

The Man, the Woman & the Edison Phonograph



Presented by award-winning songwriter, performer and researcher

Bruce Watson

Meet Fanny Cochrane Smith, the last speaker of Tasmanian Language, and Horace Watson, member of Tasmania's Royal Society. Hear the moving tale of how their worlds came together, giving us the only sound recordings of Tasmanian Language. This multi-media presentation, full of surprising twists and turns, traces a powerful story of cultural loss and reclamation, genocide and reconciliation — and the power of song.

This gently-paced talk, with slideshow, video, singing and story-telling, leaves people gasping, sometimes crying. It's perfect for libraries and similar community spaces.

What an awesome presentation! Enthralling, entertaining and fun. This story touches so many issues that are important: indigenous injustice, history, and drawing on our archives to tell the stories that matter.

Ron Brent, Director, National Film & Sound Archive (1992-2003)

This presentation is of unique importance and significance for Australian social history. It deserves the widest possible audience. Bruce is a brilliant presenter. His presentation is finely crafted and perfectly pitched.

Dr Jill Stubington, Author, Singing the Land

A fantastic presentation! Meticulous research. One of the most interesting, engaging events I've listened to in a long time. Dr Gwenda Davey AM, Author, folklorist, historian, Honorary Associate Museum Victoria

Brilliant and moving. The historic immensity of this story is overwhelming. Bruce's research brings it all alive. I cannot listen to Fanny Cochrane Smith unmoved. I don't think anyone can.

Dr Ray Edmondson OAM, Curator Emeritus, National Film & Sound Archive

Target audience

Suitable for all ages. Older people tend to be particularly interested in historical presentations, and are more likely to attend daytime events.

How long is the presentation?

45–90 minutes, including time for Q&A.

60–70 minutes is the preferred time.



What equipment is required?

Screen and data projector, or TV screen with HDMI connection. Bruce can provide screen and projector, but in-house equipment is preferred. Set up time: At least 30 minutes.

Cultural protocols

Tasmanian Aboriginal people and key organisations have been consulted and involved in the preparation of this presentation and provided their blessing to use the recordings of Fanny Cochrane Smith.

The key contemporary character in the story is Tasmanian Elder, Ronnie Summers. He is descended from Fanny Cochrane Smith, as Bruce is from Horace Watson. This personal connection is part of the power of the story. Ronnie and Bruce have recorded and performed the song together in Ronnie's home community on Flinders Island and at Welcome to Country ceremonies in Tasmania and elsewhere.

For more information

A [published article](#) and a [video](#) of the presentation are available on Bruce's website.

Contact

To discuss presenting this at your library or community venue, please contact Bruce at jandbwatson@gmail.com or phone 0407 898 168.

www.brucewatsonmusic.com