

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Father of evolution celebrated at symposium

One of history's most celebrated scientists will be commemorated this week at a symposium held at the University of Tasmania.

The Royal Society of Tasmania is holding the symposium on Wednesday 11 February at 7pm in the UTAS Stanley Burbury Theatre to celebrate Charles Darwin's visit to Hobart.

Darwin visited Hobart for 12 days in 1836 and conducted a significant amount of research in the environs of Hobart.

The symposium is part of a series of events held by the Royal Society of Tasmania to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's famous work *The Origin of Species*.

Darwin scholars Mr Peter Stevenson, Dr David Leaman, Dr Peter McQuillan, Dr Michael Roe and Dr Robert Banks will present papers at the symposium about Darwin's work in the fields of geology and biology.

Members of the public are invited to attend and admission is free.

The event's companion book, *Charles Darwin in Hobart Town*, edited by Dr Margaret Davies and produced by the Royal Society, is available to purchase from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and from selected bookshops.

The UTAS Morris Miller library, Hobart campus, is also displaying publications related to Darwin and his work.

Highlights of the symposium include:

- **Dr Peter McQuillan** (UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies) will deliver a talk entitled *A certain hunter of beetles and pounder of rocks*, about the young Darwin's early obsession with nature and beetles.
- **Dr Michael Roe** (Professor Emeritus of UTAS School of History and Classics) will deliver a talk entitled *Civilisation in Van Dieman's Land? Darwin's problematic 'yes' about Darwin's musings on civilisation and Hobart*.

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