

# Port Arthur Talks

## **It's all stuffed! The value of historical photographs in researching the taxidermy collection at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery presented by Belinda Bauer**

The zoology collection at TMAG is one of the oldest in Australia, and remains the state repository for specimens that record Tasmanian wildlife and biodiversity. Today, this collection is primarily a vehicle for scientific and taxonomic research. Taxidermy specimens prepared for display in the public galleries are often considered less significant because, frequently, they have become disassociated from key data and, through the rigours of public display, they have ended up in poor condition. Using historical photographs of the museum's interior has proved a useful tool in reconstructing the backstory of many of our taxidermy animals. They reveal much about the development of natural history collections, changing attitudes towards animals and the sometimes surprising sources of our specimens. The stories uncovered challenge us to reconsider the significance of some of our most decrepit looking pieces.

Hear about denizens of the deep around the Tasman Peninsula, world weary big cats, missing giraffes, and a myriad of other animals represented in TMAG's taxidermy collection.

Belinda Bauer has worked in many museum roles over the last 17 years including the Queensland Museum, and the Natural History Museum of Ireland, and is now the Vertebrate Zoology Collection Manager at TMAG. Belinda has moonlighted as an archaeologist, and has a Masters in Museum Studies, with a particular interest in materials conservation of natural history collections.

**ALL WELCOME!**

**Tuesday 9 April, 2019, at 5.00 p.m.**

**Junior Medical Officer's Conference Room,  
(the building behind the house)**

**Port Arthur Historic Site**

For more information call 6251 2324

