



Participants on a storytelling tour with MACq01 Hotel.

# HAVE WE GOT A STORY FOR YOU

SUE BAILEY

GREG Ball loves nothing better than telling a good story.

As part of the MACq01 Hotel Storyteller team, Mr Ball is able to combine his passion for history and art. But he says the key is to engage visitors and locals alike in an entertaining manner.

"Even if people are visitors, there is usually a character they can relate to," he said.

"Our stories are for everyone and we love it when locals join us. You don't have to be staying at MACq01 to learn about our past with us.

"When we discuss the origins of the land we stand upon, the history of the First Nations, key characters of our past and how all of these threads have led us to where we are today, it's quite special to see locals view their community in a whole

new way. There are so many layers, complexities, twists and turns in our stories, it's far better than any fiction out there."

Mr Ball started as a storyteller at the Henry Jones Art Hotel 10 years ago and said his favourite characters included Henry Jones and Ma Dwyer, both remembered by many locals.

"She had plenty of character running some salubrious places and his legacy at the jam factory is respected and admired," he said.

World Storytelling Day is being celebrated on Sunday and MACq01 general manager Matt Casey said, as Australia's first storytelling hotel, the day was special.

Mr Casey said staff at the hotel,

which marks its fifth anniversary in June, had shared Tasmania's "incredible history and stories with over 200,000 people".

"We are passionate about sharing stories with our guests, with locals and even each other, it defines everything we do here," he said.

"We've deliberately carved out a niche and taken a really unique

approach to how a hotel can serve its guests and its community.

"The amazing stories we can tell are endless.

"Think about how different the world was back in 2017 and that was just five years ago.

"This area alone has a human history that goes back over 30,000 years. That's a lot to draw on."

Federal Group Luxury Collection general manager Matt Casey ahead of World Storytelling Day at the Story Bar, MACq01.

Picture: Chris Kidd

