

NARRYNA RAFFLE

NARRYNA has a raffle underway with fabulous prizes: 1. Saffire-Freecinet overnight double accommodation and breakfast, value \$2,000; 2. Sandy Bay Living framed mirror, value \$600; 3. Zanzo Photography family portrait, value \$450; 4. Lark gift pack, value \$300.

Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20. Ticket sales will benefit the Narryna Renewal Program. The winner will be drawn during Dark MOFO. To purchase tickets please email Scott.Carlin@tmag.tas.gov.au

NARRYNA NEWS

For Members and Supporters
of Narryna Heritage Museum

JUNE 2015

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

NARRYNA is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC). Narryna may receive financial donations and gifts of culturally-significant material. Please consider Narryna as part of your giving this financial year. Contributions to Narryna's renewal program will be an investment in both your local community and Tasmanian tourism.

ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE

ANNE SCHOFIELD has lent a brooch c. 1840 to Ashes to Ashes. The brooch takes the form of a dove, indicative of the Holy Spirit descending to take the soul of the deceased. Crafted of gold and pearls, its feathers are made of human hair – a true *memento mori*. Found in Tasmania, we are keen to find out more of its story.

Holy Spirit brooch, London c.1840. Photograph by Lana Nelson

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

ASHES TO ASHES, Narryna's Dark MOFO program, was launched by TMAG Director, Janet Carding on Saturday 13 June at 5pm. The event, attended by lenders, Members, community supporters and volunteers, is captured in this photo spread:

Amanda Roberts



Janet Carding and Chris Webster



Richard Watson AM Joyce Mackey



ASHES to ASHES

NARRYNA'S Dark MOFO exhibition, Ashes to Ashes, brings the magical and mystical to the 1840's colonial town house. Following the success of Narryna's participation in Dark MOFO 2014 which attracted almost 5,700 visitors, Narryna has crafted an exhibition, Ashes to Ashes, curated by Scott Carlin and Lana Nelson, featuring photography by Lana Nelson and Angela Waterson, that appeals to the interests of MONA's demographic – interests in physicality, mortality, fashion, pattern, symbolism and the 'foreignness' of the past. See <http://darkmofo.net.au/program/ashes-to-ashes/?f=calendar>

MONA has long flirted with themes of sex and death. Narryna's 19th century collections reflect a time of high mortality and risk of sudden, violent death through conflict, shipwreck, sickness and 'acts of God'. Georgians and Victorians created elaborate rituals and a rich symbolism that gave expression to grief, loss and anxiety about the afterlife.

Ashes to Ashes features Narryna's collection of mourning costume and jewellery. The Victorian widow was expected to wear full mourning – non-reflective black bombazine or crape for 2 ½ years, transitioning to public life through purple or mauve. Queen Victoria set the fashion for extended mourning, remaining in black for 40 years following the death of her beloved Prince Albert in 1861.

Private collectors have generously loaned precious Tasmanian colonial portraits and *memento mori*. Janet Anderson of

Barnbougles wears full Victorian mourning garb but also her deceased husband's watch and fob chain. In contrast with Queen Victoria she has embraced life and the challenge of securing her family's prosperity, sailing to Tasmania to take up a land grant at Bridport for her sons.

Victorian mourning jewellery typically contained relics of the deceased. Ashes to Ashes features a collection of necklaces, brooches, earrings and bracelets made completely of human hair,

Napoleonic *memento mori*



Above: A Narrynagram image
Photograph by Lana Nelson and Angela Waterson

Right: Henry Mundy (c.1798-1848, active in Tasmania 1831-1848) c.1842, Oil on canvas
Mrs Janet Anderson of Barnbougles, Bridport, Tasmania

Private collection



which was popular before the advent of photography in 1839. One of the most exciting loans to Ashes to Ashes is a lock of hair from the Emperor Napoleon, clipped on his death in exile in 1821. It has been mounted in gold by leading Parisian jeweller, Biennais. Contained within its original gilt tooled, red Morocco case with the Imperial cypher, it is a memento not only of a short man from Corsica but a glittering but short-lived empire.

Some Tasmanian inheritors of pre-Christian magical traditions concealed objects in the

roof voids of their houses to guard against the entry of evil forces, sickness and death. We explore this tradition as we approach the mystical Winter solstice. See also the story on our Hexafoil façade projection.

Learning comes through experiences, not just facts and figures. Ashes to Ashes has been designed with a youth audience in mind with quirky, fun activities. The Narryna forecourt has the ambience of a wake with a bar, food sales and light projections. On encountering the coffin in the dining room (a loan from

Millingtons) or death bed in the guest bedroom, visitors are invited to don Victorian mourning wear – veils, top hats and black arm bands or mourning sashes – to view the exhibition or be photographed for social media. Referencing Victorian studio photography, Lana Nelson and Angela Waterson have arranged their Dark MOFO studio to project images of mourning jewellery and funerary art onto eager sitters. You can view these on Instagram (search for Narrynagram) and Narryna's Facebook page.



RENEWAL PROGRAM UPDATE

THE Narryna Landscape Master Plan (LMP) has been completed. Lynn Mason, Chair of the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) was presented with a copy when she visited Narryna in May. Lynn Mason was taken on a tour by Manager, Scott Carlin and LMP author, Ann Cripps, who explained the LMP's rationale of balancing of historical interpretation with compatible revenue-generating uses of the site.

A recommendation of the Narryna Landscape Master Plan is to recondition the 1960s smithy / timber vehicle shed as a flexible space for events, school programs and potentially a craft market. This would provide the property with ongoing income streams in addition to house admissions and leased car parking. Trees and vines overgrowing the shed have been cut down to allow its reroofing. We are seeking funding of \$18,000 to carry out this important project.

Another recommendation of the LMP has been carried out – the removal of a step between the Hampden Road footpath and the Narryna front garden carriage loop. The carriage loop surface was repaired and regravelled as part of this project.

THANKS

NARRRYNA Council would like to thank the generous supporters of Ashes to Ashes – the public and private collectors who have generously lent to the collection – the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, John Millwood, Anne Schofield, John Hawkins, Colin Thomas, Greg and Ann Edwards, Peter Woolf and Alan and Linda Cooper of Woodbury, Antill Ponds, Tasmania. For their expertise and advice, we would like to thank Dr Ian Evans, David and Ann Kernke of Shene, Richmond Gaol and Redlands Estate.

We would also like to thank our event supporters – Simon Olding of Imagetec, Julie Hawkins of In Graphic Detail, Gareth Kays of GK Productions Australia, Planet Art, Frame Up, Philippe Pascale of Food2U, Simone Daly of Barista Sista and Travis Tann of Millingtons Funeral Directors. We would like to thank Pamela Taylor for her sponsorship of the hexafoils projection.

NARRRYNA HERITAGE MUSEUM

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NARRRYNA COUNCIL

NARRRYNA'S governing Council comprises President: Amanda Roberts; Secretary: Scott Carlin; Treasurer: Warrick Glynn; Fundraising Committee Chairman: Richard Watson AM; Community Representatives: Anne Horner and Rowanne Brown; TMAG Representatives: Janet Carding (Director) and Lance Cosgrove.



HEXAFOIL FAÇADE PROJECTION

TASMANIAN inheritors of pre-Christian magical traditions carved talismanic symbols into the door and window surrounds of their houses to repel evil. This hexafoil or daisy wheel, drawn with compasses, is clearly the work of a qualified mason or architect, such as Francis Butler, designer of the Stables at Shene, Pontville, in c. 1851. These symbols, to quote Dr Ian Evans (Touching Magic, PhD thesis, University of Newcastle NSW, 2010),

‘... occur in the same location patterns ... at doorways or windows, on chimney breasts or in roof cavities. There an echo in the placement of the marks ... [of] the god and goddess of the threshold ... These were Janus, the two-faced god of entrances and beginnings, and Hecate who protected borders and crossroads. To the ancient Greeks and Romans these were places that possessed supernatural power and therefore required divine protection. Spirits hovered around these places because they were voids in the continuum – neither one place or the other ...’

Narryna façade with projected hexafoil. Graphic by Julie Hawkins based on photograph by Lana Nelson of the Shene hexafoil, produced by GK Productions Australia.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

NARRRYNA'S long-standing volunteers and Councillors have braved the Winter chill to welcome visitors to Ashes to Ashes. They manned the festival bar, helped visitors with dress-ups and provided orientation to the house and exhibition.

Joyce Mackey, long-term custodian of the Narryna costume collection, accepted Manager, Scott Carlin's invitation to prepare the textile items for

the Ashes to Ashes exhibition. Joyce's in-depth knowledge of the collection was invaluable. Fourteen dresses were arranged on mannequins with conservation care, appropriate padding, relaxing of the fabrics and minor repairs. Throughout the house, historic textiles have been given appropriate TLC. Joyce has contributed over 200 hours to Narryna in April to June 2015.

Volunteering offers interesting 'behind the scenes' perspectives of one of Tasmania's boutique museums. It can also be a way to meet with like-minded people who wish to 'give back' to their community. Some firm friendships have been formed through the Narryna volunteer program. Contact Manager, Scott Carlin if you would like to assist.

FUTURE EVENTS

30 Jun – 31 Jul 2015	Narryna closed for annual maintenance
Tue 11 Aug 2015	TBC Narryna Heritage Museum Inc Annual General Meeting
Sep 2015	Attingham Trust (UK / USA / Australia / New Zealand) visit to Narryna as part of their tour of Tasmanian historic properties
5-22 Nov 2015	Tas Art Quilt Prize 'History / Her Story' to be exhibited at Narryna
Dec 2015 – May 2016	Botaniko botanical art exhibition on Rev. Knopwood's garden, Cottage Green. Narryna stands on the 1824 subdivision of Knopwood's estate

Baron Samedi.
Photograph by Lana Nelson



OUR MASCOT

OUR mascot is Baron Samedi carved in huon pine by Tasmanian polymath, Tom Midwood (1855-1915) c. 1890. Ashes to Ashes was inspired by a visitor to our 2014 Dark MOFO show identifying the baron from a tattoo on his arm.

Baron Samedi is venerated in Haitian Vodou, Louisiana Voodoo and Folk Catholicism in the loa of death and fertility. He is usually depicted with a top hat, black dinner-jacket, dark glasses, and cotton plugs in the nostrils, as if to resemble a corpse dressed and prepared for burial in the Haitian style.

Baron Samedi can usually be found at the crossroad between the worlds of the living and the dead. When someone dies, he digs their grave and greets their soul after they have been buried, leading them to the underworld. He ensures that all corpses rot in the ground to stop any soul from being brought back as a brainless zombie. Baron Samedi is also the Loa of resurrection. He can cure any mortal of any disease or wound. Even if somebody has been afflicted by black magic which brings them to the verge of death, they will not die if the Baron refuses to dig their grave.

ASHES TO ASHES SPECIAL LECTURE

WE will be hosting a special lecture, the Day of the Dead, with Robert Morris-Nunn and Dr. Neil Cameron over the second Dark MOFO weekend. Places are limited to 30 per sitting so the lecture will be delivered on a number of occasions – 5pm, Friday 19 June, Saturday 20 June and (according to demand) on Sunday 21 June. Entry to Ashes to Ashes is \$5 per person, with the lecture included, and you are welcome to stay for the festivities, bar and food service afterwards. Places may be pre-booked through emailing narryna@tmag.tas.gov.au

Mexican Day of the Dead ceremony.
Photograph by Dr. Neil Cameron

