

Tasmania's TOP 10 2013

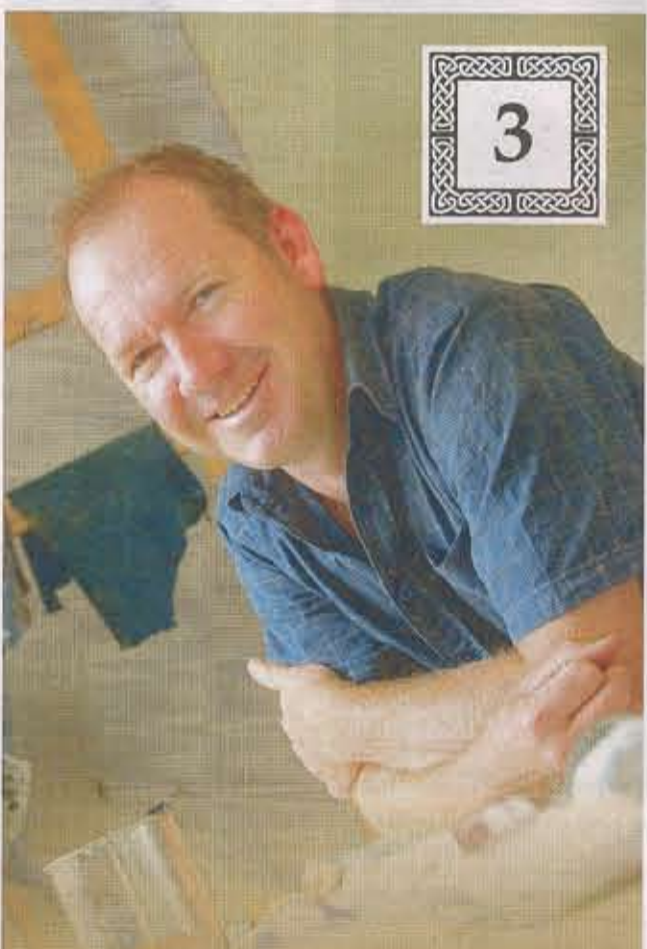
CULTURAL HEROES



2

Richard Flanagan

RICHARD FLANAGAN's sixth and latest novel *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* was heralded by critics in 2013 as one of the finest ever pieces of Australian literature. The novel, deeply influenced by the experiences of his father Archie's time as a prisoner of war on the Burma Railway, is moodily perceptive and hauntingly real. Flanagan completed the novel the day before his father died, and the work is saturated with his memory.



3

Philip Wolfhagen

PHILIP WOLFHAGEN has carved out a place as one of the nation's finest landscape painters. The Longford artist's works now demand massive prices, \$50,000 per painting, as collectors battle to have examples of his work on their walls. Wolfhagen's national tour, *Illumination*, drew high praise from the country's most listened-to critics.

1

David Walsh

DAVID WALSH's contribution to Tasmania's cultural fabric has been immense in the past few years and it all came to a peak in 2013 with the inaugural Dark MOFO.

The wealthy art collector and professional gambler managed to lighten up deepest, darkest winter with an exciting and warming winter festival of feasts, art and entertainment.

The star of the show was a light sculpture titled *Spectra* created by acclaimed Paris-based, Japanese audio-visual artist Ryoji Ikeda.

It dominated the Hobart night sky. A combined 49 military-grade searchlights created a beam capable of shooting 15km into the sky.

Thousands flocked to the foot of the sculpture at the Cenotaph to see the beam shoot through low-hanging clouds and drizzle to create an eerie extraterrestrial vibe.

Onlookers wrapped in raincoats gazed at the spectacle in awe.

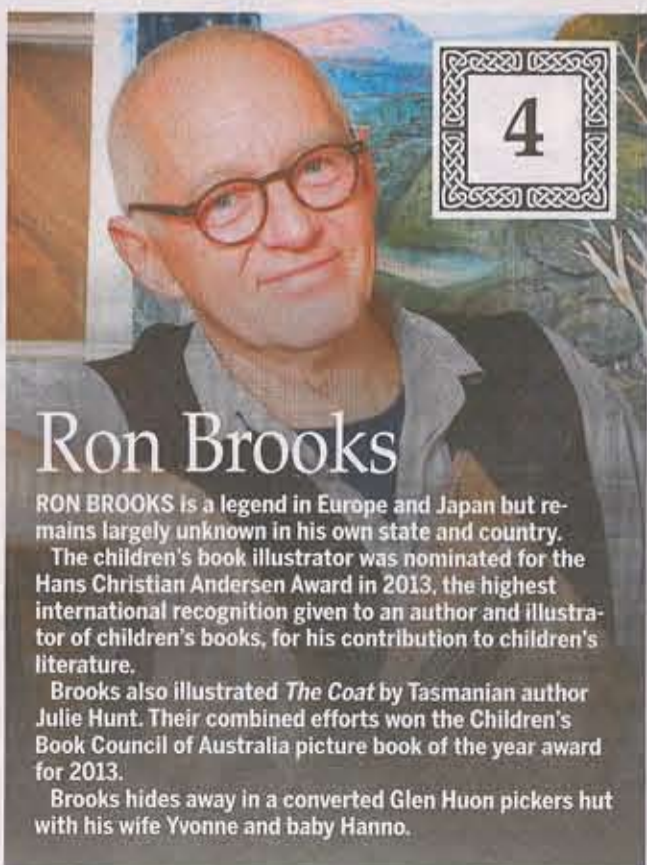
The success of *Spectra* fitted snugly with Dark MOFO buying into the concept that the closest state to Antarctica should embrace its mild climate rather than being embarrassed or apologetic about it.

What better than to gather around a fireplace and sip on Tasmanian whiskey while nibbling on Tassie cheese, olives, walnuts and honey.

This new way of looking at life in Tasmania is potentially a cultural shift of mammoth proportions.

Walsh's patronage of the Tasmanian arts scene has sponsored a new vibrancy and positive attitude among local artists and his MONA experience has changed the face of tourism to Tasmania.

He is a true cultural champion, forever questioning, stretching and re-imagining.



4

Ron Brooks

RON BROOKS is a legend in Europe and Japan but remains largely unknown in his own state and country. The children's book illustrator was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2013, the highest international recognition given to an author and illustrator of children's books, for his contribution to children's literature.

Brooks also illustrated *The Coat* by Tasmanian author Julie Hunt. Their combined efforts won the Children's Book Council of Australia picture book of the year award for 2013.

Brooks hides away in a converted Glen Huon pickers hut with his wife Yvonne and baby Hanno.



5

Robert Morris-Nunn

ROBERT MORRIS-NUNN has left his fingerprints all over Hobart's revamped waterfront. The award-winning architect has had a hand in six major waterfront projects in the past 10 years, including the Henry Jones Art Hotel, Macquarie Wharf Sheds 1 and 2, Princes Wharf 1, Mawson's Hut and the upcoming Brooke Street Pier.

Professor Morris-Nunn is a director of Circa Morris Nunn Architects and has practised in Tasmania for more than 30 years. In 2013, he oversaw plans for a new \$35 million luxury hotel and a ground-breaking floating ferry terminal on the waterfront.



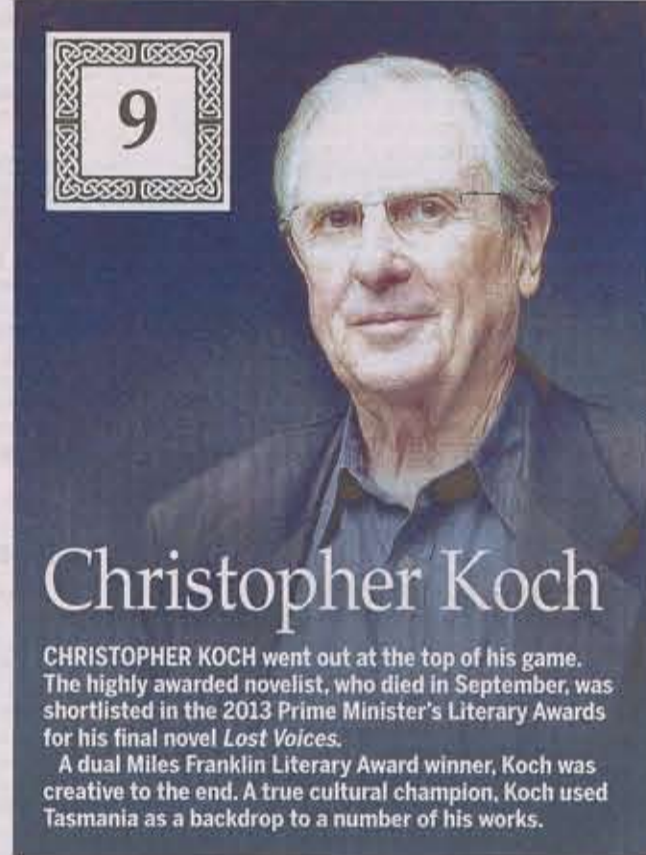
Picture: NIKKI DAVIS-JONES



10

Jacob Leary

JACOB LEARY is perhaps Tasmania's most outstanding young artist. One experienced judge of talent, Despard Gallery director Steven Joyce, rates Leary as one of the most exciting and original artists with whom he has worked. Leary's sculptures, such as *Apple Core*, are bold and inventive. Leary hit the spotlight last year when he won the National John Fries Memorial Prize for emerging artists and 2013 has been an even bigger year for the young artist.



9

Christopher Koch

CHRISTOPHER KOCH went out at the top of his game. The highly awarded novelist, who died in September, was shortlisted in the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Awards for his final novel *Last Voices*.

A dual Miles Franklin Literary Award winner, Koch was creative to the end. A true cultural champion, Koch used Tasmania as a backdrop to a number of his works.



6

Noirhouse

THE cast and crew of internet comedy NOIRHOUSE picked up seven gongs at the Australian Webstream Awards. The award-winning series, produced by Hobart-based production team Sky Machine and funded with the assistance of Screen Tasmania, is hilarious.

Noirhouse is evidence that there is a talented pool of scriptwriters, editors, camera-operators and actors living and working here.



7

Bill Bleathman

BILL BLEATHMAN last month retired as Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery director, bringing an end to a highly productive and exciting 12 years at the helm of the highly regarded institution.

Bleathman guided the museum through its \$30 million redevelopment and managed the transfer of 500,000 pieces of the TMAG collection to a state-of-the-art storage facility at Rosny.

He was also integral to the museum's close working relationships with David Walsh and the MONA team.



8

Nicole Durling

NICOLE DURLING has been flat out in 2013 as senior curator at MONA at Moorilla. She was in charge of re-hanging 75 per cent of the museum's collection for The Red Queen exhibition.

An artist with a Masters in Fine Arts, Durling met David Walsh when she was working as a painting specialist and valuer for an international auction house in Melbourne. She is now in charge of one of the most exciting new collections on the planet.