



LAUNCESTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The EXAMINER



22nd The Examiner-John West Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Professor Tim Flannery

"The CPRS – Is it right for Australia?"

Tim Flannery is on a mission. He believes that human activity is altering the earth's climate drastically, and that before too long these changes will have a devastating effect on the life of our planet. He wants to mobilize social and political will to address this problem before it is too late.

That is why Tim Flannery wrote *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*. In this important and provocative book, which debuted on *The New York Times* bestseller list, Flannery tells the fascinating story of climate change over millions of years to help us understand the predicament we face today. In authoritative yet accessible language, Flannery carefully lays out the science, demonstrating the substantial, human-induced climate change and the likely ecological effects to the planet if this process continues. He then proposes a game plan to halt, and ultimately reverse, this damaging trend. *The Weather Makers* has sold over a million copies worldwide, and is proving to be one of the most pivotal and influential texts in our understanding of global warming.

Tim Flannery is the former director of the South Australian Museum, and currently is a professor at Sydney's Macquarie University. He spent a year as professor of Australian Studies at Harvard, where he taught in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. In 2002, he became the first environmentalist to deliver The Australia Day address to the nation. In 2005 he was honoured as Australian Humanist of the Year and, in 2007, he was named Australian of the Year.

A regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, Flannery also contributes to ABC Radio, NPR (National Public Radio) and the BBC. And he has written and hosted several Documentary Channel specials, including "The Future" and "Islands in the Sky", besides being involved in the ABC TV series "Two Men in a Tinnie" and "Two in the Top End".

Drawing on the ideas from his groundbreaking new book, *The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What it Means for Life on Earth*, Tim Flannery presents a straightforward and powerful exploration of the connection between climate change, global warming, and human activity. Through deft use of imagery, analogy and common sense, he has the gift of making complex science understandable to a lay audience. But Flannery does not tell his audience just what is happening to our planet. He very clearly lays out a game plan for halting current warming trends and of beginning the long, but entirely achievable project of reversing the damage we have done. His goal is to mobilize his listeners "both personally and politically" to recognize that we are all "weather makers" and that the only choice, both logically and ethically, is to begin to address this problem before it is too late.

Friday, 12 March 2010 – 8.00pm at the Albert Hall, Launceston

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