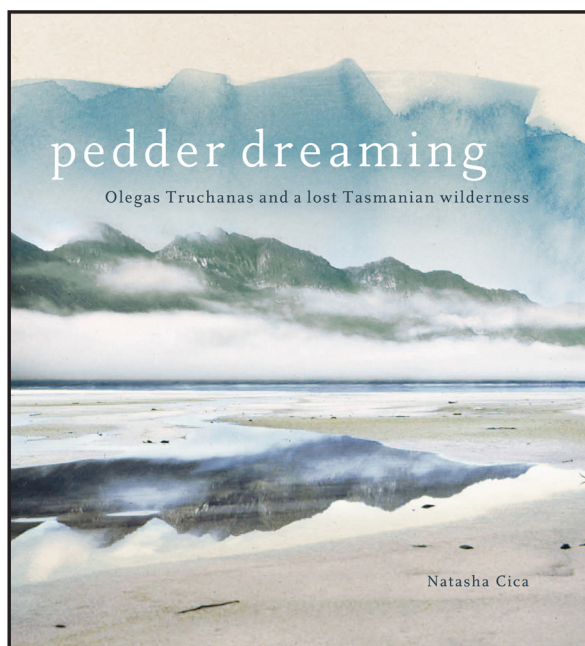


Pedder Dreaming: Olegas Truchanas and a lost Tasmanian wilderness

by Natasha Cica

September 2011 | 978 0 7022 3672 3 | RRP:\$59.95 | 230mm x 203 mm
Illustrated | 256pp (full colour) | Published by UQP

Olegas Truchanas stands quietly among the twentieth century's most influential wilderness photographers ... subtly but surely he crafted the modern frame through which we now interpret the beauty and value of Tasmania's wild places.



Olegas Truchanas, a Lithuanian émigré, is remembered not only as one of the fathers of Tasmanian wilderness photography, but also as a conservationist, a thinker and an adventurer. Devoting years to campaigning passionately to save Lake Pedder from its eventual flooding in 1972, Olegas and those closest to him – including members of a small group of Tasmania's landscape artists known as the 'Sunday Group' – paved the way for later Tasmanian conservation successes.

In a beautifully designed new book, *Pedder Dreaming: Olegas Truchanas and a lost Tasmanian wilderness*, author Natasha Cica quietly evokes the man, the time and the place. Having long been inspired by Truchanas' elegant and generous spirit, as well as those closest to him, Cica spent a significant number of years researching and writing *Pedder Dreaming*. According to Cica, 'Olegas's enduring legacy and that of the Sunday Group stretches far beyond the photographic, the political or even the personal.'

In retelling their moving story, Cica highlights the values underpinning the art and activism of Olegas and his friends, offering a departure point for readers to consider basic questions about how they choose to live their lives. As former Premier of Tasmania David Bartlett comments in the book, 'Back then the voice they used was about beauty and nature. Today we use statistics and numbers and residues and outfalls, and how many grams of dioxins, and how many jobs. Perhaps the content of the conversation has changed as well as the way in which it's delivered – we have a much more content-hungry media cycle that really just wants a simple grab. I equate it almost to the death of the political speech as an art form – perhaps Truchanas and his crew were the equivalent of Chifley's "Light on the Hill" speech.' (page 227)

Stunningly illustrated with original Truchanas photographs from the 1950s, '60s and '70s, and artwork from the Sunday Group (many of which have not previously been published and are still in private collections), *Pedder Dreaming* captures the raw beauty, vulnerability and oft-times brutality of the Tasmanian wilderness.

This exquisite keepsake and inspiring artefact will appeal to anyone interested in Tasmania, in wilderness areas and beautiful landscapes, in our connections with the environment, in progressive political movements, and in our culture.

For interviews, extract options or review copies please contact Simone Bird:
(02) 8021 8288/0411 968 326 or simonebird@optusnet.com.au

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Natasha Cica is the Director of the Inglis Clark Centre for Civil Society at the University of Tasmania and founder of the Hobart-based consultancy, Periwinkle Projects. Born, raised and living in Tasmania, Natasha has commented on politics and culture for a wide range of publications, including the *Age*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian*, the *Australian Financial Review*, *Griffith Review*, the *Mercury*, *Quarterly Essay*, *Island* and *Inside Story*. Natasha also helped establish online venture newmatilda.com in 2004 as its founding editor. She has also worked as a lawyer and parliamentary adviser and at public interest think tanks in Europe and Australia.



ABOUT OLEGAS TRUCHANAS

Olegas Truchanas, a Lithuanian born in 1923, emigrated to Tasmania after World War II, during which he fought with the Lithuanian resistance and spent time in displaced persons' camps in Allied-occupied Germany.



From the 1950s Olegas photographed Tasmania's remote south-west wilderness, frequently travelling solo and risking his life in order to do so. He also met and married a Tasmanian, Melva, and together they built a house and had three children.

Through his photography, Olegas established a salon-style connection with a circle of Tasmanian photographers and watercolour painters known as the Sunday Group, and he worked with them to save a remote glacial lake with pale pink sands – Lake Pedder – from inundation by a hydroelectric scheme.

This was Australia's first globally noticed environmental battle, and later produced the world's first greens party. The campaign failed and the lake was lost. Soon after, in early 1972, Olegas drowned while on a photographic expedition to one of Tasmania's wildest rivers.

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