framework*
- + *Marketing, Brand and Communications Framework*
- + *Outreach Framework*
- + *Public Programs Framework*
- + *Publications Framework*
- + *Research Framework*
- + *Sustainability Framework*
- + *Transitional Governance Framework*.

The 15 *Frameworks* present as focused discussions of how QVMAG will achieve its strategic ambitions. Each *Framework* identifies a suite of policies, plans and operational instruments that will be developed and implemented. It is extremely rare for an institution to review and develop all its major strategic instruments concurrently. Concurrent development has allowed the holistic connections between *Frameworks* to be well explored. The *Frameworks* are closely interconnected, so that delivery of each *Framework* advances on delivery of the others.





The QVMAG *Futures Plan*, *Strategic Plan* and *Strategic Frameworks* align with and contribute to delivery of several of the City of Launceston strategies and action plans including:

- + *City of Launceston Cultural Strategy 2020-2030*
- + *Aboriginal Partnership Plan*
- + *Access Framework for Action 2020-24*
- + *Living as a Senior in Launceston*
- + *City of Launceston Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.*

Further, the QVMAG Strategic Instruments align with Arts Tasmania's *Cultural and Creative Industries Recovery Strategy: 2020 and Beyond* in manifesting the social and economic impacts of cultural and creative programs and in exploring options for sustainable development.

The *Strategic Plan 2023-28* and the *Strategic Frameworks* were designed in-house at QVMAG and printed as a boxed set. Each strategic instrument in the set has been written as a stand-alone document, so that it is not necessary to read others to understand any one of them.

They are extensively cross-referenced, however, so that the multiple links between the *Frameworks* and the *Strategic Plan*, and their relationship to the *Futures Plan*, are clearly illustrated.

Stakeholder endorsement of the strategic instruments was advanced in 2023/24, with the QVMAG Museum Governance Advisory Board endorsing the instruments in April 2024. The *Aboriginal and First Nations Framework* was developed to draft stage for further consultation with key stakeholders, including the QVMAG Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG).

Consultation with the ARG took place in June, resulting in a range of amendments to the draft framework. Following incorporation of those amendments, the *Aboriginal and First Nations Framework* was endorsed by the ARG in late June 2024.

Also in June 2024, the instruments were discussed with the City of Launceston Executive Leadership Team and subsequently presented to a Pre-Council workshop of the City of Launceston Council where they were discussed at length and some amendments recommended. The amended QVMAG *Strategic Plan 2023-28* will be conveyed to Council early in the next reporting period (2024/25) for formal approval.

In 2024/25, the QVMAG *Futures Plan*, *Strategic Plan 2023-28* and *Strategic Frameworks* will be available for public access on the QVMAG website at <https://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/About/Reports-and-policy>.



QVMAG's Strategic Frameworks

Photo: Louise Thrush  
© QVMAG

## EXHIBITIONS OVERVIEW

In 2023/24, 45 exhibitions were presented by QVMAG across the two sites (the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum at Inveresk), the two tour venues for *ArtRage* (the Salamanca Arts Centre and Devonport Regional Gallery) and the Showcase at the City of Launceston's Town Hall.

This number is in line with the record number of exhibitions (43) presented in 2022/23, which in turn was a 48% increase on the previous year. This increase in the last two years reflects a committed strategic focus on the delivery of art museum programmatic activation at the Art Gallery at Royal Park. This enhanced programming means that audiences are engaging with more of the QVMAG collection and with more, and more diverse, products from around Australia.

This continued strategic approach towards programmatic development and diversity ensured that, as the leading cultural destination in northern Tasmania, our program was embedded with opportunities through which all audiences - local, national and international - could engage.

In 2023/24, QVMAG presented 33 exhibitions with local content representing 175 living practitioners, even more than were delivered in the 2022/23 year (22). These exhibitions continued to feature, engage or employ the practitioners through these exhibitions.

Key among these were community-led projects such as *Minds do Matter*, *Australia Wide Eight*, *Flying by the Seat of their Pants* and *Urban Sketchers*.

These exhibitions provided opportunities to celebrate the talents of our region's artists, the provision of unique cultural experiences drawn from throughout the world and showcased right here in Launceston, encouraged critical thinking and creative practice within students and our young people, and highlighted our region's rich historical and environmental legacies.

Out of the 45 presented exhibitions, 28 were QVMAG curated/developed projects. Each of these exhibitions is a unique QVMAG product developed entirely in-house by the institution. Through these curated exhibitions, QVMAG commits to engaging audiences with the full diversity of its extremely large and varied collection.

Some exhibitions, for example *Wetlands*, were highly multidisciplinary, drawing on all areas of the QVMAG collection (natural science, history, art, Aboriginal culture, library and archives), and the expertise of staff from across all curatorial disciplines as well as external experts and collaborators. Following its run at the Museum at Inveresk, elements of the exhibition were donated to the Tamar Island Wetlands Centre.

Eight education-specific exhibitions were presented during the reporting period, promoting the creative talents of 468 students from throughout our region.

*ArtRage* showcased the creative talents of students who were studying art as part of the Tasmanian Certificate of Education. 108 students were featured in the 29th version of the show.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total number of Local Component Exhibitions	22	33
Total number of Education Exhibitions	6	8
Total number of Students Exhibited	494	468
Total number of Community Exhibitions	7	6
Total QVMAG Touring/Offsite Exhibitions	3	3
Total number Collection Exhibitions	17	18
Total number QVMAG Curated Exhibitions	24	28
Total number Touring Exhibitions received	4	10
Total number Long-Term Exhibitions	10	9
Total number Temporary Exhibitions	30	33
Total number Living Practitioners Exhibited	125	175
Total number Exhibition Refresh/Changeovers	5	3
<b>Total Number of Exhibitions</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>



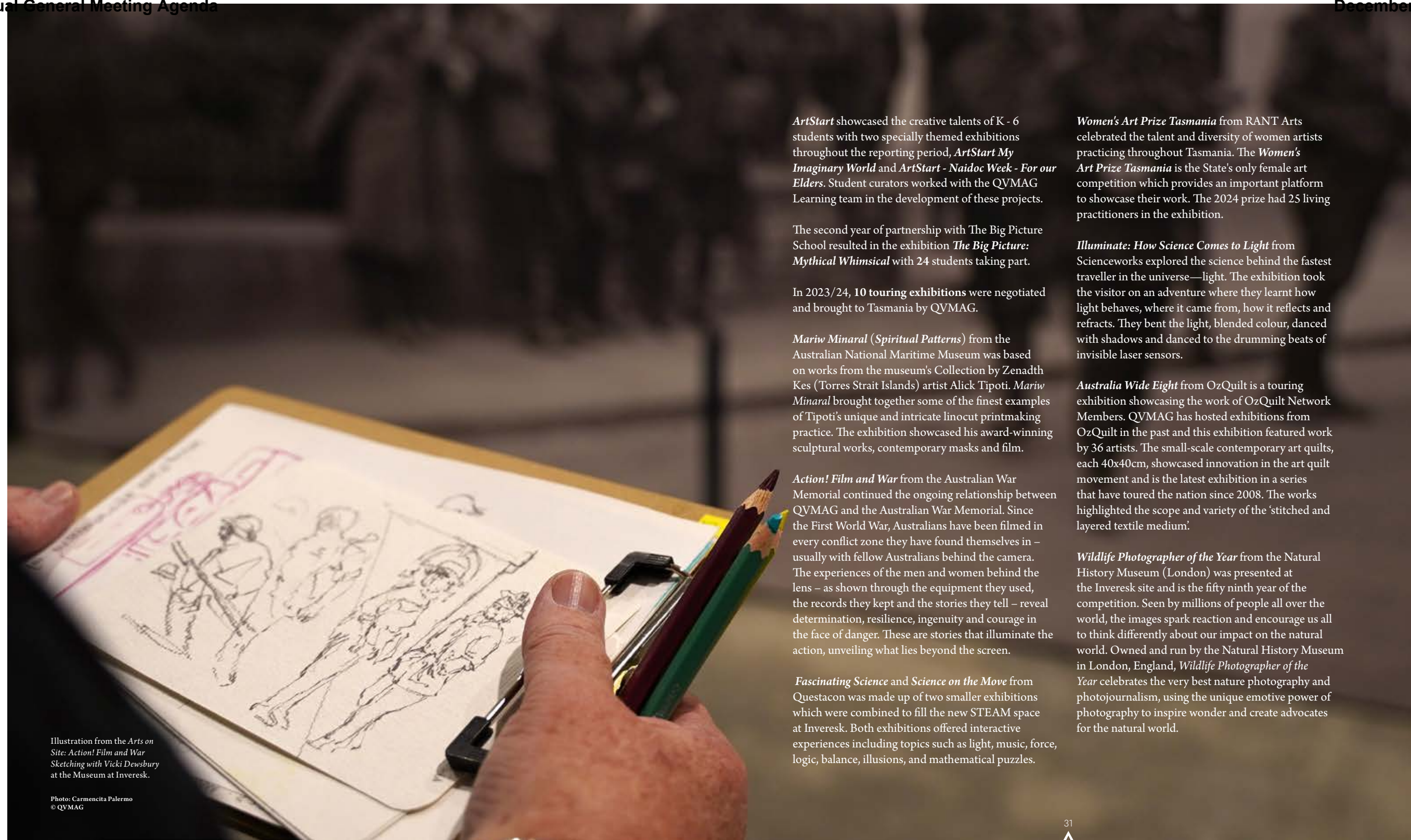


Illustration from the Arts on Site: *Action! Film and War* Sketching with Vicki Dewsbury at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG

*ArtStart* showcased the creative talents of K - 6 students with two specially themed exhibitions throughout the reporting period, *ArtStart My Imaginary World* and *ArtStart - Naidoc Week - For our Elders*. Student curators worked with the QVMAG Learning team in the development of these projects.

The second year of partnership with The Big Picture School resulted in the exhibition *The Big Picture: Mythical Whimsical* with 24 students taking part.

In 2023/24, 10 touring exhibitions were negotiated and brought to Tasmania by QVMAG.

*Mariw Minaral (Spiritual Patterns)* from the Australian National Maritime Museum was based on works from the museum's Collection by Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islands) artist Alick Tipoti. *Mariw Minaral* brought together some of the finest examples of Tipoti's unique and intricate linocut printmaking practice. The exhibition showcased his award-winning sculptural works, contemporary masks and film.

*Action! Film and War* from the Australian War Memorial continued the ongoing relationship between QVMAG and the Australian War Memorial. Since the First World War, Australians have been filmed in every conflict zone they have found themselves in – usually with fellow Australians behind the camera. The experiences of the men and women behind the lens – as shown through the equipment they used, the records they kept and the stories they tell – reveal determination, resilience, ingenuity and courage in the face of danger. These are stories that illuminate the action, unveiling what lies beyond the screen.

*Fascinating Science* and *Science on the Move* from Questacon was made up of two smaller exhibitions which were combined to fill the new STEAM space at Inveresk. Both exhibitions offered interactive experiences including topics such as light, music, force, logic, balance, illusions, and mathematical puzzles.

*Women's Art Prize Tasmania* from RANT Arts celebrated the talent and diversity of women artists practicing throughout Tasmania. The *Women's Art Prize Tasmania* is the State's only female art competition which provides an important platform to showcase their work. The 2024 prize had 25 living practitioners in the exhibition.

*Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* from Scienceworks explored the science behind the fastest traveller in the universe—light. The exhibition took the visitor on an adventure where they learnt how light behaves, where it came from, how it reflects and refracts. They bent the light, blended colour, danced with shadows and danced to the drumming beats of invisible laser sensors.

*Australia Wide Eight* from OzQuilt is a touring exhibition showcasing the work of OzQuilt Network Members. QVMAG has hosted exhibitions from OzQuilt in the past and this exhibition featured work by 36 artists. The small-scale contemporary art quilts, each 40x40cm, showcased innovation in the art quilt movement and is the latest exhibition in a series that have toured the nation since 2008. The works highlighted the scope and variety of the 'stitched and layered textile medium'.

*Wildlife Photographer of the Year* from the Natural History Museum (London) was presented at the Inveresk site and is the fifty ninth year of the competition. Seen by millions of people all over the world, the images spark reaction and encourage us all to think differently about our impact on the natural world. Owned and run by the Natural History Museum in London, England, *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* celebrates the very best nature photography and photojournalism, using the unique emotive power of photography to inspire wonder and create advocates for the natural world.





*Flying by the Seat of their Pants* from the Tasmanian Aviation History Society and Furneaux Museum marked the 90th anniversary of the first flights by *Miss Flinders* and *Miss Currie*. It told the story of Bass Strait pioneering aviation, from the very first flight in 1919 up to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 – the aviators, the aircraft, the triumphs and tragedies.

QVMAG continued its emphasis on profiling and celebrating solo practitioners through exhibitions such as *Tracing a Line* (Melissa Smith), *Ingesting the Island* (Sarah Rhodes), *(Mariw Minaral) Spiritual Patterns* (Alick Tipoti), *Faces of Launceston* (Philip Kuruvita), and *Mind Blown* (Dan Marshall).

While by no means an exhaustive list of all the exhibitions presented at QVMAG, the above-mentioned examples highlight our commitment and demonstrable strategic shift towards the implementation and provision of a diverse, relevant and engaging exhibition program.

Very importantly, in 2023/24 QVMAG completed its *Exhibitions Strategic Framework* as part of the holistic **Organisational Strategic Development Program** informed by the QVMAG *Futures Plan* (discussed at greater length in the Strategic Development section of this Annual Report).

The *Exhibitions Strategic Framework* identifies a range of strategic initiatives and actions that will further activate the QVMAG exhibition program and make it more accessible to a growing and ever-more diverse audience.

In 2023/24, a total of 118,207 general visitors attended our exhibitions, with many augmenting their experience via engagement initiatives and related events.

Engagement outcomes and attendance figures are reported separately in the Engagement section of this Annual Report.

Exhibition image from  
*Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

## MAJOR EXHIBITIONS 2023/2024

The following is a list of the **major temporary exhibitions** presented at QVMAG's two peak venues, the Museum at Inveresk and the Art Gallery at Royal Park during the period 2023/24.

These exhibitions were developed by QVMAG, by community groups with the support of QVMAG for display within the galleries, or curated and toured from regional, state, national and international cultural organisations.

The listing also notes the category within which each exhibition aligns, based on a suite of Exhibition Categories developed by QVMAG. The intention is to deliver a diverse array of audience experiences across the various categories.

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### MUSEUM AT INVERESK

- + *HJ King: Camera and Carbuettors*  
28 August 2022 - 29 October 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *My World: Voice and Visibility*  
20 May - 13 August 2023  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 58*  
A Natural History Museum, London, Travelling Exhibition  
10 June - 20 August 2023  
Major Touring Exhibition
- + *Australia in Space*  
A Questacon Travelling Exhibition  
17 June - 15 October 2023  
Major Touring Exhibition

- + *Flying by the Seat of their Pants*  
2 September 2023 - 19 November 2023  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Wetlands*  
16 September 2023 - 14 April 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition  
Multidisciplinary Exhibition
- + *Minds do Matter*  
30 September - 10 October 2023  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light*  
A Museums Victoria Travelling Exhibition  
18 November 2023 - 28 April 2024  
Major Touring Exhibition
- + *Soma Lumia - Lacunae*  
27 November 2023 - 28 April 2024  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Botanica*  
2 December 2023 - 3 March 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition  
Multidisciplinary Exhibition
- + *OzQuilt Australia Wide Eight*  
3 February - 21 April 2024  
Major Touring Exhibition
- + *Mind Blown*  
23 March - 23 June 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition  
Multidisciplinary Exhibition

- + *Women's Art Prize Tasmania*  
4 May - 7 July 2024  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Action! Film and War*  
An Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition  
25 May - 25 August 2024  
Major Touring Exhibition
- + *Fascinating Science | Science on the Move*  
A Questacon Travelling Exhibition  
2 June - 24 November 2024  
Major Touring Exhibition

- + *ArtStart NAIDOC Week 2023: For Our Elders*  
1 July - 26 November 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Precious: Excellence in Contemporary Jewellery*  
8 July - 1 October 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Mariw Minaral (Spiritual Patterns)*  
5 August - 29 October 2023  
A National Maritime Museum Travelling Exhibition  
Major Touring Exhibition
- + *Tracing a Line*  
2 September - 12 November 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition

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### GALLERY AT ROYAL PARK

- + *Mason | Marsden*  
6 May - 16 July 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Urban Sketchers*  
27 May - 27 August 2023  
Local Component Exhibition  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Evolution*  
10 June - 27 August 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *RISE*  
24 June - 15 October 2023  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition

- + *Ingesting the Island*  
2 September - 26 November 2023  
Local Component Exhibition
- + *Miniature Worlds*  
14 October 2023 - 4 February 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Strange Nature*  
28 October 2023 - 14 April 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition  
Multidisciplinary Exhibition
- + *Making Space*  
25 November 2023 - 18 February 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
- + *Lacunae*  
27 November 2023 - 28 April 2024  
Local Component Exhibition



- + *ArtStart 2023 - My Imaginary World*  
9 December 2023 - 3 March 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
  
- + *ArtRage 2023*  
17 December 2023 - 2 April 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
  
- + *Faces of Launceston*  
2 March - 15 September 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
  
- + *Big Picture School Whimsical and Mystical*  
16 March - 16 June 2024  
Local Component Exhibition  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
  
- + *Vast and Varied: Ceramics from the Collection*  
30 March - 27 October 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition
  
- + *ArtStart NAIDOC Week 2024: Keep the Fire Burning*  
29 June - 20 October 2024  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition



Exhibition image of  
*Action! Film and War* at  
the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

IN FOCUS

## BOTANICA

### *Botanica*

2 December 2023 - 3 March 2024

Museum at Inveresk

QVMAG Curated Exhibition

Multidisciplinary Exhibition

Tasmanian audiences have demonstrated a long-held affinity with the flora that populates the terrestrial and maritime landscape. The natural world provides both physical or source material and a wellspring of inspiration for any number of disciplines and practices. *Botanica* explored this creativity and innovation with artworks, objects and specimens from QVMAG's Collection, as well as artworks from contemporary Tasmanian artists.

The works presented in *Botanica* were grouped into three key themes: *Curiosity, Creativity, Consumption*. Although many works intersect or relate to all three themes, these frameworks provided an insight into how humans investigate, are inspired by, and use flora in all its forms.

Tasmania's unique biodiversity presents an abundance of source material for artists and makers to utilise, continuing a long creative tradition where botany is the focus. Over two centuries of Tasmanian artworks were on display, from WB Gould's delicate watercolour studies to works by contemporary artists working with sculpture or digital print.

This creativity is not limited to arts and crafts but interwoven through other areas of our lives. The botanically curious were offered a vibrancy of plants for scientific knowledge, for economic benefit, or for the wonder of flora itself. *Botanica* sampled from an incredible diversity of decorative elements of ceramic tableware or weaponry to the practical uses of botany beyond their aesthetic uses. *Botanica*, in conjunction with the *Wetlands* exhibition, was a timely reminder of the importance of the plant world to our lives.

With this important idea in mind, *Botanica* proffered two large and fully populated natural sciences object cases containing intriguing specimens and stories of Earth's plant pollinators. In a natural environment increasingly fragmented by human activities, many of our pollinators are in decline, which presents profound implications for all life. Through a rich, colourful and diverse presentation, *Botanica* highlighted the need for each of us to witness, learn, appreciate and understand our role in preserving our precious and precarious botanical world.

Audience responses to the *Botanica* exhibition were extremely positive with 27,772 visitors to the Museum during its three-month display.



**Olegas TRUCHANAS**  
*Hebardia tasmanica*  
(renamed *Isophysis tasmanica*), yellow form, Tasmania, late 1960s.  
Kodachrome colour slide  
QVM:2014:P:1845









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## MAKING SPACE

### *Making Space*

25 November 2023 - 18 February 2024

Art Gallery at Royal Park

QVMAG Curated Exhibition

The exhibition *Making Space* celebrated subtractive sculpture and wood carving combining objects from across QVMAG's collection with artworks skilfully executed by seven contemporary artists in local wood and stone materials.

The depth of material drawn from the collection ranged from classical marble bust carvings to intricate wooden screens and panels of Tasmanian endemic timbers. Several objects featured were linked to the Launceston and Hobart technical colleges, each historically playing a significant role in Tasmanian arts and crafts education. Works from this period included those by Sarah Squire Todd and Ellen Payne, two well-known wood carvers in Tasmania.

A feature item in the exhibition was a signature work by Australian sculptor Trevor Weekes, *Pelican Flyer*, having been stored since coming into the collection in the 1980s. In addition, many pieces of fine Japanese ivory carving from the collection were exhibited for the first time in several decades. These intricate works highlight the timeless beauty of this specialised carving technique while reminding audiences of the ecological cost that many legacies of cultural practice have had through the hunting of animals for artmaking material.

Artworks by contemporary artists offered QVMAG audiences a window into the ways that traditional methods of carving continue to be relevant, with a spotlight on spoon and utensil carving. Carol Russell, Hape Kiddle and Chi Ling Tabart crafted intricate and beautiful pieces that transformed Tasmanian timbers into extraordinarily creative works, while Launceston-based artist Alistair Mooney returned to QVMAG with a suite of works that demonstrated his love of Tasmanian birds and popular culture.

8,491 visitors attended the exhibition, supported by Carol Russell's sold-out carving workshops and Alistair Mooney returning to the Art Gallery at Royal Park conducting a well-attended artist *In Conversation*.

The contemporary artists in *Making Space* were:

- + Hape Kiddle
- + Alistair Mooney
- + Carol Russell
- + Tom Samek
- + Helmet Schwab
- + Chi Ling Tabart
- + Trevor Weekes

Exhibition image of *Making Space*  
at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

IN FOCUS

## MIND BLOWN

### *Mind Blown*

23 March - 23 June 2024

Museum at Inveresk

QVMAG Curated Exhibition

*Did you know that the combined weight of all the ants on Earth is greater than the weight of all living humans? Or that the largest organism on the planet is a 2,400-year-old fungus?*

On 22 March 2023, QVMAG launched a new and innovative collaborative exhibition, *Mind Blown*. This exhibition drew inspiration and imagery from a popular publication of the same name by author and graphic designer Dan Marshall and featured stories on everything from space to microscopic life-forms, and all 'mind-blowing'.

*Mind Blown* the exhibition took 27 of the published stories and transformed them into large scale immersive graphic installations. Many were also illustrated by objects from the QVMAG Collection alongside some strategically chosen props.

Each carefully selected object demonstrated a Tasmanian link to stories with national or international contexts and further brought to life Dan's incredible collection of facts.

This provided QVMAG a chance to showcase infrequently displayed items as well as interesting or quirky objects. These included a selection of pinned cockroaches (including examples of the world's heaviest), a taxidermy Bengal tiger mount from 1908, antique playing cards, a collection of replica diamonds and a sugar cube!

*Mind Blown* was yet another QVMAG exhibition activated for audiences in a number of ways throughout its showing with events and workshops. *In Conversation with Dan Marshall* proved very popular, with the author speaking about the inspiration for the book and how it came to be published. Here visitors had the opportunity to ask questions of the author and to have their own copies of his book signed with further signed copies available in the QVMAG shop.



Exhibition view of *Mind Blown*  
Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: George Perkins  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## MINIATURE WORLDS

### *Miniature Worlds*

14 October 2023 - 4 February 2024  
Art Gallery at Royal Park  
QVMAG Curated Show

Presenting a spotlight on the global miniature art movement, *Miniature Worlds* offered audiences a journey through tiny hand-built scenes where we each became giant observers peering into the spaces and places of human occupation.

*Miniature Worlds* was co-curated with Joshua Smith, a miniature artist from Adelaide, whose own work was also on display. Through this exhibition QVMAG connected with a global community of miniature artists around the world and the result was a rich and diverse showcase of international works. More than 30 works were displayed, each one illustrating the talent and creativity involved in making everything in a tiny scale. Visitors marvelled at Miami sandwich shops, abandoned hotel buildings, delicious food, and detailed indoor plants.

*Miniature Worlds* also displayed one of Furneaux Island born artist Dean Greeno's powerful works, *Generational Mutton bird Sheds*. Melbourne-based David Hourigan and Sydney-based Mylyn Nguyen were invited to visit Launceston in the months leading up to the exhibition. Inspired by the local architecture of Launceston, Hourigan made a new work for the exhibition depicting the Vertical Retort House building in the iconic gasworks site, a source of gas for the city from 1932 to 1977.

Nguyen, who works exclusively in paper and cardboard at a much smaller scale, was inspired by the Crabtree Building on the corner of St John and York streets. Hourigan and Nguyen visited Launceston again for the opening, and gave well-attended artist talks and videos capturing how they embraced the artform.

Also on display was a detailed miniature of the row of Victorian terraces opposite Brickfields Park in central Launceston created by the Launceston branch of the Miniature Enthusiasts of Tasmania (MET).

Countries represented by the artists in *Miniature Worlds* included:

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| + Australia              | + India       |
| + Bosnia and Herzegovina | + Malaysia    |
| + Brazil                 | + New Zealand |
| + Canada                 | + Philippines |
| + Chile                  | + Slovakia    |
| + Germany                | + Sweden      |
| + Greece                 | + USA         |



**TINKY**  
*Britney wasn't peeling well after her slip up. After breaking her leg and skinning her knee, she felt like giving everyone the lady finger*  
mixed media  
26.0 x 14.0 (dia.) cm  
Collection of the artist





Miniaturist David Hourigan with  
*Gasworks* featured in *Miniature  
Worlds* at the Art Gallery at Royal Park

Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG



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## PRECIOUS: EXCELLENCE IN CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY

*Precious: Excellence in Contemporary Jewellery*  
8 July - 1 October 2023  
Art Gallery at Royal Park  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition

QVMAG's first dedicated contemporary jewellery exhibition in more than 20 years, *Precious: Excellence in Contemporary Jewellery* highlighted the thriving and innovative contemporary jewellery practice of Tasmania.

QVMAG has a remarkable collection of works by Australian contemporary jewellers dating from the 1970s through to the late 1990s, a period when both artists and collectors of contemporary jewellery flourished.

This exhibition sought to demonstrate that Tasmania continues to be home to an incredibly creative contemporary jewellery community.

The beautiful pieces displayed not only illustrated the excellence of the individual artist's practice but also demonstrated that jewellery was not relegated to a singular role of ornamentation but provided the means for artists to share stories, ideas, and experiences through an intimate and 'embodied' conversation between artist, wearer and viewer.

*Precious: Excellence in Contemporary Jewellery* provided visitors with the opportunity to learn more about a diverse range of techniques, materials, skills and creativity through each artist's personal explorations of symbol, landscape and history.

Audience responses were extremely positive with 4,528 visitors to the exhibition during its three-month display. The exhibition's activation through engagement programs such as Sean O'Connell and Carl Noonan's *In Conversation* were well attended, and Shauna Mayben's masterclass workshop held at the gallery was sold out.

*Precious: Excellence in Contemporary Jewellery* showcased a field of artists from across Tasmania and represented work across a broad spectrum of jewellery making practice.



**Gabbee STOLP**  
*Soft Shell Collar – Scallop 2021*  
King scallop shells, lambskin leather,  
cotton thread.

Photo: Nina Hamilton





IN FOCUS

## STRANGE NATURE

*Strange Nature*  
28 October 2023 - 14 April 2024  
Art Gallery at Royal Park  
QVMAG Curated Exhibition

QVMAG houses one of the oldest and most significant natural sciences collections in Australia. *Strange Nature* connected with this unique QVMAG collection via contemporary and creative re-envisioning of the methods of study and capturing of nature.

Prominent Victorian-based artists Troy Emery and Kate Rohde were invited to exhibit examples of their iconic strangeness captured in their brightly exotic sculptural works. More than ten life-sized, animal-based artworks were on display, ranging from domesticated cats and dogs to wild tigers and bears, with their signature Emery pelts of vibrantly colourful, tactile textiles.

Rohde's curious contemplations of exotic animal collections in Victorian parlour domes perfectly complemented the taxidermy study skins of birds and animals from the QVMAG collection.

Each of the six Tasmanian artists in *Strange Nature* brought their own unique and creative use of materials, aesthetics and narrative for a fun yet thought-provoking display.

Tom O'Hern's playful road signs addressed the issue of roadkill whilst the detailed miniature glass fungi by Launceston artist Helene Boyer offered intricate glimpses into other-worldly manifestations of our strange mycelium neighbours.

Showcasing drawing, embroidery, painting, sculpture, printmaking and jewellery, *Strange Nature* engaged audiences in a compelling and provocative visual conversation with contemporary objects and historical practices of specimen collection.

Artists Troy Emery, Kate Rohde, Samantha Dennis and Helene Boyer each shared their practice as part of well-attended *In Conversation* public programs, alongside a successful workshop of textile beetle making inspired by the embroidery work of Vanessa Newton-Brown.



**Troy EMERY**  
*big blue* 2022  
polyester, polyurethane,  
epoxy, adhesive, screws, pins  
92 x 154 x 49 cm  
Courtesy of Martin Browne  
Contemporary



Kate Rohde as featured in *Strange Nature*  
at the Art Gallery at Royal Park

Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## TRACING A LINE

### *Tracing a Line*

2 September - 12 November 2023  
Art Gallery at Royal Park  
QVMAG Curated Show

As part of QVMAG's commitment to current contemporary arts practice in Tasmania, September 2023 saw the continuation of our series of solo surveys with *Tracing a Line*. This exhibition at the Art Gallery at Royal Park featured the beautiful works on paper by master printmaker Melissa Smith.

For over 30 years, the Launceston-based artist has consistently produced delicate and evocative prints, teasing the boundaries of landscape, flora and narrative.

Her prolific practice is constantly informed by the artist listening to the landscape, with observations reflected in marks etched and printed; indelible lines that echo the delicate details of remote, distant and evocative places in the state.

*Tracing a Line* shared Smith's passion for the creative process of printmaking through an immersive selection of prints in deep greens and pale blues that collectively traced three decades of her practice. The exhibition was a reflection of Smith's contemplation of the geography and history of the Tasmanian landscape through an ever-evolving, unique printmaking career.

Smith's practice clearly resonated with visitors: 5,014 attendees to the exhibition. The official opening in September was one of the best attended launches for the year with over 140 in attendance. The artist also held a popular and informative *In Conversation* about her practice and the works selected for the exhibition.

### **Melissa SMITH**

Born 1964, Gawler, South Australia

*Longing* 2017  
intaglio collagraph  
34.0 x 114.0 cm (diptych)  
Edition 3/5

Private collection



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## WETLANDS

### *Wetlands*

16 September 2023 - 31 March 2024

Museum at Inveresk

QVMAG Curated Exhibition

Multidisciplinary Exhibition

The *Wetlands* exhibition was a major multidisciplinary exhibition involving all areas of QVMAG's curatorial expertise and collections. The exhibition examined wetlands of the world, and in particular the wetland areas of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary, from the perspective of natural sciences, art and history.

Presented in the large TEG at the Museum at Inveresk, the exhibition revealed the importance of wetland environments to the natural world and to humans. It also had a major focus on the impact of humans on wetlands and explored ways that we can lessen this impact.

In the last 300 years, humans have removed over 87% of the world's wetlands ... and the rate of loss is increasing. Australia and Tasmania have removed large areas of wetlands to allow for agriculture, industry and urban settlements.

Launceston has always been a place of wetlands. The city has evolved to be a dynamic regional centre, and in doing so, significant areas of wetlands have been lost and transformed. While wetlands were and still are valued by Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples, wetlands today tend to be under-valued by the larger community. To many people, they are swamps that need to be drained.

The aim of *Wetlands* the exhibition was to enhance people's awareness of the complexity, richness, potency, value and beauty of wetlands.

The exhibition featured a re-created boardwalk, clumps of *Phragmites* reeds, and a swan nest with swans and eggs. Mounted specimens from QVMAG's Natural Sciences collection were used to illustrate adaptations to life in wetlands. The importance of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary wetlands to globally endangered migratory shorebirds was emphasised.

Also on display were Tasmanian Aboriginal materials and art including a part-sized traditional reed canoe made by artist and elder Uncle Rex Greeno and a large canoe sculpture by his son Dean Greeno. These contrasted with two large-scale ship models of the ship *Nairana* and the dredge *Ponrabbel II* displayed nearby. Contemporary art from the QVMAG Collection explored wetlands as a place of creative inspiration.

*Wetlands* proved popular with audiences recording a staggering 50,291 visitors during the display period, highlighting the resonance and relevance of this much loved icon of our natural environment.



Exhibition view of *Wetlands*  
Museum at Inveresk.

Illustration: Louise Thrush  
© QVMAG





Uncle Rex GREENO  
Part-sized (model) reed canoe 2022  
Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## ILLUMINATE: HOW SCIENCE COMES TO LIGHT

*Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light*  
18 November 2023 - 28 April 2024  
Museum at Inveresk  
Major Touring Exhibition

Life-long learning and STEAM-based education is a central pillar within the strategic objectives of QVMAG, with a dedicated focus on embedding learning opportunities into all offerings as part of the institution's commitment to innovation, accessibility and excellence.

Our commitment to formal and informal learning is unwavering, and as an educational institution we seek to further develop unique opportunities that inspire the next generation of critical thinkers, engineers, creative practitioners, scientists and so forth, ensuring that through our contribution, we provide hands-on learning experiences which supplement pathways for STEAM development.

Developed by Scienceworks, the brand-new exhibition *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* ignited the senses of the young, and the young at heart, providing hands-on interactive play exploring the science behind the fastest traveller in the universe – light.

Vibrant and festival-themed, the exhibition encouraged visitors to explore visual perception and illumination through colour, sound and action. How light behaves, where it comes from, how it reflects, refracts and what tools we have invented to understand it.

Visitors to the exhibition composed luminous symphonies, manipulated mirrors encountering surprising views of themselves and danced to the drumming beats of the invisible laser sensor chamber.

*Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* was another exclusive partnership with Scienceworks, Victoria, with QVMAG being the first touring venue to present this exciting new exhibition, and Launceston being the only exclusive Tasmanian city to host.

Proving to be a popular experience with audiences, the exhibition received a total of 42,028 curious minds during its display period.



Exhibition view of *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light*  
Photo: Museums Victoria





Exhibition view of *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light*.  
Photo: Museums Victoria

## ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Engagement with our diverse community is truly at the heart of all that QVMAG is and aspires to be.

QVMAG is an extremely diverse institution, by far the most disciplinary and programmatically varied of any regional museum in Australia.

The *Futures Plan* advocates that this intrinsic diversity must be harnessed to deliver programming for a comparably diverse audience and that QVMAG must be:

*"An accessible cultural institution of, by and for, all culture."*

This intrinsic diversity of the institution and the extrinsic diversity of its potential audiences must reflect in its programming, as the *Futures Plan* observes:

*"As the primary cultural institution representing northern Tasmania, it is critical to ensure a true reflection of our diverse communities and audiences are represented through annual programming at QVMAG."*

Community and audience engagement refers to the nature of the relationships and connections between QVMAG and its many communities and audiences. This engagement applies across its programs in collection acquisition and care, exhibitions, public programs, outreach, and research.

Engagement is addressed in many of the *Strategic Frameworks* developed in the 2023/24 year as part of the holistic *Organisational Strategic Development Program*.

In particular, engagement is manifested in the:

- + *Aboriginal and First Nations Framework*, through better engaging with Aboriginal and First Nations people and communities in developing and delivering programming
- + *Accessibility and Inclusion Framework*, which aims to ensure that QVMAG can be engaged with by all people regardless of their backgrounds or situation
- + *Audience Development and Engagement Framework*, which considers the ways in which QVMAG can grow the number, diversity and reach of its audiences
- + *Collection Framework*, to maximise the engagement with our collection for the largest possible audience
- + *Digital Framework*, recognising that more and more of our audiences will engage with QVMAG and its collection, expertise and products through digital technologies
- + *Exhibitions Framework*, recognising that many people engage with QVMAG through its exhibitions program delivered at the Royal Park and Inveresk sites and remotely through travelling products and online
- + *Outreach Framework*, which considers all the ways in which QVMAG engages with audiences beyond its two main sites
- + *Public Programs Framework*, which addresses the diverse array of educational programming and public events delivered by QVMAG to expand audience engagement at our sites and through outreach
- + *Research Framework*, which considers how our research can connect with the maximum number of users and communities to have maximum impact.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total number of Education Programs	390	348
Total visitation Education Programs	8,606	7,883
Total number of Schools Engaged	93	134
Total number of Public Programs	1,094	1,026
Total visitation Public Programs	29,304	27,713
Total number Launches/Functions/Events	28	46
Total attendees Launches/Functions/Events	2,136	3,123
Total number of Planetarium shows	650	747
Total attendees Planetarium	10,314	13,532
Total number Lectures	28	29
Total attendees Lectures	1,783	1,319
Total number of living Producers engaged	92	68
<b>Total number all Programs</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>1,374</b>
<b>Total visitation all Programs</b>	<b>37,910</b>	<b>35,596</b>





Participant of the Cosplay Competition  
at the QVMadness event held at the  
Museum at Inveresk  
Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

QVMAG's engagement with audiences is reflected in all sections of this Annual Report and engagement impacts are reflected in the Output measures tabled throughout this document.

This Engagement section concentrates on those activities that relate to public programming, education, events and lectures/workshops. Other aspects of engagement are reported in the other sections of the Annual Report.

Annually, the *Community Connections* program is a highlight of both on-site and outreach activity for QVMAG. During the year, QVMAG collaborated with the broader Tasmanian community to develop and deliver a diverse programmatic offering focused on engagement experiences that support and celebrate the community QVMAG operates within here in Tasmania. The program delivered a higher number of programs for the period and saw an increase in participation at a staggering 429% increase on the previous year.

Significant events in 2023/24 included *Lunar New Year Celebrations* at the Art Gallery at Royal Park, *Pride Month*, *mannalargenna Day*, a three-week program for *International Women's Day* and the ongoing *QVMadness Sci-Fi takeover* at the Museum at Inveresk.

The *Community Connections* program continues to attract large audiences, with over 2,234 participants taking part in programs and activities during 2023/24. This highlights QVMAG's commitment to create, support and deliver accessible and relevant creative and cultural experiences.

Building on outstanding results from the previous year, in 2023/24 the Planetarium has again achieved growth in participation with a 31% increase this year, making this reporting period its highest ever for visitation. Audiences were attracted by the renewed program offerings such as the successful *Dark Side of the Moon: a Pink Floyd experience*, along with updated screening schedule and the new digital capabilities of the Digistar7 system.

Expanding on the diverse exhibition programming across both sites, *Art + Performance* explored various multidisciplinary themes ranging from unique and spiritual sound performances linking to our Pacific Island communities, to a musical exploration of our wetlands. There was also the evermore popular *In Conversation* program, with more than 400 participants attending events across both QVMAG sites as well as off-site within the local community. Another highlight for 2023/24 was the *Curators in the Pub* outreach program, with over 200 participants braving the mid-winter of Launceston for five events at venues such as back lane bars to brew houses, right across the CBD.

QVMAG consistently delivers a diverse range of engaging learning experiences and this year saw 134 schools engage directly with programs and content across both sites, an increase of 44% in participating schools, with schools visiting from across the State, interstate and internationally. Education programs ranged across Aboriginal education art-making workshops, to sessions in the gallery spaces, to STEAM-based hands-on learning activities.

Public Program and Educational highlights are discussed further in their own sections of this Annual Report.





Participants of the Cosplay Competition  
at the QVMadness event, held at the  
Museum at Inveresk  
Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG





## IN FOCUS

# OUTREACH

Outreach programs for QVMAG include any QVMAG product that can be engaged with by any person at any location beyond the Royal Park and Inveresk sites.

The QVMAG *Futures Plan* (page 114) observes:

*"... the representation of Tasmania through the QVMAG collection should no longer be bound to the geographical location of the Museum at Inveresk or the Art Gallery at Royal Park; with our stories, culture and histories having the capacity to drive national and international engagement ..."*

In the recently completed *Organisational Strategic Development Program*, outreach is assigned its own *Outreach Strategic Framework*. This reflects the importance that QVMAG entrusts with growing its delivery of products and services to a growing, and ever-more diverse, audience around Tasmania, the nation, and internationally. QVMAG recognises a particular obligation to delivering products across northern Tasmania but also operates in a global cultural ecosystem.

While growing and diversifying audiences who visit QVMAG sites remains a priority for the institution, we recognise that there is far greater capacity to grow our remote audiences, through contact with our 'real' and virtual products delivered at other sites and into people's homes and schools.

This Annual Report records achievements in outreach under all the other section headings. This reflects the fact that outreach can relate to all areas of QVMAG outputs.

This section provides a summary snapshot of some of the major outreach programs that QVMAG has advanced over the reporting period. It is far from exhaustive.

Exhibitions curated or organised by QVMAG are mostly delivered at the Art Gallery and Museum sites, where environmental conditions are suitable for delicate objects and artworks. However, each year QVMAG delivers a number of exhibitions at other sites in Tasmania.

A vital Aboriginal Education outreach initiative continued in 2023/24 for the meenah neenah Program with Port Dalrymple School, South Georgetown Primary School and the Georgetown Child and Family Learning Centre. This program is part of a mentoring initiative that offers First Nations communities the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of Tasmania with the support of the QVMAG Aboriginal Learning Facilitator.

Fran Reeve-Palmer for RISE  
on QVMAG's digital platforms.

Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG





Performers at *mannalargenna*  
Day 2023, held at tebrakunna  
/ Little Musselroe Bay  
Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG

As a multidisciplinary educational and research institution, QVMAG is a source of information for extremely varied audiences. Over the past year, QVMAG staff responded to 2,666 public enquiries, including questions relating to the collections and areas of QVMAG expertise across all its disciplines. The majority of these enquiries are made via telephone and email, from people around the State, country and even overseas. It can require significant investment of time to research and respond to some of these queries.

QVMAG staff participate in many offsite events through the year. Some of these events are QVMAG organised; others are events where QVMAG is contributing its expertise. An example of the first is the *Curators in the Pub* series, where QVMAG curators deliver informal talks on a wide range of topics in venues outside of the QVMAG sites. An example of the second is *mannalargenna Day* held at Tebrakunna (Little Musselroe Bay) each year, where for the past five years QVMAG staff members have coordinated and helped deliver the art program alongside community members and local artists.

We don't keep a consolidated record of all the offsite staff engagements. We should.

Publications written by QVMAG staff, and those published by QVMAG, are a major component of outreach, disseminating information about QVMAG collections, exhibitions and research. In 2023/24, QVMAG staff and associates had seven publications published in professional and popular journals. QVMAG produced three publications issued.

Like all contemporary institutions, QVMAG is highly active in online marketing and through social media products. These have the capacity to reach people anywhere in the world. In 2023/24, QVMAG developed 158 social media assets.

QVMAG loans items from its collection to accredited institutions for exhibition and research purposes. This takes the collection beyond the walls of the institution – sometimes to the other side of the world - thus much increasing its access to a global public and researchers. In 2023/24, over 150 collection items were loaned to other institutions.

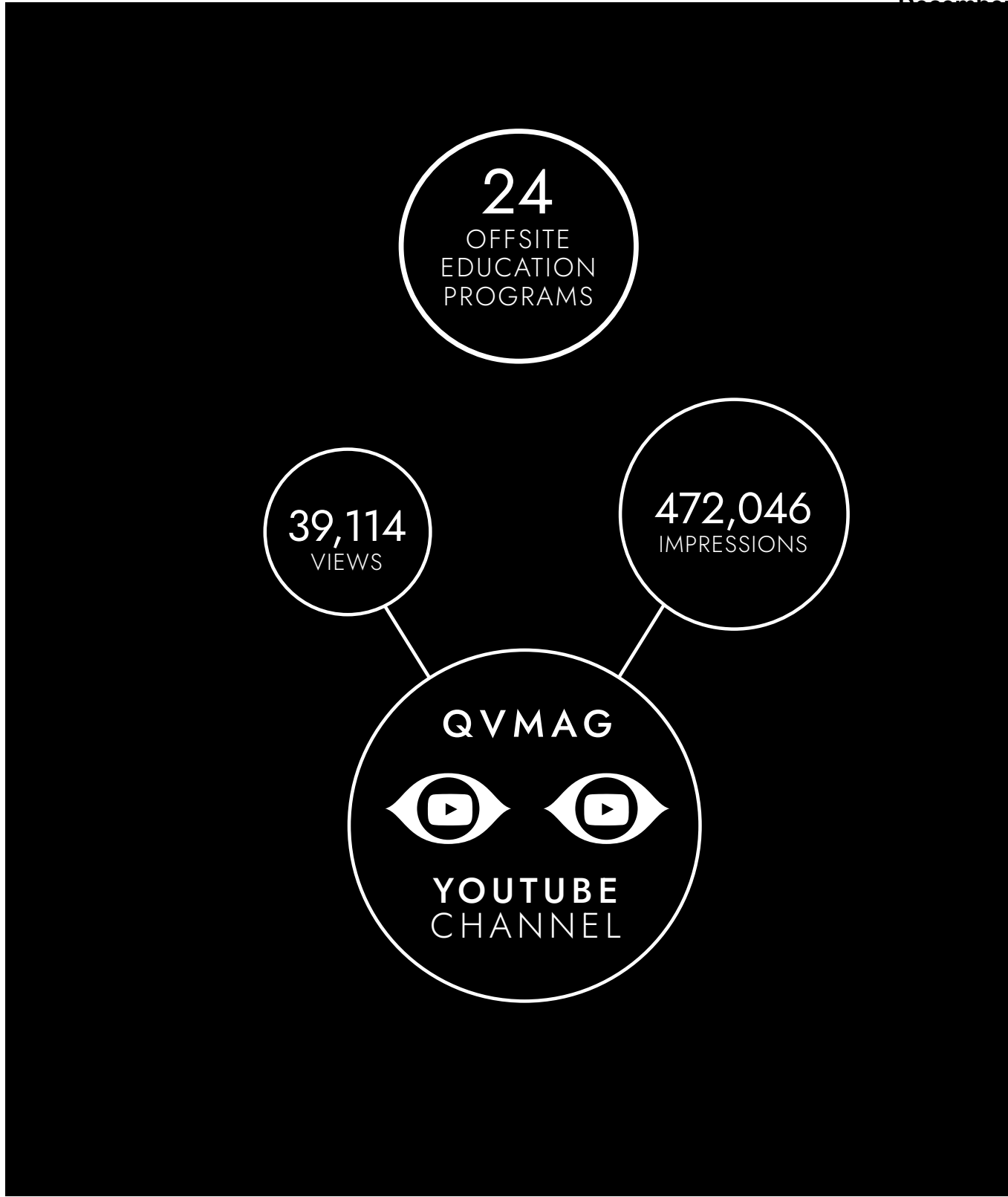
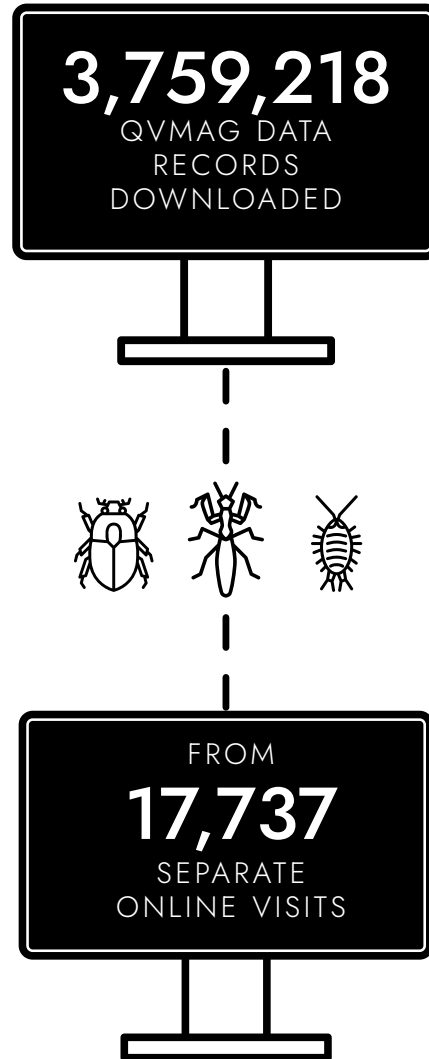
Museums and galleries around the world are delivering ever more of their public programs through online services. The QVMAG website attracted over 150,000 active users exploring site content in the 2023/24 year. People are visiting online to learn more about what is happening at the Royal Park and Inveresk sites, to access information on the collection, to utilise online educational packages, and to browse or purchase in the online shop.

Each year, QVMAG adds more of its collection to its digital Collection Management System (CMS). The CMS allows QVMAG to better manage its collection and to provide better digital access to very diverse users. In 2023/24, over 32,000 collection records were entered or updated in the CMS. Collection data entered to national databases are discussed below.

More and more, researchers in Australia and internationally rely on information made available online by research institutions such as QVMAG. This information can include textual data, maps and digital images held on collection databases. QVMAG is making more of its collection accessible through its own website, and in addition, places data on national databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia and OZCAM. In 2023/24, QVMAG uploaded 9,890 collection records to these national databases, where they are used by researchers around the world.



# ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA





## EDUCATION OVERVIEW

At the heart of QVMAG's strategic goals lies a commitment to continuous learning and STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education. Throughout the year, QVMAG consistently delivered a diverse range of engaging learning experiences, led by educators outside the traditional classroom setting.

QVMAG's innovative approach allows for curriculum-based learning embedded in education programming that emphasises life-long learning. Within program offerings, STEAM-based disciplines are central in fostering inquiry, conversation, and critical thinking among students when on site at the Art Gallery and Museum, and when they return to the classroom.

QVMAG develops and implements curriculum-based learning experiences through programs offering a mix of formal and informal education programs, hosted sessions, hands-on workshops, teacher and student resources, and educational outreach programs. As outlined in the *Futures Plan*, it is key for the institution to maintain a clear focus on local content, fostering strong connections within our community, along with the opportunity to include local practitioners in the production of programs for schools, children and families.

QVMAG's education offerings are continuously reviewed and renewed and now link holistically across all QVMAG's outputs. This year, QVMAG proved the commitment to embedding learning opportunities across all our offerings, with collaboration across internal working groups to develop and deliver new and unique experiences, especially for young people, within the exhibitions at both sites.

Throughout the 2023/24 year, there were play-based learning interactives and family-friendly educational modules embedded within exhibitions, curriculum-based teaching resources and play-based learning collateral for families. Reflecting QVMAG's dedication to continually produce and deliver diverse educational experiences for varied audiences, this year QVMAG focused on connected opportunities for employing innovative formats with inclusivity at its core.

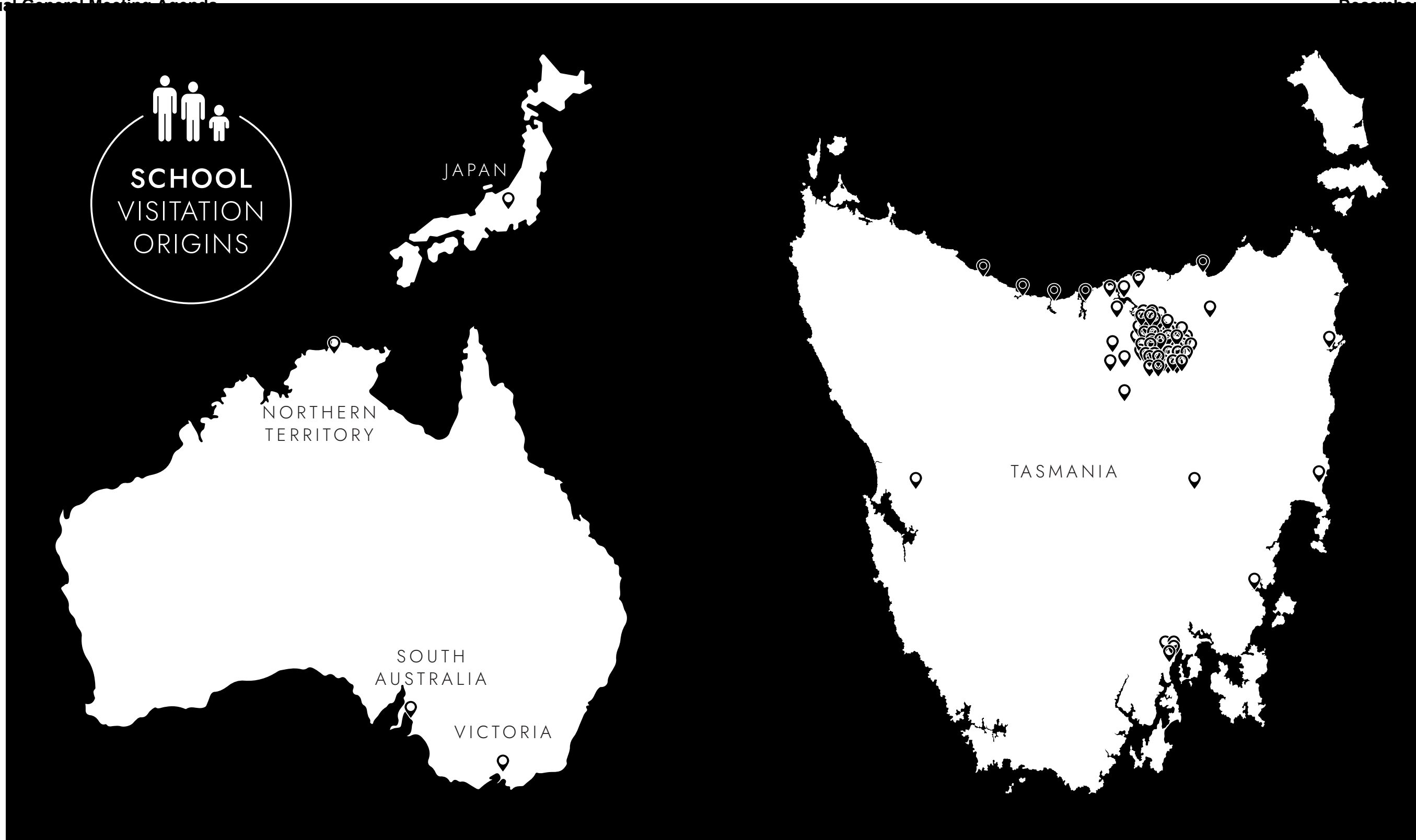
As noted by the Australian Curriculum Version 9.0, curriculum-based learning linkages are crucial for creating meaningful and effective educational programs that cater to the diverse needs of students and prepare them for lifelong learning.

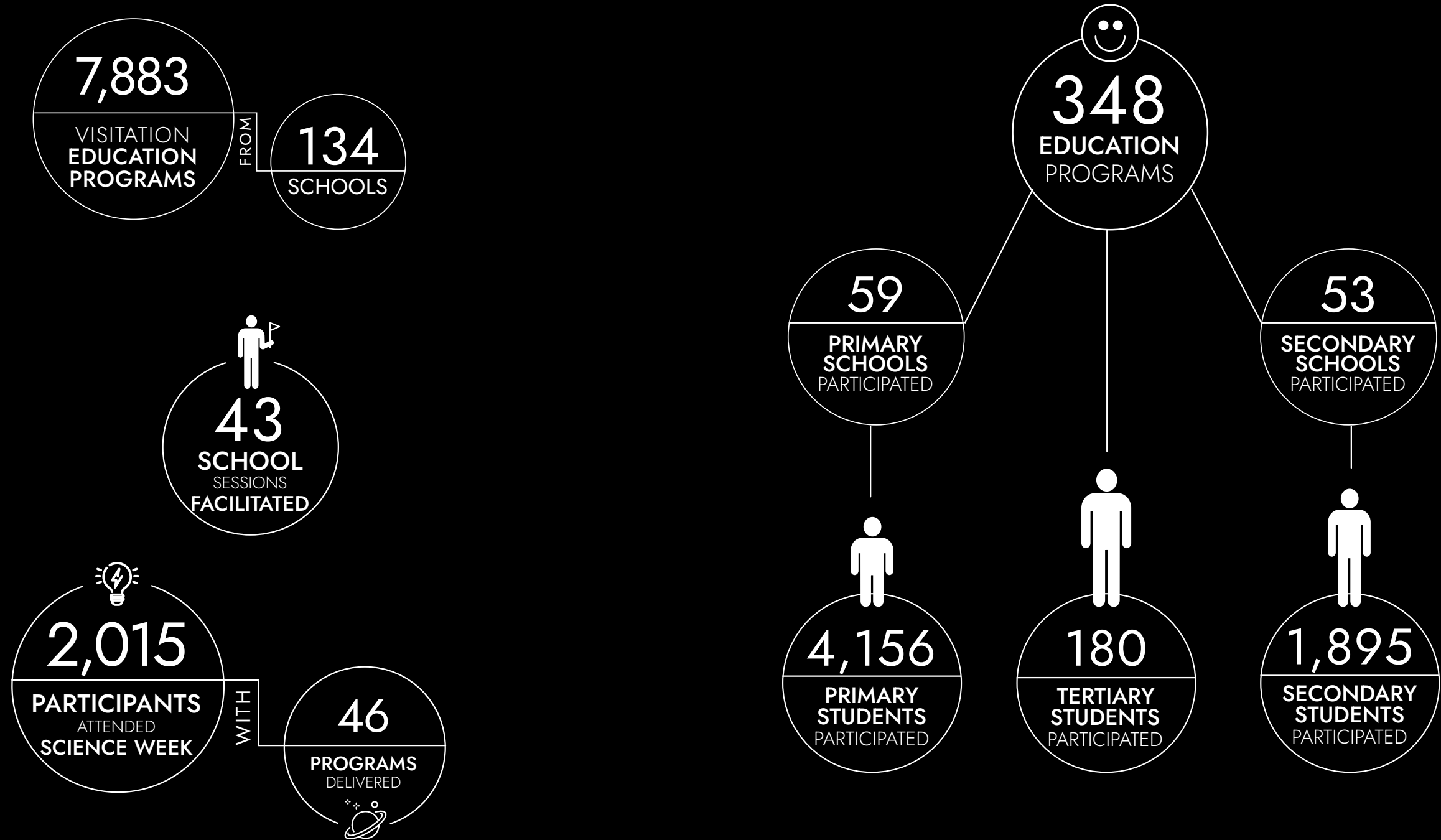
In the 2023/24 period, QVMAG presented 348 educational initiatives, reaching 7,883 students and individuals through a wide array of offerings, including educational programs held within the gallery spaces, specialised hands-on art-making sessions, STEAM-based learning workshops and exhibitions developed by students.

QVMAG has successfully expanded its education outcomes by engaging with educational institutions ranging from primary schools to universities - locally in northern Tasmania, and state-wide. During this period, 134 schools participated in QVMAG's educational programs. There were also three visiting schools from mainland Australia and one school from Japan.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total onsite Education Programs	386	324
Total offsite Education Programs	4	24
Total Primary Schools participation	48	59
Total Primary Students participation	4,395	4,156
Total Secondary Schools participation	31	53
Total Secondary Students participation	3,232	1,895
Total Tertiary Students participation	163	180
Total number of facilitated School sessions	79	43
Total number Students facilitated sessions	1,498	891
Total number of Science Week Programs	32	46
Total attendance Science Week	1,513	2,015





A highlight for this year was the research, development and delivery of an ongoing format for printed educational resources for both schools and families alike, with two wonderful activity books, one featuring *Strange Nature* at the Art Gallery, and the other for *Wetlands* at the Museum. These activity books were hugely popular with visitors right through until the close of each exhibition. Featured activities from both these books were made available digitally to schools, teachers and families learning at home online.

There was also the renewal of the 'kid trails' activities which are available ongoing at both sites, and this year featured the exhibitions of *Miniature Worlds* at the Art Gallery and *Mind Blown, Botanica* and *Tasmanian Connections* at the Museum.

In June, there were broader education offerings being piloted, as the Aboriginal Education program flows on to focus on educational resource development. During 2024, the suite of programmatic offerings in this area will be redefined and strengthened, as QVMAG continues to focus on developing renewed programming, along with establishing stronger partnerships in the sector.

In the later part of 2023/24, QVMAG launched further new education offerings, focused on hands-on learning workshops linked with Aboriginal Education, specialised art-making and new live presentations in the Planetarium that build on the popular 'night sky' sessions concentrating on curriculum topics for secondary school students focused on the seasons in nature.

QVMAG is continuing the assessment of the current and future collection of programs, with an emphasis on further curriculum-based links that can be shared in QVMAG informal learning settings, along with teaching resources.

To assist the development of QVMAG's education program, in June 2024 the first phase was undertaken for introducing the new *QVMAG Educators Reference Group*, which will be operational later in 2024.

This advisory group will be made up of teachers, educators in the public sector, informal learning practitioners, literacy and early-years specialists and STEAM-based educator groups.

The *QVMAG Educators Reference Group* will assist program co-design that is relevant and contemporary for various stakeholders and ensure that QVMAG continues to cater to different educational stages, from early childhood right through to tertiary education levels.

As a key deliverable from the *Futures Plan*, QVMAG places equal emphasis on crafting and executing digital learning platforms, extending outreach to schools across northern Tasmania and enhancing off-site interactions with unparalleled access to its collections. This will be enhanced by the new 3D online collection capabilities that are being developed in 2024 (and are discussed further elsewhere in this Annual Report).

With this, QVMAG will continue to adapt to the dynamic digital landscape, fostering more connected and modern cultural experiences for Tasmanian educational institutions and a wider audience.

This approach ensures that QVMAG's educational offerings embody a commitment to digital culture for delivering better-connected contemporary cultural experiences for schools and broader education audiences, both within classrooms and through on-site engagement.



Participants of the *Holiday Program: Strange Nature inkblot creatures* workshop at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## ARTSTART

In the 2023/24 period, the *ArtStart* program and exhibition continued to be a key program for QVMAG's integrated education-focused initiatives that ignite the creative journey for young, inquisitive minds. Through this K-6 art exhibition program, QVMAG is fostering children's engagement with the visual arts. Each program cycle revolves around a specific thematic framework that promotes early critical thinking and student-driven visual and curatorial growth.

Schools right across northern Tasmania are invited to create works in class during the school terms and then encouraged to contribute artworks aligned with the chosen theme. A group of student curators are selected from one of the participating schools to lead the exhibition's development, offering a rare insight into curatorial practices, artwork selection and exhibition management.

'During the period, in addition to 12 local Launceston schools, artwork was submitted from these further afield schools: Mountain Heights School, Queenstown; St Mary's District School; Bicheno Primary School; and for the first time, truwana/Cape Barren Island School.

This year saw three *ArtStart* shows, the first being *ArtStart: For Our Elders* as part of QVMAG's NAIDOC Week celebrations. This NAIDOC Week theme recognised and celebrated the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and students responded to this by depicting the people and stories of Tasmania's community.

*ArtStart: My Imaginary World*, which highlighted students' interpretations and re-imaginings of their worlds, featured the works of 40 students from eight schools from around northern Tasmania, including Flinders Island.

The Mayor of Launceston opened the exhibition, which included a live stream of the event for the regional schools to be able to participate in the launch. There were also three new Student Curators for this show, joined by three Student Mentors assisting in the selection of the artworks to be hung from over 100 submissions.

The third element, *ArtStart: Keep the Fire Burning*, opened on 29 June and closed out the 2023-24 *ArtStart* program. The theme of fire honoured the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture, with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*ArtStart* nurtures, endorses, exhibits and ultimately honours the creative talents of our community's budding artists, who can go on to become today's emerging and seasoned professionals.

The *ArtStart* program continues to be a highlight of both the education and exhibition program at the Art Gallery, consistently reaching new audiences and bringing the Children's Gallery to life.



Attendees of the opening of *ArtStart: My Imaginary World* Art Gallery at Royal Park.  
Photo: George Perkins  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## THE BIG PICTURE

Again in 2024, QVMAG held *The Big Picture* exhibition at the Art Gallery at Royal Park as part of ongoing partnership with the Launceston Big Picture School. This collaborative program nurtures student learning embedded in real-world industry practices, facilitated by the mentorship and insights provided by QVMAG's expert teams. This initiative imparts crucial knowledge about the intricacies of developing, curating and delivering art exhibitions.

Through this educational journey, students are empowered to conceptualise an exhibition theme and produce artworks, which are then showcased to the diverse audiences of QVMAG, spanning local, national, and global visitors. In late 2023, 24 Year 9 students volunteered to be involved in the exhibition and met with QVMAG staff to discuss the upcoming 2024 exhibition.

The students spent time at the Art Gallery, becoming familiar with the space the exhibition would be held in, then worked together at school to create and develop the theme for their exhibition, settling on the title and theme of *Mythical Whimsical*.

*"The idea behind this is for artists to respond to the theme in any way they feel comfortable. From emotional responses in abstract representation, to nostalgic references from childhood, Mythical Whimsical aims to represent the make believe and the playful."*

Katherine Kahl, Year 9 Art Teacher,  
Launceston Big Picture School

The students set about creating new artworks during the later part of 2023, including throughout their summer holidays and into early 2024. The students then curated the show at school, showcasing their unique talents, employing diverse media and demonstrating their unique and individual ideas around the theme. Works included both two dimensional and sculptural works and embraced varied materials and media such as ceramics, textiles, digital works and sculptures created from mixed media.

The current partnership between QVMAG and the Big Picture School extends benefits to the broader community in several impactful ways. By showcasing student artworks, QVMAG provides a platform for young artists to contribute to the cultural landscape, enriching the community's artistic diversity.

The collaboration offers real-world learning experiences, bridging the gap between academic concepts and practical application, which can inspire other educational institutions to adopt similar hands-on approaches. A key feature of the program is the involvement of local students in creating and curating an exhibition that fosters a sense of ownership and pride within the community, encouraging residents to engage more deeply with the Art Gallery.

The *Big Picture* program is a feature for QVMAG, drawing 4,932 visitors in 2023/24. It strengthens the role of the institution as an invaluable educational asset for Tasmanian teachers and schools, enhancing the learning experience of K-12 students.

Lily BROWN  
Digital artwork, 2024  
computer software





IN FOCUS

## ARTRAGE 2023

Celebrating the outstanding achievements by Tasmanian art students, the annual touring exhibition *ArtRage* is a QVMAG initiative now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year. Each year this exhibition shares an eclectic and inspiring glimpse into the creative minds of talented year 11 and 12 Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) students from around the State.

With a state-wide reputation for fostering the artistic growth of students and sharing a multitude of perspectives, stories, and experiences, *ArtRage* has become an essential component in arts education, providing a platform through which student artists from colleges and secondary schools are able to showcase their creative practice.

As a part of the *ArtRage* exhibition development, our QVMAG curator travelled around Tasmania to view over 1,000 art portfolios presented for the Art Studio Practice and Visual Art 3 examinations. The resulting *ArtRage 2023* featured more than 150 works by 108 students studying pre-tertiary visual arts, drawn from 26 schools and colleges. These works include the exemplary portfolios selected as the *Examiner's Choice* for each subject and, in a first for 2023, a further four students who were awarded High Recommendations.

One of QVMAG's most visited annual exhibitions, *ArtRage 2023* attracted a total of 13,891 visitors to the Art Gallery at Royal Park. Schools from across Tasmania visited *ArtRage* in Launceston and at the Salamanca Arts Centre in Hobart, with secondary and TCE students exploring the exhibition as part of their 2024 arts curriculum studies.

**Lachie SNELL**  
Launceston College | Art Studio Practice  
*Depth*  
digital print  
273.0 x 110.0 cm

# PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2022/2023

## LAUNCESTON

Launceston Christian School  
Launceston Church Grammar School  
Launceston College  
Newstead College  
Scotch Oakburn College  
St Patrick's College

## BURNIE

Hellyer College  
Marist Regional College

## DEVONPORT

Don College  
St Brendan-Shaw College

## HOBART

Calvin Christian School  
Claremont College  
Elizabeth College  
Fahan School  
Guilford Young College  
Hobart College  
Mackillop Catholic College  
Rosny College  
St Mary's College  
St Michael's Collegiate School  
The Friends' School  
The Hutchins School

## LATROBE

Geneva Christian College

## PENGUIN

North West Christian School

## SMITHTON

Circular Head Christian School

## ULVERSTONE

Leighland Christian School



**Charlee SAUNDERS**  
Don College | Art Studio Practice  
*"Government Issued Paranoia"*  
*Who Gets to Play God?*  
*Militarism is a Death Cult*  
*The Illusion of Choice*  
*Profit at the Price of the Proletariats*  
*Media & Mindless Self-Indulgence*  
ball point pen  
120.0 x 114.0 cm (ea)



IN FOCUS

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

During 2023/24, QVMAG strengthened collaboration with the Tasmanian Government's Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) on the Aboriginal Education program and support for the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator program initiative.

As an important program partnership maintained between DECYP and the City of Launceston, QVMAG continues to work together with stakeholders to foster a role that is integral to Aboriginal Education and community engagement—specifically, the employment of one of the State's four Aboriginal Learning Facilitators—within QVMAG's operations.

This year saw the renewal of the important three-year agreement for the Aboriginal-identified role to continue to be provided within QVMAG through until December 2026.

With a great capacity to grow, this strategic partnership enables the institution to have Aboriginal perspectives and Aboriginal people delivering Aboriginal cultural business. As a result, all Tasmanians will benefit. Offered as a 0.6 full-time employment status, the role is critical in devising and implementing a diverse array of Aboriginal Education programming both on site across QVMAG and through outreach activities. The Aboriginal Learning Facilitator initiative is designed to enrich public and educational experiences through the utilisation of QVMAG's extensive exhibitions and collections.

The primary aim is to enhance understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures as per the Australian Curriculum, with a special emphasis on northern Tasmania.

Along with incorporating the creation and implementation of educational programs, the role of the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator extends to providing assistance to the activities of local education groups and a range of QVMAG initiatives. The Aboriginal Learning Facilitator plays a key role in overcoming inherent cultural barriers and helps to close the gap in Aboriginal education and awareness within the institution and the wider community.

The past year has seen the Aboriginal Education program successfully engage with participants across a broad range of education offerings, with a focus on schools, children and their families.

The delivery of QVMAG's Aboriginal Education program is growing to include the development and delivery of outreach programs for schools throughout northern Tasmania, by implementing online learning opportunities where possible and increasing off-site engagement linked with online access to the collection. In support of these initiatives, over the next three years as a feature of the Aboriginal Education program, QVMAG will embrace ever-evolving digital learning opportunities, leading to better-connected contemporary cultural experiences for Tasmanian schools and broader education audiences, ensuring that our educational offer will become embedded within classrooms and in addition to on-site engagement.



*Immersed in Country: earth dyeing workshop led by Aunty Vicki West, held as part of the 2024 International Women's Day program.*

Photos: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



As part of QVMAG's overall programming, the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator role is furthering development of workshops that offer insights into Tasmanian Aboriginal ongoing culture, cultural practices, and protocols. These sessions cater to the general public, culturally diverse groups, and students at school and tertiary levels.

The 2023/24 program included:

- + Development and delivery of art-based workshops focused on knowledge sharing, and skills-based learning by employing traditional/contemporary materials and practices
- + Support for self-guided school groups visiting *The First Tasmanians: our story* exhibition
- + Delivering key annual programs including the *ArtStart* education program and exhibition, *NAIDOC Week 2023* celebrations and supporting the outreach program for *mannalargenna Day 2023*
- + Producing new and innovative programs that provide students an opportunity to engage with, and talk about, culture and cultural practices from a First Nations perspective
- + Continuing to present informal learning experiences using the resources of the QVMAG Aboriginal Garden to share the importance nature has in continuing to provide Aboriginal people with an abundance of foods, medicines and resources
- + Designing resources for educators and the public to learn about and understand why cultural practice is important to Tasmanian Aboriginal people
- + Providing insights into cultural protocols and what constitutes culturally inappropriate use of Aboriginal art, materials and techniques.

During these programs, participants engage in open discussions, converse with a variety of speakers, and learn artistic techniques and media to express their own stories.

The workshops have a dual purpose: fostering cultural awareness and encouraging appreciation among attendees. Additionally, the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator develops and delivers ongoing specialised sessions, aimed at delving into the significance of cultural practices for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

QVMAG's Aboriginal Garden continues to play a key role for the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator to acquaint visitors with the Aboriginal approach to land care, bush foods and other traditional cultural practices. This year in January, the creative workshop with Cornerstone Youth Services was continued. Cornerstone operates this initiative to link young members of the Aboriginal community with culture. With eight participants returning in 2024, the group furthered their art-making skills, working with their hands as part of knowledge sharing.

As the Aboriginal Education program continues to provide opportunities for the wider Tasmanian public to engage with Aboriginal learning programs, the participation of the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator will proceed with developing and delivering select QVMAG public program events. In all these offerings, attendees including those from culturally diverse backgrounds, are encouraged to participate in open discussions, which can be challenging.

Emphasis is placed on the continuity of Aboriginal culture, cultural practices and protocols. This also links with the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator assisting with ensuring Elders and the community feel culturally safe when visiting for meetings and gatherings at QVMAG.

Moving into a new year, broader education offerings are being piloted as QVMAG works closely with support from DECYP and the Aboriginal Education Services team.



A participant at the *Immersed in Country: earth dyeing* workshop led by Aunty Vicki West, held as part of the 2024 *International Women's Day* program.

Photos: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## SCIENCE WEEK

Each year, QVMAG participates in National Science Week and develops extensive programming. The annual program has become a key event on the calendar for families and students across northern Tasmania.

In 2023, the Tasmanian National Science Week Coordinating Committee and Inspiring Australia (Tasmania) awarded QVMAG one of 12 grants to assist with the delivery of public programs as part of National Science Week.

The institution welcomed 30 class groups from 12 schools across northern Tasmania in August for the annual QVMAG *Science Week for Schools* program at the Museum.

In line with the 2023 Science Week theme of *Innovation: powering future industries*, students engaged with activities relating to technologies that have transformed global industries, including artificial intelligence, 3D printing, facial recognition, autonomous vehicles and more.

Six class groups per day moved through a series of engaging sessions, including a robotics demonstration and hands-on activity, a mini Planetarium show, interactive activities in the *Australia in Space* exhibition and hands-on engineering challenges involving the creation of bridges, towers and robot claws.

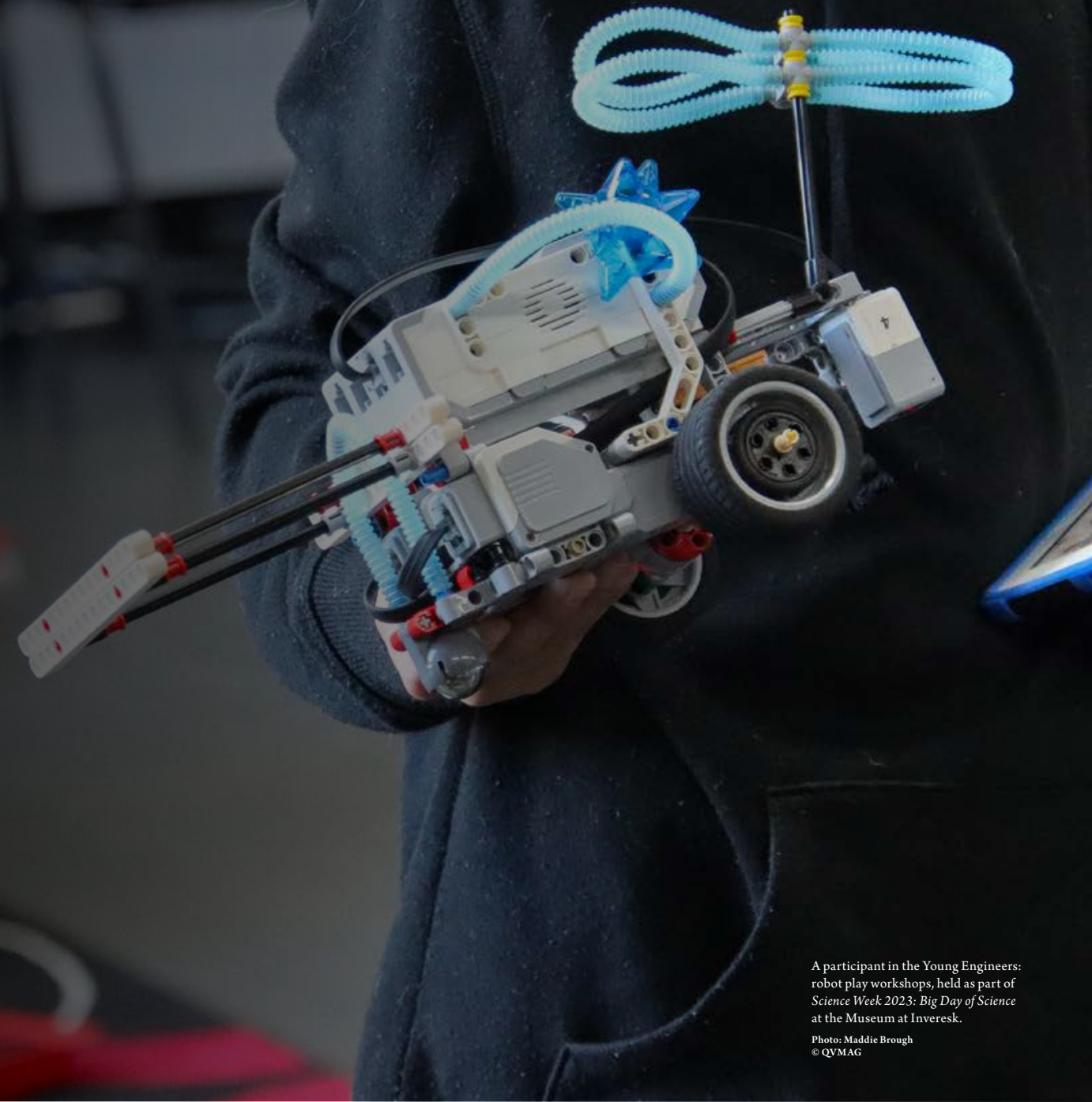
The week-long celebration of all things science at QVMAG culminated in the annual *Big Day of Science*, which each year attracts families from across the region.

A record total of 1,100 visitors attended onsite at the Museum at Inveresk on Saturday 19 August, enjoying a range of interactive activities. As well as attending live science spectacular shows in the Nuala O'Flaherty auditorium, visitors were able to dig for microplastics, play with robots, code a videogame and make a spacecraft.

For adults, the *Science in the Pub* trivia night at Du Cane Brewing was again a great success with 89 attendees. Teams tested their knowledge on everything from molecular biology and chemicals to space and extreme science.

Free talks on the fusion of 3D printing and art, careers in technology and the science of jewellery making – plus free tickets to the Planetarium for Seniors - rounded out the week's program across both QVMAG sites.

STEAM engagement and education remains a core focus for QVMAG and a cornerstone of its annual programmatic offer, especially for families and schools. The institution's programs augment national efforts in science education and appreciation, with a Launceston relevance and flavour.



A participant in the Young Engineers: robot play workshops, held as part of Science Week 2023: Big Day of Science at the Museum at Inveresk.  
Photo: Maddie Brough  
© QVMAG

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The public experience at QVMAG is defined by much more than just its exhibitions. QVMAG public programs expand on the exhibitions and provide stand-alone experiences relating to the collections and all of the myriad of connections that can be made around the collections. Our programs invite visitors to experience art, connect with makers, challenge and share ideas, discover the natural world and make and create as they join a community in conversation.

Reflecting the need to see a dynamic and diverse QVMAG as outlined in the *Futures Plan* and the newly developed *Public Programs Strategic Framework*, the 2023/24 year saw the development and presentation of a vast array of programming that also successfully furthers the institution's 130-year tradition of supporting the exchange of ideas, and hosting meaningful dialogue, within the Tasmanian community, and builds upon QVMAG's storied tradition of being a cultural hub for the region.

Also reflecting the importance of working with our local community and local creative individuals, in 2023/24 QVMAG collaborated with a wide spectrum of local creators, culminating in the creation and delivery of place-based programs that reflect life here in Tasmania, linking to mainland Australia and internationally through our community.

The *Futures Plan* sets a framework for QVMAG becoming a vibrant and innovative hub for the arts, cultural expression and scientific discovery in Tasmania, supported by a dynamic and varied array of community-centric public programs.

In 2023/24, QVMAG has further developed the offerings such as *In Conversation*, *Community Connections*, *Make and Create*, *Art + Performance*, and the *Holiday Program*.

Through *Community Connections*, the stories that are distinctly Tasmanian are woven into the fabric of our communities through shared cultural experiences. A key focus on collaborating with community as well as active creators, artists and producers has developed and lively programs and events. Highlights were *NAIDOC Week 2023*, *International Women's Day 2024*, and *Lunar New Year Celebrations 2024* for the Year of the Dragon.

*Make And Create* and the *Holiday Program* provide family-oriented STEAM-based activities and workshops designed to enhance skills and connections with the collection and exhibitions. These activities support the institution's objectives of broadening its programming scope and extending its community reach to build new audiences.

The *In Conversation* program has successfully and deeply connected audiences with the institution's vast collections, insightful exhibitions and scholarly pursuits throughout the year.

In the 2023/24 period, a total of 1,026 public programs were conducted, engaging 27,713 participants. The following *In Focus* stories represent a selection of QVMAG's programs delivered within the engagement focus themes during 2023/24.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total <i>Make and Create</i> programs	NA	22
Total attendees <i>Make And Create</i>	NA	332
Total <i>Make It Place</i> programs	14	16
Total attendees <i>Make It Place</i>	726	1,486
Total <i>Art + Performance</i> programs	4	4
Total attendees <i>Art + Performance</i>	251	86
Total <i>Holiday Program</i>	20	21
Total attendees <i>Holiday Program</i>	341	360
Total <i>Community Connections</i> programs	10	33
Total attendees <i>Community Connections</i>	422	2,234
Total <i>In Conversation</i> programs	6	17
Total attendees <i>In Conversation</i>	174	471
Total Exhibition programs	51	60
Total attendees Exhibition programs	1,620	1,800
Total General programs	366	326
Total attendees General programs	24,094	20,089





Philip Kuruvita preparing  
for the *Faces of Launceston*  
exhibition at the Museum  
at Inveresk.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG

IN FOCUS

## IN CONVERSATION

In 2023/24, the *In Conversation* program evolved into a key feature of QVMAG's strategic programming, enhancing informal learning for all audiences, local and visiting, with 17 sessions delivered across both sites.

The *In Conversation* program was first offered in 2023 as an identified initiative that would foster curiosity among our community, granting it access to our resident specialists and offering insights into QVMAG's collection. It is also a format that allows for a diverse group of guests, including local and visiting scholars and researchers, notable figures, authors, artists, and other creatives, to engage directly with QVMAG's audiences.

During this second year, with the significant increase in programs, it became apparent that one of the most intriguing aspects of the *In Conversation* series was its unpredictability. It is not always possible to foresee how each conversation will unfold, or where it will lead, providing both the facilitators and the audiences with unforeseen discoveries.

As the *In Conversation* program has developed, today it offers audiences an opportunity to engage in the art of observation and collective learning at the same time. In doing so, it empowers visitors to QVMAG to delve deeper, to engage more intimately, and to explore the exhibitions on a deeper level alongside the artists, creatives and curators as they disclose their narratives and insights.

The sessions often illuminate the interplay between contemporary art and the fabric of our daily lives. They also prompt audiences to reflect on their interactions with the natural world. They encourage us to ponder the current state of our environment, our diverse species, and the climate, fostering a deeper understanding of the world we inhabit.

In some cases, the question has become self-reflexive, in that – do arts and culture hold the key to promoting greater social interaction? During the year, members of the audience stated how they observe that at the heart of an engaged cultural organisation, like QVMAG, there is the essential service of hosting dialogues between creatives and their audience, and there is a co-benefit where this starts to influence and build community.

While face-to-face program delivery is a key feature, this year the *Miniature Worlds* exhibition supported the development of more digital interactions, with its vast international audiences online, particularly linked with social media and live streaming. As the *In Conversation* program design moves forward and new digital capabilities are established, QVMAG's program will be reaching more online audiences.



Aunty Patsy Cameron during the *Land Water Sky: Stories from First Tasmanians* session *In Conversation* held 22 October 2023 in the *Spiritual Patterns* show.

Photo: Maddie Brough  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Now in its second year, the *Community Connections* program at QVMAG continues to focus on the creation and delivery of a varied and inclusive array of programs aimed at the wider community here in Tasmania. The program has enabled QVMAG to dedicate efforts to offering programs that enhance engagement with the cultural sector and communities right across the northern region of the State.

This year saw innovative programmatic ventures tied to QVMAG's exhibitions and collection, inviting both existing and new audiences throughout Tasmania to partake in creative, accessible and imaginative interactions with the community and various sectors.

Working together with community partners, there were 33 co-created *Community Connections* programs presented in 2023/24. QVMAG coordinated a variety of activities within the framework of the *Community Connections* initiative, aspiring to catalyse community-centric dialogues and family-based, hands-on learning opportunities linked to creative cultural experiences.

Three of the major *Community Connections* programs are discussed separately in this Annual Report (*Curators in the Pub*, *Science Week* and *International Women's Day*).

### NAIDOC Week 2023

Two special programs were presented for NAIDOC Week. The first program was an open but intimate offering where QVMAG, through the Aboriginal Education program and the Aboriginal Learning Facilitator, hosted a morning tea at the Museum to celebrate family stories within a community possum skin cloak, with 25 people in attendance. Possum skin cloaks are a continuing tradition to many Aboriginal families and are often inscribed with personal and family stories.

The second program launched the NAIDOC Week-themed *ArtStart: For Our Elders* exhibition at the Art Gallery. School students from kindergarten to Grade 6 participating in the show were invited to the opening event with their families to view their artwork on display and share what NAIDOC Week means to them and the community.

### mannalargenna day 2023

*mannalargenna Day*, held at tebrakunna (Little Musselroe Bay) on Saturday 2 December, was again a highlight for the year. The event was officially opened by the Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Barbara Baker, and attracted another record turn-out from the community, friends and supporters. This was the fifth year that QVMAG has supported the community event with an outreach program that facilitates the community art exhibition. QVMAG staff members coordinated and helped deliver the art program alongside community members and local artists.

### Seniors Week and Children's Week 2023

Workshops for young and old were offered as a part of *Seniors Week and Children's Week* during October. The drop-in sessions for *Children's Week* had 166 children aged up to six and their parents participating in science and art activities during *Science Play for Toddlers* at the Museum, and *Art Play for Toddlers* at the Art Gallery. During *Seniors Week*, the Art Gallery welcomed 96 participants over five programs, one with an intergenerational focus where grandparents and their grandchildren joined together in a hands-on workshop creating 'suminagashi' (Japanese paper with ink-marbling). Other sessions included the workshop *Water Colouring with Coffee* led by local artists, a miniature-making workshop *My Story, My Suitcase*, and a meditation-practice in the Art Gallery through *Mindful Movement* sessions.

### Lunar New Year 2024 Celebrations

A highlight of the summer was the *Community Connections* program, *Lunar New Year 2024 Celebration* at the Art Gallery. This continuing program is a key feature on the community calendar of Launceston, featuring the Guan Di Temple and family-focused activities to celebrate this auspicious time of the year. Over 111 visitors tested their skills with the Chinese calligraphy station, made dragon lanterns and crafts with *Make It Place*, took part in Tai Chi classes in the gallery spaces, and participated in tours of the Guan Di Temple with the History curators. QVMAG also launched its new feature, the 3D collection online with objects from the History collections and complemented by a display of 'dragon' objects within the Art Gallery.

### QVMadness 2024

In its third iteration at the Museum, the *QVMadness* science fiction program took over the site on Saturday 4 May. This year's program welcomed over 524 visitors who participated in many family-friendly activities such as 'space craft' for the kids in *Make It Place*. Audiences could visit the Planetarium for a special presentation, *Astronomer Q&A: Faster Than Light travel - science fiction or fact?*—an event filled with mind bending facts and figures on the concept of space travel. The day also saw back-to-back feature screenings in the Planetarium of *'Dark Side of the Moon: a Pink Floyd experience*, out-of-this-world Photo *'Space' Stations* photo booths and live demonstrations from the *Tasmanian Litesabre Alliance*. And for what is now the program crowd-favourite, over 50 people entered the *QVMadness Cosplay Competition*, where participants brought out their best sci-fi or fantasy cosplay to share in the fashion parade. Over 200 community members viewed the parade, with the winners of the adult, kids and 'up-cycled' categories receiving some way-out prize packs from the QVMAG Shop.

### Pride Month 2024

In the spirit of *Pride Month 2024*, QVMAG forged a partnership with Interweave Arts, focusing on a community-based collaboration. A series of six art-making workshops titled *Progressive Wearable Art: A Diva Gown, diverse & drop-dead gorgeous* were held at the Museum, led by two local artists, to create a wearable-art piece for the 2024 *REMADE Sustainable Art Gala* held at Government House in Hobart.





Artist Enya Arsenal displays the results of the *Progressive Wearable Art: A Diva Gown* workshop series, held in collaboration with InterWeave Arts as part of Pride Month 2024, Government House, Hobart.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## ART + PERFORMANCE

Since 2022, the *Art + Performance* program series has evolved as a feature offering for QVMAG. From its first editions of showcase evening events, the programs highlight artists' collaborative performances with behind-the-scenes experiences for audiences. The series continues to transform as it builds new connections, with wider engagement across the community.

This year *Art + Performance* again concentrated on the development and delivery of immersive, improvised live music experiences within exhibition spaces. QVMAG invited two internationally renowned artists to initiate, develop and deliver their own individual and unique performances during afternoon sessions for all ages.

A continued focus on inviting individual, multidisciplinary artists and producers to engage and respond to exhibitions across both QVMAG sites, *Art + Performance* is designed to showcase a fusion of arts practice. The program series demonstrates the organisation's strategic shift to producing live performance experiences that complements the exhibition program and provides further creative linkages for Tasmanian and visiting artists by employing site-specific performances. In turn, this offers the broader community new and innovative opportunities to participate with QVMAG exhibitions.

In October, audiences were treated to *Immersive soundscape and storytelling from Pacific Islands*, a stirring performance from Tasmanian Samoan musician, interdisciplinary artist and educator, Lila Meleisea. Performed alongside the diverse touring exhibition *Mariw Minaral (Spiritual Patterns)* at the Art Gallery at Royal Park, Lila led an interactive session inspired

by the stories and narrative links within Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait Islands) artist, Alick Tipoti's artworks. Meleisea responded with her own unique experience of the Pacific, her musical creations interfaced with Tipoti's to explore nature and the universe. Through Meleisea's traditional music practices, participants connected to culture through the storytelling within the exhibition.

In December, the *Wetlands* exhibition hosted a contemporary sound performance. Musician Karlin Love performed *The sounds of the Wetlands: a musical exploration* where the audience was transported through the different ecosystems of the wetlands. Karlin guided the audience through sound, sharing stories about wetland creatures and invited the audience to participate in responding to the continuous soundscape with musical instruments, creating a multilayered sound experience.

On Friday 2 February, the Museum at Inveresk hosted a celebration for *World Wetlands Day*. Within the *Wetlands* exhibition Karlin presented an updated iteration of the interactive soundscape experience especially for family audiences.

The *Art + Performance* program allows visitors exclusive art experiences, while activating the gallery spaces and public areas of the institution, providing unique informal learning opportunities for the wider community. As the program continues to grow, so will the cultural and economic co-benefits to the creative community of northern Tasmania.

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Musician Karlin Love at *The Sounds of the Wetlands: a musical exploration*, held as part of the *Art + Performance* program at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

During the 2023/24 period, QVMAG successfully presented an extensive array of family-focused programming across both the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum at Inveresk.

Leveraging the rich collections and varied exhibition program of QVMAG, the holiday programs provided northern Tasmanian families with engaging educational experiences. The ever-popular Holiday Program underscores QVMAG's ongoing dedication to offering free, engaging and hands-on learning for families. A wide variety of workshops for all ages featured in the program, which for the first time since 2019 were delivered across both sites. In 2023/24, the 21 holiday programs attracted over 357 children and their families.

Programs were delivered for winter, spring, summer and autumn. Activities in October covered a diverse range of topics such as planes and travel, printmaking, botanical investigation and mask making.

The summer holiday season was packed with activities. The programs featured at both the Museum and the Art Gallery were a huge success, with all programs fully subscribed. Sessions focused on having children and their care-givers getting their hands dirty creating fun objects, imagining stories and producing pictures in a wide range of mediums. Participants greatly enjoyed the play-based sessions together, with one parent observing that by working together with their child

in the activity, it had given them the confidence to continue similar activities at home. This is evidence that these programs are building capacity for people to learn how to use regular, every-day items to up-cycle into creative learning projects at home with their children. Highlights were the *Exquisite Creatures* workshops for *Strange Nature* at the Art Gallery and the ever-popular drop-in activities of *Make It Place for Wetlands* and *Botanica* at the Museum, and *Miniature Worlds* at the Art Gallery.

The autumn Holiday Program in April focused on family-friendly art-making activities, where hands-on learning featured for light-play with the *Illuminate* exhibition, crafty facts with *Mind Blown* at the Museum and clay creations for *Vast & Varied* at the Art Gallery. A total of 129 people took part in six sessions during the two-week period.

Throughout the year, *Make It Place* remained a popular feature, inviting families to construct a diverse range of items from recycled materials. The success of *Make It Place* also facilitated a series of activations aligned with other public programs, notably the *Community Connections* with *Lunar New Year Celebration* and *QVMadness: a Sci-Fi takeover of QVMAG*.



A participant presents their art at the Holiday Program: *Strange Nature Pom-pom Critters* workshop at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## LAUNCESTON PLANETARIUM

In 2023/24, the Launceston Planetarium's new Digistar-7 Projection System has made a dramatic improvement to the Planetarium's capabilities. Now with true 4K resolution and 5.1 surround sound, it offers a much brighter, sharper, smoother and more immersive experience. With the first months focused on updating programs, screening content and training staff and volunteers, by September the new digital system was fully operative and running brilliantly. Looking forward, the Planetarium can now embrace more dynamic digital programming.

Excitingly, this year these new capabilities have allowed QVMAG's Planetarium to participate as one of 100 international venues to host a special season screening of the *Dark Side of the Moon: A Pink Floyd Experience* to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of Pink Floyd's iconic album, *Dark Side of the Moon* in the London Planetarium in 1973.

Commencing in December, throughout the summer the *Dark Side of the Moon* program began building new audiences and this continues into 2024, with great feedback from visitors, such as:

*"Thank you very much for making this Planetarium Project (Dark Side of the Moon) available to experience at the QVMAG. I enjoyed it more than anything I have seen for years. It has reignited my interest in prog-rock. I remembered the words of the songs which I first heard on the album (1973) when I was twenty-four years old. You have supported science and the arts in one mind blowing show. Congratulations!"*

By offering feature program series like *Dark Side of the Moon: A Pink Floyd Experience* annually, the Planetarium is generating new, diverse audiences, and as defined in the *Futures Plan*, delivering on building a more dynamic and diverse QVMAG.

Throughout the year, the Planetarium has continued to provide a suite of educational programs linked to the curriculum concentrating on physical and space sciences. As part of QVMAG's renewal of educational programming this year, the first new series of live presentations have been delivered in the Planetarium. These first presentations build upon the popular 'night sky' sessions and are curriculum-linked for secondary school students with a focus on the night sky with seasons in nature.

These new programming initiatives link to QVMAG's strategic commitment to continuous learning and STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) education. The programs offer immersive, topic-specific learning opportunities for students and in future this will lift to cover all levels of the curriculum, which will in turn reinforce the Planetarium as a key resource for education in northern Tasmania.

Throughout the year, the Planetarium offered special programming as part of QVMAG's *Community Connections* featured series *QVMadness*, with the Planetarium delivering to QVMAG's strategic aim of linking and integrating educational experiences to all programmatic offerings. As part of the science fiction program take-over of the Museum site on the 4th of May, this year's presentation was *Astronomer Q&A: Faster Than Light travel - science fiction or fact?* Participants learnt about time, light speed and the bending of light, and how we currently consider space travel in 2024 and into the future. The back-to-back feature program screenings for *Dark Side of The Moon Planetarium Experience* were a huge success, with all shows fully booked.

The impressive result of over 13,532 individuals attending 747 sessions at the Planetarium during 2023/24 reflects the high calibre of offerings by QVMAG and the continued engagement of the public with the disciplines of natural and physical sciences, the intrigue of space, and the marvels of the cosmos.

Promotional image from *Dark Side of the Moon: A Pink Floyd Experience*.

IN FOCUS

## AFTER DARK

In August 2023, as part of Tourism Tasmania's *The Off-Season* promotion, QVMAG developed and conducted a series of exclusive *After Dark* tours as a unique offering at the Museum at Inveresk.

These one-off events gave visitors a behind the scenes chance to see the darker side of QVMAG's collections. Featuring objects and stories from the collection relating to death, murder and violence, the tours were restricted to adults only.

QVMAG's collections experts; curators and archivists and museum officers alike, each donned costumes and took visitors on a night-time torch-lit tour of the museum at Inveresk, including exclusive access to some collection stores.

Tour participants were regaled with tales of murderers and their hangings from within the depths of the dark Library collection. QVMAG's death masks of famous people and hanged criminals presented as dark props to historical narratives, peppered with references to Napoleon Bonaparte and Martha Needle the 'Richmond poisoner'.

The grisly tour explored the dark paths of 19th century infant mortality, convict incarceration at Port Arthur, and the brutal practice of penguin harvesting and processing on Macquarie Island. Visitors saw a range of weapons and items relating to warfare from many cultures, before finishing with a look at the 1930s polio epidemic through the Museum's iron lung.

QVMAG *After Dark* demonstrated a demand in the community for different forms of activation of Museum collections and spaces. The positive response to this inaugural program measured beyond any possible prediction, with the sessions selling out almost immediately and enthusiastic feedback received from participants.

These responses provide evidence that it is possible to tap into a cultural zeitgeist desire for 'dark tourism' without compromising on ethical and well-researched content.

This program aligns with the QVMAG *Futures Plan* and *Strategic Plan 2023-28* by creating and delivering accessible and activated programming experiences that cater to new audiences. It is also a contribution towards activating the cultural sector after hours, and collaboration with other parts of the tourism sector in Launceston.



Death mask of Napoleon Bonaparte  
Copy made from original cast taken  
by Dr Burton and Dr Antommarchi  
(Napoleon's private doctor), 1821  
Bequest of Mr Roy Scott McArthur, 1976  
QVM:1976:70:0020  
Photos: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## CURATORS IN THE PUB

In 2023/24, the *Curators in the Pub* series was delivered for a second year as part of the *Community Connections* programming umbrella. For two years, the series has increased its audience and is now confirmed as a key outreach activity as part of QVMAG's annual calendar of events.

The series has continued to enable additional access to QVMAG collections and exhibitions, particularly for older audiences and people who may traditionally not visit either of QVMAG's sites. The program delivers on the strategic outcome from the *Futures Plan* to develop and present accessible and motivating place-based programming experiences in Tasmania. *Curators in the Pub* encourages local conversation, with content embracing the history and environment of northern Tasmania, referencing local arts and culture over the years. The program encourages new friendships, and fosters networking opportunities for local cultural and tourism industry members, welcoming them as part of the broader QVMAG community.

Similarly to the first year, in 2023 there was a wide variety of subjects covered, from community history, contemporary arts practice and archaeology to art theory. This series had over 200 people engaging in five after-hours, off-site programs. There was a lot of fun had getting out and about in Launceston city, with a 'pub crawl' through the CBD.

Over the five evenings in August, audiences came out across Launceston, braving the winter nights to gather for a series of entertaining, engaging programs that provided insight, behind-the-scenes knowledge of current QVMAG exhibitions, features from the collection and topical culture conversations.

As the audiences warmed up in the cosy confines of back street bars and in the roaring family-friendly spaces of brew houses with crackling fires, QVMAG's Curatorial team set about sharing their craft and telling tales of intrigue.

This season's program kicked off with *Gems or Junk?* As deep winter set in, the *Strange Archaeology* feature presentation had 40 participants learning about different archaeology dig sites and some strange, unique and fascinating discoveries as they time-travelled through the Middle East and Europe. The stories revealed gruesome finds and rare objects through the millennia. Over 30 people congregated in a back street bar for *A History of Skulls in Art*. The audience sipped mulled wine as they learnt how the skulls dating from Middle Ages featured prominently in Christian artwork as a reminder of the transient nature of life on Earth.

*Curators in the Pub* program has confirmed there is also an economic value to cultural programming, inspiring locals and visitors to the region to venture out in the evenings to engage in life-long learning and make new friends and connections in the region. The series will continue to be a feature outreach program of mid-winter in Launceston.

*"...thank you for delivering the Curators in the Pub series over August 2023. I made it to two evenings - Strange Archaeology and Skulls in Art. Both were delightful, engaging and I definitely learnt a few things. Please run similar events again."*



Promotional graphic for the *Curators in the Pub* series.

Illustration: Louise Thrush  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

A highlight for *Community Connections* for the year was the *International Women's Day* program. This year's theme, *Inspire Inclusion*, encouraged the development of a series of progressive collaborative workshops where participants worked together to reinterpret an artwork from the QVMAG collection by incorporating a range of media and processes of art making, including textiles, painting, Aboriginal art-making and knowledge-sharing.

Through February and into March, participants enjoyed multiple workshops that allowed participants to spend time making and talking together as they created a collective, community artwork. The project titled *The International Women's Day progressive artwork project* was presented and delivered at the Museum at Inveresk over 15 days. Participants worked together to reinterpret an artwork from the QVMAG collection, Vera Zulumovski's *The Recluse*.

These artist-led workshops involving seven local producers and artists saw over 100 community members from more than 15 countries create a new version of Zulumovski's artwork using various techniques. The enlarged reproduction of *The Recluse* was divided into a grid of 126 squares, each of which was meticulously made by a participant.

Over 130 participants and their family members and friends subsequently attended the *Sharing and Celebrating - International Women's Day* morning tea celebration on International Women's Day on Friday 8 March at the Museum, to see the final artwork revealed and on display for the first time.

During the morning tea celebration, the artwork was draped with the natural-dyed silk scarves created in the *Immersed in Country* workshop series noted above, that were lifted by participants to reveal the artwork. This act symbolised how different we all are, and also how we come together to share our stories. The scarves were then exchanged between participants to take home.

As part of broadening the reach of the *International Women's Day 2024* program, QVMAG launched an online editorial series that explored QVMAG's collection to uncover historical objects and artefacts that belonged to significant Launceston women who embody the ideal of inclusion. The stories were shared far and wide online with a concurrent social media storyline that highlighted the QVMAG collection's artefacts.

One storyline shared the life of an extraordinary local physician, Dr. Geraldine Archer, who spent countless hours helping the Launceston community, not only through her services as an obstetrician and gynaecologist but also in her volunteer work. This included assistance and advocacy for the homeless, conservation and land preservation, support for the arts, and so much more.

Another storyline featured the life of Ann Chung Gon, of the well-known local Tasmanian Chinese family. Ann arrived in Australia from China in the early years of Second World War, as an observant and seasoned traveller. As a gifted orator and confident presenter, Ann gave talks and lectures of her travels. *The Mercury* newspaper contributor Sonja described Ann as "one of the most entertaining lecturers who has appeared before the [Country Women's] Association" (*The Mercury*, 1938).



Participants at the *Immersed in Country: earth dyeing* workshop, held as part of International Women's Day 2024.

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG





Attendees at the *Sharing and Celebrating* morning tea, held as part of International Women's Day 2024.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



## BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW

QVMAG Business Support functions serve to empower the institution's executive and specialist core disciplines, such as curatorial development, research, collections management, exhibitions, public programs and engagement, to realise their strategic objectives.

Operationally, Business Support manages front of house, visitor and commercial operations, site maintenance and infrastructure, IT/visual media and data collection for reporting and development activities, such as grants, donations and bequests. The coordination of volunteers and membership and representation on the QVMAG Friends committee complete this area's focus.

In a similar vein, Business Support activities link with and reveal results for benchmarking service delivery and offer insightful information on a wide range of success metrics, including partnerships, funding, commercial performance, marketing and communications, and customer service.

Throughout the 2023/24 reporting period, QVMAG realised significant achievements in Business Support across the key areas. These achievements reflect the continued strategic shift of the institution, as defined in the *Futures Plan* and the newly developed *Strategic Plan 2023-28* and *Strategic Instruments*.

In 2023/24, *Development* and *Commercial Strategic Frameworks* were refined as part of the holistic *Organisational Strategic Development Program*. These Frameworks will guide the wide-ranging own source revenue generation and partnership initiatives of QVMAG into the future.

With an overall commercial result of \$655,198, QVMAG continues to achieve encouraging outcomes from a commercial perspective. The combined revenue from the Launceston Planetarium, education, Library, and public programs totalled \$131,574, which is indicative of the continued high attendance figures linked to these initiatives.

The QVMAG Shop continues to enjoy community and visitor support with strong retail sales of \$514,069 for the financial year, engaging 67 Tasmanian businesses and makers, including 19 new Tasmanian suppliers in the last 12 months.

The success of the *Wetlands* and *Botanica* exhibitions and the accompanying QVMAG branded merchandise, developed by QVMAG, has been one of the many highlights for the QVMAG Shop.

*Wetlands* merchandise included adult and children T-shirts, *wetlands* tote bag, children colour-in backpack with crayons, magnetic postcards with envelopes and badges.

*Botanica* merchandise included interesting and unique pieces specifically curated to reflect the range of the QVMAG collection, such as pressed seaweed images reproduced as beautifully designed spiral-bound notebooks.

This QVMAG-specific merchandise based on collections and exhibitions provide great mementos and are a low-cost touch point for visitors, as well as acting as effective marketing tools for the institution. Every visitor wearing a QVMAG article of clothing or carrying a QVMAG tote bag is a promotion for the institution.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total number Public Enquiries	3,457	2,082
Total number of Volunteers	61	64
Total Volunteer hours contributed	2,442	2,770
Total \$ Venue Hire	\$16,085	\$9,555
Total \$ Program Fees	\$100,794	\$131,574
Total \$ Exhibition Fees	\$185,558	NIL
Total \$ Shop Sales	\$570,295	\$514,069
Total \$ Commercial result	\$872,732	\$655,198
Total \$ Waived Fees	\$84,400	\$68,690
Total \$ Donations / Bequests / Grants	\$1,859,564	\$567,203
Total Professional Development initiatives	4	11





The institution received a modest \$9,555 in revenue from venue hire. Significantly, and as a component of a larger cultural ecosystem, QVMAG supports numerous organisations, events and community groups that help to realise the culturally active, dynamic and diverse community fabric of the City of Launceston.

In supporting a culturally diverse and activated Launceston QVMAG waived a total of \$68,690 in venue fees, supporting the successful realisation of a number of community led projects.

Even though this represents a significant reduction in revenue for QVMAG, the qualitative value of contributing to the success of these community and cultural organisations' initiatives far outweighs the limited financial benefits to a single institution.

QVMAG is fortunate in having a number of affiliate and reference groups who support the strategic ambitions of the institution. Through the efforts of the Museum Governance Advisory Board, the QVMAG Aboriginal Reference Group, QVMAG Friends and the QVMAG Arts Foundation, 2023/24 has realised significant progress in strategic advancement, collections development, programmatic output and development in First Nations appreciation.

Whilst each individual affiliate report is outlined further in the Annual Report, QVMAG would like to acknowledge and express our deepest gratitude to the committed and dedicated members of each committee and their corresponding members, in advancing the institution throughout 2023/24.

As Australia's largest regional cultural institution with one of the country's most significant and diverse collections of over 1.5 million objects, our capacity to meet the needs of our strategic objectives coupled with increased awareness and external interest, is often difficult to manage.

Throughout the 2023/24 period QVMAG received a total of 2,666 public enquires, and research and collection inquiries. Through the dedicated efforts of QVMAG staff across many areas of activity, each of these enquiries/inquiries were responded to during the reporting period.

Whilst a portion of these can be completed in relatively short order it is worth noting that specific research or collection inquiries often require the collaborative expertise of a number QVMAG staff and involve significant time invested to research. It is calculated that during 2023/24 the institution received an average of over 10 enquiries/inquiries per day, every day.

In supporting our efforts, QVMAG relies heavily on the support of a dedicated and passionate Volunteer cohort. Our Volunteers support us in a variety of ways and across a number of areas within the institutional environment.

During 2023/24, 64 Volunteers contributed a total 2,770 hours working alongside the QVMAG team in our History Centre, Library and Archives and Natural Sciences Collections, to name a few. We would like to sincerely thank our Volunteers for their unwavering support during 2023/24.



IN FOCUS

## JO OSBORNE

In 2020, QVMAG was donated one of the largest private butterfly collections in Australia: The *Trevor Lambkin/Ian Knight collection*. Comprising more than 16,000 Australasian specimens collected over 50 years, this priceless and nationally significant gift needs a lot of work for it to be registered and made accessible.

Our incredible volunteer of 10 years, Jo Osborne, brings her academic knowledge into a range of projects, from sorting bulk field samples of invertebrates into orders and families, to specimen registration. In recognition of Jo's skills and diligence in completing tasks, she was specifically selected to begin the enormous task of registering the *Lambkin/Knight butterfly collection*.

Jo's challenging job is made more difficult by having to conduct online research to interpret place names on old labels. Many of these specimens were collected before technology such as GPS was readily available, and many tropical archipelagos' island names have changed throughout the Asia Pacific region.

It was common practice for collectors to swap or trade specimens with other prominent collectors and so the Lambkin/Knight collection has already gifted surprising finds of specimens from historically famous lepidopterists. All this information has to be researched, collated and added to the data set. It is a daunting task but a vital one, and rich with research information. Every specimen registered is a win!

In the past year, Jo has registered more than 1,000 butterflies - a monumental achievement given the complexity of the task. These registrations are provided to external digital platforms such as OZCAM (Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums) and ALA (Atlas of Living Australia) where researchers and the public can access this important data from anywhere in the world.

To us, Jo has become "Queen of the Butterflies".

Alongside this work, Jo has supported QVMAG outreach programs such as *Science Week* and assisted natural sciences in ways too numerous to detail in this short report.

The key story that Jo and our other dedicated volunteers illustrate every day, is that without this loyal resource of reliable volunteers, the outputs from natural sciences and QVMAG more broadly would be greatly reduced.



Jo Osborne patiently registering Lambkin/Knight butterflies.  
Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## HANNAH WATERHOUSE

The QVMAG Natural Sciences collection contains many treasures, including the most extensive collection of Tasmanian bird species in the world. One subset of this collection is 2,500 Australian bird eggs donated by local amateur ornithologists Trevor Singline and Harry Leonard. Collected in Tasmania between 1960 and 1980, this significant collection also includes many clutches exchanged with mainland collectors. Whilst collecting and study of the eggs of wild birds by amateurs was a valued scientific pursuit in the 1900s and early 20th century, from the mid-20th century onwards it was regarded as more 'hobby' than a scientific discipline.

When universal laws governing the collection and trade of Australian wildlife were introduced from 1974, prominent private egg collectors were encouraged to donate their collections to museums. Former QVMAG Natural Sciences Curator, Bob Green, formed a close relationship with Trevor and Harry and offered to officially house their collection when it became illegal to privately own. QVMAG received the collections of eggs as well as a unique collection of 800 nests in 1998. The eggs arrived in the collector's wooden cabinets along with egg data cards containing all the core collection data, such as locality and date. While all this information was collated and entered into the QVMAG database quite quickly, the opportunity to register the individual labels and numbers for each clutch of eggs has begun largely through the efforts of QVMAG Volunteer, Hannah Waterhouse.

Hannah works for Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) but arranges her time to give one afternoon a week volunteering with Natural Sciences. Hannah also has a Zoology degree and her work at QVMAG keeps her actively engaged in her field.

Hannah works hard sourcing the database information for each clutch of eggs to generate labels, including the registration number, number of eggs and core collection data, all of which are placed with each clutch. Flowing on from this work will be rehousing the collection to modern standards and digitising each clutch of eggs. Photographing each clutch and linking the image to the database information means that the images are uploaded to international databases, such as the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), where they are readily available to researchers and members of the public all over the world.

Eggs with quality collection data are important voucher specimens, just as relevant as a whole bird specimen. Egg collections today are used in a wide range of disciplines, including the evolution of egg colours, patterns and morphology, as well as avian breeding biology. Eggs are also useful for phylogenetic and taxonomic studies as they often contain material from the inner shell membranes, embryos or shell powder that is useful for genetic analyses. Long gone is the notion that the world of eggs remains the designation of hobbyists. The isotope analysis of eggshells of seabirds alone has expanded what we know about foraging habits, geographic distribution and differential use of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

The value of historical egg collections to avian conservation is increasingly being utilised in long-term environmental biomonitoring and documenting the effects of chemical pollutants on eggshells. Through the efforts of volunteers such as Hannah, QVMAG continues to make its valuable collections accessible and relevant into the 21st century.



QVMAG Natural Sciences volunteer Hannah Waterhouse with the bird egg clutches she is producing data labels for.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## ANN POWER AND DI WOOLNOUGH

Each Tuesday morning, Ann Power and Di Woolnough are readily spotted in the History Centre at the Museum at Inveresk busily attending to a given task. Presently they are working on the W Penry Seward negatives collection, counting and selecting example negatives for digitisation by QVMAG staff.

Ann commenced as a volunteer in 2001 and Di in 2013. Ann's father was interested in history; when she heard of a volunteering opportunity at QVMAG via another volunteer she decided to take up the challenge. For Di, it was reading an article in the local newspaper about volunteering opportunities with QVMAG.

When Di commenced volunteering, the couple worked separately on different tasks. It was in 2014 that Ross Smith paired them together and they began working as a dynamic team, conquering any task given to them. It was only during this partnership that they realised they are distantly related: their great-great-grandfathers were brothers!

During their time as volunteers with QVMAG Archives, Ann and Di have individually, or as a team, completed an impressive number of tasks:

- + Transcribed oral history interviews
- + Summarised Uniting Church and Holy Trinity Church marriage and baptismal records
- + Transcribed/summarised Clifford Craig and Phillip and Georgiana Oakden correspondence
- + Sorted and organised Coats Patons employee cards
- + Listed City of Launceston inter-war job applications

- + Created a wedding index for the W Penry Seward collection
- + Created a QVMAG exhibitions index from annual reports (Di)
- + Transcribed J&T Gunn (builders) jobbing books.

Despite some significant changes in 2019/2020 (the Library and Archives merger and the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown), Ann and Di thrived on new tasks and challenges:

- + Sorting of ephemera as part of a restructure of the Manuscripts and Ephemera collections (the apple labels being a highlight)
- + Stocktaking and item-checking of 126 Community History Series (CHS) collections
- + Sorting and organising of the Radio 7EX collection community events photographs
- + Sorting and organising of HJ King negatives
- + Sorting and organising of negatives collected when the History Centre operated out of the Johnston and Wilmot building.

Library and Archives staff hold Ann and Di in the highest esteem and enjoy catching up with them each week. For Ann and Di, meeting each other and establishing a great friendship has been an undoubted highlight. Both have enjoyed the experience of volunteering and working together on many and varied tasks. A high point for both was the work done on the marriage and baptismal records and the Clifford Craig correspondence—the latter was so enjoyable that they both now regularly attend The Friends of Clifford Craig functions.



Volunteers Di Woolnough and Ann Power in the History Centre at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

The 2023/24 financial year welcomed yet another great year of brand growth for the institution.

A suite of 'always-on' brand campaign assets were live in market throughout the year, with the goal of championing brand awareness of the institution through frequent and consistent top-tier messaging.

This approach enabled the institution to engage with identified key market audiences statewide, whilst reinforcing essential information about the institution that can often be forgotten.

Top-tier messaging included clear communication of the institution spanning two sites, each offering its own unique and curated experience for visitors, alongside core operational details to promote QVMAG being open 363 days per year from 10am to 4pm with free entry.

The always-on marketing assets sought to ensure that the overarching QVMAG brand was not only highly visible in-market, but additionally provided an in-market response to the high volume of queries often asked by visitors whilst exploring the institution's offerings.

Alongside this overarching messaging and brand campaign, a high volume of sub-campaigns were activated throughout the year to promote exhibitions, educational offerings and public programs.

Total reach for QVMAG marketing and communications programs more than doubled from 5.3 million last financial year to 12.3 million in 2023/24.

Following endorsement of the institution's new brand in June 2022, it continued delivering innovative, highly visible and creative campaign activations for the 2023/24 reporting period.

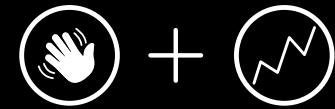
Through strategic sponsorship partnerships with *The Examiner* newspaper and 7 Tasmania, a range of always-on campaign assets were highly publicised both across the greater Launceston region (print media), and to statewide audiences (broadcast media), monthly front page advertising placements through print media, and a blend of top-tier institution and program specific television commercials promoted to new and existing audiences statewide.

Coupled with the above partnerships, the institution continued coverage through a range of legacy marketing platforms, including bus advertising across Launceston, billboard advertising statewide, always-on radio campaigns for the Launceston Planetarium, QVMAG Shop and general programmatic promotion, alongside the continuation of statewide seasonal programs as focal point for the institution, offering a physical summary of what is on offer at QVMAG.

The past 12 months have celebrated a wide range of audience and brand growth goals and milestones being achieved by the institution, with all media, marketing and communication activations throughout this period ensuring clear alignment to the strategic objectives outlined in the endorsed *Futures Plan*.

## OUTPUTS

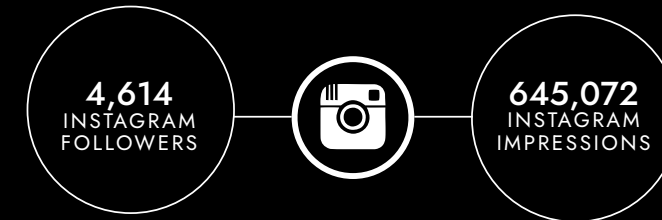
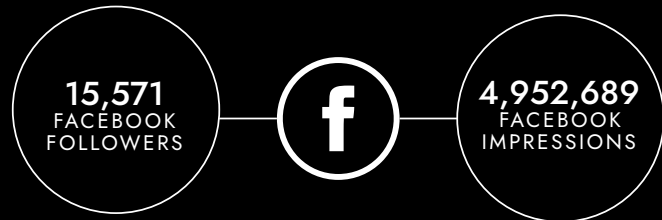
	22/23	23/24
Total social media reach	471,870	2,166,215
Total Facebook posts	398	405
Total Facebook followers	14,635	15,571
Total Facebook reach	423,999	1,091,005
Total Facebook impressions	3,426,139	4,952,689
Total Instagram posts	719	751
Total Instagram followers	3,311	4,614
Total Instagram reach	47,871	182,949
Total Instagram impressions	334,816	645,072
Total media calls	47	30
Total website page views	414,530	420,736
Total website user sessions	154,058	152,887
Total Marketing and Communications reach	5,291,229	12,363,927



**12,363,927**  
TOTAL MARKETING AND  
COMMUNICATIONS REACH



**2,166,215**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
REACH





IN FOCUS

## DIGITAL

Increasingly, audiences are engaging with the institution's offerings virtually or online, greatly expanding the reach of its collection, exhibitions and programs.

In addition to physical visitors at QVMAG sites, digital visitors are exploring the collection and Library and Archives on the institution's website, downloading educational resources available online, and consuming video content via YouTube.

Strategic efforts for this period were focused on further enhancing the digital marketing presence of the QVMAG brand state-wide, through both paid and organic tactics across social media, website and search engine marketing.

Content campaigns continued to expand upon diversification of messaging, spanning image-based posts, reels, online competitions, stories, and engagement-driven content to facilitate online discussion about the institution's collection and its local, national and global significance.

### WEBSITE

During the 2023/24 period, the institution's website maintained a positive trend of visitation growth and engagement, with over 150,000 active users exploring site content. Over 95,000 users visited [www.qvmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au) via organic search engine result pages, 32,000 via direct URL link (via promotions), 19,000 via referral links, 13,000 via social media links and the remaining via display advertising, email promotions and paid search results. Total pageviews grew 4.9% from the previous reporting period.

Whilst general visitation remained high in site landing page results for the period, three feature program pages took out the top placements for the 2023/24 period: *Dark Side of the Moon: a Pink Floyd experience*, *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* and *Miniature Worlds*.

Website user geo-location analysis saw the top 10 audiences for the reporting period located across Australia (97,798), United States (3,260), United Kingdom (918), Philippines (543), Canada (540), New Zealand (501), France (366), Singapore (341), Ireland (288) and India (286). Within Australia, website visitors came from Melbourne (38,863), Hobart (21,171), Sydney (8,193) and Launceston (6,462).

### PAID PROMOTION

Using targeted Google advertising campaigns, the institution encouraged over 2,600 website click-throughs for the promotion of *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* and the QVMAG top-tier destination campaign. Cumulatively, both campaigns welcomed 222,000 impressions, resulting in a low-cost, yet highly effective, campaign activation for the institution across the Google display network and YouTube.



### SOCIAL MARKETING

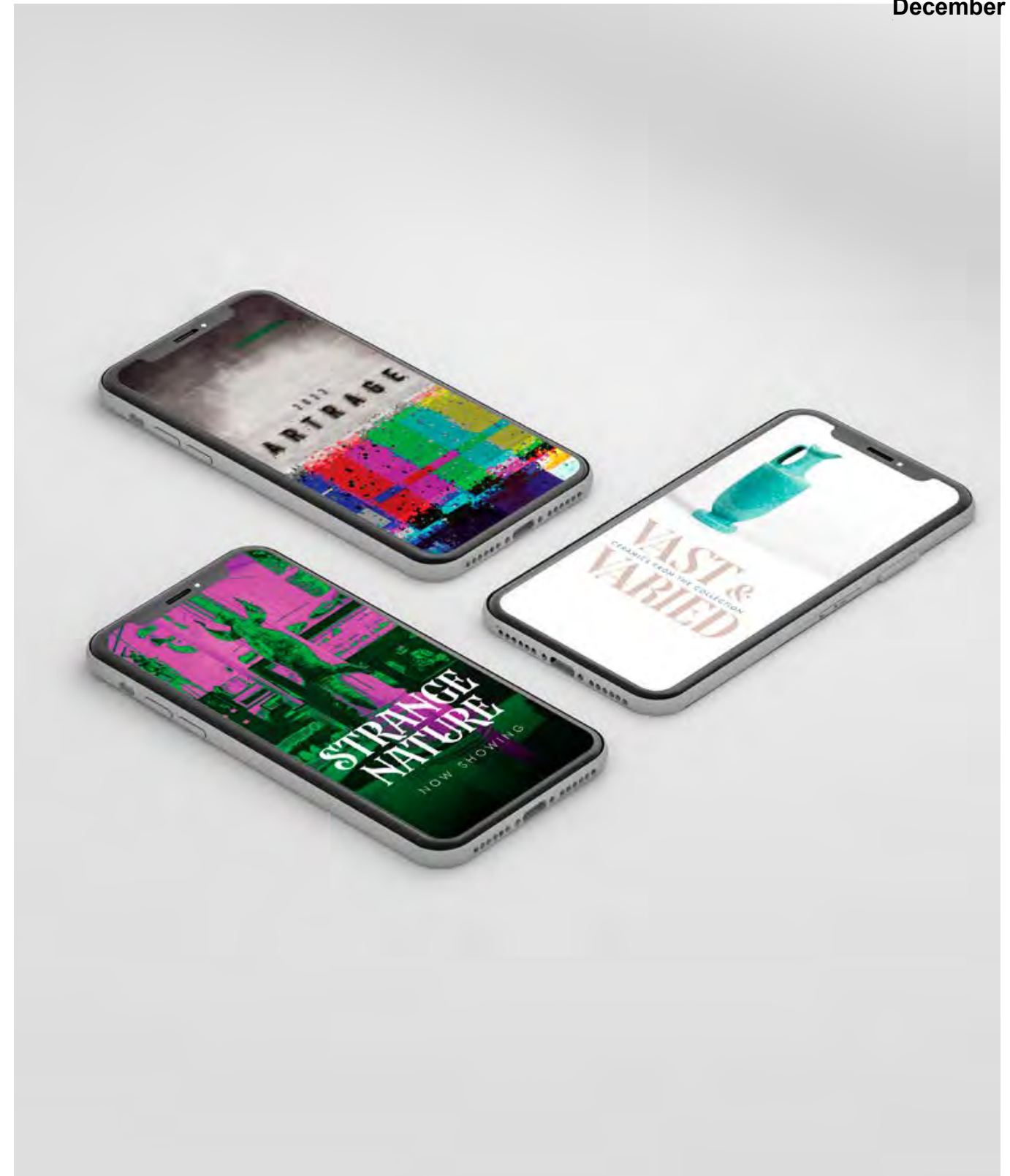
Through a blended organic content and paid advertising strategy primarily across the Meta network (Facebook and Instagram), the institution achieved a cumulative audience reach of 12,363,927 — a 133% increase from the year prior, impressions totaling 5,597,761—a 48% increase, audience engagement of 120,139, link clicks totaling 11,366—a 21.8% increase, and video views of 236,702—an increase of 193.7% from the previous reporting period.

The QVMAG Instagram page welcomed a total of 645,072 impressions for the period, celebrating an outstanding increase of 92%, while organic engagements reached 16,056, up by 47% compared to the prior period. Average daily reach for this channel totaled 1,295 users—an increase of 134% in daily audience reach from the previous year.

Additionally, the institution enjoyed an increased level of engagement with Instagram users. Organic shares on the platform increased by 110.1%, post saves by 122.7%, likes by 42.6% and comments by 15.5%.

The QVMAG Facebook page celebrated a total of 4,952,689 impressions for the reporting period, a 44% increase from the year prior. Engagements totaled 104,083, post click-throughs reached 11,366, new followers for the period totaled 1,237 (creating a following of 15,571 users on Facebook as at 30 June) and the average daily reach for this brand page totaled 11,495—a 59.7% increase from the year prior.

Top performing content campaigns across both platforms included promotions of exhibition, collection and program offerings throughout the year. From collection object profiles and the announcement of the 2023 *ArtRage* Medallion recipient to the family-fun grand opening of Questacon's *Illuminate*, the popular *Miniature Worlds* exhibition and the launch of the Tasmanian exclusive *Dark Side of the Moon: a Pink Floyd experience* show at the Launceston Planetarium, audiences remained highly engaged with the institution during the reporting period.





IN FOCUS

MEDIA

The 2023/24 financial year was a positive year of media growth for the institution, supported by local and national media outlets.

Throughout the reporting period, 30 media releases were issued to promote the institution's diverse operations, spanning exhibitions, research, collection development, programs, partnerships and more.

The institution placed a strategic focus on featuring all pillars of its collection and programmatic outputs during the period.

To start the new financial year, the discovery, identification and naming of a new species of spider generated significant media coverage for QVMAG collections in July. The institution also heralded the return of the popular *Curators in the Pub* series of free events covering a range of subjects in the fields of art, history and science.

August welcomed the launch of QVMAG's multidisciplinary *Wetlands* exhibition, which explored the importance of wetlands, their vital role within our ecosystem and how we can protect precious local and global biodiversity. A focus on the role of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary provided topical subject matter and local relevance, ensuring a high level of media interest.

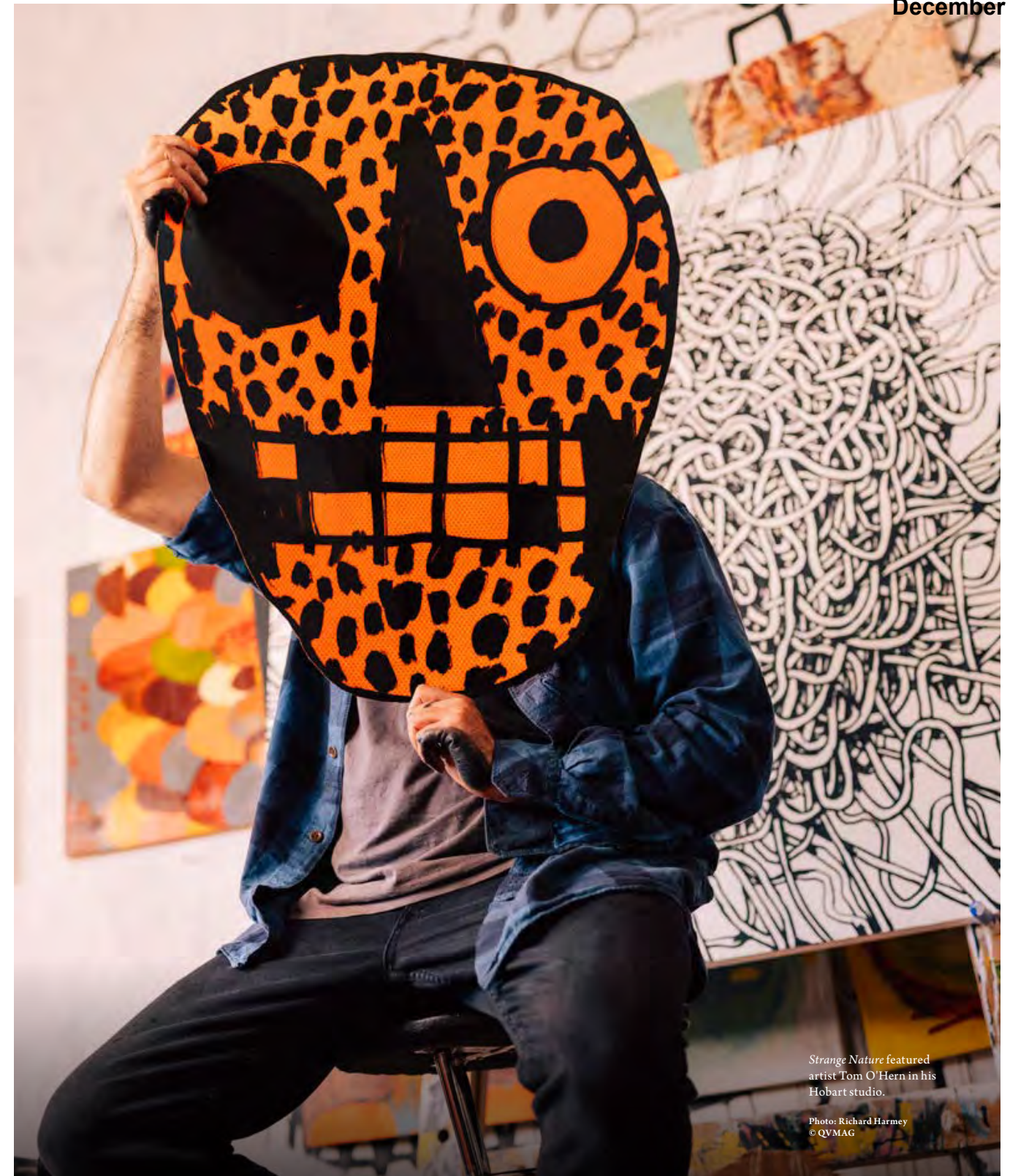
Further activations for *World Wetlands Day* in February 2024 and a new community art installation launched in March at the Tamar Island Wetlands Information Centre increased local engagement with this wonderful exhibition.

Since its opening at the Museum at Inveresk in June 2023, the blockbuster exhibition *Australia in Space* had proven to be a favourite for families across northern Tasmania and statewide. A media release was issued to drive visitation in the final weeks before the successful touring exhibition closed.

During this period, media coverage was also generated to mark the final days of the popular local history exhibition, *HJ King: Cameras and Carburettors* at the Museum at Inveresk.

October was a busy month, with the opening of two major exhibitions at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

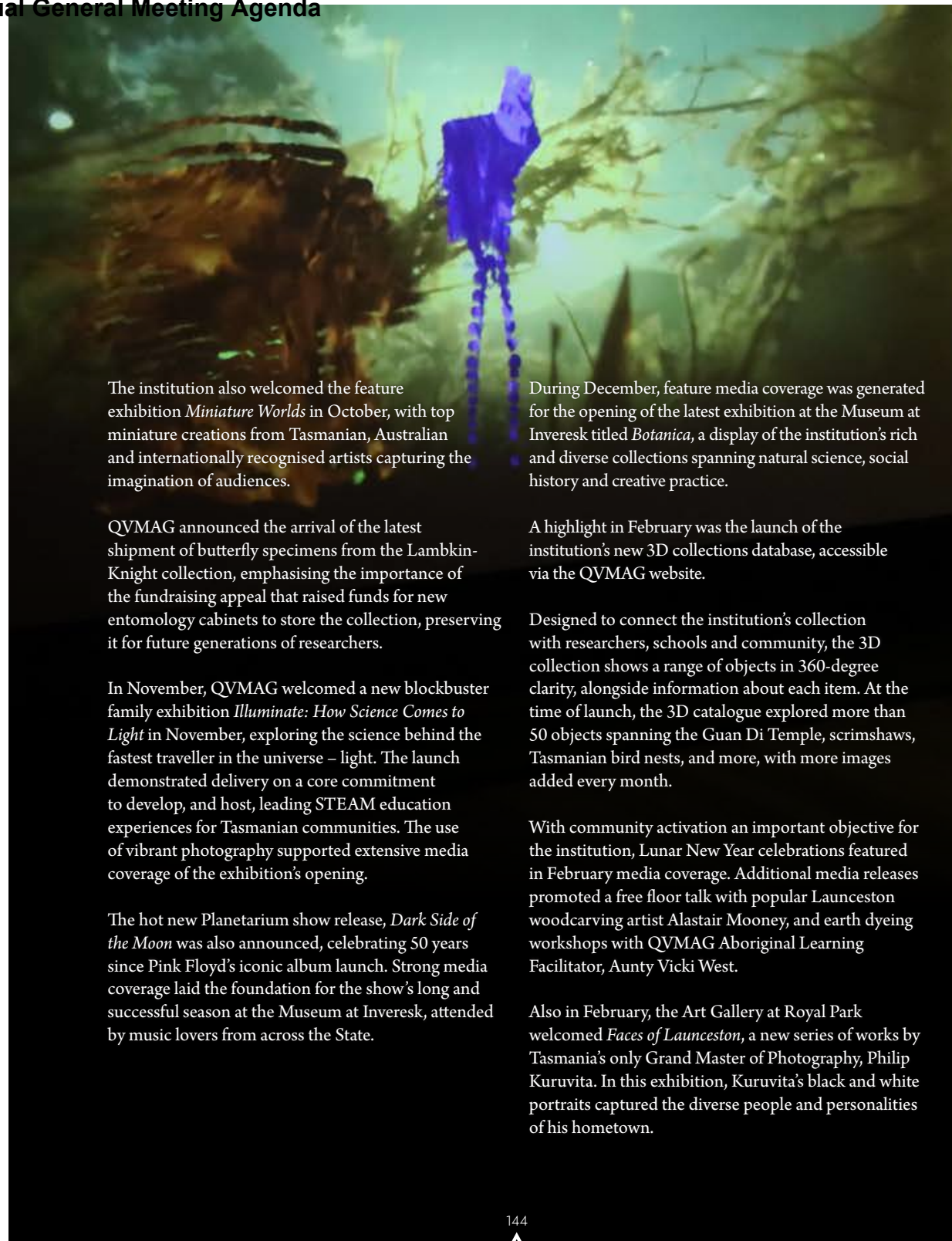
*Strange Nature* brought together a brilliant line-up of contemporary artists to deliver a unique creative experience for both locals and visitors exploring Tasmania. The vibrant fusion of natural sciences and contemporary art presented older specimens from the institution's Natural Sciences collection, alongside bright and engaging interpretations of the natural world from Tasmanian artists, and two headline artists from Melbourne, Troy Emery and Kate Rohde.



*Strange Nature* featured artist Tom O'Hern in his Hobart studio.

Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG





The institution also welcomed the feature exhibition *Miniature Worlds* in October, with top miniature creations from Tasmanian, Australian and internationally recognised artists capturing the imagination of audiences.

QVMAG announced the arrival of the latest shipment of butterfly specimens from the Lambkin-Knight collection, emphasising the importance of the fundraising appeal that raised funds for new entomology cabinets to store the collection, preserving it for future generations of researchers.

In November, QVMAG welcomed a new blockbuster family exhibition *Illuminate: How Science Comes to Light* in November, exploring the science behind the fastest traveller in the universe – light. The launch demonstrated delivery on a core commitment to develop, and host, leading STEAM education experiences for Tasmanian communities. The use of vibrant photography supported extensive media coverage of the exhibition's opening.

The hot new Planetarium show release, *Dark Side of the Moon* was also announced, celebrating 50 years since Pink Floyd's iconic album launch. Strong media coverage laid the foundation for the show's long and successful season at the Museum at Inveresk, attended by music lovers from across the State.

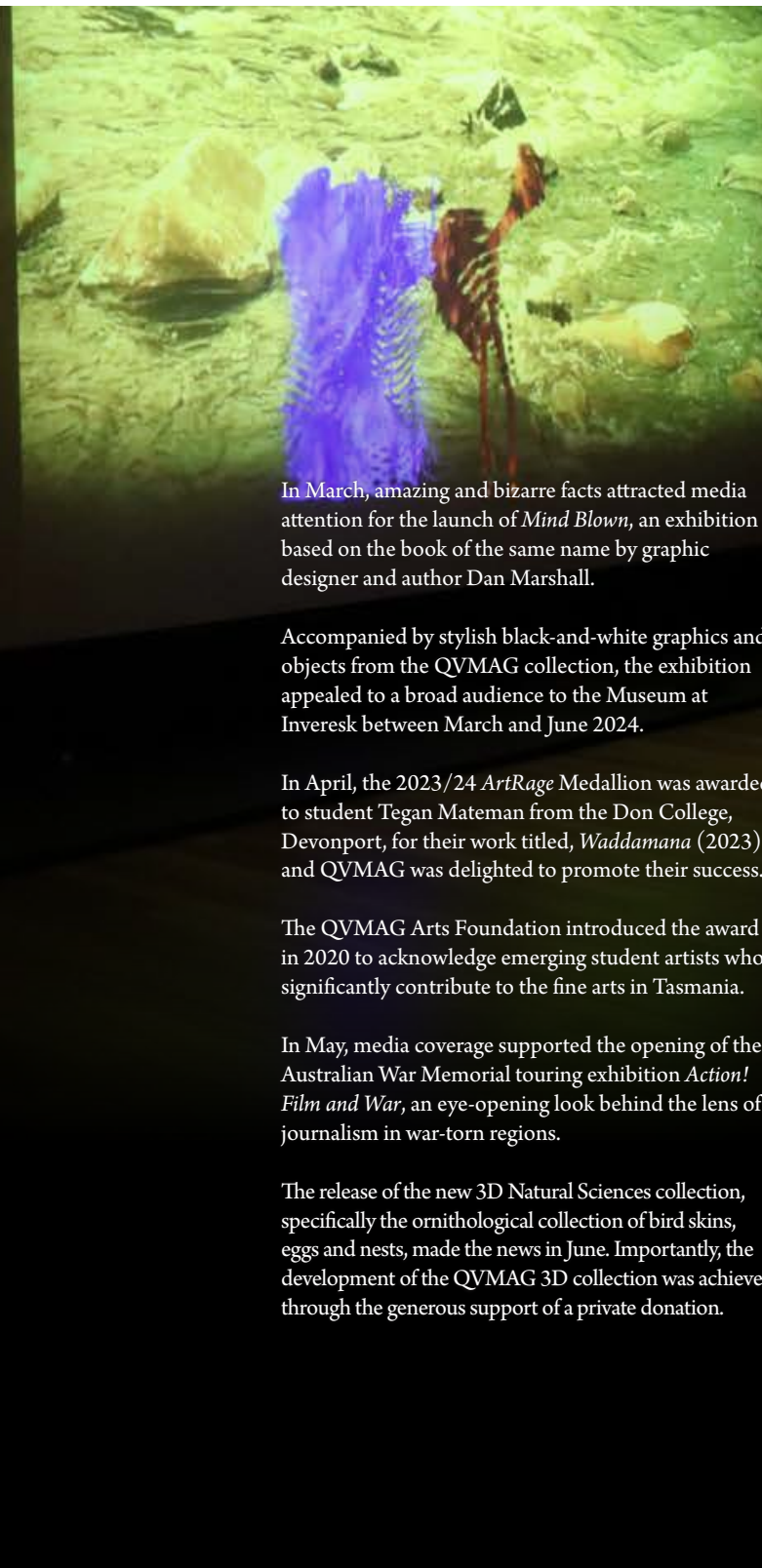
During December, feature media coverage was generated for the opening of the latest exhibition at the Museum at Inveresk titled *Botanica*, a display of the institution's rich and diverse collections spanning natural science, social history and creative practice.

A highlight in February was the launch of the institution's new 3D collections database, accessible via the QVMAG website.

Designed to connect the institution's collection with researchers, schools and community, the 3D collection shows a range of objects in 360-degree clarity, alongside information about each item. At the time of launch, the 3D catalogue explored more than 50 objects spanning the Guan Di Temple, scrimshaws, Tasmanian bird nests, and more, with more images added every month.

With community activation an important objective for the institution, Lunar New Year celebrations featured in February media coverage. Additional media releases promoted a free floor talk with popular Launceston woodcarving artist Alastair Mooney, and earth dyeing workshops with QVMAG Aboriginal Learning Facilitator, Aunty Vicki West.

Also in February, the Art Gallery at Royal Park welcomed *Faces of Launceston*, a new series of works by Tasmania's only Grand Master of Photography, Philip Kuruvita. In this exhibition, Kuruvita's black and white portraits captured the diverse people and personalities of his hometown.



In March, amazing and bizarre facts attracted media attention for the launch of *Mind Blown*, an exhibition based on the book of the same name by graphic designer and author Dan Marshall.

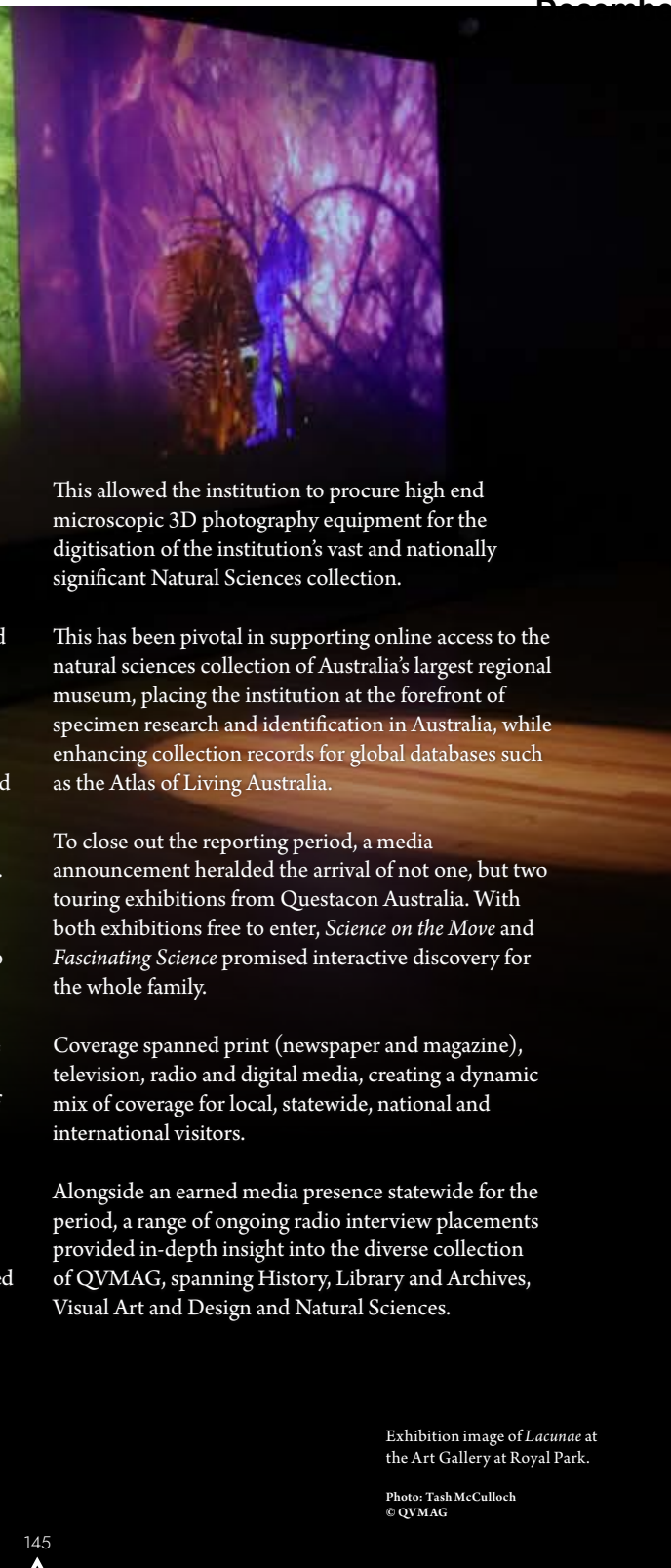
Accompanied by stylish black-and-white graphics and objects from the QVMAG collection, the exhibition appealed to a broad audience to the Museum at Inveresk between March and June 2024.

In April, the 2023/24 *ArtRage* Medallion was awarded to student Tegan Mateman from the Don College, Devonport, for their work titled, *Waddamana* (2023) and QVMAG was delighted to promote their success.

The QVMAG Arts Foundation introduced the award in 2020 to acknowledge emerging student artists who significantly contribute to the fine arts in Tasmania.

In May, media coverage supported the opening of the Australian War Memorial touring exhibition *Action! Film and War*, an eye-opening look behind the lens of journalism in war-torn regions.

The release of the new 3D Natural Sciences collection, specifically the ornithological collection of bird skins, eggs and nests, made the news in June. Importantly, the development of the QVMAG 3D collection was achieved through the generous support of a private donation.



This allowed the institution to procure high end microscopic 3D photography equipment for the digitisation of the institution's vast and nationally significant Natural Sciences collection.

This has been pivotal in supporting online access to the natural sciences collection of Australia's largest regional museum, placing the institution at the forefront of specimen research and identification in Australia, while enhancing collection records for global databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia.

To close out the reporting period, a media announcement heralded the arrival of not one, but two touring exhibitions from Questacon Australia. With both exhibitions free to enter, *Science on the Move* and *Fascinating Science* promised interactive discovery for the whole family.

Coverage spanned print (newspaper and magazine), television, radio and digital media, creating a dynamic mix of coverage for local, statewide, national and international visitors.

Alongside an earned media presence statewide for the period, a range of ongoing radio interview placements provided in-depth insight into the diverse collection of QVMAG, spanning History, Library and Archives, Visual Art and Design and Natural Sciences.

Exhibition image of *Lacunae* at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

## DESIGN OVERVIEW

Good design creates an authentic connection between a cultural institution and its audience. It underpins the successful development and delivery of exhibitions, public and education programs, publications, marketing and all facets of visitor engagement.

QVMAG is fortunate to have a talented in-house design team, supported by trusted external suppliers, producing best practice design across a diverse portfolio of projects.

In the 2023/24 reporting period, the institution accomplished a range of major achievements spanning design and production.

A high volume of material was produced to support the delivery of 45 exhibitions across the two sites, including 32 exhibitions with original branding.

Design assets created during the period included animation, illustration, merchandising, print collateral, publication design, advertising assets, exhibition design, 3D design, visitor-centric wayfinding design, brand identity, and more.

This work is highly collaborative in approach. Working together with the curatorial, marketing and communications, visitor operations, education and public programming and commercial sales teams, numerous assets were created throughout the year.

Each project applied a high level of design thinking, accessibility considerations and universal design principles to develop a range of outputs.

Key achievements during the period included the production of a large range of merchandise, large scale illustrations for exhibitions and the ongoing implementation of the institution's new brand identity.

Activation of the brand in-market enabled QVMAG to position itself competitively on a national scale, through advertising, digital presence and media. At the Museum and Art Gallery sites, branded signage, staff uniforms, exhibition design and merchandise created a unified and consistent experience for visitors.

A significant project this year was the design and production of QVMAG's strategic instruments, incorporating the *Strategic Plan 2023-28* and 15 supporting *Strategic Frameworks*.

The design values of this cohesive, comprehensive and interconnected set of documents reflects its importance to the institution and its stakeholders, as work continues towards the goals outlined in the *QVMAG Futures Plan*.

Design and brand will remain critically important to the intuition as it moves towards a new governance model. A strong, deliberately managed and clearly communicated identity will help QVMAG to engage audiences, secure funding and partners and unify and energise the team.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Exhibitions with original branding	25	32
Total Exhibitions worked on	30	45
New QVMAG Programmatic Brands created	23	14
New 3D Exhibition design developed	20	42
Original Publications produced	47	58
Original Merchandise developed	6	36
Learning and Engagement resources developed	5	25
Original promotional collateral developed	63	134
Original Social Media assets developed	185	158
Institutional Reports developed	4	21





Graphics mock-up of the  
QVMAG brand poster.  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## EXHIBITION DESIGN

The *Wetlands* exhibition was an opportunity for QVMAG to showcase the beauty and diversity of our local wetlands. Originally conceived as a photographic exhibition, it was soon agreed by the project team that there was an opportunity to expand and create a showcase exhibition that was far more comprehensive, incorporating soundscapes, interactives and interpretation.

The design elements, such as the colour palette, were lifted directly from wetland environment — blues for the water and sky, greens for the vegetation, brown for the mudflats, grey for the paperbark trees and cream and gold for the Phragmites (native reeds). This also flowed through to the wider space, such as the paint colours. This enabled the identification of different sections of the exhibition, both through the didactics and wall colours.

On entering the exhibition space, the flooring was adapted to be like the timber boardwalks that meander through our local wetlands. A visually stunning sunset photograph featuring deep reds, oranges and golds inspired the design for the main entry title wall—highly reflective chrome vinyl in deep orange mounted to letters cut from thick acrylic, paired with silhouettes of animals commonly found in our local wetlands, such as a cormorant, spoonbill, dragonfly and frog, which were wrapped in bronze chrome vinyl.

The animals were mounted at different distances from the title wall using acrylic rods to create a 3D display which was enhanced with lighting to create shadows and reflections.

Collaboration was key—after establishing that we could safely use living material from the wetlands within the space, we contacted the City of Launceston Parks Team who were swift to help by delivering bags full of paperbark and Phragmites. The bark was reimaged (with the help of a staple gun) into trees framing the Wetland title letters and giving perspective to the animal silhouettes.

Clusters of swaying Phragmites were utilised throughout the space by creating custom designed bases, added to the overall wetland atmosphere. The reeds were also fashioned into a full-size swan nest to the right of the entry, completed by swan eggs and a taxidermy black swan from the Natural Sciences team. The whole experience was completed with a soundscape recorded in the wetlands and a welcome to country video filmed by a local Aboriginal videographer.

The rich collection of photographic imagery was used as large format vinyl graphics throughout the gallery and were complemented by three metre tall illustrations drawn on a specially purchased iPad Pro, which had the capacity and software to manage the task in the hands of our in-house artist.

The strong community involvement was through the many photographs of the wetlands, birds and animals taken by the Camera Club of Northern Tasmania. Over 90% of the images in the collateral were from that source. Every image was used in a projection, acknowledging each photographer.



Exhibition image of the *Wetlands* title wall at the Museum at Inveresk.  
Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



The Curatorial team had over 50 stories they wanted to communicate within the exhibition, and through much thought and consideration, the design team were able to convert this information into 19 information panels utilising more black acrylic as a substrate.

The other stories were transformed into animated films, buttons with different frog sounds, a cutaway disc to turn and reveal information, an oversized flip book, a sectional rotating tower, floor stickers, a multi-headphone listening station, lift-up wall hung flaps and a huge touchscreen linked to a projection.

Each of these hands-on interactives posed graphic design challenges. In some cases specialists, such as a cartoon animator, and sound technicians were brought onto the team to assist.

The finished exhibition was atmospheric, stimulating, and full of activity and learning opportunities for visitors over its six-month life at QVMAG. Upon closure, many elements of the exhibition were gifted to the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Department for use throughout their interpretation centres for years to come.



Wall graphic illustration from the *Wetlands* exhibition at the Museum at Inveresk.

Illustration: Louise Thrush  
© QVMAG





Exhibition image of *Strange Nature*  
at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## COLLATERAL

A diverse portfolio of collateral was developed during the reporting period to support education, exhibitions, programming, marketing and brand engagement.

To activate new and long-term exhibitions for a young audience, learning and engagement activity books were developed for the *Botanica*, *Mind Blown*, *Strange Nature*, *Tasmanian Connections* and *Wetlands* exhibitions. These interactive booklets were distributed directly to families by the welcome desk team at the Museum and Art Gallery locations. They delivered an elevated on-site experience for families, offering additional facts and fun challenges for people to complete during their visit.

Accompanying catalogues were created for the student art exhibition *ArtRage 2023* and the intimate solo exhibition of printmaker Melissa Smith, *Tracing a Line*, acting as both an on-site guide and a take-home reminder of the experience. A series of artist profile cards were developed for *Precious*, QVMAG's first exhibition dedicated to contemporary jewellery artists in more than 20 years.

Designed and developed in-house, each catalogue offered a branded experience for visitors while providing supplementary content to further enhance the visitor experience and share stories of artists, makers and objects on display across the institution.

Merchandise was a key focus throughout the year, with a suite of exhibition-related merchandise designed in-house and exclusively available at the QVMAG Shop. For the *Botanica* exhibition, beautiful images of the wonders of the plant world graced materials

including bookmarks, notebooks, pens, bags, tea towels and magnetic postcards. Creatures featured in the multidisciplinary *Wetlands* exhibition appeared on a range of children's t-shirts, and other items.

The 2023/24 financial year saw a wide range of brand content delivered in physical and digital form. Artwork created to support QVMAG brand marketing campaigns during the reporting period included newspaper advertisements, digital billboard advertising, printed season programs and TV commercials.

To ensure a consistent on-site experience, brand activations included glass decals, outdoor banners and wall vinyl signage for the welcome desk and the QVMAG Shop at the Art Gallery, a new foyer window wrap at the Museum, and car park signage across both sites. General brand collateral produced included brand posters, directional signage and staff business cards.

QVMAG's community engagement and programmed events were also supported with high-quality design assets. Calendar highlights including *International Women's Day*, *Lunar New Year*, *Science Week*, *After Dark* and the popular *Curators in the Pub* series were promoted using a suite of programs, banners, posters, quiz sheets and digital assets.

On May 4th, the return of the *QVMadness: sci-fi takeover of QVMAG* presented opportunities for playful design elements including 3D cut outs and branded photo stations that enhanced the visitor experience on the day. For *NAIDOC Week*, a set of themed window, door and desk wraps along with digital assets encouraged visitors to engage with displays and events.

The institution's in-house design team also created branded collateral for the QVMAG Arts Foundation, to support its fundraising and membership drive. The striking new posters and brochures are displayed and distributed at the Art Gallery at Royal Park and the Museum at Inveresk.

### LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY BOOKS

- + *Mind Blown*
- + *Tasmanian Connections*
- + *Wetlands*
- + *Strange Nature*
- + *Botanica*.

### CATALOGUES

- + *ArtRage*
- + *Tracing a line*
- + *Precious Artist Cards*.

### MERCHANDISE

- + *Botanica* bookmarks
- + *Botanica* magnetic postcards
- + *Botanica* notebooks
- + *Botanica* pens
- + *Botanica* bags
- + *Botanica* tea towels
- + *Wetlands* t-shirts
- + *Wetlands* magnetic postcards
- + *Wetlands* colouring in bags with pencils
- + *Wetlands* badges.

### BRAND COLLATERAL

- + QVMAG Programs
- + Foyer window wrap
- + General carpark signage
- + Art Gallery desk and shop vinyl
- + Art Gallery glass decals
- + Art Gallery outdoor banners
- + TV Commercial x 2
- + Newspaper adverts
- + Digital adverts (billboards/airport, etc.)
- + Staff business cards
- + Generic A2 poster.

### EVENT COLLATERAL

- + *QVMADNESS* – flyer, poster, banners, photo-stations, 3D cut outs, digital assets
- + *Lunar New Year 2024* – program, banners, digital assets
- + *International Women's day Celebrations 2024* – program, banners, digital assets
- + *Science Week 2023* – brochure, poster, program, banners, digital assets
- + *Curators in the Pub* – banners, quiz sheets, digital assets
- + *After Dark* – digital assets
- + *NAIDOC Week 2023* – Window, door and desk wraps, digital assets.

### AFFILIATE COLLATERAL

- + Arts Foundation Commission fund brochure and poster
- + Arts Foundation Membership Drive brochure and poster.









QVMAG brand activation  
in the foyer windows at the  
Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG



## RESEARCH OVERVIEW

QVMAG has a strong heritage in research dating back to its origins in 1891; in fact, dating back to the origin of its collection in 1842. This history of research is more akin to the State and territory museums of Australia than most regional museums. Being an active research institution empowers QVMAG to participate in and contribute to many areas of public discourse based on the new knowledge being generated by museum researchers.

Most QVMAG research undertaken by our staff is informed by the QVMAG collection. With collections and public programs as diverse as those of QVMAG, research too has spanned a broad spectrum.

The QVMAG collection is an expansive and holistic resource that relates to research across all disciplines, but for convenience in reporting and management functions it is identified as spanning: Visual Art and Design, History, Natural Sciences, Archives and Library<sup>1</sup>. Research programs often align with the same disciplinary taxa, although cross-disciplinary research is increasingly becoming more prevalent in today's increasingly diverse knowledge building frameworks.

Museum research feeds into many aspects of museum operations, particularly those related to exhibitions, public programs, publications and documenting the collection.

It can also connect into societal responses to the important issues facing local and global communities, including the management of biodiversity and biodiversity loss, climate change, inclusive societies, sustainability, and so on.

<sup>1</sup> The First Nations collection is currently curated and managed across Visual Art and Design and History. This arrangement is under review.

Research into the collections reveals the stories that lie within them. Without research, the collection objects are just things, albeit often beautiful things. Even though there are instances of museums in Australia and elsewhere diluting their research commitments QVMAG has committed to strengthening its research outputs.

In 2023/24, QVMAG published its first holistic research strategic document, the *Research Strategic Framework* of the interconnected strategic instruments comprising the *Organisational Strategic Development Program*. This Framework confirms the vital place of research in the programming and outputs of QVMAG.

The *Research Strategic Framework* identifies a range of strategic initiatives that will empower research in QVMAG and enhance its application to important societal and environmental issues.

Some of these initiatives are already in place. For example, the elevation of Research to its own reporting section in the 2022/23 Annual Report and the designation of both Curatorial and Strategic Collections teams has set the stage for better recognising research as a core function of the institution.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total research inquiries	455	278
Total onsite research studies	126	113
Total visiting Researchers	32	36
Total taxonomy records completed	5,062	7,762
Taxonomy records uploaded (ALA/OZCAM)	14,182	9,890
Taxonomy records cumulative (ALA/OZCAM)	111,344	121,234
Total specimens collected (fieldwork)	2,000	9,351
Total new species records Tasmania	12	20
Total likely new species - unidentified	12	30
Number newly described species acquired (Holotypes)	0	3
Total specimens digitised	18,114	1,440
Total number Research Papers/Peer Reviewed Journals	4	3
Total number popular articles/publications	6	4
Total number manuscripts submitted	2	0

In addition, key personnel were recruited in 2023/24 who will have critical roles in research programs at QVMAG. A new Leader of Curatorial will coordinate QVMAG's strategic research priorities across the disciplines and a new Senior Curator in Natural Sciences will fill a void in the research program relating to biodiversity and the environment. A new Leader of Strategic Collections will ensure that the collections are an even more accessible resource for research and will oversee the implementation of a new digital Collection Management System that will enhance access to collections for researchers and the greater public alike.

The many other actions noted in the Framework will be implemented progressively from 2024/25.

Research must be communicated if it is to have any impact. In the 2023/24 financial year, QVMAG staff and Honorary Research Associates (see below) produced five publications based on their research. Of these, three were academic articles in external peer-reviewed journals and two popular articles for general audiences.

QVMAG also facilitates and actively supports research on its collection being undertaken by outside (non-staff) researchers. These researchers can be based across Australia and around the world.

They are assisted to access the collection on-site, through visits to the collection areas where they can examine the objects. These researchers can be staff of universities and other research institutions, many of whom are foremost authorities in their fields, or they can be members of the public who have a passion for subjects related to the QVMAG collection. In 2023/24, QVMAG assisted with 36 visiting researchers and more than 113 on-site research studies.

Researchers can also access increasing numbers of the collection through online portals, that are discussed further later in this section.

As an investment into oral history research, QVMAG staff recorded two new oral histories on Chinese descendant memories of growing up in Chinese families in Tasmania's northeast. These are the first new oral history recordings to be conducted in recent years, marking a renewed focus on 'Oral History' practice as a unique research resource.

QVMAG loans items from its collection to other recognised institutions with similar missions, for the primary purposes of public exhibitions and research. Here, it is important to note that collection loans connect QVMAG to the world. They are one of the most important avenues for QVMAG's support of research happening around the country and internationally.

In a very real sense, every research project and publication that incorporates items from the QVMAG collection, provided on loan by QVMAG staff or studied onsite in Launceston or online, is a research product supported by QVMAG.

In 2023/24, external researchers published 23 papers that incorporated research on QVMAG collections.

QVMAG encourages its research staff to communicate their research in many ways in addition to publications, to reach as diverse an audience as possible.

For example, QVMAG staff communicate their research at a wide variety of public events, ranging across professional conferences, community-organised events and QVMAG exhibition and education programs. In 2023/24, curatorial staff addressed audiences at 36 events on QVMAG sites and a further 62 events offsite.

As is noted above, QVMAG research spans all disciplines of the collection. One of the core natural science research streams for QVMAG is taxonomy: the identification and description of new species of plants and animals<sup>2</sup>.

If we are to protect biodiversity and the complex natural processes of ecosystems, research is required to understand the particularities that make up that diversity and that can only be certain when the species are formally described by science.

When a new species is described, the specimens used by the researcher to describe that species become known as 'types' for the species. Those types are invaluable scientific references, as all future identifications of that species are set against the type specimens. Holotypes are the most important types as they are the single name holder for the species.

We know that Tasmania has many thousands of species yet to be identified, most especially in highly diverse groups such as insects and spiders. In 2023/24, QVMAG staff and Honorary Research Associates, working with the QVMAG collection, identified more than 30 new species of invertebrates that are currently undescribed by science and yet to be published and 20 new species records for Tasmania.

2 QVMAG also holds an important herbarium collection that is being digitised but does not actively pursue a research program in plant sciences.



**Gu Vase in Shang-Zhou style**  
Ming Dynast (1368-1644)  
unglazed Stoneware  
31cm H x 16cmW x 16cm D  
QVM:2013:DA:0016  
Donated by Professor Shiu Hon Wong and Mrs Nancy Wong, 2012  
Photo: Scott Gelston





One new species of wolf spider was collected and described: *Venator judyrainbirdae* Framenau & Douglas, 2023. Additionally, two new beetle (Coleoptera) holotypes were deposited into the collection for study and classification.

QVMAG is a highly accessible public resource to the people of northern Tasmania. As well as curating exhibitions, providing educational programs and writing publications that expand knowledge of Tasmania, QVMAG staff answer numerous public inquiries submitted in person, by telephone, email, online and in correspondence.

In 2023/24, staff responded to 210 inquiries relating to the collection and an associated 233 research-specific inquiries. Some of these inquiries could be answered quickly but others required significant investment of time to undertake the research needed to arrive at a reply. Unless information is being used for a commercial purpose, these inquiries are attended to free of charge to the enquirer.

The QVMAG Exhibition program for 2023/24 is discussed in that section of the Annual Report. Staff research supports most of the exhibitions. In fact, QVMAG exhibitions can be seen as a major form of multiformat/multimedia publication for general (= non-specialist) audiences.

Many staff are involved in sourcing information for exhibitions, but the primary research staff are those in the curatorial sections. QVMAG is a highly multidisciplinary institution, and all curatorial areas are actively involved in research for the exhibition program. For some exhibitions, such as *Wetlands* (September 2023 – April 2024), the research undertaken was truly multidisciplinary, with research input from

many staff and external advisors spanning taxonomy and natural environment studies, Aboriginal culture, history and art. QVMAG is almost uniquely placed to explore multi- and transdisciplinary research and programming, as its knowledge base is the most diverse of any regional Australian museum.

Collection acquisitions are discussed further in the Acquisitions section of this Annual Report. Collection objects are acquired to support the QVMAG public offering in exhibitions and as subjects for research. Primary modes of acquisition for artworks, historic artifacts, books and archives are through donations from the public and purchase.

In 2023/24, an additional 9,351 Natural Science collection specimens were added through active fieldwork. In natural sciences, most specimens are acquired through fieldwork, with the specimens collected by QVMAG staff and associates using a variety of methods<sup>3</sup>.

Fieldwork is also a form of research, as precise information is gathered about the locations and environmental conditions where specimens are collected. This information is recorded, including on the digital Collection Management System (CMS), and becomes a vitally important resource for researchers studying species evolution, biology and biogeography. Cataloguing and storing data about the collection objects is a function of both research and collection management. The important data held in QVMAG digital systems, notably the CMS, is a resource to researchers around Australia and internationally.

<sup>3</sup> QVMAG holds internationally important collections of Tasmanian mammals and birds but is not actively collecting in those areas. Some specimens are acquired through road kills. Active strategic collecting is occurring only in invertebrate taxonomic groups, most notably insects, a taxonomic area of speciality and focus for QVMAG.



The Victor Jackson butterfly collection and donated entomological cabinets installed at QVMAG.

Photos: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



In 2023/24, planning advanced on the acquisition of a new fit-for-purpose CMS that will much enhance management of the collection and access to it. The new system will be implemented in the 2024/25 reporting year.

As well, QVMAG enters its natural science collection data to open databases, such as the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums (OZCAM). The ALA is a repository of Australian biodiversity data which allows scientists, policy makers, environmental planners and land managers, industry and the public to access biodiversity data from many sources.

Data from the ALA feeds into the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), which is an international network aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, with open access to data about all types of life on Earth. These records are regularly used by researchers around the world.

In 2023/24, QVMAG entered 9,890 specimen records to these databases, bringing the total QVMAG records publicly available (via ALA) to 120,886.

It has long been known that Australia is a mega-diverse continent with very high levels of taxonomic endemism (species and higher taxa that occur only in Australia). *Discovering Biodiversity: A decadal plan for taxonomy and biosystematics in Australia and New Zealand 2018–2027* developed by Taxonomy

Australia<sup>4</sup> set an ambitious target for documenting more of Australia’s biodiversity but without significant investment from government, progress will continue to be slow.

A recent cost-benefit analysis of biosystematics research for the Australian Academy of Science, revealed that every \$1 spent on taxonomic research could yield benefits to Australia of \$4 to \$35<sup>5</sup>.

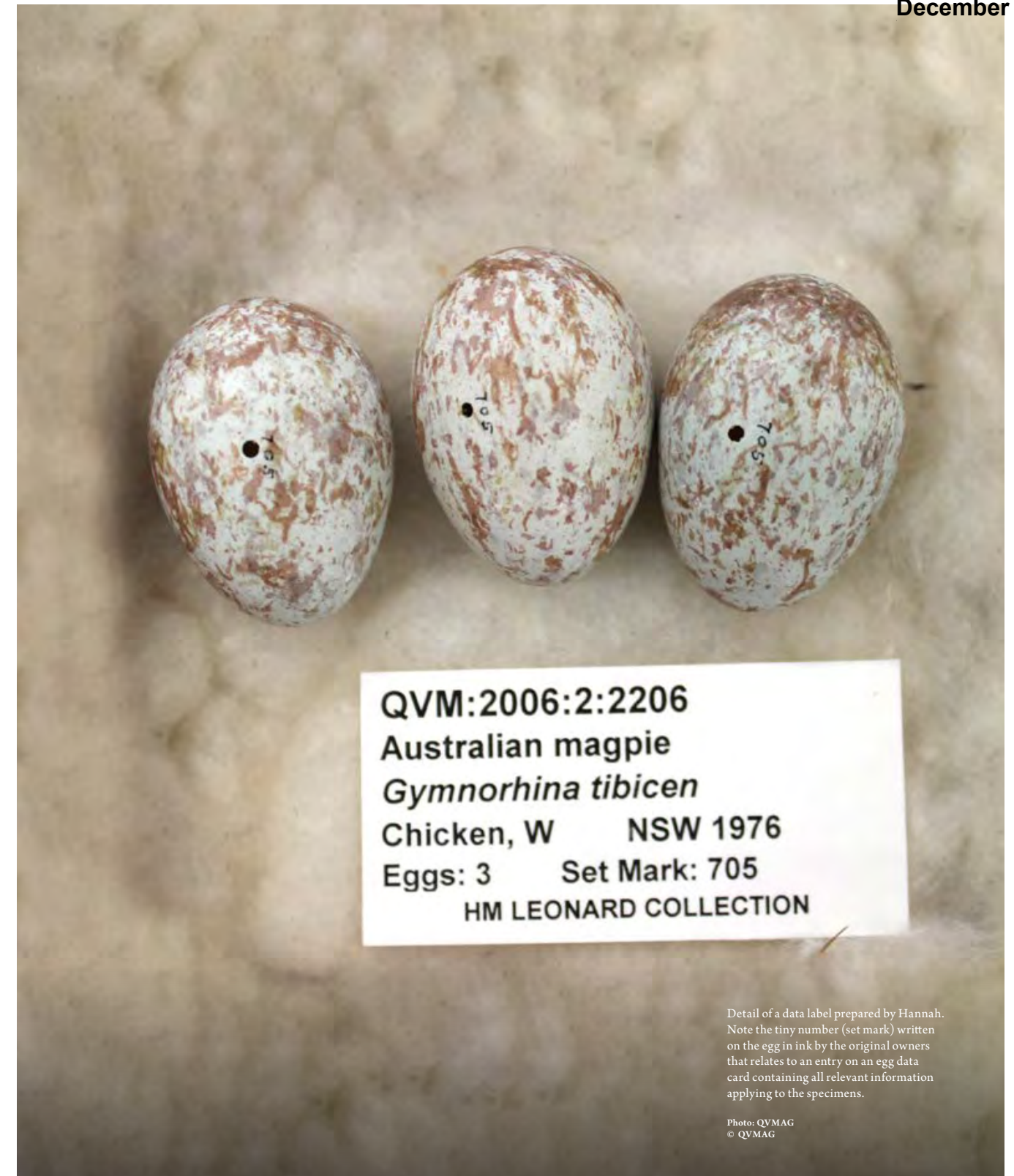
It is estimated that more than 70% of the biodiversity of Australia remains unknown, so the task of documenting that biodiversity is daunting. By many standards, the biota of Tasmania is less well known than that of many other areas of the continent.

As a regional museum, QVMAG is highly unusual in being recognised as part of Australia’s National Research Infrastructure, notably for its contribution to taxonomic research.

QVMAG’s natural science collection of Tasmanian species is amongst the finest in the world and QVMAG staff are focusing its development on the most diverse of all animal groups, the terrestrial arthropods, notably insects and spiders.

It is to be hoped that Australian governments at federal and State levels and industry partners will respond to the call to invest in Australia’s biosystematics research. QVMAG will be well placed to benefit from that investment.

4 Taxonomy Australia is a program of the Australian Academy of Science, with input from biosystematics research and collection institutions across Australia.  
5 *Cost benefit analysis of a mission to discover and document Australia’s species*, Deloitte Access Economics for the Australian Academy of Science, 2020.



Detail of a data label prepared by Hannah. Note the tiny number (set mark) written on the egg in ink by the original owners that relates to an entry on an egg data card containing all relevant information applying to the specimens.

Photos: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## HISTORY RESEARCHER RAQUEL CALDAS NOLASCO

For a week in June 2024, QVMAG hosted La Trobe University PhD candidate, Raquel Nolasco. Raquel is studying archaeology, focussing on 19th century hunting of seals, whales and penguins on sub-Antarctic islands.

QVMAG holds the archaeological material from work done on Macquarie Island, an Australian sub-Antarctic territory; and represents a previously untapped research resource. The collection was rehoused and the cataloguing revised in 2015, and this has proved invaluable to Raquel's research.

Titled: *Symmetry, Actors and Action: New Characters in the Narratives of the Marine Species Hunting during 19th Century*, Raquel's research studies the relationships between the people, objects, marine species and landscapes of 19th century sealing activities in Australia and New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands: Macquarie, Heard, Auckland and Campbell Islands.

Working with existing archaeological collections and historical records located in different institutions in Australia and New Zealand, this is a comparative study with focus on how each actor played a role in the activities of these places, and consequently in their history.

The research is innovative in its approach, not only by trying to understand a broader aspect of the relations and actions of an archaeological context, but also by being the first to make a comparative analysis from the archaeology and history of the four islands in the study.

This research demonstrates the value of such archaeological collections in building a clearer picture of the history of less-studied regions and is yet another example of the richness of scope for study within the QVMAG collections.



Phd Researcher Rachel Caldas Nolasco working with QVMAG collection.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG

IN FOCUS

## IMPORTANT DONATIONS TO THE NATURAL SCIENCES ENTOMOLOGY COLLECTION

In November 2023, QVMAG received the latest consignment of butterflies from the nationally significant *Lambkin/Knight butterfly collection*. Trevor Lambkin and the late Ian Knight donated their remarkable 16,000 specimen collection to QVMAG in 2020.

Alongside butterflies, Trevor collected cicadas and stick and leaf insects from all over eastern Australia. Our country has a large and diverse stick insect fauna of around 150 described species, with a significant number awaiting description. The vastness of this continent, the rarity and/or cryptic habits of many stick insects as well as the scarcity of collectors have conspired to severely limit knowledge on species diversity and distribution.

As part of the last consignment, Trevor Lambkin sent down his stick insect collection comprising some 150 specimens. A number of these were new or poorly documented species, particularly from the Torres Strait islands between Queensland and New Guinea.

Many of the stick insects received by QVMAG were not identified so were sorted into species groups, housed in entomological cabinets and photographed. These digital images were then sent to Dr Paul Brock, the world's leading stick insect specialist, associated with the Natural History Museum, London.

Paul identified all the specimens, at least to genus level, just from the supplied images and in only weeks the whole collection had been housed, photographed, named and registered into the QVMAG database. This information was uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) to be accessed by anyone, anywhere in the world.

During the same period a significant collection of more than 100 longhorn beetles was donated to QVMAG. These specimens were all in the subfamily Prioninae within the family Cerambycidae—AKA longhorn beetles. This subfamily consists of large to very large black to reddish brown beetles characterised by relatively short annual nocturnal flight times. They are often poorly represented in field collections.

Before being lodged with QVMAG, the collection was used in a major taxonomic revision of this group of beetles by taxonomists at the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) in Canberra. It turned out the collection contained some important and rare material, including several new species. QVMAG is now the new home of this important collection that contains the Holotypes<sup>6</sup> and Paratypes<sup>7</sup> of the newly described species.

- 6 Holotype is the single specimen designated as the type of a species by the original author at the time the species name and description were published. It defines the characteristics of the species. Holotypes are the most valuable natural history specimens that a museum can hold.
- 7 Paratypes are 'supporting' specimens used in species descriptions to accurately describe variations in body size, structures, colour/markings or differences between the sexes.



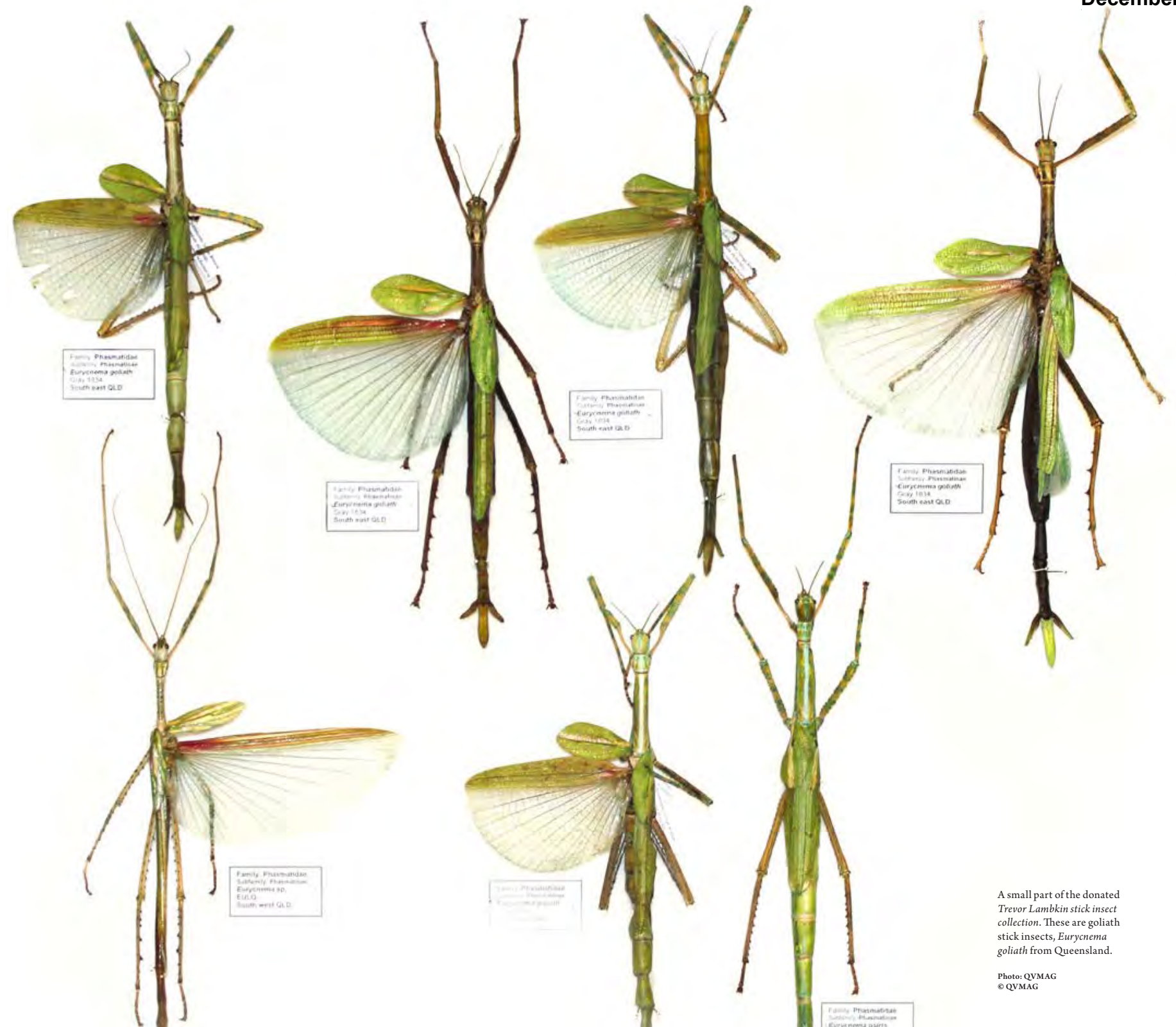
A female red-winged stick insect *Podacanthus viridiroseus* from Queensland. The wings of stick insects contain important taxonomic structures so in order to save valuable space in museum collections, only the left hand side wings are generally spread.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



All the research originating from this collection has recently been published in the major CSIRO publication—*Australian longhorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) Volume 3: Subfamily Prioninae of the Australo-Pacific Region*. This large and spectacular book features QVMAG and its contribution throughout.

Both these important donations are recent examples of QVMAG's engagement in collaborative research to document and preserve our amazing biodiversity. By liaising with specialists across the globe, QVMAG continues to provide up to date and accurate information to stakeholders, researchers and fascinated members of the public.



A small part of the donated Trevor Lambkin stick insect collection. These are goliath stick insects, *Eurycnema goliath* from Queensland.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG

IN FOCUS

## WHY IS THERE SO MUCH WEEVIL IN THE WORLD?

The British biologist JBS Haldane is attributed the famous quote: “If there is a Creator, He must have an inordinate fondness for beetles”.

Beetles are the most speciose and diverse order of insects and weevils are the most diverse group of beetles.

To date, around 65,000 species of weevils in 5,800 genera have been described worldwide but it is estimated that at least three times that many await formal description by taxonomists. Many undescribed species are ‘recognised’ as existing in museum collections, but entirely new, previously unknown species continue to be found in vast numbers each year across the globe. They are a notoriously complex group taxonomically and getting reliable names for specimens is challenging.

QVMAG has entomology cabinets full of thousands of pinned weevils, some dating back to 1900, with many of them unnamed. Over four days in January 2024, the remarkable Otto and Bruno Bell, AKA the ‘weevil twins’, catalogued and named the bulk of the QVMAGs weevil collection.

Otto and Bruno are University of Tasmania undergraduate students with a bright future in invertebrate taxonomy. They are making a name for themselves in taxonomy circles and have developed a remarkable knowledge base of the Tasmanian weevil fauna. Otto is the primary weevil fanatic with Bruno’s interest being Tasmanian land snails alongside shared proficiency with weevils.

Otto and Bruno flagged dozens of potentially new species in the collection and identified a range of new Tasmanian records of named weevils that had previously only been documented on mainland Australia.

One of the most interesting was a specimen of the Crown weevil, *Mogulones larvatus*, collected from a Launceston garden. The species was introduced into South Australia in 1995 from southern Europe to control the toxic weed Paterson’s Curse (also called Salvation Jane). This weevil spread throughout southern mainland Australia but had never been previously recorded in Tasmania. *So how did it get here?* This research outcome and its responding questions once again reinforces the enormous value of our Natural Sciences collections in documenting the incredible and still today under-researched invertebrate diversity in our state.

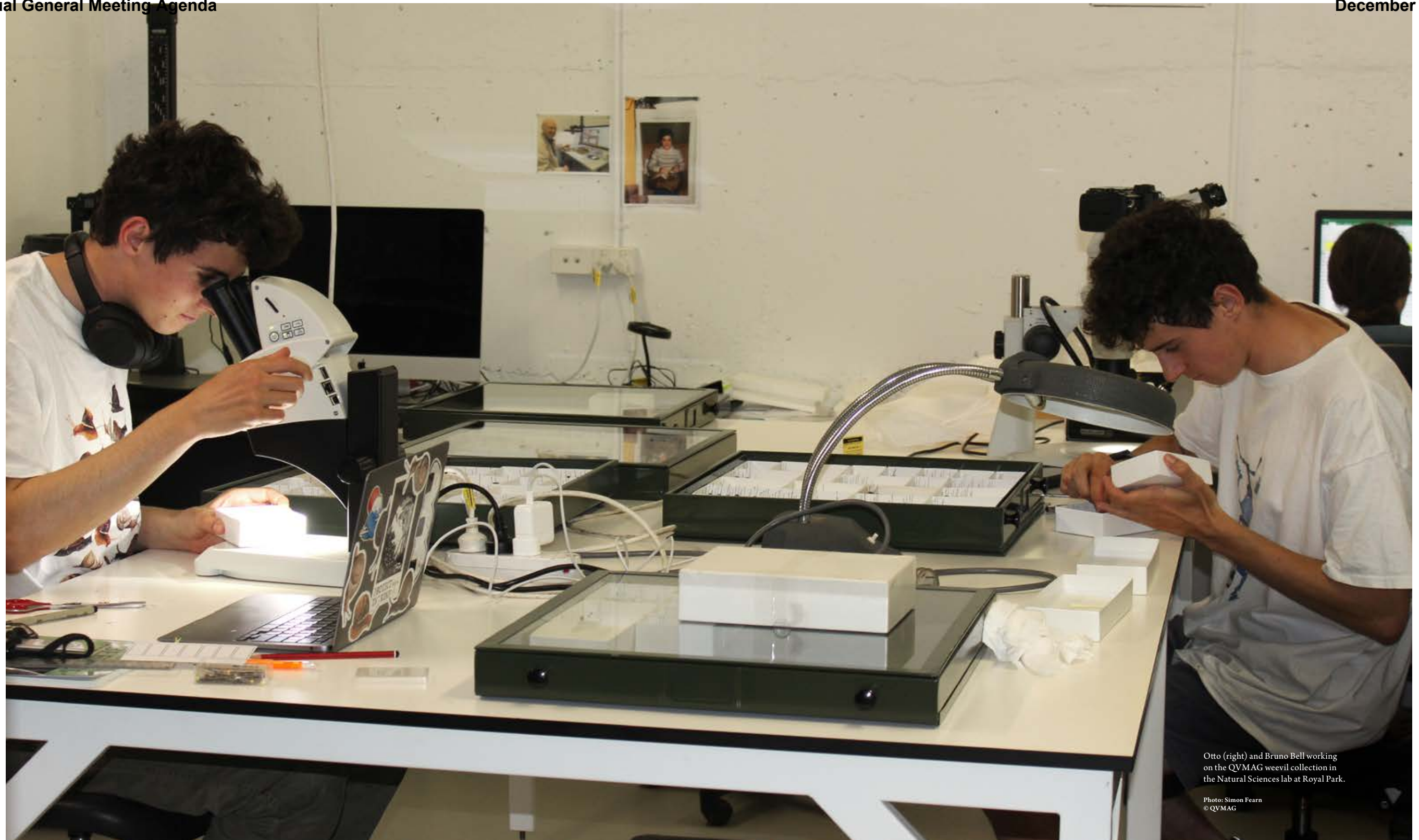
QVMAG’s weevil collection has benefited enormously from Otto and Bruno’s working visit. They named hundreds of species and over the last few months their determinations have been registered and added to the QVMAG database to be uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) so that weevil enthusiasts all over the world can access and learn from this data.



One of Tasmania’s large flightless weevils *Leptopius duponti*. Commonly called ‘wattle pigs’ they can be seen feeding on coast wattle or boobialla (*Acacia sophorae*) in beach scrub all around the Tasmanian coastline in the summer months.

Photo: QVMAG  
© QVMAG





Otto (right) and Bruno Bell working on the QVMAG weevil collection in the Natural Sciences lab at Royal Park.

Photo: Simon Fearn  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## NEW SPIDER SPECIES NAMED IN HONOUR OF NATURAL SCIENCES STAFF MEMBER, JUDY RAINBIRD

Natural Sciences fieldwork often results in the discovery of new species of invertebrates. This is particularly common among Tasmania's insect and spider faunas.

Approximately 400 species of spider have been described from Tasmania, yet conservative estimations posit that at least two thirds of the State's spider fauna remain undescribed by taxonomists.

While light trapping for moths and other insects at Beechford on the north east coast in the summer of 2022/23, QVMAG Natural Sciences staff made a unique discovery. While hunting around with a head torch, the distinctive shine of spider eyes glittering on the ground revealed an unfamiliar species of wolf spider with a leg diameter of a 10c piece. Several were collected and passed onto QVMAG Spider Honorary Research Associate, John Douglas.

John could not identify the spider so specimens were sent to wolf spider expert Dr Volker Framenau at Murdoch University, Western Australia. Dr Framenau confirmed the spider was a new species. This news coincided with a remarkable milestone for Natural Sciences Judy Rainbird - 45 years employment at QVMAG!

QVMAG and John Douglas suggested to Dr Framenau that the new spider be named in Judy's honour in recognition of her 45 years of dedication to the preservation of the Natural Sciences collection. He readily agreed and described the new spider with the name *Venator judyrainbirdae*.

This honour is a fitting acknowledgement of the positive impact Judy has had during her ongoing 45-year tenure working with the QVMAG collection. The amazing condition of the Natural Sciences collections reflects her stewardship over the past four decades, and this was deemed a fitting way to acknowledge her significant contribution.

So far, *Venator judyrainbirdae* is only known from the original male specimens collected at Beechford. Further QVMAG fieldwork will attempt to locate females which are probably quite sedentary and live in a burrow like many other wolf spider species do.

This unusual and wonderful case study also highlights the importance of liaising with taxonomists and experts across Australia and internationally, to accurately research, document and keep specimens in perpetuity in the best condition possible.



New wolf spider species  
*Venator judyrainbirdae*.

Photo: John Douglas  
© QVMAG





Close up of the new wolf spider species *Venator judyrainbirdae*. Note the eight large, mammal like forward facing eyes of this fast predator.

Photo: John Douglas  
© QVMAG



IN FOCUS

## THE VICTOR JACKSON BUTTERFLY COLLECTION AT QVMAG

The ways in which important collections find their way to public institutions such as QVMAG are often filled with unlikely encounters and coincidences. The Victor Jackson butterfly collection that arrived at QVMAG in June 2024 is a stunning example.

Victor Henry Jackson (1924-2005) had a lifelong interest in butterflies after becoming fascinated with species he observed around his childhood home in Kingsgrove, Sydney. Collecting butterfly specimens as a hobby began during his posting as a Leading Aircraftman to No. 112 Mobile Fighter Support at Torokina, Bougainville in late 1944. After the war, Victor moved with his wife Dorothy and three young children to Mylestom, a small coastal town in central northern New South Wales on the Bellinger River, to operate the local general store. Once again, he began collecting butterflies in the local area as well as learning how to rear specimens from eggs or caterpillars to adult butterflies. This developed Victor's field skills and expertise and he became a local authority on butterfly biology and larval food plants.

In late 1971, Victor and Dorothy moved to Townsville to take care of Dorothy's aged father. His collecting activities focussed on the Townsville environs of Mt Spec and Paluma as well as collecting trips further north to Innisfail and Mission Beach. Victor's Townsville home was close to the Townsville Botanical Gardens and the Strand Park and his garden was visited by the spectacular Cairns birdwing (*Ornithoptera euphorion*) and the electric blue Ulysses butterflies (*Papilio ulysses*).

Victor responded to their visits by planting many of the food plants for both species and rearing hundreds of specimens in a greenhouse built in his back yard. While some were retained for his collection, the bulk of these beautiful specimens were released into the wild. Inspired by his efforts, local residents began to plant butterfly gardens as well—the population of birdwings and Ulysses butterflies across the area increased dramatically.

Victor passed away in 2005 leaving a collection of some 670 butterflies that were handed down to one of his sons, Philip Jackson, who was living in Sydney.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the collection is a series of 23 Australian fritillary butterflies (*Argynnis hyperbius inconstans*) that Victor collected at Mylestom in 1970. This butterfly is currently listed as 'Critically Endangered' under Federal legislation and was only known from several small, discreet populations in northern New South Wales and southeast Queensland. Some authorities believe the Australian fritillary butterfly is already extinct. The Mylestom population sampled by Victor 54 years ago had not been officially documented and due to land use changes affecting the butterfly's sensitive larval food plant, also appears to be extinct. Victor's series of specimens, in perfect condition with full collecting data, is not only an incredible record of a lost population but it also contains a unique 'aberrant' individual with very unusual markings.

It is through Victor's unique series of Australian fritillaries that resulted in his collection coming to QVMAG.

Male birdwing butterflies (*Ornithoptera euphorion*) reared from eggs laid by wild females in Victor Jackson's Townsville garden.

Photos: QVMAG  
© QVMAG



## VISITING RESEARCHERS 2023/2024

**Greg ANDERSON**

Studied the taxonomy of spiders (Theridiidae)

**Imogen ANDREWARTHA**

Examined the Guan Di Temple collection  
**Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart**

**Bruno and Otto BELL**

Named species and arranged collection of weevils into taxonomic order  
**University of Tasmania**

**David BOARDER**

Researched 'Velo Dog' pocket pistols  
**Firearms Collectors Guild**

**Julian BUSH**

Researched the Port Arthur Bassoon  
**Independent instrument-maker**

**Laura COOK and Jonathan LINEEN**

Researched Heard Island artefacts  
**National Museum of Australia, Canberra**

**Bob CHUNG GON**

Researched collections relating to the Chung Gon family

**Rolan EBERHARD**

Examined Loongana thylacine cave material and *Zygomaturus* material  
**Environment, Heritage and Land Division, Hobart**

**Denis GOJAK**

Researched clay pipes in the Wybalenna archaeological collection  
**Archaeologist and heritage practitioner, Senior Heritage Specialist, Transport for New South Wales**

**Anita GOWERS**

Worked on QVMAG picture frame collection  
**PhD student (Plomley Foundation grant recipient), Australian National University Canberra**

**Christopher 'Gus' GREEN**

Researched Alexander Racket Company tennis racquets

**Dr Showtaro KAKIZOE**

Studied and photographed invertebrates, mainly Scarabaeoidea specimens  
**National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo, Japan**

**Peter KALDOR**

Researched the Truchanas family collection

**Kawinwit (Ink) KITTIPALAWATTANAPOL, Bridgette BARDEN and Baily McCULLOCH**

Sampled ear tissue of bandicoots, cat and rat specimens  
**University of Tasmania, PhD students**

**Dr Michael KLUNZINGER and Dr Hugh JONES**

Prepared and lodged freshwater mussels (*Hyridella* spp.) collected in north Tasmania  
**Griffith University**

**Logan KRUSHKA**

Researched tramway and electrical power generation artefacts  
**Launceston Tramway Museum**

**Dr Trevor LAMBKIN**

Assisted in sorting the donated insect donation  
**University of Queensland**

**Dr Paul MacGREGOR**

Researched material relating to Chinese mining in northeast Tasmania  
**Independent Historian and Heritage Consultant, Our Chinese Past Inc.**

**Rosalind MEARNS**

Researched knitted convict caps on behalf of Dr Jane Malcolm-Davies,  
Director, The Tudor Tailor  
**General Manager, Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, UK**

**Colin MAZENGARB**

Investigated 3D modelling of HJ King aerial photographs

**Nicole MONKS**

Researched museum holdings of Yamaji / Yamatji objects material  
**Black and White Creative, Perth, Western Australia**

**Raquel CALDAS NOLASCO**

Researched the Macquarie Island archaeological collection  
**PhD Candidate, Archaeology, La Trobe University, Melbourne**

**Jai PATERSON**

Researched the artist Richard Godfrey Rivers  
**On behalf of Derwent Valley Council**

**Dr Nicholas PORCH**

Toured entomological collection  
**School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University**

**Dr Karen RICHARDS**

Confirmation of identification of *Ancylastrum* (freshwater mussel) and sex of *Catadromus lacordairei* (Carabidae) specimens  
**Threatened Species, Environment, Heritage and Land Division, Hobart.**

**Paul RICHARDS**

Researched Frank Littler's role in museum collections  
**University of Tasmania, Honorary Researcher Queensland Museum, Honorary Researcher in Arachnology**

**Keren RUKI**

Researched Māori cultural objects  
**Māori artist/weaver**

**Tony SCOTT**

Researched the Wong and the Kaw collections  
**China Art Projects**

**Anne Von STIEGLITZ**

Examined Campbells pottery collections

**Dr Ron THRESHER**

Examined the wet collection of mayflies  
**CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research**

**Olegas Truchanas 100 group**

Examined collections relating to Olegas Truchanas  
**Lithuanian Travel Journalists Club**

**Andrew WESTWOOD**

Examined *Curlew*, boat in QVMAG collection





## RESEARCH PUBLISHED WORKS 2023/2024

### ACADEMIC / SCIENTIFIC

**Fearn, S 2023**

'New exotic host plants for the golden stag beetle *Lamprima aurata* (Scarabaeoidea: Lucanidae) in northern Tasmania'

*The Tasmanian Naturalist*  
145: 67-72

**Fearn, S, Bounday, C & Leong, D 2023**

'An investigation of species of *Phoracantha* longhorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae) occurring in Tasmania and observations on the life history and habits of *Phoracantha mastersi* and *Phoracantha lata*'

*The Tasmanian Naturalist*  
145: 23-36

**Framenau, VW & Douglas, J 2023**

'The first species in the wolf spider genus *Venator* from Tasmania (Araneae, Lycosidae)'

*Australian Journal of Taxonomy*  
28: 1-5

### POPULAR / GENERAL

**Addison, J 2023**

'Launceston a leader in dual-income households'  
*Lume Magazine*, New Creative Group Australia,  
14:19

**Bird, A 2023**

'Melissa Smith - Tracing a Line'

*Print Council of Australia*

September 28, 2023

<https://www.printcouncil.org.au/melissa-smith-tracing-a-line/> last accessed July 2024



Books from the Library's  
Bookplates Collection at  
the Museum at Inveresk

Photos: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

## STRATEGIC COLLECTIONS OVERVIEW

QVMAG houses the largest and most diverse collection among regional museums and galleries in Australia. With over 1.5 million items, this collection encompasses Aboriginal and First Nations cultures, fine arts, decorative arts, history, technology, natural sciences, along with a substantial library and archive. QVMAG's collection serves as the cornerstone for its exhibitions, educational initiatives and research programs, making it an invaluable resource for the people of Launceston and beyond.

The collection is ever expanding and requires an active conservation program to ensure the collection is kept secure, accessible and well looked after in accordance with the appropriate national standards for collections of significance. For the long-term preservation of the collection, QVMAG ensures that the environmental conditions are monitored and maintained and that objects in the collection are progressively housed in improved conditions.

A total of 5,640 individual objects underwent either preventative or remedial conservation during the 2023/24 reporting period to either halt or prevent deterioration in the condition of objects or to carry out sensitive repairs.

The Collection Audit Project located, documented and stored a total of 14,460 objects during this reporting period, adding to the substantial number of collection objects that have been located and documented as part of this targeted project.

A major function of the Strategic Collection team is to provide access to the collection. This occurs in a variety of ways, including through loans, digitisation of collection objects and providing access to collection records online. QVMAG also provides access by responding to collection inquiries and through exhibitions. As is discussed further in the Research section of this Annual Report, researchers and those who have cultural links to the collection objects are also provided access to the collection on site.

In 2023/24, QVMAG digitised 12,218 objects, including 119 objects that were digitised in 3D and made available online. Online records were accessed/downloaded 5,561 times through QVMAG's online collection portal between 1 March - 30 June 2024. The 3D collection had 20,300 views between 1 February - 30 June 2024. QVMAG Natural Science records, available through the Atlas of Living Australia database, were viewed 17,737 times during 2023/24 and a staggering 3,759,218 records were downloaded during this period.

QVMAG responded to 306 collection inquiries.

A total of 8,624 objects drawn from the collection were on display during the reporting period.

QVMAG loans objects from its collection to cultural and research organisations primarily for the purposes of exhibition and research. By doing so, QVMAG extends the accessibility of its collection. In 2023/24, 157 collection objects were loaned through 10 separate loans.

## OUTPUTS

	22/23	23/24
Total Collection objects audited	7,568	14,460
Total new and updated catalogue records	48,138	32,079
Total Collection inquiries	1,047	306
Total Collection objects conserved	2,418	5,640
Total objects prepared for exhibition	359	2,185
Total Collection objects exhibited	7,958	8,624
Total number loans (outward)	17	10
Total Collection objects loaned	94	157
Total Collection objects digitised	28,269	12,218
Total number Objects donated	246	30
Total \$ Objects donated	\$751,667	\$191,440
Total number Acquisitive purchases	17	48
Total number Deaccessions	782	2
Total \$ Deaccessions	\$4,300	\$1,000
Total number Acquisitions	263	135
Total \$ Acquisitions	\$876,515	\$208,592





The QVMAG collection is an evolving resource. Objects are acquired to enhance the quality and representation of the collection, for all aspects of public engagement, including research and exhibitions. Collection acquisitions in 2023/24 included notable historical objects, rare books and works of art by established local artists, with a total of 135 objects/collections acquired through generous donations and available funding. A significant collection of some 670 butterflies collected by amateur lepidopterist Victor Jackson is among the gems acquired during this reporting period. The acquisitions for 2023/24 are fully listed later in this Annual Report.

The following In Focus stories provide deeper insights into the accomplishments achieved over the past year in relation to the collection and its management. They shed light on the specialised expertise carried out by the QVMAG team on a daily basis to ensure that the collection remains a lasting legacy and a valuable resource for our community ... and the community of the world.

**Henry Constantine RICHTER**  
Born 1821 Brompton, England Died 1902,  
Hammersmith, England  
*Halmaturus billardieri* [Tasmanian wallaby]  
hand-coloured lithograph on paper  
36.6 x 54.3cm  
Gift of the Friends of the Queen Victoria Museum & Art  
Gallery through the Launceston Art Foundation, 1998.  
QVM:1998:FG:0005



IN FOCUS

## THE FURNITURE STORE

A particular collection focus for QVMAG this year was on the large Furniture Store. This store was formerly part of the gallery space at Royal Park but was converted to create much needed storage as the collection grew beyond the limited storage capacity at the time.

While the Art Gallery building on the fringe of Royal Park provides a magnificent setting for the display and enjoyment of the many varied exhibitions staged by QVMAG, the heritage listed building does have its challenges when dealing with growing collections.

During this reporting period, it was identified that the floor of the Furniture Store was not built to store a large quantity of heavy objects on it. Consequently, the floor had to be reinforced and this became an ideal opportunity to undertake some much needed collections management tasks.

In order for works to begin, the entire store was emptied and the collection objects moved into two galleries which had been closed temporarily to facilitate this work. In the meantime, the Collections team finished the audit of the furniture collection.

This included rehousing many of the objects, assessing their long-term storage needs and developing safer and more efficient methods of storage to optimise the limited space available.

Smaller objects, such as chairs, were placed on pallets and gently strapped in place to prevent them shifting when being moved. Locations were identified for very large or oddly shaped objects that had very particular storage needs and customised storage supports were prepared for many of the objects.

The Furniture Store was also mapped and storage locations barcoded to enable more accurate location records in the QVMAG Collection Management System.

The furniture collection was returned to the store in time for the next exhibition to be staged and QVMAG now has a well-documented and well organised Furniture Store.



QVMAG furniture store at the Art Gallery at Royal Park.

Photos: Tash McCulloch  
© QVMAG

## COLLECTION ACCESS

In the world of museums, collection access refers to the ways in which the community can engage with and utilise museum collections. There are a multitude of ways in which museums can share and provide access, particularly now with online avenues continuously becoming more and more innovative and creative.

Traditionally, QVMAG has provided access to its extraordinary collections for more than 130 years through engaging exhibitions and visitor programs. It has also supported access for researchers to delve into the stores and records held here. In more recent times, new opportunities have arisen with the advance of technology, enabling QVMAG to make its collection records available online for anyone to access at their leisure. QVMAG continues to embrace this and in the past year we have thoroughly enjoyed taking it to the next level with our online 3D collection. For the first time, visitors to our website get to digitally pick up and examine collection objects from any angle and in ways they would never be able to at the Museum itself!

In 2023/24, a total of 8,624 collection objects were made accessible through exhibitions staged across QVMAG sites at Royal Park and Inveresk. That equates to just 0.6% of the overall QVMAG collection. A further 157 collection objects were out on loan to other institutions, taking a little of QVMAG elsewhere temporarily.

An alternative way of engaging with and utilising the extensive QVMAG collections is through online portals. Scholars, researchers, students and others with a thirst for knowledge access collections for academic study, analysis, documentation and sheer curiosity.

We currently provide access to 27,309 records of collection objects through our website. This includes a very large database of 26,328 photographs. The QVMAG Photographs Collection contains more than 34,000 individual records so the number of photographs currently accessible represents a very large proportion of the collection. The number accessible online continues to grow as our team documents and uploads more every week.

During this reporting period, an extra 12,218 collection objects were digitised. This will greatly enhance future access to those objects.

The online collection portal has so far been popular. Over the last four months of this reporting period, the Photographs Collection was accessed 4,826 times, the small online collection of 143 Works on Paper was accessed 90 times and the collection of 679 Paintings was viewed 357 times. The 3D digitised collection was viewed 288 times through the QVMAG website and more than 20,000 times through Sketchfab.

The substantial and highly significant Natural Sciences collections held by QVMAG are accessible online via the Atlas of Living Australia ([ala.org.au](http://ala.org.au)). QVMAG regularly uploads its records into this platform.



A staff member digitising QVMAG Collection material, a miniature Jimmy Possum Chair gifted to QVMAG by Dr Mike Epworth and Bronwyn Harm, 2023.



IN FOCUS

## AUDITING THE COLLECTIONS

In a museum context, collection auditing involves systematically checking the accuracy and completeness of information about the collections in a museum's care. At its most basic level, the procedure ensures that records match the physical reality: confirming that all objects are present, correctly numbered and located where they should be. Collection audits help maintain accurate records, improve management practices and align museums with best standards.

At QVMAG, staff have meticulously assessed, rehoused, and photographed every object audited - from tiny native fleas to large industrial equipment. Despite each object's unique conservation and cataloguing needs, they all receive equal care and respect. The audit process also focuses on preventive conservation measures to protect objects from damage.

This year, efforts intensified to improve storage conditions, resulting in new archival enclosures for fragile items. Collection auditing remains an ongoing, essential activity for QVMAG to ensure proper care and access to its collection.

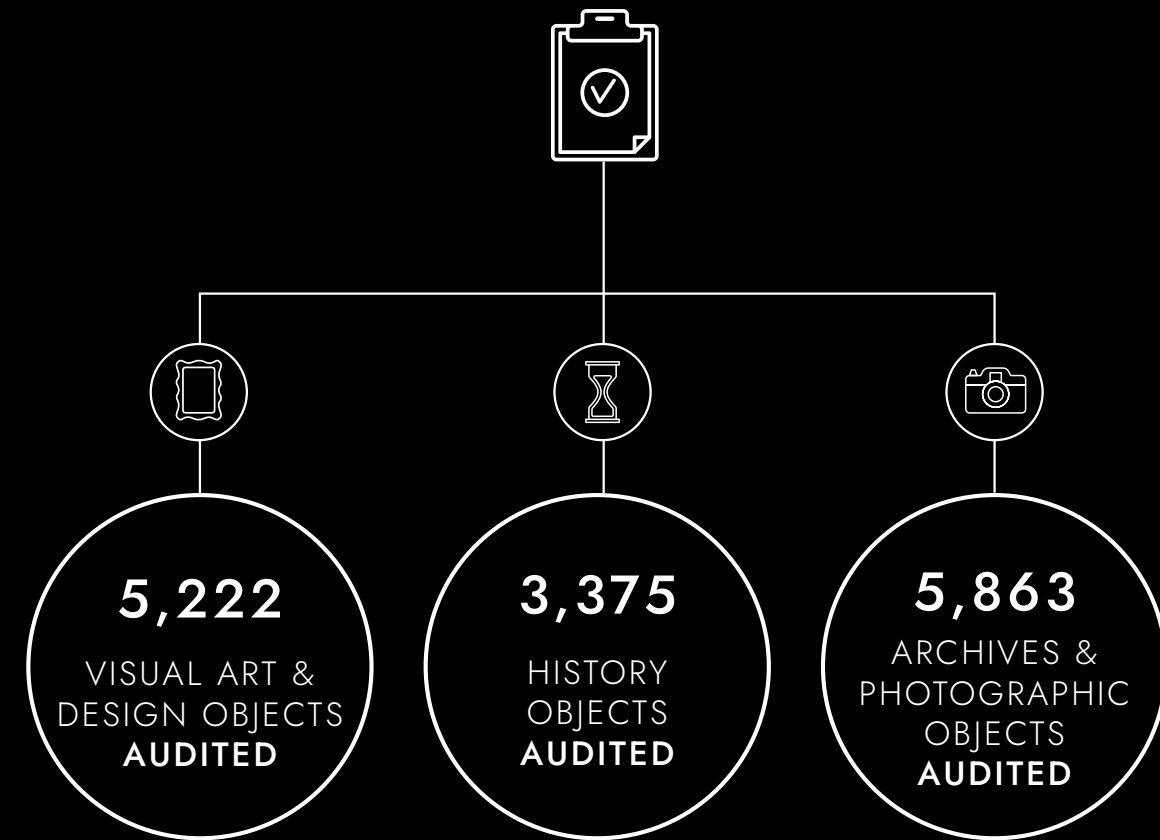
During this reporting period, the number of objects audited almost doubled with a total of 14,460 objects located and updated compared to 7,568 objects in 2022/23. The breakdown across the three collection areas targeted for the year was quite even.

The audit of the Fine Arts Store is close to being complete with all artworks identified, documented and accounted for. Part of this work has included creating a visual inventory to help make more efficient use of our limited storage space.

In other areas, Indigenous bark paintings, boomerangs and clubs were rehoused into custom archival boxes, protecting them from future deterioration and creating additional storage space. The Furniture Store was fully audited and all shelving mapped, enabling more accurate records of object locations.

The audit process invariably uncovers many exciting things that were hitherto not properly documented or identified. This year was no different and items of note included an invitation commissioned by Lady Franklin for the opening of 'Ancanthe' in 1843 featuring an engraving by convict artist Thomas Bock; a collection of late Victorian wedding dresses; and snake vertebrae necklaces from Queensland.

Long term, this detection work and the preservation of digital copies of institutional records are an important means of providing access for researchers and staff to the collection and collection documentation.



IN FOCUS

## CATALOGUING TASMANIA'S SHIPWRECKS

QVMAG holds several collections of material relating to shipwrecks in Tasmanian waters. Thirteen ships are represented in the collection, including the *Asterope* and the *Cambridgeshire*. Identifying, sorting, cataloguing and photographing these items has been a huge task.

By far the most significant collection is that of the *Sydney Cove*, as it notably contains items excavated from the wreck of the ship *Sydney Cove* and from the survivors' camp ashore. The ship is Australia's oldest merchant shipwreck, meaning that it is the first ship to be wrecked en route to Australia, as opposed to accidentally running into the continent.

The *Sydney Cove* left Calcutta in 1796, heading for Port Jackson (modern day Sydney). It was early 1797, after facing storms across the Indian Ocean, that the ship ran aground on Preservation Island in Bass Strait; a time before any Europeans knew of the existence of Bass Strait.

Some material of these collections was confiscated by Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife when laws on shipwreck salvage changed, and it was donated to QVMAG.

Thanks to ongoing Federal Government shipwrecks funding administered and allocated by Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife, the Museum has been able to employ archaeologist Caroline Heine since 2015 to work on projects relating to these collections.

The work involved scanning over 6,000 photographs and slides, sorting and improving and creating a total of 3,825 records of *Sydney Cove* collection items and 441 miscellaneous shipwreck records. Items included ceramics, glass, metal items, fibre, bone, wood and special items such as hourglasses, clay pipes and tools.

Caroline has spent over 3,060 hours on these collections over the past nine years, and as a result, the *Sydney Cove Maritime Archaeology Collection*, the *Miscellaneous Shipwrecks Collection* and the *Preservation Island Survivors' Camp Collection* are now entirely catalogued, photographed and re-housed.

This commitment to these unique collections has made these precious and unique items some of the best documented shipwreck-related items in the country.



*Sydney Cove Collection.*

QVM:1986:P:1611

Photo: Carmencita Palermo  
© QVMAG



## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

For financial year 2023/24, the focus of work in QVMAG Library and Archives remained retrospective collection management of the Archives collection (the registration of donation backlogs, etc.).

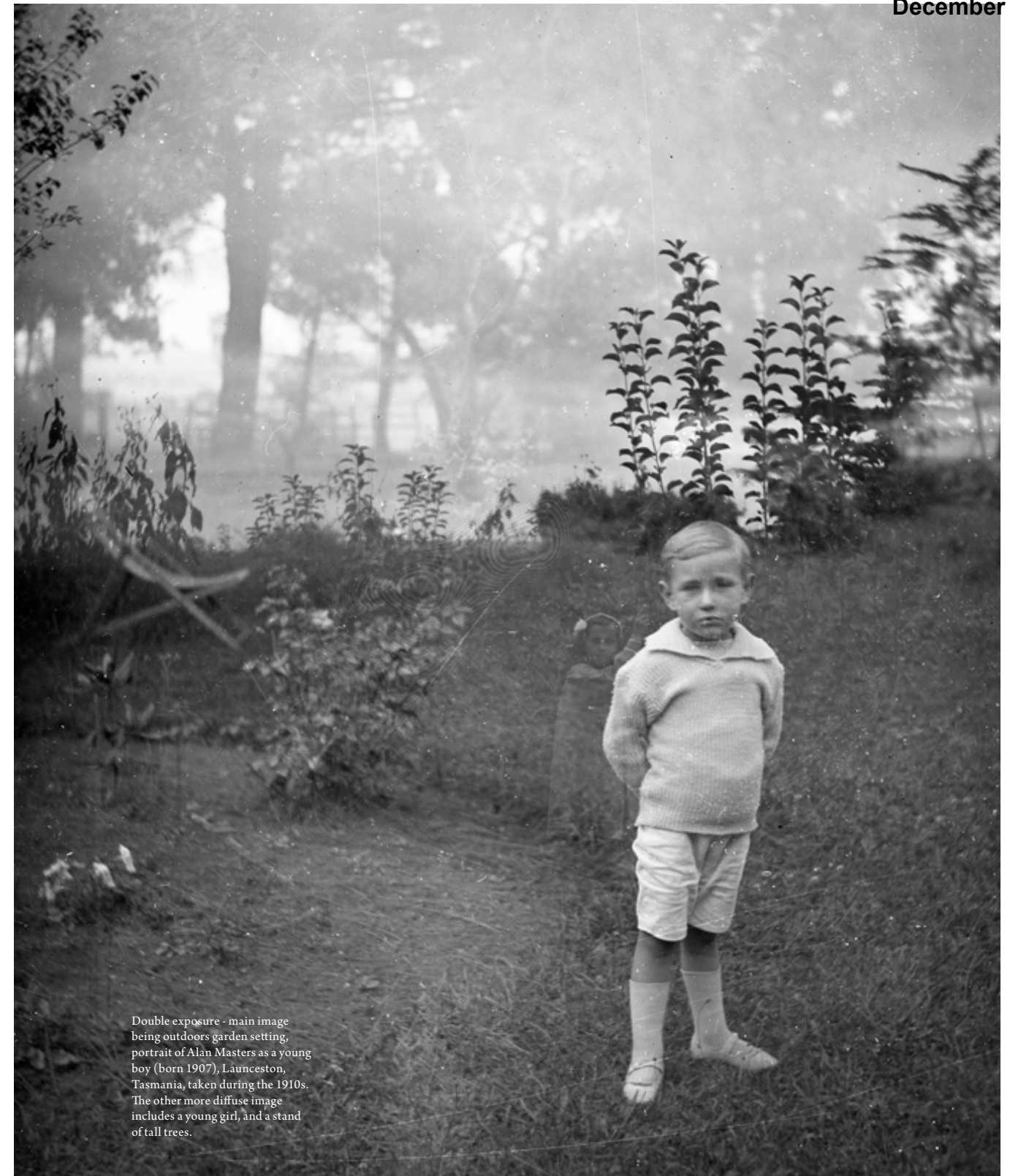
This work was part of QVMAG Archive's five year plan (2020-2025), often informally referred to as *Operation Transform*. This plan commenced on 4 June 2020 with the return of staff from the COVID lockdown. The plan concluded on 6 June 2024 with the completion of the four main objectives flagged at the plan's commencement: 1. The rehabilitation and tidy-up of the Archives store (Room 101); 2. Improvements to the organisation and storage of collections; 3. The elimination of the donations registration backlog; 4. The inclusion of all Archives collections (other than QVMAG administrative records and State records held out of custody) in QVMAG's Collection Management System (CMS).

The decision to conclude *Operation Transform* was made in the knowledge that registration and digitising work on a number of donated photograph collections (including W Penry Seward, Ken Flood, Jane Craig and 7EX Radio) is under effective control and being dealt with on a weekly basis by Ross Smith and QVMAG Archive's wonderful team of volunteers.

Most importantly, the conclusion of *Operation Transform* meant that the four-year freeze on the acquisition of donations by QVMAG Archives ended. From July 2024 onwards, the collection will develop at a prudent and graduated pace.

Some highlights for QVMAG Archives for 2023/24 include:

- + The completion of the organisation (sorting and tidying) of Community History Series (CHS) collections items in late 2023, which were bagged or sleeved to assist in their future auditing and barcoding
- + The tidying, organisation, registration and auditing of the Oral History collection, which concluded in late July 2023. The first planning steps were then put in place in co-operation with the Friends of QVMAG for the eventual digitisation of oral history cassette tapes
- + Three CHS collections were fully registered during the course of the year: CHS 133, the Bea Maddock Collection; CHS 134, the Launceston Walking Club collection; CHS 135, the Theatre North collection
- + From July to December 2023, all photographic material was re-organised under one classification scheme, with the Photographs Collection re-arranged by item registration number only (the decades-old in-house numerical subject classification scheme was retired). This initiative involved the shuffling of 120 shelves of material. At the same time, all oversized photographs were transferred from cardboard boxes into horizontal cabinets, thereby removing an ad hoc storage practice and achieving savings in compactus shelf space.



Double exposure - main image being outdoors garden setting, portrait of Alan Masters as a young boy (born 1907), Launceston, Tasmania, taken during the 1910s. The other more diffuse image includes a young girl, and a stand of tall trees.



IN FOCUS

## A TIMELY FIND

As part of ongoing registration and audit work in the QVMAG Archives collection, staff have for the last year been processing items which have sat in the registration backlog, some items for many years.

In October 2023, staff registered a colour photograph of the first Tasmanian (Australian Rules) football team to tour mainland Australia in 1887. For the record, the team acquitted itself very well, winning three matches, losing two and drawing one.

Its discovery and registration proved timely, happening at a moment when Tasmania was at long last granted a team licence to join the Australian Football League (AFL).

The original image was produced by Heirloom Studios of Hobart. What is unique about this particular photograph is that it was hand-painted and might be the only colour copy of the team in existence. (QVMAG already holds a black and white photograph of the team in its Photographs Collection.)

A result of the manual painting of the photograph is that skin imperfections are literally glossed over, body parts, such as fingers, are poorly defined, and all individuals have the same eye colour: black.

In 2017, to mark the 130th anniversary of the team's tour, Adrian Collins and David Allen published research in issue 62 (Autumn 2017) of the *The Yorker: journal of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library*. Interestingly, a colour photograph of the team did not appear in their exhaustive and meticulous article, which drew on resources scattered around Australia. This underlines how important it is for institutions such as QVMAG to process their acquisition backlogs and actively manage their collections.



The first Tasmanian (Australian Rules) football team to tour mainland Australia in 1887.

QVM:2022:P:0038

IN FOCUS

## A WORTHY CONTENDER

QVMAG's oldest book is an incunabulum which was printed in 1485.

But which QVMAG Library book has the longest association with Launceston?

During the year, the Library acquired a curious book that, on first appearances, was a bit of an enigma.

The book is the 13th edition of *A companion for the aged: consisting of meditations, devotions, and proper instructions, for the use of those, who, by the infirmities of old age, or otherwise, are disabled from attending the public service of God*, was authored by Richard Peers and published in London by R. & R. Gilbert for C. and J. Rivington in 1818.

It bears a bookplate inscribed: *Parochial Lending Library, under the sanction of the Society for Promoting Christian knowledge. In the Parish of Launceston. In the Diocese of Calcutta*. The number 20 [probable stock number] is pressed into the book's spine.

The riddle of the bookplate is solved when it is realised that the Anglican Church in Van Diemen's Land, including the Launceston Parish, was part of the Calcutta Diocese, India, from 1814 to 1835.

The early stock number (20) indicates this book was one of the earliest books to be acquired by the Launceston Parochial Lending Library. The Anglican Church's intention to establish parochial lending libraries throughout Van Diemen's Land was reported in March 1826 in *The Hobart Town Gazette*.

The book in all likelihood arrived in Launceston sometime in the late 1820s (1826 or after): the precise year cannot be established when matters such as purchasing, freightage and bureaucratic planning are considered as part of the establishment process. The book therefore exhibits the earliest possible association with Launceston.

Its credentials as Launceston's oldest book is rivalled by a book acquired by QVMAG Library in 2020 that exhibits the earliest probable association with Launceston: *Essays on the most important subjects in religion*, authored by Thomas Scott and printed in London for L. B. Seeley in 1822.

It bears a bookplate inscribed: *Rev. W. H. Browne, 1825*.

William Henry Browne (1800-1877) took over parochial duties at St John's, Launceston, on 1 November 1828. With the bookplate inscribed 1825 (that is, the year from which the book is established as being in Browne's possession), and Rev. Browne's arrival in Launceston established as late 1828, this book indicates the earliest probable association with Launceston.

So, which book has the longest association with Launceston?

Both books are worthy contenders but with so much detail lost to time, the result is considered a tie. This case does however indicate that detective work is an integral part of the registration process at QVMAG when it comes to some older and more puzzling objects in the collections.

A  
COMPANION FOR THE AGED:  
CONSISTING OF  
MEDITATIONS, DEVOTIONS,  
AND  
PROPER INSTRUCTIONS,  
FOR THE USE OF THOSE,  
WHO, BY THE INFIRMITIES OF OLD AGE,  
Or otherwise, are disabled from attending  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF GOD.

BY  
RICHARD PEERS, A. M.

VICAR OF FARINGDON, BERKS.

THE THIRTEENTH EDITION.

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing Praises unto  
my God, while I have any Being. Psalm cxlvi. 2.

London:

PRINTED FOR F. C. AND J. RIVINGTON,

Booksellers to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,

NO. 62, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;

By R. & R. Gilbert, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

1818.

*A companion for the aged...*  
by Richard Peers,  
published 1818.

ID 39187; Bookplates Rare  
242.3 PEE



IN FOCUS

## ACQUISITIONS

QVMAG continues its long history of receiving and caring for important and unique items that have a strong association with Tasmanian history, culture, people and place, especially northern Tasmania. Object donations, alongside parallel acquisition methods such as purchases, and active fieldwork are the foundational pathways for museums to develop their collections.

As part of the *Strategic Plan* for the resiliency and development of QVMAG's unique and large collection, 2023/24 saw further efforts directed towards the planning and administering of processes for the care and activation of these special items and their associated stories.

Some collection donations are easily identified as relating to the QVMAG core collecting policy whilst others can prove more difficult, and the process of reviewing, researching, identifying and assessing all donation offers made to QVMAG is a rigorous one. This process involves assessment by QVMAG's internal Collections Committee followed by formal endorsement for acquisition by the Museum Governance Advisory Board. This year, QVMAG has continued to refine and improve its systems and documentation to ethically receive and safely house these unique items.

In 2023/24, a total of 135 objects and collections, valued at over \$208,000, were formally acquired by QVMAG. Those objects donated to QVMAG were valued at over \$191,000; those purchased were valued at over \$17,000.

Collection donations were made throughout 2023/24 by members of the public, artists and researchers, alongside acquisitions resulting from key support by the QVMAG Arts Foundation. The Foundation is a long-time partner of QVMAG and this key relationship is discussed further in its own section of this Annual Report.

One of the highlights for 2023/24 that QVMAG received is a significant addition to the decorative arts collection through a generous donation by Dr Russell Cope, who offered a significant collection of contemporary studio-made pottery. Some of these included significant examples from Australian potters Martin Boyd, Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Milton Moon and Reg Preston. In addition to these are rare mid-century German folk ceramics from Karl Scheid, Margarete Schott and Gotlind Weigel.

Through the generous assistance of the QVMAG Arts Foundation, QVMAG continued to support emerging artists by acquiring selected works from the successful *RISE* exhibition held between June and October in 2023. One example are works by Stephanie Reynolds, *Off to the Opera*, 2023 and *Sugar and Spice, ribbons and lace*, 2023. Both works respond directly to QVMAG's textile collection and are emblematic of an emerging local artist exploring histories of people and place whilst also generating new and topical conversations around sustainability and wearable art.



**Lorna QUINN**  
Born 1995, East Melbourne, Victoria  
*Twin stars* 2023  
oil on board  
38.0 x 30.0 x 8.0 cm  
Purchase  
Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG



Big histories and tall tales of people and place in the QVMAG collection were manifested in one of the smallest of objects to be donated. The 2023 *Miniature Worlds* exhibition of diorama-style artworks from around the work resulted in QVMAG receiving an offer of donation of an exquisitely crafted miniature work by its creator, David Hourigan.

At only twelve centimetres, *Launceston rubbish bin miniature*, 2023 is a study of 'uniquely Launceston' detritus. A beautifully crafted 'Boags Red' beer bottle and a dated *Examiner* newspaper in magical lilliputian scale, evoke both historic significance and nostalgic sentiment, charming all who view the artwork.

From the tiny to the titanic, the sheer diversity of objects that represent Tasmanian histories also extends to the largest end of scale. Launceston is home to the first publicly owned hydro-electric plant in the southern hemisphere, and in 2023/24 QVMAG added a large turbine and generator set (1903) from the Duck Reach Power Station officially to the collection.

These items were originally part of a set of four installed in the Duck Reach Power Station and QVMAG has for many years been the custodian and safekeeper of this turbine and generator set, that previously were on display at the Trevallyn Dam. Despite housing the equipment, these pieces were never added to the collection, as the intention was to preserve them until they could be returned to their original location in the historic power station.

In 2021, the Duck Reach Heritage Group secured funding for the relocation of the turbines, but due to their size and weight, the turbines were not able to be re-installed in the Duck Reach Power Station building. Instead, as part of this project they underwent conservation and restoration and have now been donated as an official part of the collection.

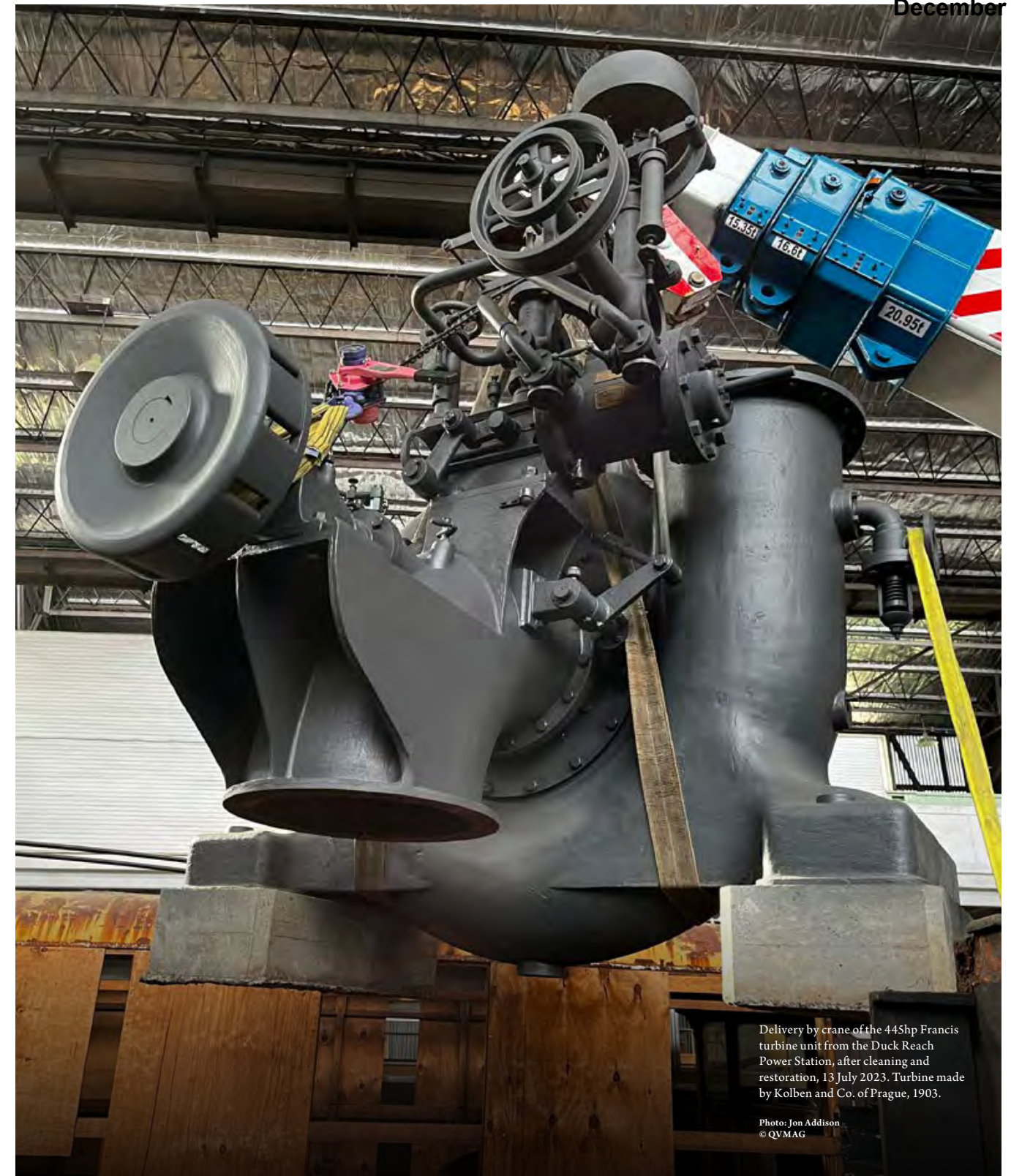
Donated along with the turbine and generator was a large gate valve used to control water flow into the Duck Reach Power Station. This was locally made by the WH Knight Foundry in 1909, specifically for the Duck Reach site.

The early 1900s saw ever-increasing demand for electricity and these unique objects demonstrate the scale of the hydro-electric power generation at Duck Reach, and the capacity of a local business to manufacture for this large-scale engineering project.

QVMAG already holds an example of one of the smaller, 21hp units from the first era of power generation on the site and together these items represent a major heritage aspect of Launceston's history and tell the story of the beginning of hydro-industrialisation in the state.

In natural science, an acquisitions highlight was the Victor Jackson butterfly collection. Comprising over 600 specimens collected across Queensland and New South Wales, this collection includes very rare species and expands the nationally significant QVMAG butterfly collection. More is said about this collection in an In Focus story in this Annual Report.

It should be noted that in addition to collection donations and purchases processed through the formal acquisitions process, natural science collections grow through targeted strategic field collecting. These specimens may take many years to be processed and identified, as there are often new species amongst them. In 2023/24, over 9,000 invertebrate specimens were collected in the field. Fieldwork collecting is discussed further in the Research section of this Annual Report.



Delivery by crane of the 445hp Francis turbine unit from the Duck Reach Power Station, after cleaning and restoration, 13 July 2023. Turbine made by Kolben and Co. of Prague, 1903.

Photos: Jon Addison  
© QVMAG

## ACQUISITIONS 2023/2024

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Katie BARRON

Born 1994, Ontario, Canada

#### *Arm candy* 2022

oil on canvas  
50.0 x 60.0 cm

Gift of the QVMAG Arts Foundation

#### Travis BELL

Born 1991, Port Macquarie, New South Wales

#### *A drunk Tasmanian krater* 2023

mid-fire clay  
40.0 x 35.0 x 33.0 cm

Gift of the QVMAG Arts Foundation

#### *Stuck on the brink without shoes* 2023

mid-fire clay  
39.0 x 36.0 x 29.0 cm

Gift of the QVMAG Arts Foundation

#### Keith Owen BLIGHT

Born 1933, New Zealand; died 2017, Auckland, New Zealand

#### Slab vase

stoneware  
31.0 x 35.0 x 8.0cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

#### Square vase

stoneware  
38.0 x 10.0 x 10.0 cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

#### Triangular vase

stoneware  
29.0 x 11.0 x 11.0 cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

#### Gillian BOVILL

Born 1928, Longford, Tasmania; died 2007, Tasmania

#### Bottle with lion face 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
15.4 x 10.0 x 11.5 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bottle with stopper 1960s–1980s

hand built and wheel thrown stoneware, cork  
12.2 x 9.5 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bottle with stopper 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
12.8 x 5.8 x 5.8 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bud vase [black] 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
9.0 x 5.2 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bud vase [green] 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
8.1 x 4.8 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bud vase [white] 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
6.3 x 4.2 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Bug bottle with stopper 1960s–1980s

hand built and wheel thrown stoneware, cork  
12.9 x 6.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Cheese plate with tree cover 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
16.5 x 17.8 x 17.8 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Egg cup with bird lid 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
13.2 x 8.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Egg cup with bird lid 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
12.6 x 8.9 x 8.9 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Ewer with stopper 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
25.4 x 12.0 x 12.0 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Ewer with stopper 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
19.4 x 11.7 x 9.3 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt, 2023

#### Flower bud vase 1960s–1980s

1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
8.4 x 9.8 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Frog bowl 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
13.4 x 19.1 x 19.1 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Goblet 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
17.2 x 13.3 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### House 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built  
6.7 x 5.9 x 5.7 cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt

#### Jar with vine leaves 1960s–1980s

stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
12.3 x 9.3 (dia) cm

Gift of Jane Beckitt





**Travis BELL**  
Born 1991 Port Macquarie  
*A Drunk Tasmanian Krater* 2023  
mid-fire clay  
Purchase by the QVMAG and the QVMAG Arts Foundation  
QVM:2024:D:0146

**Travis BELL**  
Born 1991 Port Macquarie  
*Stuck on the Brink Without Shoes* 2023  
mid-fire clay  
Purchase by the QVMAG and the QVMAG Arts Foundation  
QVM:2024:D:0147



**Jug** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
12.0 x 9.8 x 8.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Jug** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
22.5 x 13.8 x 16.0 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Jug with bearded man** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
16.5 x 14.0 x 16.0 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Jug with stopper** 1960s–1980s  
hand built and wheel thrown stoneware, cork  
12.4 x 6.8 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Leaf urn with lid** 1950s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
19.4 x 20.0 x 20.0 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Leaf vase** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
13.7 x 15.5 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lidded dish with frog** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
7.6 x 15.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lidded dish with lizard** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
8.9 x 14.5 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lidded jar** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
15.8 x 15.5 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lidded jar with flora** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
19.1 x 14.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lidded jar with frog** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
21.0 x 13.3 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Lion** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built  
8.5 x 13.0 x 9.0 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Maker's mark seals** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built  
various dimensions  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Mug** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
6.2 x 5.7 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Pitcher** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
18.8 x 9.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Relief study** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built  
14.5 x 15.2 x 4.7 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Sugar bowl** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
6.5 x 6.2 (dia) cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Teapot** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
12.0 x 11.0 x 18.0 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Teapot** 1960s–1980s  
stoneware, hand built and wheel thrown  
8.5 x 14.2 x 8.5 cm  
Gift of Jane Beckitt

**Katelyn GEARD**  
Born 2000, Latrobe, Tasmania

**(Be) longing** 2023  
graphite on paper  
200.0 x 100.0 cm  
Gift of the QVMAG Arts Foundation

**Kurt HAMMER**  
Born 1926, Tettau, Bavaria, Germany; died 2010, Schorndorf,  
Baden-Württemberg, Germany

**Plate** undated  
stoneware  
3.0 x 23.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Gywn HANSSEN PIGOTT**  
Born 1935, Ballarat, Victoria; died 2013, London, United Kingdom

**Small bowl** undated  
porcelain  
10.0 x 12.0 (dia) cm  
Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Anton HOLZNER**  
Born 1935, Innsbruck, Austria; arrived Australia 1955

**Hellenic Seascape with Apparition of Cross** 1993  
oil on canvas  
209.0 x 171.0 cm  
Donated through the Australian Government's  
Cultural Gifts Program

**David HOURIGAN**  
Born 1978, Brisbane, Queensland

**Launceston rubbish bin miniature** 2023  
mixed media sculpture  
12.0 x 9.0 x 9.0 cm  
Gift of the artist

**Bea MADDOCK**

Born 1934, Hobart, Tasmania; died 2016 Launceston, Tasmania

**Life Drawing of Karin Lettau 1986**

pencil on paper

Purchase

**David MARSDEN**

Born 1949, Camberwell, Victoria

**home: body undated**

two colour lithographs on paper

28.9 x 26.95 x

Gift of the artist

**Marsden Paintings and Prints [Sawtooth] 2015**

colour woodcut on paper

39.7 x 28.3 x

Gift of the artist

**Nothing over fifty undated**

screenprint on paper

41.9 x 29.6 cm

Gift of the artist

**Snakepit 1994**

hand painted stencil on paper

63.2 x 50.0 cm

Gift of the artist

**Salamanca Festival undated**

multi-coloured layered linocut on paper

75.9 x 52.95 cm

Gift of the artist

**David Marsden @ Sidespace**

acrylic on paper

70.1 x 50.1 cm

Gift of the artist

**Exhibition of recent work [Age Gallery] undated**

ink and embossed print on paper

66.5 x 50.8 cm

Gift of the artist

**Martin Boyd Pottery**

1946–1963, Sydney, New South Wales

**Vase undated**

earthenware

16.0 x 8.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Susie McMEEKIN**

Born 1954 Mittagong, New South Wales

**Vase undated**

porcelain

24.0 x 12.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Milton MOON**

Born 1926, Melbourne, Victoria; died 2019, Adelaide, South Australia

**Platter undated**

earthenware

3.0 x 41.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Lorna QUINN**

Born 1995, East Melbourne, Victoria

**Twin stars 2023**

oil on board

38.0 x 30.0 x 8.0 cm

Purchase

**Jimmy POSSUM (attributed)**

**Bush chair before 1910**

split timber

92.5 x 55.0 x 60.0 cm

Purchase

**Reg PRESTON**

Born 1917, Bellevue Hill, New South Wales; died 2000, Bass, Victoria, Australia

**Plate undated**

stoneware

5.0 x 38.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Stephanie REYNOLDS**

Born 1953, New Zealand

**Off to the Opera 2023**

Thai mulberry paper, embossed Indian paper and patterned lokta paper features with a dual layer crepe skirt, bodice crepe with stencilled black pattern

120.0 x 62.0 x 34.0 cm

Purchase

**Sugar and spice, ribbons and lace 2023**

two layers of pearlised tissue, Japanese momi paper, paper flowers and Japanese lace paper

143.0 x 60.0 x 31.0 cm

Purchase

**Käthe RUCKENBROD**

Born 1905, Pforzheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany; died 1989, Ziegelhausen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

**Cloisonné plate with tree**

copper and polychrome enamel

3.0 x 29.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Karl SCHEID**

Born 1929, Lengfeld, Thuringia, Germany; died 2019, Düdelsheim, Hesse, Germany

**Bowl undated**

porcelain

10.0 x 9.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Open jar undated**

porcelain

13.0 x 16.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope





**Katie BARRON**  
Born 1994, Ontario, Canada  
*Arm candy* 2022  
oil on canvas  
50.0 x 60.0 cm  
Gift of the QVMAG Arts Foundation



**Margarete SCHOTT**

Born 1911, Berlin-Charlottenburg, Germany; died 2004

**Tea bowl** undated

porcelain  
11.0 x 8.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Schramberger Majolika-Fabrik GmbH**

1918–1989, Schramberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

**Tirol plate** 1970s

stoneware  
4.0 x 40.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**UNKNOWN**

*Portrait of John Charles von Stieglitz* 1890s

oil on canvas  
82.0 x 102.0 cm

Gift of Juanita von Stieglitz

**UNKNOWN (Handarbeit)**

**Plate** undated

earthenware  
3.0 x 18.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Plate** undated

earthenware  
3.0 x 23.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

**Gotlind WEIGEL**

Born 1932, Georgenburgkehlen, Ostpreussen, Germany

**Vase** undated

porcelain  
32.0 x 13.0 x 20.0 cm

Gift of Dr Russell Cope

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**ARCHIVES**

**Gillian BOVILL**

Born 1928, Longford, Tasmania; died 2007 Tasmania

**Collection of ephemera, catalogues and books**

20<sup>th</sup> century  
photographs drawings and printed materials

Gift of Jane Beckitt

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**LIBRARY**

*The adviser: a book for young people* 1901

Purchase

**JASHDOWNE**

*The churchwarden's and overseer's guide and director...* 1820

Purchase

**Keith ATKINSON**

*Railway tickets of Tasmania* 1991

Purchase

**Sarah S BAKER**

*The fisherman's grandchildren: a story of Swedish life* 1896

Purchase

**John George BARTHOLOMEW**

*The pocket gazetteer of the world* 1888

Purchase

*Bogatzky's golden treasury for the children of God: consisting of devotional and practical observations for every day in the year* 1896

Purchase

**Charlotte BRONTE**

*Shirley. A tale* 1858

Purchase

**HA BRYDEN**

*The gold kloof* 1907

Purchase

**Joseph BUTLER**

*The analogy of religion, to the constitution and course of nature* [c. 1865?]

Purchase

**Alexander CHALMERS**

*The Guardian: a corrected edition; with a preface, historical and biographical. Vol. I* 1808

Purchase

**Amy Key CLARKE**

*The Roskerry treasure* [191-?]

Purchase

**JRS CLIFFORD**

*Homes and home-life in Bible lands* [1910?]

Purchase

**COUNSELLOR (Psued.)**

*Everybody's pocket lawyer: a popular legal handbook for the United Kingdom* 1895

Purchase

**Mary DAVISON**

*Shadow and shine* [c. 1890]

Purchase

**Edward Sylvester ELLIS**

*Footprints in the forest* 1897

Purchase

**Mary E GELLIE**

*The venturesome twins* 1886

Purchase



*Glimpses of the Dark Ages; or, Sketches of the social condition of Europe, from the fifth to the twelfth century* [c. 1840?]  
Purchase

John GUNN  
*The boys of Hamnavoe* 1898  
Purchase

Margaret Scott HAYCRAFT  
*At Aunt Verbena's* [190-?]  
Purchase

Thomas HUGHES  
*Tom Brown's school days* 1890  
Purchase

Alexander von HUMBOLDT  
John RUSKIN  
David LIVINGSTONE  
*The wonders and beauties of creation* [1880?]  
Purchase

Ronald KING  
*Turn over, darling* 1990  
Purchase

Emma LESLIE  
*Bertie Danby's training* [1890]  
Purchase

Bessie MARCHANT  
*Hope's tryst: a story of the Siberian frontier* [190-?]  
Purchase

Phebe F MCKEEN  
*Theodora Cameron: a home story* 1885  
Purchase

LT MEADE  
*How it all came round* 1903  
Purchase

Richard NEWTON  
*The Reformation and its heroes* 1886  
*Rills from the fountain of life* [189-?]  
Purchase

Robert PATTERSON  
*Introduction to zoology, for the use of schools* 1857  
Purchase

Richard A PEERS  
*A companion for the aged* 1818  
Purchase

Stefan PETROW  
*A priceless gift: the Launceston Mechanics' Institute and Public Library 1906 to 1948* 2023  
Purchase

Tom PHILLIPS  
*The humument: a treated Victorian novel* 1980  
Purchase

Eliza F POLLARD  
*A girl from the eighteenth century* [190-?]  
Purchase

STA RADCLIFFE  
*The giant's cradle: and other stories* [c. 1898]  
Purchase

Mary Catherine ROWSELL  
*Traitor of patriot?: a tale of the Rye-house plot* 1885  
Purchase

*Rural scenes; or, A peep into the country. For youth* 1848  
Purchase

LC SILKE  
*Surly Bob* [1881?]  
Purchase

Gordon STABLES  
*From pole to pole: a tale of the sea* 1893  
Purchase

Richard STEAD  
*The lads of Little Clayton* [1912?]  
Purchase

Eugene SUE  
*Matilda, or; the misfortunes of virtue* 1845  
Purchase

Lucy TAYLOR  
*Through peril, toil and pain* 1899  
Purchase

## HISTORY

**445 hp Francis turbine from Duck Reach Power Station** 1903

Kolben and Co. of Prague  
cast steel, brass, glass, concrete  
300.0 x 275.0 x 330.0 cm  
Gift of the City of Launceston

**Generator set from Duck Reach Power Station** 1903

Siemens Bros. and Co.  
cast steel, brass, concrete  
229.0 x 196.0 x 130.0 cm  
Gift of the City of Launceston



**Gate valve from Duck Reach Power Station** 1909

W H Knight, Launceston  
cast steel, brass  
371.0 x 150.0 x 77.0 cm  
Gift of the City of Launceston

**Baby apnoea monitor (with sensory pads)**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
McIlwraith Instrumentation Pty Ltd (manufacturer)  
wood, metal, plastic  
12.5 x 21.5 x 21.5 cm (box size)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Baby apnoea monitor with wooden casing**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
Tenby Instruments (Manufacturer)  
wood, metal, plastic  
9.0 x 17.4 x 13.5 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Baby apnoea monitor no.1 (with sensory pads)**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
Tenby Instruments (Manufacturer)  
metal, plastic  
6.0 x 10.2 x 15.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Baby apnoea monitor with test indicator (with sensory pads)**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
Tenby Instruments (Manufacturer)  
metal, plastic  
6.0 x 10.2 x 15.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Baby apnoea monitor no. 4001 (with sensory pads)**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
Tenby Instruments (Manufacturer)  
metal, plastic  
11.5 x 20.0 x 14.0 cm (box)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Baby apnoea monitor (with dial)**

1940s–1960s  
Dr Jim Frost (designer)  
Tenby Instruments (Manufacturer)  
metal, plastic  
9.0 x 15.8 x 5.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Self-administering enema syringe (with case)**

Early 1900s  
S. Maw Son & Thompson, London  
metal, paint, leather, felt  
7.5 x 25.5 x 12.5 cm (case)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Badges from Queen Victoria Hospital, Launceston** 1900–1937

Unknown maker  
metal, enamel  
3.0 x 3.0 x 0.8 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Key badge presented to Mrs. R J Sadler** 1997

Unknown maker  
gilt metal  
4.8 x 1.4 x 1.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Key presented to the Hon E E Reece** 1964

Unknown maker  
gilt metal  
5.4 x 2.5 x 0.1 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**KX250 x-ray tube and components** 1956

General Electric  
glass, metal  
95.0 x 15.0 x 21.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**XPT 220 x-ray tube and components** 1953

General Electric  
glass, metal  
50.0 x 15.0 x 18.0 cm  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Metalix portable x-ray machine no. 2742 (with case and components)** Circa 1930s

Philips Industries Ltd  
metal, leather, glass, plastic  
54.0 x 40.0 x 18.0 cm (case)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Updegrave synchronizer no. 4 (with case)**

Early 1900s  
Padman & Padman, Launceston  
wood, leather, metal, cardboard, textile  
54.0 x 21.0 x 22.0 cm (case)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania

**Artificial pneumothorax machine (with wooden case)** 1940s–1950s

Unknown maker  
metal, rubber, glass, wood  
23.5 x 18.3 x 10.6 cm (case)  
Gift of COMA (Collection of Medical Artefacts) Tasmania



**Souvenir china plate**

1920s

Florentine China

transfer-printed bone china, gold paint

16.0 (dia) cm

Gift of Helena Iredell

**'Baby' oak-cased reed pump organ, Style 110, No 2**

19th century

Mason & Hamlin, Boston USA

Used at Nabowla, Tasmania

wood, leather, metal

82.0 x 80.0 x 30.0 cm

Gift of Mrs Ruth McCausland

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**NATURAL SCIENCES**

**Victor Jackson Butterfly Collection**

1963-2000

640 pinned butterfly specimens collected various  
locations in NSW and Queensland Australia

Donated by Philip Jackson



UNKNOWN  
Portrait of John Charles von  
Stieglitz 1890s  
oil on canvas  
82.0 x 102.0 cm  
Gift of Juanita von Stieglitz

## MUSEUM GOVERNANCE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Over the past twelve months, the team at QVMAG has continued to make substantial progress on the strategic shift that was started through the development of the QVMAG *Futures Plan* in 2022.

This year, the strategic vision outlined in the *Futures Plan* has been developed into a suite of strategic instruments that will help guide the institution through the implementation phase of the Plan.

I have been pleased to see that the strong community support for QVMAG that we saw last year has continued to grow. The exhibition program has continued to deliver for a wide cross-section of the community in northern Tasmania, as well as visitors from further afield.

The updated science gallery for children and families has proven to be popular, and while many locals will miss their favourite *Phenomena Factory* interactives from previous years, there can be no doubt that hosting travelling galleries in this space has led to more fun science-themed activities for kids and families, and more excuses for locals to return and see what has changed.

At the time of writing, I have just returned from the launch of *This Vanishing World: Photography of Olegas Truchanas*, who migrated to Tasmania in 1949. This exhibition, which celebrates the life and work of a central figure both in the history of Tasmanian wilderness photography, as well as the history of environmental activism in the State, was a strong reminder of the importance of local cultural institutions like QVMAG.

At the launch, the Museum at Inveresk was filled with members of the local community, friends and family of Truchanas himself, and over 150 people who were excited to experience this important survey exhibition.

Through the past year, the QVMAG Museum Governance Advisory Board (MGAB) has continued to serve in our role as an Collections Committee for the institution.

In the past year, we have received 135 new objects into the collection with a total value of \$208,592. Of course, in the case of historical and cultural artefacts monetary values can be difficult to determine.

Some items, while worth little in financial terms, might have enormous cultural or historic significance. Likewise, sometimes objects have a financial value assigned but are ultimately irreplaceable at any price.

We thank the QVMAG Collection Committee for its dedicated and diligent work in the consideration of each change to the institution's collection. There are substantial efforts undertaken to ensure that each proposed acquisition (even those offered through donation) is subject to rigorous collection standards. Before a proposal is brought to the MGAB for consideration, the item in question has already been carefully vetted, and consideration given to questions such as its provenance, storage requirements, alignment with the wider collection, exhibition potential and historic or scientific importance.

This is some of the ordinary work of collecting institutions such as QVMAG that is often invisible to museum and gallery visitors.

In 2024, the MGAB said farewell to Kaye Dowling, who was a long-term member of the Board, where she represented the QVMAG Friends.

Those who know Kaye will know that she has been a tireless champion and supporter of QVMAG for many years and anyone who has interacted with the QVMAG Friends has likely encountered Kaye in her travels. We wish Kaye well in the next chapter of her life and will miss her insightful and considered perspective around the board table. The QVMAG Friends will continue to be represented on the MGAB by their incoming President, Vicki Dewsbury.

The *Futures Plan* has set an ambition for the institution that is of generational significance. To achieve the goals outlined will take many years and the efforts of many people.

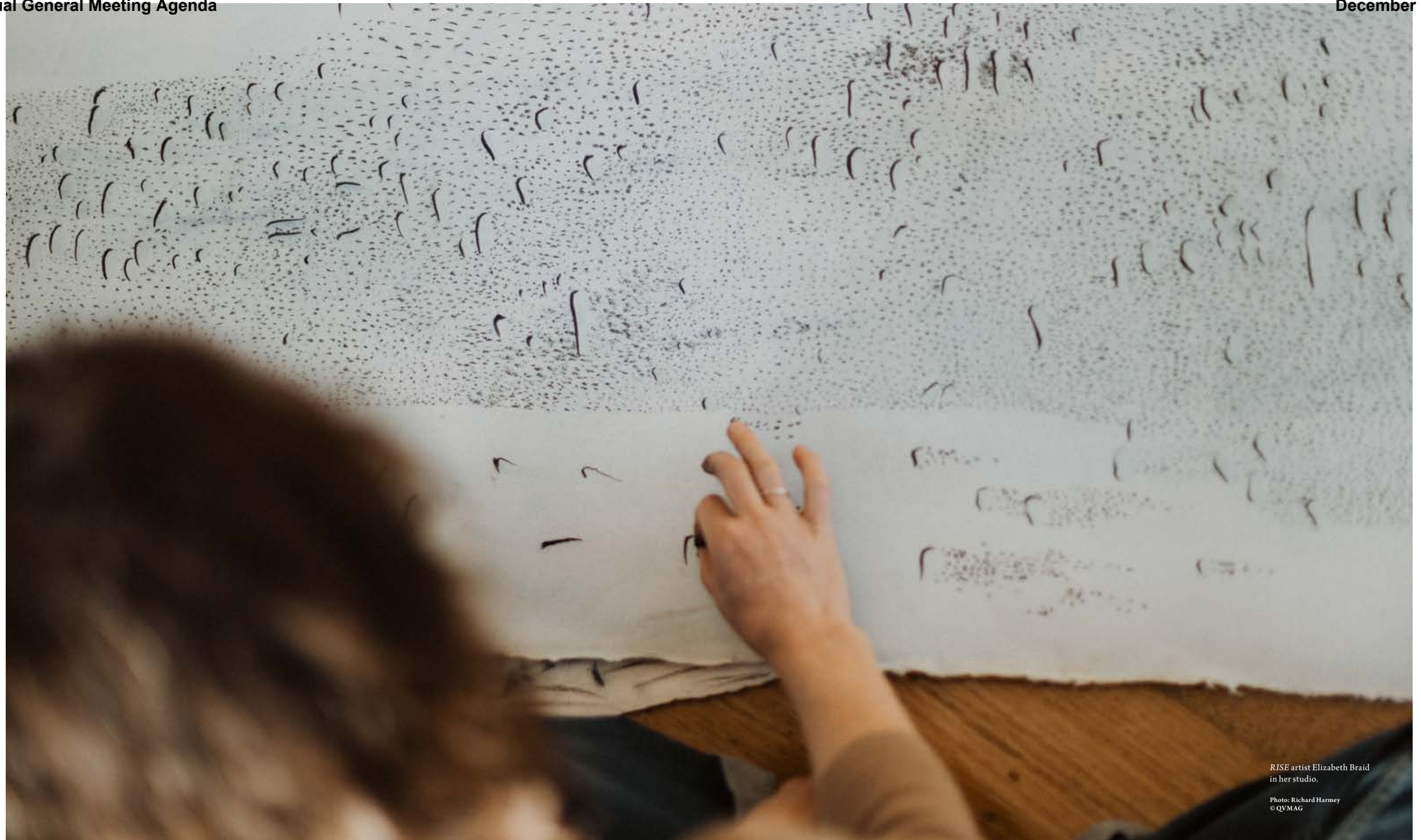
While this is true, it has been remarkable to see the incredible progress that has been made across various dimensions of the Plan over the past twelve months. The QVMAG team has risen to the challenge set by the *Futures Plan*, and I have been pleased to see the wider community noticing the increase in momentum, and doing their part to help support the Museum, the Art Gallery and the QVMAG team.

QVMAG is our cultural institution, and the team will need the support of the wider community to realise the exciting future that the *Futures Plan* has outlined for all of us.

**James Riggall**  
Chair  
Museum Governance Advisory Board

**Shauna MAYBEN**  
*The Things You Own End Up*  
*Owning You earrings* 2023  
Salt and pepper diamond,  
sterling silver oxidized, 18ct gold,  
Australian currency printed on  
24ct gold leaf plastic  
Collection of the artist  
Photo: Maddie Brough  
© QVMAG





*RISE* artist Elizabeth Braid  
in her studio.

Photo: Richard Harmey  
© QVMAG



## QVMAG ARTS FOUNDATION YEAR IN REVIEW

On behalf of the QVMAG Arts Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to present a summary of activities for 2023/24, a year during which QVMAG has continued its reinvigoration. The institution has transformed into a dynamic place with many exciting activities and exhibitions. Members of the Foundation participate in these activities and greatly enjoy the improved experience.

It is gratifying to see the increased numbers of visitors across all age groups and including many from interstate and overseas. QVMAG greatly contributes to making Launceston a desirable place to live, work and visit.

The Foundation contributes by organising and sponsoring events for local community members to encourage donations of funds for purchases by the QVMAG to enhance and build its collection. It does not make choices or select items for purchase but can choose to support the acquisition program. There is a high level of accord and understanding in the Foundation's work with QVMAG, which is highly collaborative.

Since its inauguration, the Foundation has collected and contributed more than \$2 million in donations.

The Foundation continues to participate in the Museum Governance Advisory Board and contribute to the positive strategic building of the institution. We look forward to contributing to future growth and development.

At the August 2023 annual general meeting of the Foundation, the current committee was re-elected and we thank them for their continued contribution.

Jon Addison, QVMAG Senior Curator of History, gave a most interesting lecture on the Australasian League flag of 1851 held in the QVMAG collection and thought to be the origin of the current national flag.

In December, the Foundation launched its next appeal for a Masterpiece for Tasmania, which will be a commissioned work from well-known local artist Michael McWilliams. A target has been set of \$60,000 and we are well advanced in achieving this goal. Launched in 2013, the Masterpieces for Tasmania appeal has brought together individual donors from not only the immediate Launceston region but all over Tasmania to build a wonderful legacy for future generations.

An event will be organised later in 2024 to reveal the new, keenly anticipated Masterpiece, linking to the major exhibition of McWilliam's art, *The Gentle Protagonist*, opening at the Art Gallery at Royal Park in December 2024.

During the year, the Foundation proudly funded a significant number of acquisitions to enhance and grow the QVMAG collections.

These include:

- + An Amber Koroluk-Stephenson painting, *Australian Painted Ladies at Mills Plains*, a painting of butterflies pinned to a drawing of John Glover's Patterdale home and studio; for \$10,500.
- + A Mike Epworth Jimmy Possum-style chair made from timbers significant to the tradition; for \$10,000.
- + RISE artworks purchased from the very successful exhibition of works from emerging Tasmanian artists; totalling \$5,000.



Amber KOROLUK-STEPHENSON  
*Australian painted ladies at Mills Plains* 2023  
oil on linen, 142.5 x 142.5  
Gift of the Arts Foundation 2023 detail  
Photo: Rosie Hastie



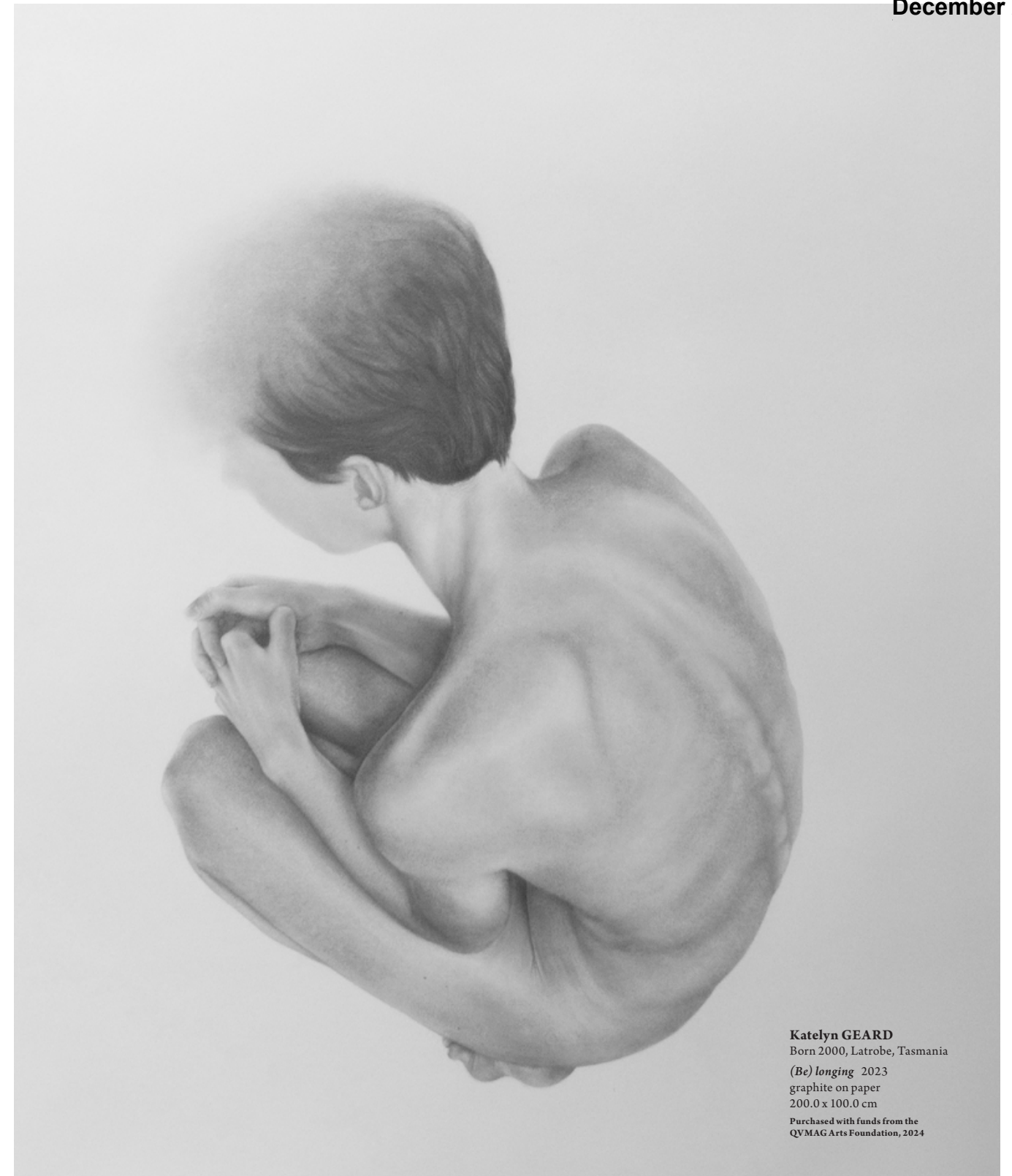
*ArtRage* is a statewide art exhibition for grade 11 and 12 students held each year at QVMAG. In 2020, the Foundation created a new award, the ArtRage Medallion, to acknowledge emerging student artists who significantly contribute to the fine arts in Tasmania.

Each year, one student is chosen by the exhibition curator to be awarded a medallion, featuring a limited-edition artwork donated by Tasmanian artist Michael McWilliams. The winner this year was Tegan Mateman from the Don College with a thoughtful work on loneliness inspired by the abandoned houses in the hydro village of Waddamana. The ArtRage Medallion 2023 was presented to Tegan in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Launceston and received widespread media publicity.

The Foundation is currently preparing for the second of the Nuala O’Flaherty Memorial Lectures which will be delivered by an outstanding international speaker. These public lectures are free and open to several hundred people, creating a significant event for Launceston, attracting attention to the city and QVMAG.

Members of the Arts Foundation thank the Launceston City Council for supporting QVMAG, which is by far the leading such institution in Australia outside the capital cities. We look forward to many more stimulating and interesting events and exhibitions making Launceston a great place to live, work and visit.

**Brian Hartnett**  
Chairman  
QVMAG Arts Foundation



**Katelyn GEARD**  
Born 2000, Latrobe, Tasmania  
*(Be) longing* 2023  
graphite on paper  
200.0 x 100.0 cm  
Purchased with funds from the  
QVMAG Arts Foundation, 2024

## QVMAG FRIENDS YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year has seen consolidation and continued growth in membership numbers and activities for the QVMAG Friends.

Early responses to the QVMAG Membership Survey 2024 indicate that members are predominantly joining the association in support of QVMAG as a cultural institution that serves their historical and cultural aspirations for northern Tasmania, with a sense of community ownership for QVMAG.

Whether via annual subscription fees leading directly to donations, members' engagement with programmed events and exhibition offerings, or through personal advocacy of key institutional objectives outlined in the *Futures Plan*, in 2023/24 the QVMAG Friends have maintained support and continue to present as a cherished and vital group affiliated with QVMAG.

In 2023, the QVMAG Archives identified an urgent need to digitise QVMAG's Oral History collection as many recordings are currently stored on cassette tapes. The National Film and Sound Archive has set a nominal deadline of 2025 for the redundancy of magnetic tape and film media. This year, QVMAG Friends committed \$15,000 towards the Oral Histories Digitising Project and sourced additional funding to address this conservation. The collection includes over 300 stories of the QVMAG Friends oral history starting in 1990 as *Morning Coffee*.

Now known as *Our people, their stories: Oral histories of Northern Tasmania*, the Friends' monthly talk series continues to appeal to the membership, capturing stories from local communities.

The themes of the presentations over the past year included the resilience of rural families, the thrill of sporting achievements, a passion for visual arts and design, and one person's vision for the unexpected: a gallery showcasing an iconic artist from a time and place apart from Launceston.

Social opportunities are also considered important, with faithful local members joined by people new to Launceston and surrounding areas seeking social connection with and within our creative and cultural spaces.

QVMAG Friends have renewed *The Welcome Project initiative*, which invites various community groups into QVMAG to meet, socialise and explore the current offerings at each site. QVMAG's repositioning as an active, accessible and inclusive space has encouraged the committee to envision a vital and engaged membership that sees QVMAG as a 'third space'; a place apart from home or work where one can experience acceptance, inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

The Friends Committee thanks the fantastic QVMAG team which has supported the Friends throughout the year and looks forward to future endeavours and opportunities to engage with staff, curators and the wider collection.

**Vicki Dewsbury**  
President  
QVMAG Friends



Exhibition image of visitors in *Phenomena factory* at the Museum at Inveresk.

Photo: Tourism Australia



# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

## LEADERSHIP

---

**Shane Fitzgerald**  
General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services

**Daniel McWilliams**  
Executive Assistant  
General Manager Creative Arts and Cultural Services

**Malene Bjornskov**  
Leader Strategic Collections

**Maddie Brough**  
Leader Marketing and Communications

**Alisanne Butler**  
Leader Exhibitions

**Jules Clements**  
Leader Business Support

**Sumeena Keshow**  
Leader Learning and Engagement

**Susan Moore**  
Leader Marketing and Communications (acting)

**Gary Morgan**  
Advisor Special Projects and Strategy

**Kellie Wells**  
Leader Curatorial

## BUSINESS SUPPORT

---

**Errin Chapple**  
Business Support Officer

**Christine Gleeson**  
Shop Coordinator

**Patricia Marshall**  
Shop Officer

**Isabel Shapcott**  
Business Support Officer

**Louise Towns**  
Bookings and Administration Officer

**Adam Van Peelen**  
Digital Media and IT Officer

**Anna Wilkins Heeps**  
Coordinator Visitor Operations

## EXHIBITIONS

---

**Paul Eggins**  
Exhibitions Officer

**Louise French**  
Graphic Designer

**Jye Horan**  
Exhibitions Officer

**Tobias Jahke**  
Senior Exhibitions Officer

**Renée Singline**  
Graphic Designer

**Louise Thrush**  
Graphic Designer

## CURATORIAL

---

**Jon Addison**  
Senior Curator History

**Alfonsina Arriaga Jimenez**  
Senior Curator Natural Sciences

**Ashley Bird**  
Senior Curator Visual Arts and Design

**Katie Davies**  
Assistant Curator Visual Arts and Design

**Simon Fearn**  
Museum Collections Officer Natural Sciences

**Burcu Keane**  
Assistant Curator History

**Yvonne Leeming**  
Museum Collections Officer History

**Judy Rainbird**  
Museum Assistant Natural Sciences

**Ross Smith**  
Museum Collections Officer History

**LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT**

---

**Christopher Arkless**  
Senior Planetarium Officer

**Carmencita Palermo**  
Public Programs Officer

**George Perkins**  
Education Officer

**John Read**  
Planetarium Officer

**Vicki West**  
Aboriginal Learning Facilitator (Jun-Apr)

**Evelyn Williams**  
Education Officer

## STRATEGIC COLLECTIONS

---

**Elizabeth Adkins**  
QVMAG Registrar

**Imogen Colton**  
Conservation and Registration Technician

**Tallulah Eaves**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Sarah Farquhar-Still**  
Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Aaron Humphries**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Jayne McPhee**  
Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Wooi Har (Haireena) Ooi**  
Collections Database Administrator

**Andrew Parsons**  
Librarian/Archivist

**Antoinette Smith**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Rebecca Stephenson**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Cindy Thomas**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Kate Turner**  
Assistant Registrar QVMAG Collection Audit

**Jo Willey**  
QVMAG Registrar

**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

---

**Tash McCulloch**  
Marketing and Communications Officer

VISITOR SERVICES

**Pauline Black**  
Museum Attendant

**Victoria Boulwood**  
Museum Attendant

**Jimmy Britton**  
Museum Attendant

**Andrew Brooks**  
Museum Attendant

**ShuHan Chen**  
Museum Attendant

**Bill Evans**  
Museum Attendant

**Paul Farrell**  
Museum Attendant

**Christa Gorjup**  
Museum Attendant

**Darryn Greene**  
Museum Attendant

**Jimmy Harrison**  
Museum Attendant

**Aaron Humphries**  
Museum Attendant

**Lesley Ikin**  
Museum Attendant

**Karen Jenkins**  
Museum Attendant

**Don Keddie**  
Museum Attendant

**Heather McInnes**  
Museum Attendant

**Emma Magnusson-Reid**  
Museum Attendant

**Trish Marshall**  
Museum Attendant

**Karen Murgatroyd**  
Museum Attendant

**Joanne Myers**  
Museum Attendant

**Kristen Potts**  
Museum Attendant

**Isabel Shapcott**  
Museum Attendant

**Judy Rainbird**  
Museum Attendant

**Johnny Read**  
Museum Attendant

**Jane Taylor**  
Museum Attendant

**Katherine Taylor**  
Museum Attendant

**Dominque Tempone-Wiltshire**  
Museum Attendant

**Robyn Thomas**  
Museum Attendant

**Allan Thrush**  
Museum Attendant

## QVMAG ANNUAL REPORT

With a collection in the making since 1842, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery 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.

First published 2024  
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery  
Creative Arts and Cultural Services | City of Launceston

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To read the full 2023-24 City of Launceston Annual Report, alongside annual financial reports, please visit [www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Strategies-and-Reports](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Council/Strategies-and-Reports)

QVMAG is proudly owned and operated by the City of Launceston and supported by the Tasmanian Government.

### Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

*Museum at Inveresk*  
2 Invermay Road, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

*Art Gallery at Royal Park*  
2 Wellington Street, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

(03) 6323 3777  
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Launceston, Tasmania 7250  
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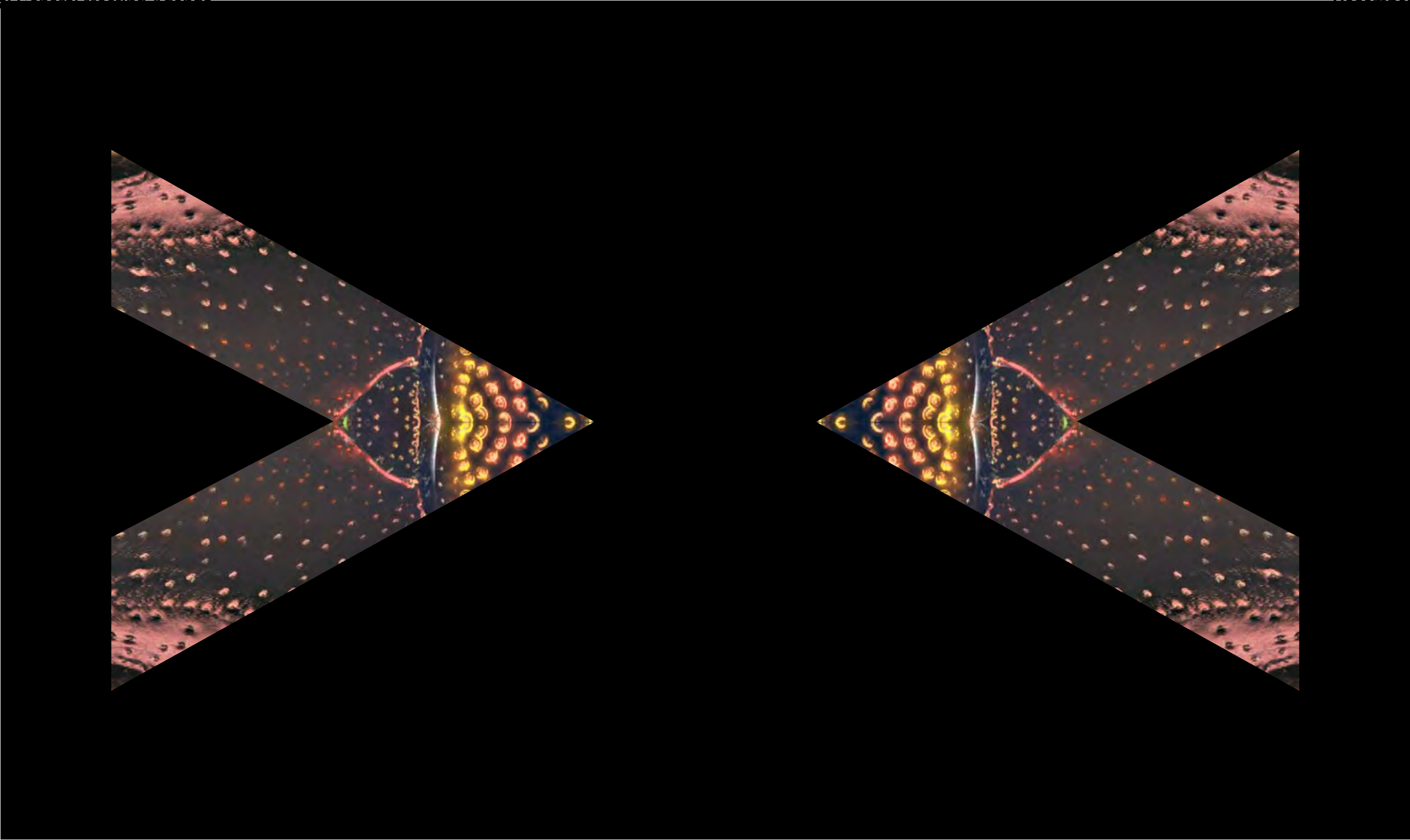






*Two dragons fighting for a pearl*  
Qing Dynasty 1644-1911  
gilt wood carving  
47cm H x 24cmW x 20cm D  
QVM:2016:DA:0007  
Donated by Professor Wong Shiu Hon, 2016  
Photo: Scott Gelston

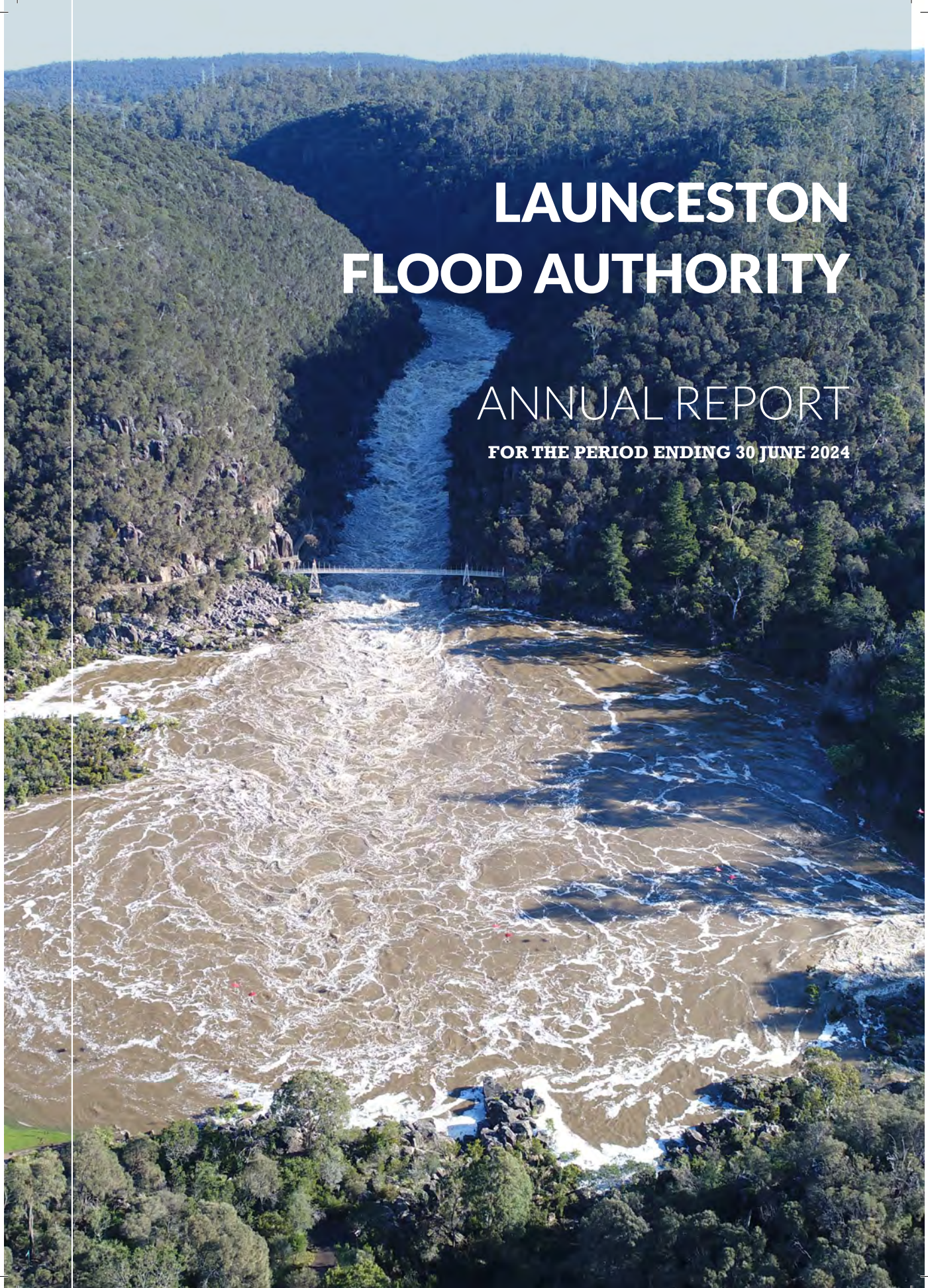














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## **2. Introduction**

The Launceston Flood Authority (LFA) was established by the Launceston City Council as a single Authority pursuant to the provisions of Section 30 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The LFA performs independent high level monitoring of the strategies employed to minimise flood impacts in Launceston's Flood Prone Area.

The LFA has achieved good progress in ensuring that the Launceston Flood Protection System continues to be maintained to a high standard and meets legislative compliance.

This report describes the various activities and initiatives undertaken to support the Flood Protection System and associated emergency preparedness in FY23/24. These activities are completed with the financial and advisory support of the LFA, unless stated otherwise.

## **3. Launceston Flood Authority - Board of Directors**



**Greg Preece - Chair**



**Robin McKendrick**



**Ed Henty**



**Michael Stretton**  
City of Launceston  
Chief Executive Officer  
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



**Shane Eberhardt**  
City of Launceston  
Acting Chief Executive  
Officer  
5 February - 30 June 2024





#### 4. kanamaluka / River Tamar Estuary Governance

Since the establishment of the Launceston City Deal in 2017, the governance for the kanamaluka / River Tamar Estuary was altered with the creation of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT).

In 2020, the Launceston Flood Authority, along with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, joined the Taskforce.

#### 5. Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I present my annual Chairman's Report for the Launceston Flood Authority (Authority).

Regular quarterly meetings have been held throughout the year to conduct the business of the Authority and, from these meetings a quarterly report on the activities of the Authority have been provided to the Council.

At these meetings, the City of Launceston staff provide reports on the inspection and maintenance program of the flood protection infrastructure as well as the progress of the capital works program, to ensure works have been completed as programmed and on budget. Throughout the year the Authority has provided recommendations to Council regarding planning applications for developments in the flood inundation zone, and on occasions this activity has required out of session meetings and sharing of documents to meet the statutory timeframes for approval of applications by Council.

I have participated and attended all the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) meetings to ensure the Authority was kept informed of their projects and activities.

The Authority has continued to work with TEMT on sedimentation management by continuing to undertake bathymetry surveys at six monthly periods, with this information being used in the Wetland Restoration Trial on the North Esk River.

Some of the key projects completed or commenced during the year were:

- Completed the railway floodgates upgrades for both East Launceston gates to improve response times and avoid the need to remove the lines and ballast,
- Completed the Invermay Levee Reinstatement works as programmed,
- Undertook the closure of the Charles Street Bridge floodgates as a training exercise,
- Undertook a site visit to inspect the Paterson Street Levee and the work being undertaken by TasWater on their new sewer pipeline project,
- Provided funding to undertake additional works on the repair of the City Levee,
- Supported training for the Evacuation Centre Team, Incident Management Team, and Flood Levee Patrollers.

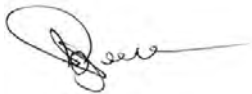


There were no significant flood emergencies this year, however the Bureau of Meteorology did contact the Council on two occasions to advise of potential flooding that ultimately did not eventuate.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow directors Robin, Ed, Michael Stretton and Shane Eberhardt for their commitment and support throughout the year.

I would like to give a special mention to Michael Stretton for his time spent on the Authority and for his commitment to the work of the Authority given his huge workload.

A special thanks also to our Council support team of Shane Eberhardt, Erica Deegan, Nathan Williams and Debbie Pickett for their assistance during the year. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of all Council staff, both in the office and the field in providing an effective and operational levee system.



Greg Preece  
**Chairman, Launceston Flood Authority**

## 6. Compliance Matters

As part of the State's integrated resource management and planning system, the *Water Management Act 1999* requires dam owners to conduct mandatory comprehensive surveillance inspections every five years for 'significant and higher' consequence category dams. The report from these inspections must be submitted for review by the state dam regulating authority, being the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

Due to its High A Consequence dam category status, the Launceston Flood Protection System (the flood levee system) requires mandatory surveillance and reporting. As a dam owner, we are also required to inform NRE Tas of any dam works and submit Work-As-Executed Reports for all completed dam works. A dam safety Notice was issued by NRE Tas for the Invermay Levee Reinstatement, which granted authority to carry out works under Section 165L(1) direction for maintenance of dams. Due to the reactive nature and compromise to dam integrity, the City Levee Rectification works also required an issuing of a direction for maintenance of dams Notice. Works for both projects have been completed according to the Notices' requirements.

With the on-boarding of Council's Flood Asset Engineer in Q4, the comprehensive five yearly inspection regime of the levee system was initiated and inspections for the task completed in Q4. External engineering consultants were engaged to assist with the levee inspections. At the completion of the comprehensive inspections, a detailed report

which includes a list of observations and defects will be provided such that these defects can then be reviewed, triaged and actioned.

All quarterly inspections throughout the year were completed on time with the exception of Q3 when available resources were insufficient to undertake the routine inspection. This included the vacancy of a key leadership position within the water engineering space and the Flood Asset Engineer. Routine quarterly inspections were again completed in June (Q4) with identified defects currently being addressed.

## 7. Inspections, Monitoring and Minor Maintenance

Quarterly and annual visual inspections, as well as testing of existing backflow prevention structures i.e. floodgates, penstocks and tide flaps, were completed in a timely manner, typically in accordance with our maintenance schedules. Following the inspections and testing, internal reporting and defect rectification were completed. These rectifications included:

- Weed infestation management of East Launceston Levee within TasRail rail corridor
- Charles Street Bridge floodgate closure exercise
- Repair of damaged pavers on levee walkways

Additionally, comprehensive five yearly inspections were completed in Q4 alongside external engineering experts, as discussed in Section 6. Minor defects are being actioned, with more significant defects being assessed for potential actions.

## 8. Completed Projects

### 8.1. Railway Floodgate Upgrades (EG2/EG3)

The railway floodgate upgrade project aimed to improve response time during flood events through the installation of Edilon Sedra slabtracks. The project was completed for both East Launceston Gate 2 (EG2) and 3 (EG3) with the slab tracks installed during March 2024. It was necessary to remove and modify the existing floodgates as part of these works, enabling additional refurbishment. One gate was replaced and tested in March with the other installed and tested in early April.

The new system creates superior outcomes for gate closure response time by removing the need to excavate ballast and rail lines. This enables Council to close the gates rather than external contractors. Additionally, it improves access for vegetation management on the earthen levee section between gates.





*Figure 1 - Edilon Sedra slabtrack in position beneath levee gate EG2.*

## 8.2. Invermay Levee Reinstatement

The Invermay Levee Reinstatement project was completed on site in April 2024, restoring the levee's design height between the Charles St bridge and Tamar St bridge. Construction documentation was finalised and the final construction quality assurance (CQA) reporting is expected to be submitted to the regulator in Q1 24/25.

Re-establishment of grass cover on the levee has progressed well with the rainfall in recent months providing favourable conditions. The site fencing was removed in June 2024, opening the recreational trail for public use. Weed management will continue as required along with periodic monitoring for any defects during the contractor's 12 months defects period.



*Figure 2 - View along levee crest toward Tamar Street*

## 9. Projects Underway

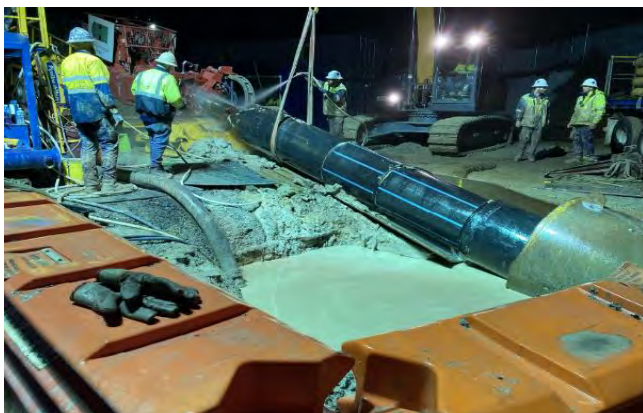
### 9.1. Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP) - TasWater New Sewer Pipeline Project

The CoL has been working closely with TasWater regarding works as part of the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP) combined system improvements projects. The projects include the Western rising main (Margaret St to Ti-Tree Bend) pipeline, Margaret St Sewage Pump Station upgrade and construction of the new storage tank at Ti-Tree Bend. The work at the Margaret Street pump station and Western rising main are in close vicinity to the City's flood levee infrastructure, Paterson Levee.

During the FY23/24 period, Council staff also attended site visits at Ti-Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant to witness part of the construction phase of the 10ML covered storage tank and Margaret Street Pump Station to witness the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shot of the new pipeline.

Achievements over the past year include:

- Drilling and pull-through of the one kilometre southern river crossing (West Tamar silt ponds to Kings Park)
- Drilling and pull-through of the 650m northern river crossing (Ti-Tree Bend to Trevallyn)
- Installing a 200-metre Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shot that spans softer ground at the northern end of the Silt Ponds area in Trevallyn and completion of the trenched West Tamar pipeline section
- Significant progress for the upgrades of the Margaret Street pump station including substantial completion of electrical upgrades and installation of the first two screens.
- Ground improvement works at the Ti-Tree Bend site for the installation of the large storage tank.



**Figure 3** - Final pull through of one kilometre section of pipeline to Margaret Street pump station.

*(Photo courtesy TasWater)*

## 9.2. Rectification Works - City Levee

A section of the City Levee in the vicinity of Willis and Boland Streets was damaged by works associated with the UTAS development at 80 Cimitiere St. The rectification works for the damaged section commenced on June 4, 2024. Local contractor Gradco was engaged by Fairbrother to undertake the works under the supervision of a team from pitt&sherry. Investigation revealed significant cracking in the clay and pockets of less stable clay with reduced bearing capacity. This prompted the contribution of LFA funds for further exploration and excavation, including CPTu/DPSH testing to increase understanding of bank stability and soil composition near the site.

Fortuitously, the works revealed a stronger clay base underneath, allowing refilling works to progress as expected. It is anticipated major works will finish in July 2024.



*Figure 4 - The fully excavated levee section, showing steps along the sides and changes in soil/ clay composition*

## 10. Emergency Preparedness

### 10.1. Bridge Closure Exercise

The Charles Street flood gate closure training exercise was held on 24 August 2023 as per the 2-yearly inspection schedule. This exercise was used to train new staff on flood gate operations in the closure of IG1 and CG2 and complete routine maintenance. Completed in the evening, it was successfully planned and performed with no defects observed.





*Figure 5 - Charles Street Bridge Closure, August 2023*

## 10.2. Flood Levee Patroller Training

Levee patrollers are utilised during flood events to help monitor the flood protection system. Training includes familiarisation with levee sections, awareness of current defects and areas of concern, what to look for in a flood (seepage, scour, slumping, observations of river levels) and how to appropriately communicate defects to the IMT. With staffing changes, training was reduced this year. However, this presented the opportunity to evaluate and update hazard and risk assessments for levee patrolling in Q4. This revealed a number of improvements including formalising and increasing the frequency of training, tracking patrollers experience and training, and selecting appropriate personal flotation devices (PFDs). Such opportunities will be actioned in 24/25 by CoL.

## 10.3. Disaster Ready Fund - Flood intelligence and Early Warning Detection

In the previous financial year, CoL successfully obtained \$200k of federal funding. This funding was co-matched by the LFA, resulting in a \$400k project. The aim of the project is to develop an early warning detection system that will provide live data and visual intelligence. This will address gaps identified during the 2022 floods and is expected to allow more time for critical operational decisions to be considered.

City of Launceston staff are progressing the Disaster Ready Fund project, specifically the installation of additional CCTV to monitor flood conditions across the floodplain and upgrades to the river level sensors minimise outages during a flood event. Three high end additional PTZ (Pan Tilt Zoom) cameras were installed: two cameras atop light poles at UTAS Stadium and an additional camera at West Tamar Highway Bridge. Two cameras at each location provide concurrent viewing angles and

redundancy. Additionally, by the end of the 2024 calendar year, two more PTZ cameras are planned to be installed at the Silos building on Lindsay Street as well as a 'still' time lapse camera on Henry Street. An installation team has been selected and they are currently fabricating the mounting brackets for the installation.

Upgrades to the sensors are currently underway. Whilst there are river level sensors in 4 locations - Henry Street, Hoblers Bridge Road, Riverbend Park Pedestrian bridge & Johnston Road - improvements have been made including batteries to provide power in the event of a power outage and a second sensor to utilise radar as an alternative mechanism alongside the original ultra-sonic sensors.

This project has also built on work undertaken by City of Launceston Engineering Cadet, Eliot Sotiriou, for his undergraduate honours program through Deakin University. Eliot's project is titled "Rainfall and streamflow of the North Esk catchment and the 2016/2022 Launceston Floods". Eliot has completed his project and presented findings to relevant staff members.

The focus for the coming months will be to undertake further consideration of the North Esk catchment response to inform additional gauge locations and emergency management plans.



*Figure 6 - Invermay Levee from UTAS Stadium Camera.*

#### **10.4. Hydro Tasmania - Trevallyn Dam Break Review**

City of Launceston staff participated in a dam safety exercise on 20 May as part of the review of the Trevallyn Dam Break study and associated review of Hydro Tasmania's Dam Safety Emergency Plan for the site. This exercise highlighted the cohesion and preparedness of City of Launceston, TasPol and the SES in a flood emergency.

In regard to the impact on Launceston and the flood protection system, the Probable Maximum Flood causing a dam crest flood with dam failure would have minimal impact as Invermay, areas of the City and Newstead would already be significantly impacted by the flood event.

### **10.5. Incident Management Planning**

In accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2006 (the Act), City of Launceston Municipal Emergency Management Committee (MEMC) is required to develop a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

The purpose of this Plan is to identify the hazards and describe emergency management arrangements that reduce risks to the community and mitigate the impacts of an emergency on life and property in City of Launceston. This intersects with the LFA through the centrality of the Flood Protection System and emergency planning.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- a) identify and document:
  - i. hazards most likely to impact the municipality
  - ii. the roles and responsibilities of Council in relation to each hazard
  - iii. the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to each hazard
  - iv. current arrangements for emergency management at municipal, regional and State level
  - v. opportunities to reduce risks to the community
- b) increase community awareness, preparedness and resilience to identified hazards.

The plan is reviewed every two years with the most recent version endorsed by the Acting State Emergency Management Controller on January 18 2024.

### **10.6. Evacuation Centre Team Training**

Over the course of the financial year nearly 35 internal Council staff have been recruited to undertake Evacuation Centre training, which the LFA were briefed on. This included all undergoing a one day workshop with Red Cross to understand Evacuation Centre Management and a further nine undertaking Evacuation Centre Manager training. The training by Red Cross was further enhanced by regular internal training.

The aim of the exercise will be to provide a safe environment where Evacuation Centre staff can practise the activation process and familiarise themselves with the physical set up of a centre. It will be a scenario-based exercise where teams are asked to open a centre within a restricted timeframe.





### 10.7. Launceston Flood Response Evacuation Plan

In conjunction with the State Emergency Service and Tasmania Police, the CoL has reviewed and updated the Launceston Flood Response Evacuation Plan which the LFA have been briefed on.

The objectives of the Flood Response Plan are:

- To ensure an appropriate level of preparedness of functional response structures to protect life and property
- To identify capabilities and support resources to assist in the response to a flooding event
- To enable a collaborative approach to existing operational and emergency management arrangements to ensure a planned and structured approach to response activities

The plan includes the formal adoption of Critical Decision Points for evacuation. When predicted levels reach the Critical Decision Points all available information will be assessed to inform if a voluntary or mandatory evacuation is required. This includes a risk assessment to guide the initiation of evacuation of the levee protected areas as forecast information of m<sup>3</sup>/s flow rates is received.

The plan was formally endorsed by the CoL Municipal Emergency Management Committee in September 2023, approved by the Northern Region Controller (Police Commander Chambers), and was approved by the Executive Director SES in February 2024.

The next step is the development of the publically available Levee Protected Areas Community Flood Guides.

### 10.8. Emergency Management Hub

In January 2024, the Council launched its Emergency Management Hub with the support of support of a Tasmanian Government Lift Local (please refer to Section 10.8 below for further information). The Hub was developed to assist the community in understanding their personal risks and encouraging them to make a plan should a disaster occur. The Hub brings together information across all natural and manmade hazards into one easy location. The Hub is broken down into five easy to navigate steps:

1. Understand your Risk - what are the specific risks likely to affect you
2. Know your warnings and alerts - Warnings provide real time information on what is happening
3. Make a Plan - By preparing a plan this minimises the effects of disasters on you and your loved ones
4. Stay Safe During a Disaster - Find out where to get the latest information during an emergency



5. Recover after Disaster - Important information for the community to assist with recovery

To encourage the community to create a plan the hashtag #ReadyTogether has been developed to encourage the community to think about who else they should include in their emergency plans.



*Figure 7 The developed logo for the Emergency Management Hub*

The Hub is located virtually as a page on the Council website as well as physical display in the Launceston Town Hall customer service centre.

Having both options available ensures that residents can access crucial information and support in various ways, catering to different preferences and needs. This integrated approach demonstrates a proactive commitment to public safety and community resilience.



Figure 8 Emergency Management Hub - City of Launceston Customer Service Centre

### 10.9. CoL Guide to Emergency Preparedness

Another initiative to support the launch of the Emergency Management Hub was to review all public facing brochures with the aim of not overlapping with coordinating agency material. The CoL Emergency Preparedness Guide was launched to coincide with the Emergency Management Hub, with a DL version being mailed out with Waste Centre passes to all households and provided to LFA Board members.

### 10.10. Lift Local Grant - Supporting activities that strengthen planning for health and wellbeing

The CoL was awarded a \$20k Lift Local Grant by the Tasmanian Government. The Lift Local Health grant will help the CoL to develop to support participation in proactive measures to reduce individual and community impact at times of disaster and build longer term community connectedness.



The grant funding enabled the CoL to:

- Develop a set of key messages to distribute to the general population that will raise awareness of risk and support the community in preparing and recovering from disaster
- Implement a sustainable and longer term approach to supporting community preparedness and resilience through community messaging
- Update the CoL's digital assets to support consistent and timely messaging
- Develop an interactive, easy to navigate website that raises awareness of risk and supports the community in preparing and recovering from disaster

### 10.11. Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training

In June, Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training was delivered by the Resilience Canopy in conjunction with the City of Launceston. The program was held over 4 sessions, with two full day in person sessions held in June.

The Resilience Canopy is a new nationwide program to build strong and challenge-ready communities, able to adapt to future shocks and stresses from natural hazards or other societal challenges. Nineteen community members and the CoL team came together to build their knowledge collaboratively on how to empower community resilience. The CoL is only the second Tasmanian LGA to offer the training in the state.



**Figure 9** Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training participants, many from the City of Launceston

## 11. Emergency Response

There were no significant flood emergencies this financial year. On two separate occasions, the Bureau of Meteorology initiated contact with City of Launceston engineers regarding potential flooding that ultimately did not eventuate to a level that required response.

## 12. Sediment Management

The Authority continues to work with the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) to consider long term planning for the estuary and realise the vision and implementation plan for the estuary.

The LFA continues to undertake regular bathymetry surveys of the upper estuary at six monthly intervals (autumn and spring) to monitor sediment volume and distribution. The next bathymetry assessment is planned to be delivered in October 2024.

**13. Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements  
as at 30 June 2024**







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

18 September 2024

Mr G Preece  
Chairman  
Launceston Flood Authority  
PO Box 396  
**LAUNCESTON TAS 7250**

**Issued by email only**

Dear Mr Preece

**Launceston Flood Authority– Audit opinion - Audit of Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

The audit of the financial report for Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority) has been completed in accordance with the agreed financial audit strategy. I have issued my audit report on the financial report, a copy of which is enclosed.

I have prepared this letter solely for the use of the Launceston Flood Authority. As you know, this letter forms part of a continuing dialogue between the Authority and the Auditor-General and, therefore, it is not intended to include every matter, whether large or small, that has come to my attention. For this reason I believe that it would be inappropriate for this letter to be made available to third parties and, if such a third party were to obtain a copy without my prior written consent, I would not accept any responsibility for any reliance that they might place on it.

**Audit findings**

The audit was completed with no significant findings.

You will appreciate that my normal audit procedures are designed primarily to enable me to form an opinion on the financial report as a whole and therefore do not necessarily bring to light at each audit all the weaknesses in internal control or accounting practice which a special investigation might do.

**Review of the annual report**

Please will you forward to me a copy of the final draft of the Authority's annual report for review by my staff prior to its publication. This review will be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 720 *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Report* to identify any material inconsistencies between the financial report and other information disclosed in the annual report.

**Appreciation for assistance and co-operation**

Appreciation is expressed for the assistance and co-operation provided to my staff during the course of the audit.

Please note that a copy of this letter together with the auditor's report will be provided to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. R Jaensch, MP in accordance with section 19(2) of the *Audit Act 2008*.

If you have any queries regarding the audit or any other matters, please contact myself or Chloe Bellchambers on (03) 6173 0900.

Yours sincerely



David Bond  
**Assistant Auditor-General**

Encl.

Copy for:

Mr S Johnson, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr N Williams, Chief Financial Officer



## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **To the Directors of the Launceston Flood Authority**

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority), which comprises a statement of comprehensive income for the year ended year ended 30 June 2024, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the Chairman.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024 in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Section 36A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Authority's Rules.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of my report. I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information included in the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Section 36A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bond'.

David Bond  
**Assistant Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

18 September 2024  
Hobart

**Launceston Flood Authority**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
*For the Year Ended 30 June 2024*



**Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
<b>Recurrent income</b>				
State Government Grants	2.1	605,509	643,403	613,310
Launceston City Council Contributions	2.2	181,805	181,805	181,805
Interest	2.3	2,588	-	-
Other Income	2.4	-	45,466	16,500
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>789,902</b>	<b>870,673</b>	<b>811,615</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
Employee Benefits	3.1	39,257	27,201	11,938
Materials and Services	3.2	561,269	313,760	278,922
Depreciation and Amortisation	3.3	643,846	621,787	593,568
Other Expenses	3.4	40,954	23,054	17,659
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>1,285,326</b>	<b>985,801</b>	<b>902,086</b>
<b>Result from continuing operations</b>		<b>(495,424)</b>	<b>(115,128)</b>	<b>(90,471)</b>
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	3.5	-	674,867	21,132
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>(495,424)</b>	<b>(789,994)</b>	<b>(111,603)</b>

## **Note 1 Overview**

### **1.1 Reporting Entity**

(a) The Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority) is wholly owned by the Launceston City Council. The Authority is a Single Authority set up under section 30 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, It was formed by Council resolution on 1 September 2008 and was established by gazettal on 10 September 2008.

(b) The function of the Authority is to:

“...perform all tasks necessary for the construction and maintenance of flood levees, to initiate and manage effective emergency management procedures and to take all necessary measures, so as to address the flood risk to the ‘flood risk’ area”.

### **1.2 Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Statement of Comprehensive Income and notes accompanying the financial statement.

The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1993 (LGA1993) (as amended)*. The Authority has determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective.

Consequently, where appropriate, the Authority has elected to apply options and exemptions within accounting standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

This financial report has been prepared on the accrual and going concern basis.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars and unless stated, have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

This financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

### **1.3 Use of Judgements and Estimates**

#### *Judgements and Assumptions*

As an Authority of Launceston City Council the Authority does not own any assets, incur any liabilities or employ any staff in its own name.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

*Launceston Flood Authority*  
*2023 -2024 Financial Report*

**Notes to the Financial Report**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>Note 2 Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 2.1 State Government Grants</b>		
State Government Grant	643,403	613,310
<b>Total State Grants</b>	<b>643,403</b>	<b>613,310</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises untied grant revenue and those without performance obligations when received. In cases where there is an enforceable agreement which contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is satisfied. (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or provides a service.) Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control. Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have a continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

**Note 2.2 Launceston City Council Contributions**

Council Contributions	181,805	181,805
<b>Total Council Contributions</b>	<b>181,805</b>	<b>181,805</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises contributions without performance obligations when received.

**Note 2.3 Interest Income**

Interest Attributed	-	-
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority does not own any cash assets and as such does not earn interest in it's own right. Interest is calculated on the running balance of income less expenses and attributed at the Launceston City Council annualised monthly portfolio earnings.

**Note 2.4 Other Income**

External Services	45,466	16,500
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>45,466</b>	<b>16,500</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises external income when an invoice is raised.



**Launceston Flood Authority  
2023 -2024 Financial Report**

**Notes to the Financial Report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**Note 3 Expenses**

**Note 3.1 Employee Benefits**

Wages and Salaries	26,639	11,450
Payroll Tax	562	488
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>27,201</b>	<b>11,938</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority does not have any employees in it's own right. Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an employee of the Launceston City Council performs work specifically on Launceston Flood Authority activities.

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note 3.2 Materials and Services</b>		
Contract Services	299,460	264,679
Insurance	11,300	11,300
Administration	3,000	2,942
<b>Total Materials and Services</b>	<b>313,760</b>	<b>278,922</b>

**Accounting policy**

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised by the Launceston City Council and depreciated.

The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

**Note 3.3 Depreciation**

Flood Assets	551,663	515,768
Other Assets	70,124	77,800
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>621,787</b>	<b>593,568</b>

**Assets Managed on behalf of Launceston City Council**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$,000</b>	<b>\$,000</b>
<b>Assets at Written down Value</b>		
Equipment	245	221
Flood Gate Aluminium	1,734	1,732
Flood Gate Steel	6,854	6,154
Levee Concrete	18,643	18,609
Levee Earth	27,753	26,636
Node	2	2
Penstock Chamber	294	287
Penstock Gates	157	179
	<b>55,682</b>	<b>53,820</b>

**Note 3.3 Depreciation Cont.**

**Accounting policy**

The Launceston Flood Authority does not own any assets in its own right. The depreciation expense on assets owned by the Launceston City Council and used in the construction and maintenance of flood mitigation assets is attributed to the Authority.

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Launceston City Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and remaining values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Land assets are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Major depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless stated:

	<b>2024 Period</b>	<b>2023 Period</b>
Flood Levees	100 - 200	100 - 200
Flood Gates	30 - 100	30 - 100
Other Assets	10 - 100	10 - 100

**Note 3.4 Other Expenses**

	<b>2024 \$</b>	<b>2023 \$</b>
External Auditors (Tasmanian Audit Office)	9,000	4,080
Full Cost Attribution	14,054	13,579
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>23,054</b>	<b>17,659</b>

**Accounting policy**

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

**Note 3.5 Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets**

Loss on Disposal	674,867	21,132
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**Note 4 Events after balance date**

There were no events after the balance date that would materially effect the disclosures in these accounts.

**Note 5 Related Party Transactions**

**AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures**

AASB 124 requires the disclosure of related party relationships, transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments.

**Related Parties**

The Authorities Related Parties would be those that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

For the reporting year the Authority has no Related Parties that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

**Key Management Personnel**

As the Authority does not directly employ any staff the Key Management Personnel are determined as the board members.

The Launceston City Council General Manger, is also a board member of the Authority. He is remunerated by the Launceston City Council and any remuneration he receives is disclosed in the Council's accounts.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Key Management Personnel Compensation</b>		
Board Members		
Short Term Benefits (Honorariums and Sitting Fees)	9,211	8,000

**Note 6 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Pending Accounting Standards**

**(a) Taxation**

The Launceston City Council, and therefore the Launceston Flood Authority, is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax, Land Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

*Goods and services tax (GST)*

Revenue and expenses are recognised net of goods and services tax.

**(b) Budget**

The estimated revenue and expense amounts in the Statement of Comprehensive Income represent revised budget amounts and are not audited.

**(c) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards**

In the current year, The Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

**(d) Pending Accounting Standards**

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2024 reporting periods. The Authority's assessment of the impact of the relevant new standards and interpretations is set out below.

**Accounting Standard AASB 18**

**Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements (Appendix D)**

This Standard sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in the statement(s) of financial performance, the statement of financial position and the statement of changes in equity.

There are no material effects expected from the adoption of this standard




**Certification of the Financial Report**

The accompanying financial statements of the Launceston Flood Authority are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements
- the *Local Government Act 1993*

We certify that in all material respects, the financial statement presents a view which is consistent with our understanding of Authorities operations for the year ended 30 June 2024.

At the date of signing this certification, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Greg Preece**  
**Chairman**  
**Launceston Flood Authority**



**Nathan Williams**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**City of Launceston**