

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ABN 65 889 598 100

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019



THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE



Contents

OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS	1
PRESIDENT.....	3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TMAG – CHAIR’S REPORT	5
EDITOR	7
LIBRARIAN	8
HONORARY SECRETARY	11
2019 LECTURES AND EVENTS – SOUTH	14
PUBLICITY OFFICER.....	14
SPECIAL EVENTS – 175 th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS.....	16
HONOURS AND AWARDS.....	21
BURSARIES COMMITTEE	22
ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE	24
STUDENT COUNCILLOR	25
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.....	26
NORTHERN CHAPTER	27
HONORARY TREASURER.....	30

The Royal Society of Tasmania

ABN 65 889 598 100

Patron: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of
Tasmania

OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Prof. Ross Large AO, FTSE
Vice President	Mrs Mary Koolhof
Immediate Past President	Prof. Matt King
Honorary Secretary	Mr David Wilson
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Peter Meyer
Council Members	Dr John Thorne AM (2022) Dr Robert Johnson (2020) Dr Greg Lehman (2020) Dr Angela Ryan (2021) Dr Adele Wilson (2021) Mrs Roxanne Steenberg (2022)
Northern Chapter Representatives on Council	Mr David Morris Ms Chel Bardell
Early Career Researcher	Dr Taryn Noble (2020)
Student Council Member	Mr Austen Hawkins (2020)
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) Representative	Ms Janet Carding
Honorary Editor	Dr John Volkman
Honorary Librarian	Ms Juliet Beale
Publicity Officer	Dr Adele Wilson
Deputy Publicity Officer (co-opted for 2019)	Ms Jeannie-Marie LeRoi

RST FOUNDATION AND OTHER ROLES

The Foundation of the RST	Prof. Jim Reid (Chair) Dr John Thorne AM Mr Peter Meyer Mrs Mary Koolhof Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Nominated by The Royal Society of Tasmania as Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	Prof. Jim Reid Associate Prof. Penny Edmonds
Honours and Committee (Chair)	Prof. Ross Large AO
Bursary Committee	Dr Deborah Beswick
Auditor	Mr Richard James
Administrative Assistant	Ms Ann Watson/Ms Glenda Hosking
Newsletter Editor	Mr Bernard Pryor OAM
Webmaster	Dr Angela Ryan
Facebook Account	Ms Chel Bardell
Twitter Account	Prof. Matt King

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NORTH

Management Committee President	Dr Frank Madill AM
Immediate Past Committee President	Mr David Morris
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Robin Walpole
Committee Members	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Mr Andrew Parsons Honorary Librarian Mr Brian East Mr Jonathan Morris Mr Neil MacKinnon Ms Chel Bardell Ms Lynette Ross QVMAG Director, <i>ex officio</i> Mrs Tracy Puklowski (from 1 October 2018)

PRESIDENT

The Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) had another busy year as we continued to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Society and instigated some new plans that will be important for the RST in coming years.

The centrepiece of our 175th celebrations, *Dinosaur rEvolution*, held jointly with TMAG, was an outstanding success, attracting 56,000 visitors which was a record for a TMAG exhibition. Families and schools were the main visitors and the children benefited from a fantastic display of an array of dinosaur species demonstrating their eventual evolution to birds. T-Rex proved to be the favourite but the virtual reality reconstruction of *Psittacosaurus* was a close second amongst the children. The exhibition demonstrated that Hobart families are happy to pay for a quality exhibition and the revenue provided to TMAG and the RST justified all the planning and effort involved.

Over a weekend in March during the exhibition, the Royal Society organised a Dinosaur Symposium for those who wanted to learn of the latest dinosaur research. Four invited dinosaur experts gave presentations and a further 10 local scientists presented. It was a great event with 124 participants. Other 175th events during the year included two art exhibitions; the Louisa Anne Meredith Exhibition organised by Anita and Brita Hansen at the Lady Franklin Gallery and later in Swansea; and an exhibition at TMAG of a selection of Simpkinson de Wesselow paintings from The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection. To round off our celebrations, our patron, The Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, unveiled a plaque at the Argyle Street entrance to TMAG that recognises The Royal Society of Tasmania as the founder of TMAG and the close relationship between the two organisations since 1885. We owe special thanks to Anita Hansen who has led the preparations and presentation of the many activities for our year-long 175th Anniversary event.

Monthly meetings have been very well attended in both the north and south of the state with lectures by 16 presenters in the south and 15 presenters in the north. Membership numbers remained healthy for 2019 at 374. At the end of 2019 the Council decided to trial moving the monthly meeting time in the South to 3pm on Sunday afternoons for the 2020 year. Council meetings will move to the Tuesday prior to the Hobart lecture date.

The Aboriginal Engagement Committee of the Society, which was established in 2018 under the leadership of Professors Greg Lehman and Matt King, has made considerable progress in the development of an apology to the Aboriginal people of Tasmania, that will be delivered in 2020.

An Art Committee with representatives from RST and TMAG was established during the year to finally resolve the issue of ownership of the 648 colonial paintings that were loaned by RST to TMAG in 1965. This issue has been under investigation for over 30 years without resolution. The Committee has been working diligently to determine the provenance of each artwork on the "Loans List". It is expected that a recommendation of artworks owned by TMAG and those owned by RST will be made by early 2020, with those unresolved needing further consideration.

Late in the year the government called for registrations of interest for divestment of the Treasury Buildings in the centre of Hobart, not far from TMAG. The RST has joined with Hunter developments to develop a proposal for a unique “immersive” heritage environment at the Treasury that will include colonial collections and stories that until now have not been available to the public for over a century. The outcome of this proposal may be known by the end of 2020.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the exceptionally dedicated members of Council that have supported me over the last two years in my stint as President. In particular to Peter Meyer, our Honorary Treasurer, who is stepping down after several stellar years in the position; to David Wilson our Honorary Secretary who works tirelessly to keep the RST on track; and to Mary Koolhof, Vice President who has taken much of the load off my shoulders.

Professor Ross R. Large AO, FTSE
President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TMAG – CHAIR’S REPORT

Children took centre stage at TMAG over the past year and rightfully so. Our TMAG Children’s Festival is now an eagerly awaited annual event and our Children’s Reference Panel is allowing us to present the experiences in just the way that our youngest visitors desire.

There is no better example than the highly successful *Dinosaur rEvolution: Secrets of Survival* exhibition. We were able to bring this project to life on such a large scale by partnering with The Royal Society of Tasmania as part of their 175th Anniversary celebrations, and by making it our first paying event in many years. It was a great success with all who visited and at the box office as well. *Dinosaur rEvolution* contributed strongly to record attendances of more than 440,000 for 2018–19 but more than that, it brought some families to TMAG for the first time, thereby enabling that journey of inquiry, imagination and thirst for knowledge to begin for a number of young Tasmanians.

This was TMAG’s first full year with the statutory authority governance model as set down in the recent Act. I am pleased to report that these changes have been implemented fully and they are working well. Importantly, we have formal expectations set by the Minister for the Arts and, not only did we meet them, but we worked very cooperatively with the Department of State Growth and the Minister to deliver those outcomes. In this regard, a major study was conducted into the future of TMAG’s collection and research facilities which will enable the Trustees to map out and recommend a future path for the development of this vital aspect of our activities.

Through careful cost control, we were able to balance the TMAG budget for 2018–19. This was only possible with the generous support of our loyal supporters and some special purpose funding from the Tasmanian Government. It was a tight year and the same is in prospect for 2019–20. Being the proud owner of an important set of heritage buildings brings with it the responsibility for maintaining these assets to the extent that we can.

The TMAG Foundation made it possible for some bright new works and a wonderful colonial portrait to be added to the Collection. We are very grateful to the TMAG Foundation, to the Friends of TMAG, the TMAGgots and to all our volunteers for all their involvement, support and friendship. That sense of family is gathering around us and it is motivating for the staff and engaging for the public. Thank you all so much.

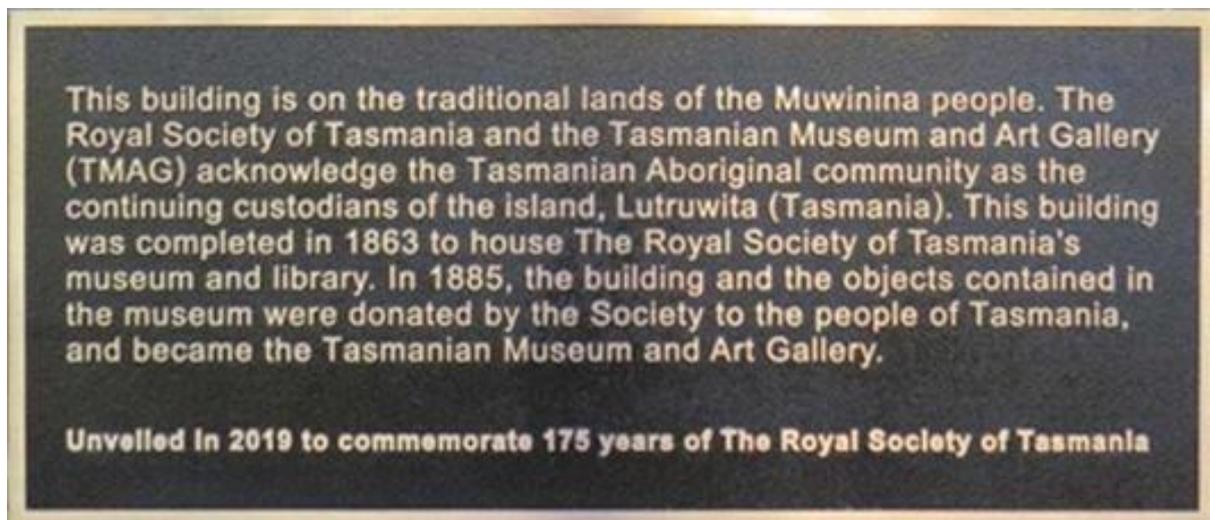
This year we said welcome to a new corporate sponsor in Cripps who so emphatically threw their support behind the *Dinosaur rEvolution* exhibition. Our thanks to The Royal Society of Tasmania for initiating the contact that led to the tremendous support for the project. We are also humbled to pay tribute to the Detached Cultural Organisation for 10 years of incredible support of TMAG and we were delighted to see Penny Clive honoured for the breadth of her work with a much-deserved Order of Australia award.

Once again, our year was packed with exhibitions, festivals and various other activities in our central Hobart location. Yet our reach was much wider than that. Our *kanalaritja: An Unbroken String* exhibition of Tasmanian Aboriginal string necklaces travelled throughout

Australia; our researchers blitzed the North-East collecting flora and fauna specimens; whilst our affiliations with Tasmania's regional museums including Zeehan's West Coast Heritage Centre were strengthened. We look forward to the day when the State Collection will be able to be uploaded to a digital platform so that its full extent will be available for the enquiry, research and joy it can bring to Tasmanians and to tourists alike.

Our mantra is to "Tell Tasmanian Stories" and sometimes these stories are not all bright and cheerful. Such is the case with the important, poignant and carefully curated major exhibition of Julie Gough: *Tense Past* exhibition, which told stories that also need to be heard in order to better understand Tasmania's past, and to start a conversation about the future. TMAG is very fortunate to have such talent in our midst and to have a really effective Aboriginal Advisory Council assisting us to navigate this space. Over the coming months we will be working with the RST to reflect on the darker parts of our shared history, and to consider how to acknowledge past practices, and build stronger engagement with the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Towards the end of the year on 14 October 2019, we were pleased to host the last official event of The Royal Society's 175th celebration. This was morning tea to mark the unveiling of a new plaque by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, which has been installed at the Argyle St entrance to TMAG. The wording was jointly agreed by both organisations, and its installation is a fitting mark of our enduring relationship. It reads:



Geoff L. Willis AM
Chair, TMAG Board of Trustees

EDITOR

Dr Margaret Davies stepped down as Honorary Editor in April 2019 after 16 years, and her role was taken up by Dr John Volkman, a former Chief Scientist at CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere in Hobart. Margaret edited one paper and John edited the other five papers appearing in Volume 153 of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* which was published on 14 December 2019. A seventh paper had been submitted, but a revised manuscript was not ready by the deadline and is held over for next year. The lead paper was contributed by Dr Volkman detailing the many activities of The Royal Society of Tasmania to celebrate its 175th Anniversary culminating in the unveiling of a plaque at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Other papers included a comprehensive description of the flora and fauna at *Wind Song* in Little Swanport, an account of insect succession patterns on carcasses relevant to forensics, a paper on the taxonomy and conservation status of the Tasmanian orchid *Dockrillia striolata*, factors governing marsupial paths in subalpine areas, and vegetation changes in saltmarshes. Caroline Mordaunt copy edited all of the accepted papers while June Pongratz ably set the volume and did final corrections to the proofs. Printing was organised by Jonathan Eadie of Print Tasmania.

Planning is well advanced for a special issue of Papers and Proceedings for 2021 commemorating the centenary of the Northern Chapter. This will be in addition to the regular issue.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Calendar for 2020 included stunning images of penguins and seabirds by Edward Adrian Wilson published in *National Antarctic Expedition (1901–1904) Natural History (vol 2)* by the Trustees of The British Museum. This valuable book is held in the Society's Rare Book Collection, housed in the Morris Miller Library at the University of Tasmania. Edward Wilson was a vertebrate zoologist, artist and doctor on Robert Falcon Scott's *Discovery* Antarctic voyage. He was one of the four men who died with Scott on return from the South Pole in the ill-fated *Terra Nova* expedition in 1913. Dr Davies organised and edited the calendar which was printed by Forty South Publishing. Profits from sales are used to support the Society's various activities.

No new books were published in 2019 with the focus shifting to sales of the many excellent books produced by the Society in recent years. Corrections were needed to the index of *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly* edited by Anita Hansen and Brita Hansen. A new version was created, printed and made available to purchasers of the book. No new cards were produced as stocks of these are sufficient for several more years and sales have slowed.

With changeover in Editors, a new Publications Subcommittee was established consisting of Dr John Volkman, Dr Margaret Davies and Dr Anita Hansen.

Dr John Volkman
Honorary Editor and Convenor of the Publications Committee

LIBRARIAN

The Royal Society of Tasmania Library materials (special and rare books, maps and extensive member deposits) are housed in the University Library and managed by the Special & Rare Collections staff. The Special & Rare Collections are open Monday to Wednesday inclusive from 10 am to 5 pm, closed for lunch between 12:30 and 1:30.

Collections: Management

Special and Rare Library staff continue to rehouse items in archival standard materials. Over 100 small pamphlets have been backed with archival standard card and housed in mylar sheaths. Work continues on rehousing the oversize material in custom-made boxes and cases.



Minute and meeting books were rehoused and repaired as they were prepared for digitisation. Meeting minutes from 1993 to 2005 are now stored on UTAS Library's repository, with access currently restricted:

<https://eprints.utas.edu.au/view/collections/roysoctascouncilmins.html>

A number of potential donations were considered this year which highlighted the need for a Collection Management Policy to define criteria about what the Library should accept. Lack of storage space is a serious consideration, so the Library should accept only what aligns with a collecting policy. Some progress was made on the policy this year, with a donation acceptance form completed. Work will continue in 2020.

Paper and Proceedings.

433 Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) have been created for the Papers and Proceedings, dating back to 1987 issues. 122 DOIs were created this year. Work continues to get the Papers and Proceeding indexed in the large indexing databases. Scopus now is indexing articles from 2018 and 2017. One article from 2018 has been cited, twice in Google Scholar and once in Scopus which underscores the importance of allowing access to the most recently published articles.

Collections: Usage

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Royal Society Members visits	72	67	34	46
Royal Society Rare books viewed	221	475	272	813
Royal Society Deposits viewed	347	351	735	352
Papers & Proceedings downloads (2016 anomalous)	83,225	41,624	74,209	158,430
Visitors (including tour groups)	412	404	379	411
Research enquiries, in person, via phone and email	414	441	328	412
Physical items viewed from all collections, includes rare books and deposit boxes	1114	1842	1612	1795

Papers and Proceedings most downloaded articles for 2019:

Article title	Downloads
<i>Native fishes of the Central Plateau area - Tasmania</i>	563
<i>An account of food and drink in Tasmania, 1800-1900</i>	490
<i>Notes on some Tasmanian Aborigines and on portraits of them</i>	436
<i>The Aboriginal rock carvings at Mt. Cameron West, Tasmania, photographs and notes on the excavations</i>	381
<i>Notes on the history of the Central Plateau</i>	377

Exhibitions

Material from the Library collection was used in the following exhibitions and displays:

- Exhibition case at NRAS to promote Dinosaur exhibition
- Displays at the Morris Miller Library exhibitions space included:
 - Pieter Bleeker's [Atlas Ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises](#)
 - [The Birds of Australia by Gregory Mathews](#)
 - [Endemic Flora of Tasmania](#) by Margaret Stones and Winifred Curtis
- Two diaries (1892 and 1900) kept by Sarah Mitchell were used in the TMAG exhibition *West: out on the Edge* that opened in December 2019. They were used

to contextualise watercolour sketches produced by Sarah Mitchell while visiting the west coast in 1892 and 1900 that are held by TMAG.

- The *Flower Show – Birth, Death and Everything in Between*: a partnership with Blooming Tasmania and the University Cultural Collections which included several of the Society's books featuring botanical drawings.

Library tour for Members

Special and Rare Collections staff prepared a diverse, intriguing and beautiful selection of treasures from the Collection for a members' tour, Friday Sept 20 at 11am. The selection included: vinyl pressings of the recordings of Fanny Cochrane Smith; Captain O'Hara Booth's instructions for the Signal Station; the oldest book in Tasmania; a beautiful selection of handpainted botanical and zoological images from various rare books; maps including the D'Entrecasteaux channel. This will be offered regularly next year.

Gordon Bain Antarctic Book Collection

A collection of more than 750 books, both fiction and non-fiction, was accepted by the Library from Gordon Bain. In 2020 we will consider how it will be catalogued and shelved.

Proposal to create children's book from Helen Whitty

Council gave permission for Helen Whitty to create a children's book from TRST item, Sarah Mitchell and Catherine Pennwarne's sketchbook.

Juliet Beale
Senior Librarian, Collections
Library Services | Academic Division
University of Tasmania
The Royal Society of Tasmania Honorary Librarian

HONORARY SECRETARY

The Honorary Secretary, under the direction of the Council, is responsible for the executive supervision of the affairs of the Society including the arranging of meetings of the Society and Council. Organising this and additional meetings takes up much of my time. Eleven monthly Council meetings were held during the year as well as several Special Council meetings to deal with the Society's art collection and Aboriginal engagement matters. In addition, the ongoing 175th year celebration program over the first few months of 2019 and several initiatives of the Council have required considerable office time during the year.

Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life Symposium

One of the key 175th events, requiring considerable administrative input, was the Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life Symposium, held jointly with the Geological Society of Australia (Tasmanian Division) and the University of Tasmania. The symposium held at the Stanley Burbury Theatre at UTAS on 23rd and 24th March, attracted 14 presenters including four renowned invited speakers in the fields of palaeontology and geology with 124 people attending one or both days of the symposium.

A new Society medal, the Peter Smith Medal, was designed by Anita Hansen and struck during 2019. This first medal was awarded to Dr Lucia McCallum. At the same time, retooling and stock of The Royal Society Medal was replenished.

Aboriginal Engagement

The Council has sought feedback on and provided a summary of responses to a discussion paper on how the Society might go about engagement with the Aboriginal Community. The Council has also resolved to move forward with a formal apology to Aboriginal People of Tasmania which will be finalised during the coming year.

Change of meeting time for Hobart and donation from non-members

Following feedback from members, some of whom had attended Sunday afternoon lectures in the north of the state, the Council discussed and agreed to trial holding our monthly lecture meetings on a Sunday afternoon. Lectures for 2020, apart from the Christmas dinner, will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. Towards the end of 2020, this decision will be reviewed and feedback from members will be sought.

The issue of making a charge for non-members to attend monthly lecture meetings was also debated in Council. Currently the Northern Chapter makes a charge for non-members to attend the monthly lecture. Council resolved to introduce a voluntary fee for non-members to attend the monthly lectures. The suggested fee will be RST Members no charge, \$6 for general admission and \$4 students and Friends of TMAG. It is hoped that the introduction of a fee will both emphasise the benefits of membership and encourage more members to join the Society.

Digitising Royal Society Material

A project of digitising Royal Society Material, initially Society and Council minutes, was commenced in November and is ongoing. This will ensure better security of RST documents and much easier access to these documents.

Administrative Assistant

Our hard-working Administrative Assistant, Ann Watson, gave birth to baby girl, Pia, during September. Ann has been on maternity leave up until January this year with Glenda Hosking ably stepping into the role during that period. Thanks to both Ann and Glenda for their work for the Society during 2019.

David Wilson
Honorary Secretary

2019 LECTURES AND EVENTS – SOUTH			
	GUEST SPEAKER	LECTURE TITLE	ATTENDANCE
5th March TMAG Central Gallery AGM	Scott Rankin, Tasmanian Australian of the year 2018	Inclusive growth: creating new pathways out of deep poverty	49
23rd and 24th March	A Symposium: Dinosaurs and evolution of life		124
2nd April RST Rooms	Dr Elizabeth Robinson	On educating young people in Tasmania today	47
7th May RST Rooms	Doctoral Awards Night Dr Jacob Mulder, Research Fellow, Monash University Dr Feng Pan, Research Fellow at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research	From Rocky Cape to the Rocky Mountains: the geological journey of Tasmania’s oldest rocks Individualised osteoarthritis pain treatment based on phenotypes: are we there yet?	35
4th June RST Rooms	Theresa Sainty and Annie Reynolds	palawa kani – the revival of Tasmanian Aboriginal language	97
2nd July RST Rooms	Garry Bailey, Chair of the Road Safety Advisor Council	Vision Zero: road safety in Tasmania, working towards reducing the number of serious casualties associated with road accidents	18
6th August RST Rooms	Mrs Marley Large	A glimpse into 175 years of The Royal Society of Tasmania’s minutes	27
16th August	Prof. Barbara Holland, UTAS	Why be happy when you can be NORMAL?	36
3rd September RST Rooms	Dr Anita Hansen	Creating history: how does a settler society create its own independent history and identity?	18
20th September RST Rooms	Treasures from the RST Library Tour of the Royal Society of Tasmania Library housed in the Morris Miller Library, University of Tasmania		
1st October RST Rooms	Dr Lucia McCallum Peter Smith Medal lecture	The Dish redux: from the Apollo Mission to Earth surveying	27
5th November RST Rooms	Postgraduates Lecture Evening Luisa Fitzpatrick Habacuc Pérez- Tribouillier Patrick Yates	Tail loss and telomeres in lizards It’s not only bad news: how radioactivity is used to study the ocean Black holes & galaxy evolution in under 20 minutes	49
3rd December CSIRO	Christmas Dinner Dr Alison Alexander	Maria Lord: from convict to Governor’s lady	95

2019 LECTURES AND EVENTS – SOUTH

The 175th celebrations bolstered the presence of the RST within the community. Many thanks to Dr Robert Johnson and Mary Koolhof for their hard work getting together the lecture program during my maternity and overseas absence. The topics of our lectures this year were varied, and also included sponsorship of Prof. Barbara Holland's talk "Why be happy when you can be NORMAL?" at the very popular BeakerStreet@TMAG science outreach event. For some of our events, the attendance was limited to those within the speakers' network, despite flyer distribution (email and twitter) and local ABC radio interviews. The change in 2020 lecture events scheduling provides an opportunity to target new members and revitalise lecture attendance.

Dr Taryn Noble
Chair, Events Committee

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Supporting the promotion of The Royal Society of Tasmania's monthly lectures and assisting with publicity of relevant Society activities is the role of the Publicity Officer. Lectures and events are promoted in the community through ABC Radio interviews, social media, flyer distribution through established networks and through online event listings maintained by QVMAG, Inspiring Tasmania and the University of Tasmania's Event Calendar as well as the RST website.

Special thanks to morning radio host and interviewer Ryk Goddard and producers Rachel Edwards, Brooke Van Nooten and Mike Kerr from ABC Radio Hobart who regularly interviewed our guest lecturers and RST Award and Medal winners on air, and to the Events team at the University of Tasmania, including Jeanette Farnell, for promoting the lectures through their public events calendar and the associated email newsletter. Thanks also to Jenni Klaus who tirelessly promotes Royal Society of Tasmania events through Inspiring Tasmania and National Science Week websites and related social media accounts.

Social media plays an important and increasing role in promotion of lectures and events to new audiences, with regular Twitter and Facebook posts from The Royal Society of Tasmania accounts. The Facebook page ([facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas)) is maintained by Chel Bardell from the Northern Chapter which promotes lectures in both the North and the South. As of the end of 2019, the Facebook page had 593 followers, and published 104 posts during the calendar year (reaching an average of 601 engagements per post).

The Twitter account (twitter.com/RoyalSocTas) is maintained by Past President Prof. Matt King and posts updates on lectures, awards and relevant information. We thank Matt King and Chel Bardell for their work on social media on behalf of The Royal Society of Tasmania and recognise the many hours of work required to maintain this important online presence. Chel's work in preparing event pages for individual RST lectures has been an excellent addition to the RST's promotional work, as it allows event information to be easily shared with new and potential audiences through social media, enabling interested people and groups to distribute the event information through their own networks.

Lectures and events are also shared directly through email networks to relevant interest groups and organisations such as the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, Libraries Tasmania, the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (Tasmanian branch), the Science Teachers Association of Tasmania, the Australian Antarctic Division, the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, von Humboldt Fellows, Elizabeth College and to groups with an interest in given monthly lecture topics. Adele Wilson distributes this information by email regarding lectures in the South, whilst Christine Beswick and Chel Bardell promote lectures in the North.

Promotion through established networks was undertaken for The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards, including the RST Student Bursary with a focus on reaching senior secondary teachers and students.

The Royal Society's monthly newsletter is an important means of communicating with members, and our sincere thanks go to our Newsletter Editor, Bernard Pryor OAM, and Administrative Assistant, Ann Watson, for all their hard work in compiling and distributing this. Thank you to Vice President Mary Koolhof for assisting in maintaining established networks between the RST and local media. Thanks also go to our Webmaster, Dr Angela Ryan, and to Council and other RST members who have helped to publicise events, shared newsletters, flyers and social media posts, and who have invited people along to events, ensuring ongoing interest in the Society's activities.

Sincere thanks to Jeannie-Marie LeRoi for stepping in to ensure the Publicity Officer's tasks were met whilst Adele Wilson was on maternity leave in 2019. Heartfelt thanks also to Chel Bardell for her significant work promoting lectures in both the North and the South through Facebook.

Dr Adele Wilson, Publicity Officer;
Jeannie-Marie LeRoi, Deputy Publicity Officer

SPECIAL EVENTS – 175th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



Background

The Royal Society of Tasmania was formed on 14 October 1843, and in 2018 the RST celebrated its 175th Anniversary. A 175th Anniversary Committee was formed after a Planning Meeting of the RST Council in July 2015, where it was decided that events should be held to commemorate the anniversary. At the Council meeting in September 2015, I was asked to convene this Committee.

Over the past three years the number of people on this Committee increased as the number and scale of the anniversary projects grew. The commencement of 2019 was particularly busy, and the Council—and their partners—have given up a considerable amount of their time to work on the various 175th Anniversary projects.

This will be the final report for the 175th Anniversary Committee, so this is perhaps a time to reflect on the endeavour as a whole, as well as to report on this past year.

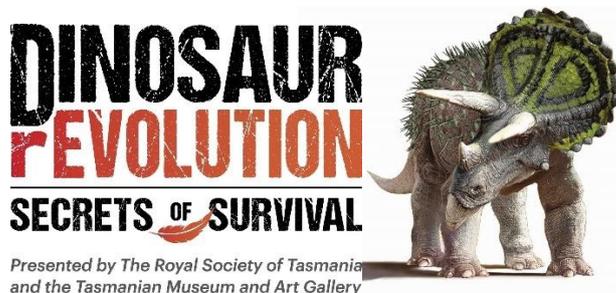
A special thanks should go to the core of the 175th Anniversary Committee who have worked tirelessly from the inception of the Committee in 2015. The Committee has continued to meet regularly and to report at Council meetings.

THE PROJECTS

Following the successful 175th anniversary events held in 2018 and outlined in the 2018 annual report, a number of events were successfully staged in 2019.

DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION Exhibition

The showcase of the 175th celebrations was the *DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION* exhibition held as a joint venture with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.



The exhibition was opened on 6 December 2018 and continued in to 2019, closing on 11 May 2019, to end what was a very successful event in a number of ways. It increased the profile of the RST to the people of Tasmania and beyond – drawing a record crowd of over 56,000 paying visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The costs of presenting the exhibition were shared between the RST and TMAG as were the proceeds.

This joint venture with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has been the largest project ever conducted by the RST in its 175 years and the success in raising the profile of the Society suggests it is a possible endeavour to be considered again in the future.

Symposium

The two-day symposium *Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life* was held on 23 and 24 March 2019 at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS.



The Symposium was split into two streams: morning sessions for families, and afternoon for scientists and would-be scientists young and old.

Topics included:

- The latest fossil discoveries
- The colourfully feathered velociraptor
- How the dinosaur world evolved
- Where the dinosaurs lived
- The Jurassic swamps and Triassic forests
- Dinosaurs in the ocean
- What finally wiped out the dinosaurs?
- Are the dinosaur descendants still living?
- Evolution and mass extinction

The Symposium was a great success for both the presenters and the audience. The enthusiastic participation of the younger members of the audience in the Q&As were particularly pleasing.

I would like to thank the volunteers who helped make this a successful event.

A copy of the event program is reproduced below:

Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life

Saturday 23rd March Registration opens 8.15 am

Morning Session

Chair: Professor Ross Large (President, The Royal Society of Tasmania)

- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome & Introduction
- 9.15 – 9.45 Why evolution matters – reflections on deep time and the history of life – Professor John Long
- 9.45 – 10.15 The story of early complex life before dinosaurs – Dr Indrani Mukherjee
- 10.15 – 10.45 Morning Tea – appearance of Rosie and Rex the dinosaurs
- 10.45 – 11.15 Australia's dinosaurs and their world – Dr Stephen Poropat
- 11.15 – 11.45 Exciting dinosaur trackway discoveries from the Kimberley region, WA – Dr Steve Salisbury
- 11.45 – 12.15 Dinosaur expert panel Q & A
- 12.15 – 1.30 Lunch (included for those with a full day or 2-day ticket)

Afternoon session

Chair: Dr Karin Orth (Geological Society of Australia, Tasmanian Division)

- 1.30 – 2.00 Spectacular dinosaur trackways from South Korea – Andy Spate
- 2.00 – 2.30 Beyond the mid Cretaceous: New insights into the nature and composition of Australia's dinosaurian fauna – Dr Steve Salisbury
- 2.30 – 3.00 The Winton Formation, Queensland: A window into a lost dinosaur world – Dr Stephen Poropat
- 3.00 – 3.30 Afternoon Tea
- 3.30 – 4.00 The rise of vertebrates in Australia: Where the dinosaurs came from – Prof. John Long
- 4.00 – 4.30 Darwin's visit to Hobart: Impact on his evolution theory – John Davidson
- 4.30 – 5.00 Panel Q & A

Morning Session – general public, students 10 years and older and scientists
Afternoon session – aspiring scientists, geoscientists and biologists

Sunday 24th March Registration opens 8.15 am

Morning Session

Chair: John Long (President, Royal Society of South Australia)

- 9.00 – 9.15 Welcome & Introduction
- 9.15 – 9.45 Can you dig it? Digging for dinosaurs through time – Dr Phil Bell
- 9.45 – 10.15 What wiped out the dinosaurs: A story of mass extinctions – Dr Karin Orth
- 10.15 – 10.45 Morning Tea – appearance of Rosie and Rex, the dinosaurs
- 10.45 – 11.15 Augmented Reality and rebuilding dinosaurs – David Shering
- 11.15 – 11.30 What dinosaurs looked like: A brief history of dinosaurs from the earliest illustrations to the present – Dr Brita Hansen
- 11.30 – 12.00 Tasmania's Triassic: Where are the dinosaurs? – Phil Sansom and Dr Clive Calver
- 12.00 – 12.15 Lunch (included for those with a full day or 2-day ticket)

Afternoon session

Chair: Dr Anita Hansen (Councillor: The Royal Society of Tasmania)

- 1.30 – 2.00 Ocean chemistry and mass extinction events – Prof. Ross Large
- 2.00 – 2.30 Images of science: Constructing scientific and cultural visualisations of dinosaurs – Dr Brita Hansen
- 2.30 – 3.00 Dinosaurs and opals from Lightning Ridge NSW – Dr Phil Bell
- 3.00 – 3.30 Afternoon Tea
- 3.30 – 4.00 The rise and fall of stromatolites: The influence of trace elements and temperature – Dr Ross Corkrey
- 4.00 – 4.30 Atmosphere oxygen and evolution of Life – Prof. Ross Large
- 4.30 – 5.00 Panel Q & A
- 5.00 Close

Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania

About Some of the Speakers and their Talks

Dr Stephen Poropat, from Swinburne University of Technology, will talk about the dinosaurs of the Winton Formation in Queensland. One recent discovery in Winton proved to be the most complete sauropod ever found in Australia. Sauropods include among their ranks the largest terrestrial animals that ever lived: some were more than 30 metres long, others more than 13 metres tall, and still others tipped the scales at more than 50 tonnes.

Dr Indrani Mukherjee, from Earth Sciences at University of Tasmania, will talk about life on very early Earth, the Precambrian Era, spanning from 4500 million years ago to 540 million years ago. What shaped the course of evolution has always fascinated humans. This talk focuses on some of the key biological events in the Precambrian, particularly between 3500 to 800 million years ago. The talk ties the chemical conditions of the ocean and the atmosphere, with evolution and diversification of complex microscopic life, that facilitated macroscopic life on Earth, including dinosaurs!

Dr Steve Salisbury, from The Queensland University Dinosaur Laboratory will talk about the discovery of spectacular dinosaur tracks in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia. An unprecedented 21 different types of dinosaur tracks have been identified on a 25-kilometre stretch of the Dampier Peninsula coastline dubbed 'Australia's Jurassic Park'. "The dinosaur track fauna of the Broome Sandstone is extremely significant, forming the primary record of non-avian dinosaurs in the western half of the continent and providing our only glimpse of Australia's dinosaur fauna during the first half of the Early Cretaceous Period," Dr Salisbury says.

Dr Phil Bell, from the University of New England will talk about the amazing opalised dinosaur bones unearthed at Lightning Ridge in NSW, including the recent discovery of the jaw bone of a small ornithomimid. Like all fossils from the Lightning Ridge opal mines, the lower jaw—the only piece of the animal recovered—is preserved in opal. Precious opal gives off a rainbow of colours, in this case shimmering green and blue.

Professor John Long, from Flinders University, will give us the history of evolution of life on Earth, from single celled bacteria, to fishes, then dinosaurs, birds and finally humans. He is an internationally acclaimed exceptional speaker and has led fossil digs all over the Earth. He is currently in Antarctica on a dig, but will be back in time for our symposium.

Dr Brita Hansen will talk about scientific illustration, what defines it, its history and role in science. How do scientific illustrators create visualisations of dinosaurs that are viewed as representing plausible, living creatures: what skills and knowledge are needed by the artist?

Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life

About Some of the Speakers and their Talks

Dr Stephen Poropat, from Swinburne University of Technology, will talk about Australian dinosaur discoveries and particularly the dinosaurs of the Winton Formation in Queensland. One recent discovery in Winton proved to be the most complete sauropod ever found in Australia. Sauropods include among their ranks the largest terrestrial animals that ever lived: some were more than 30 metres long, others more than 13 metres tall, and still others tipped the scales at more than 50 tonnes.



Savannasaurus is part of the sauropod family.
Image credit: Travis R. Tischler and Australian Age of Dinosaurs
Museum of Natural History

Dr Indrani Mukherjee, from Earth Sciences at University of Tasmania, will talk about life on very early Earth, the Precambrian Era, spanning from 4500 million years ago to 540 million years ago. This period is known to record some of the most significant transitions and breakthroughs in evolution of life. What shaped the course of evolution has always fascinated humans. This talk focuses on some of the key biological events in the Precambrian, particularly between 3500 to 800 million years ago and provides a geological explanation for their causes. The talk ties the chemical conditions of the ocean and the atmosphere, with evolution and diversification of complex microscopic life, that facilitated macroscopic life on Earth, including dinosaurs!



LHS: Pyrite in organic matter-rich shales: A glimpse into Earth's history.
RHS: Dr Indrani Mukherjee inspecting drill cores of very ancient rocks.

Dr Steve Salisbury, from The Queensland University Dinosaur Laboratory will talk about the discovery of spectacular dinosaur tracks in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia. An unprecedented 21 different types of dinosaur tracks have been identified on a 25-kilometre stretch of the Dampier Peninsula coastline dubbed 'Australia's Jurassic Park'.

"The dinosaur track fauna of the Broome Sandstone is extremely significant, forming the primary record of non-avian dinosaurs in the western half of the continent and providing our only glimpse of Australia's dinosaur fauna during the first half of the Early Cretaceous Period," Dr Salisbury says.

<https://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/1135>



Goolarabooloo Law Boss Richard Hunter (left) and Steve Salisbury (right) alongside tracks of a small theropod (3D track model and trackmaker silhouette inset, right), near Walmadany, on the Dampier Peninsula, WA. Photo Damian Kelly.

Dr Phil Bell, from the University of New England will talk about the excitement of digging for dinosaurs and finding the amazing opalised dinosaur bones unearthed at Lightning Ridge in NSW, including the recent discovery of the jaw bone of a small ornithomimid. The dinosaur has been named *Weewarrasaurus pobeni* – a name that recognises the fossil's unearthing in the Wee Warra opal field, and honours Mike Pobeni, an Adelaide-based opal buyer who donated the specimen for research. Like all fossils from the Lightning Ridge opal mines, the lower jaw—the only piece of the animal recovered—is preserved in opal. Precious opal gives off a rainbow of colours, in this case shimmering green and blue. Lightning Ridge is the only place in the world where dinosaur bones are commonly replaced by precious opal. <https://www.une.edu.au/staff-profiles/ers/pbell23>



The Right Lower Jaw of Weewarrasaurus Showcases the Rainbow Hues of Opal in the Fossil.

Photograph by Robert A. Smith

Professor John Long, from Flinders University, will give us the history of evolution of life on Earth, from single celled bacteria, to fishes, then dinosaurs, birds and finally humans. He is an internationally acclaimed exceptional speaker and has led fossil digs all over the Earth. He is currently in Antarctica on a dig, but will be back in time for our symposium. <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/john.long>



The exquisitely preserved 3D skull of Onychodus, a bony fish predator on the ancient Devonian reef of the Kimberley (Gogo site). Such fossils help us understand the evolution of vertebrates before the dinosaurs.

Dr Brita Hansen will talk about scientific illustration, what defines it, its history and role in science. How do scientific illustrators create visualisations of dinosaurs that, despite no one having seen one, are viewed as representing plausible, living creatures: what skills and knowledge are needed by the artist in order to create this plausibility? If most people cannot draw an accurate image of what they see clearly and in great detail in front of them, how is it possible for an artist? Do artists have innate abilities, or is it training and practice that allows them to accurately reproduce what they can see in three dimensions (and even what they can only imagine) as two-dimensional images?

A scientific illustrator needs not only the artistic skills but also an understanding of many scientific aspects, such as anatomy and muscle structure in order to create scientific illustrations.

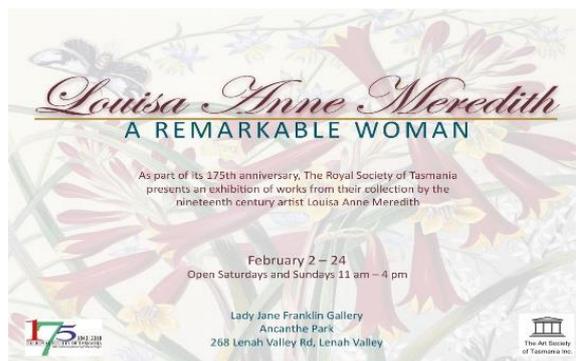


Left: 19th century image of Iguanodon (by Josef Smit, left) compared with a modern reconstruction (by Brian Choo, right).

David Shering will demonstrate how Augmented Reality (AR) has been used to make dinosaurs come to life. *Psittacosaurus* a small dinosaur, originally discovered in China, will be brought to life in front of your eyes by a revolution in technology. <http://handbuiltcreative.com.au/>



Louisa Anne Meredith Exhibition, Lady Franklin Gallery



An exhibition *Louisa Anne Meredith: A Remarkable Woman* featuring a number of Louisa Anne Meredith works from the RST collection was held at the Lady Franklin Gallery, Lenah Valley on Saturdays and Sundays, 11.00am–4.00pm, from 2–24 February. The RST President, Prof. Ross Large AO, opened the exhibition on Friday 1 February.

A sub-committee (Anita Hansen and Brita Hansen) was formed to curate this exhibition.

The exhibition was a great success with large numbers of visitors on all the opening days. Either Brita Hansen or Anita Hansen gave a lecture on each opening day on the art of Louisa Anne Meredith or scientific illustration. RST merchandise was on sale at the exhibition and proved popular. An added bonus was a day of sales for the Botanical Artists group who meet at the Gallery.

Louisa Anne Meredith Exhibition, East Coast Heritage Museum

After the success of the Louisa Anne Meredith exhibition at the Lady Franklin Gallery, it was decided to travel the exhibition to the East Coast Heritage Museum. The exhibition was again curated by Dr Brita Hansen and me. The exhibition was opened by the RST President Prof. Ross Large AO on Thursday 3 October and ran until February 2020.

Commemorative Plaque

The final official event of the 175th Anniversary of The Royal Society of Tasmania was the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the event by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC. The Director of TMAG, Janet Carding, gave the welcoming address and the RST President, Professor Ross Large AO, gave the opening speech.

The wording on the plaque reads:

This building is on the traditional lands of the Muwinina people. The Royal Society of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the continuing custodians of the island, lutruwita (Tasmania). This building was completed in 1863 to house The Royal Society of Tasmania's museum and library. In 1885, the building and the objects contained in the museum were donated by the Society to the people of Tasmania, and became the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Unveiled in 2019 to commemorate 175 years of The Royal Society of Tasmania

Simpkinson de Wesselow Exhibition

As TMAG's contribution to the RST's 175th Anniversary, an exhibition of a number of Simpsonson de Wesselow works from the RST collection was held at TMAG.

The exhibition titled *Simpkinson's Hobart* ran from 21 March through to 11 June 2019.

List of events celebrating the 175th Anniversary held during 2019

December 7 2018 to May 5th, 2019: *DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION* at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Dunn Place, Hobart.

February 2–24 2019: *Louisa Anne Meredith: A Remarkable Woman* art exhibition at the Lady Franklin Gallery, Ancanthe Park, Lenah Valley, Hobart.

March 23–24 2019: Dinosaur Symposium at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay campus.

March 21 to June 11 2019: *Simpkinson De Wesselow* art exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Dunn Place, Hobart.

August 16 2019: Sponsorship of a talk at Beaker Street in Hobart.

October 3 2019 to March 3 2020: *Louisa Anne Meredith: A Remarkable Woman* art exhibition at the East Coast Heritage Museum in Swansea.

October 14, 2019: Unveiling of the 175th Anniversary plaque on the TMAG building (old Royal Society Museum), in Hobart.

Conclusion

The profile of The Royal Society of Tasmania has been raised within the Tasmanian community by the events held during the 175th year of the Society. A number of very successful events have been held.

The number and scope of events has called for an enormous commitment in time and resources by the RST Council, family members and members.

I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in what has been a very busy and time-consuming few years for all the RST Council.

Dr Anita Hansen,
Convenor, 175th Anniversary Committee

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Royal Society of Tasmania honours and awards committee for 2019 comprised:

Professor Ross Large, Chair

Dr Margaret Davies

Professor Jim Reid

Applications were considered for three RST Awards: the Clive Lord Medal for a full career in science, the M. R. Banks Medal, a mid-career award, and the RST Doctoral Award.

There were three exceptional candidates for the Clive Lord Medal and, after lengthy discussion, Professor Kirkpatrick was selected for his research on the Tasmanian natural environment, including conservation planning, forest conservation and world heritage.

Another three excellent candidates were proposed for the M. R. Banks Medal. The two top candidates could not be separated, and so two awards were given: to Associate Professor Arko Lucieer for his research in remote sensing using unmanned aerial systems and to Dr Eloise Foo for her research on hormonal regulation of plant development.

Nine applications, all of very high merit, were received for the RST Doctoral Award. We normally give two awards, and for 2019 they went to Dr Indrani Mukherjee and Dr Jessica Ericson.

In 2020 we will be seeking nominations for the Peter Smith Medal as well as the annual Doctoral Awards. We encourage all members to be active in promoting these recognitions that, in turn, promote the goals of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

Professor Ross R. Large AO, FTSE
Chair

BURSARIES COMMITTEE

In 2019, the Society offered bursaries to Tasmanian secondary/senior secondary students to represent Australia at an international event. The bursaries were offered in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, arts, humanities, and social sciences in keeping with the aim of the society of 'advancing knowledge' in a wide variety of ways.

These bursaries and the application process were widely advertised to government, independent and Catholic schools, subject associations, curriculum leaders, and on the RST website.

The Chair of the Bursary Committee was Dr Deborah Beswick, and committee members were: Dr Robert Johnson, Dr Adele Wilson, Penny Cocker and Andrew Porter. The committee had one face to face meeting and then corresponded via email.

High quality, detailed applications were received by the Committee.

Four bursaries were awarded.

Three of these were for attendance at the International RoboCup competition, Sydney, July 2019.

Students participated in a National Championship in October 2018, to qualify for the Australian 2019 RoboCup International Competition in Sydney in July 2019. RoboCup is an annual international robotics competition proposed and founded in 1996 by a group of university professors. The aim of such a competition consists of promoting robotics and AI research, by offering a publicly appealing, but formidable challenge.

"Competition pushes advances in technologies. What we learn from robots playing soccer or navigating a maze can be applied to industry and help us solve difficult real-world problems," according to Professor Maurice Pagnucco, Head of the School of Computer Science and Engineering at UNSW.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RoboCup>. Accessed November 18, 2019

The successful students were: Michael Duffett (Year 11, Rosny College), Will Gaffney (Grade 9, Rose Bay High School), and Thomas Norgaard (Grade 9, Rose Bay High School). Students were informed of their success by email and received \$300 each, together with a Royal Society of Tasmania Bursary Certificate. All three students intend to pursue further studies/careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Sophie Newton (Year 11), from Elizabeth College, received \$1500 towards attendance on the 2020 Crimson Education STEM Accelerator Tour, in the US in April 2020, and a Royal Society Bursary Certificate.

Sophie will first travel to San Francisco and become immersed in the culture of Silicon Valley with visits to cutting edge firms such as Google, Facebook and Salesforce. After meeting with international experts in astrobiology and physics conducting scientific experiments in the Mojave Desert, the group also spends five nights in Los Angeles visiting the NASA jet Propulsion Laboratory. The trip is complemented by visiting world-class

universities including UC Berkeley, Stanford, the University of Southern California and the California Institute of Technology in order to discover the pathways that these prestigious institutions can offer. The students will aim to have a better understanding of potential career options, as well as an improved confidence in their interests and abilities.

Sophie Newton wrote:

“I am particularly passionate about physics. It is amazing to think that everything in this world can be explained through mathematics – I think that it is crucial that we continue to expand our knowledge of maths, and hence, physics, so that we can continue to expand our understanding of our world, and the universe that it resides in.

In July of this year I was lucky enough to be a part of the [Harry Messel] International Science School in Sydney. Prior to this I hadn't really applied myself too much. I can say that it was one of the greatest experiences of my life and has inspired me to take a chance on myself and make use of the opportunities available to me. I believe the 2020 Crimson Education Tour will be an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded students from across the globe, while expanding my own knowledge and love of science.

Once I complete my university degree, I hope to make a career studying in the field of science that interests me most. At this point in time it would be particle physics. I think this interest stems from my eagerness to learn. Any career path that will allow me to learn things that have never been learned before is very appealing to me.”

The Principals of Rose Bay High School, Rosny College and Elizabeth College were advised of the success of their respective students.

Thank you to the members of the committee for the time they gave to decision-making.

Dr Deborah Beswick
Chair of the Bursary Committee

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Aboriginal Reconciliation and Apology

As the oldest Royal Society outside of Britain, The Royal Society of Tasmania has created a significant international legacy of leadership across a wide range of research fields. Like most learned institutions active in human anatomy, anthropology, linguistics and archaeology during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, we also inherit a responsibility to better understand and address the impacts that this research has had on Indigenous people.

In early 2018, the RST Council commenced a structured process of examining the Society's records, commissioning independent research and building stronger engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to progress this responsibility. An essential part of this process has been to inform and obtain advice from the Society's membership.

A discussion paper was distributed to Members in April, 2019. Responses emphasised a range of issues, including the importance of understanding the context of past actions by the Society, of healing harm caused to Aboriginal people, and of working cooperatively with Aboriginal people and the TMAG to acknowledge and apologise for past injustices. Feedback from members informed a second document, *The Royal Society of Tasmania: understanding our history and relationship with Aboriginal People*. This report provided a summary of responses, together with a series of recommendations for further action. These recommendations were considered by the RST Council at its September 2019 meeting, and the document was distributed to Society members.

Most significantly, the RST Council passed a motion at this meeting to develop and formally issue an apology in relation to those actions for which the Society can take responsibility, and to investigate the possibility of developing a Reconciliation Action Plan to guide further action aimed at improving engagement with Aboriginal people and their participation in all activities of the Society.

Since that time, the Council has consulted with the TMAG, the University of Tasmania and Reconciliation Tasmania to progress these commitments. A draft statement of apology was considered by RST Council at its meeting of December, 2019. This statement will be refined with advice from the TMAG Board of Trustees and Aboriginal Advisory Council. It is anticipated that the apology will be made public in early 2020, along with a significant range of actions by the Society to ensure that the apology is practical and meaningful.

Dr Gregory Lehman
Co-Chair, Aboriginal Engagement Committee

STUDENT COUNCILLOR

My time on the Council has been a fantastic experience. I would strongly encourage anyone to take up the opportunity if it were to arise. Sadly, but thankfully, I will be graduating this summer and as such, my time as student councillor must come to an end.

Regarding work undertaken throughout the year, it has been identified that the society needs a high-resolution copy of its logo/seal to be used for promotional materials, such as banners and smaller print items (i.e. websites and pamphlets). This was the first project undertaken in 2019, and it is still ongoing. My thanks to Mrs Marley Large for her research on the matter. There has been a constant evolution of the seal since 1849, with variations of a crown, Tasmanian tigers and even a map of Tasmania. However, the principal form was adopted in 1927. Before a digital seal can be created, we must identify the correct royal crown and the most appropriate tiger to use. I had hoped to have this finalised by the end of 2020, however, rivalling commitments prevent this. It has now become a pet project that I hope to be able to report back to the Society's Secretary with a definitive answer once time allows.

Secondly, as noted in last year's annual report, my intention was to help modernise the Society by introducing a live stream recording of our lectures. We piloted the program over several lectures where we were able to iron out various technical difficulties. The Society has been donated a tripod, whilst it invested in a phone holder for the recording of the lectures, and the audio is managed by the Society's new multipurpose teleconference speaker. At present, the last hurdle left to overcome with reference to the lectures is issues surrounding intellectual property. Specifically, regarding the images used by guest lecturers on their slides. I trust this issue will be worked through in the coming year.

Finally, as part of the student councillor's role in attracting new and younger members to the Society, I sat on the Membership Committee and Events Committee. Several new projects have been championed by both committees, foremost was proposing that the Council change the usual lecture time from the first Tuesday of the month at 8 pm to the first Sunday of the month in the afternoon. Membership cards were also proposed by the Membership Committee and approved by the Council. Many thanks to Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen for her tireless work in organising new membership cards.

Austen Hawkins
Student Councillor

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Given the importance of membership management and an increasing related workload, Council in April created the position of Membership Secretary, a position I was honoured to accept with some trepidation given my recent election to Council.

Starting in 2020, Council decided to issue membership cards to all members as a precursor to a strengthened focus on member benefits. Cards were designed and printed with the first membership cards sent out in December with the first membership renewals. Verification of electronic records of current Life and Honorary Life members was made to assist with compiling an accurate member database after which membership cards were sent out.

Current Society rules dictate that application forms must be signed by two current members. Council recognised the difficulty applicants encounter finding two members before becoming involved in Society activities. As a result, Council decided to handle future applications in two ways: receipt of fully completed and nominated forms or by placing the application form on the table at Council meetings for nomination by Councillors. All membership nominations are then presented for approval at a general meeting as usual.

Council also recommended to formalise its normal practice of offering a one-year complimentary membership to speakers at general meetings.

Membership numbers as at the end of 2019 are as follows:

South.....	258
North.....	84
Australia (outside Tasmania)	27
Overseas	5

Council determined the membership fees for 2020 to be:

Full member with papers and proceedings	\$90
Full member without papers and proceedings	\$65
Student member with papers and proceedings	\$50
Student member without papers and proceedings	\$25

One of my first tasks was to ensure the membership database was up-to-date, error-free, and perfectly synchronised with the separate directory of member email addresses.

A review of the renewal process was undertaken.

Application and renewal forms were updated in line with current society procedures and rules, then made available through the Society's website in November.

Finally, I look forward to the continued cooperation and assistance of Council and members in further improving the policies and procedures surrounding the management of membership. Constructive suggestions or ideas are always welcome.

Roxanne Steenbergen
Membership Secretary

NORTHERN CHAPTER

The Management Committee elected at the Chapter's Annual General Meeting on 24 March saw the retirement of Dr Damien Guihen and Dr George Merridew from Committee work, and the appointment of new Committee members Ms Chel Bardell and Ms Lynette Ross. The Management Committee met prior to lectures six times during the year: 25 February, 28 April, 26 May, 28 July, 25 August, and 27 October. Committee members communicated frequently on other occasions as necessary, by email and telephone. Participation in Council meetings continued to be in person and via teleconference facilities. Committee papers continued to be stored and made accessible through a cloud-sourced depository, Dropbox, for Management Committee work, and it is hoped to make this routine in 2020.

Nominations for election to membership and as office-bearers of the Management Committee will be called for at the February 2020 meeting.

Northern Collection of the Society's Library

Accessions, including donations, to the Northern Chapter Library collection are administered under the experienced hand of Mr Andrew Parsons, who is a member of the Northern Chapter Management Committee.

Website

The Northern section of the Society's website is now maintained from Hobart by the Society's website Webmaster Dr Angela Ryan. Ms Bardell has been assisting with Northern material for the Royal Society's Facebook page.

Venue

The Committee acknowledges the assistance extended to the Chapter by the City of Launceston Council through our official partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, whose Inveresk facilities are used for both lectures and committee meetings, and whose staff assist us enormously. We thank Mrs Tracy Puklowski, its Director, for her support of our efforts to bring important and interesting lecturers before the community. The paid services of an external audio-visual technician from SoundHouse continued successfully throughout 2019. No recordings or documentation of the lectures are maintained except for Professor Black's October 2019 lecture, which was recorded by his staff, and is now available on the Society's website.

Newsletter

All Northern lectures and other activities were included in the monthly State newsletter for distribution to all members in 2019.

Centenary Committee

The Northern Chapter was formed in 1853 as a branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania, and has met continuously since 1921. In 2021 the Northern Chapter will celebrate 100 years of continuous operation in the north of the State. A sub-committee of the Chapter's Management Committee, the Centenary Committee, was established to oversee plans to observe the centenary in 2021. Membership includes the Immediate Past President, Mr David Morris, the Treasurer, Mr Robin Walpole, and Ms Chel Bardell and Ms Lynette Ross. The support of Council in a number of initiatives is greatly appreciated. The Royal Society's 2021 calendar will be dedicated to the northern centenary, as will a special issue of the Society's Papers and Proceedings. The centenary is planned to be formally observed in June 2021 with a public lecture, marking the passage of 100 years. Other initiatives will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

Lecture Program 2019

The Committee extends its thanks to all 2019 speakers for their generosity and for the excellence of their presentations. This year's program has again been notable for the quality of the speakers and for the large attendances at many of our lectures. Each guest speaker was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a local history book, as a token of thanks for their contribution.

A new initiative, which was very successful, was a joint meeting of The Royal Society of Tasmania, Northern Chapter with the Geological Society of Australia, Tasmanian Branch for Dr Kain's lecture in July. The two bodies have agreed to meet together again in 2020.

Admission to Northern lectures is free to all Royal Society members and also to all children under 16 years of age. The admission price in 2019 remained as for 2018, viz. \$6 for the general public, with a discounted price of \$4 for members of the Launceston Historical Society, members of the Friends of QVMAG, and secondary students and tertiary students who were half-time or greater.

	GUEST SPEAKER	LECTURE TITLE	AUDIENCE
24 February QVMAG Annual Staff Lecture, no. 4	Mrs Tracy Puklowski, Director of QVMAG	Walking backwards into the future – New Directions at QVMAG	84
24 March	Dr Costan Magnussen	Growing healthy hearts	50
28 April	Prof Barry Brook	The future of humanity	94
26 May	Dr Alison Alexander	Jane Franklin - the <i>real</i> founder of The Royal Society of Tasmania?	86
23 June	Distinguished Prof. Ross Large, AO, President, RST	The rhythms of Earth and life through time	88
14 July Joint meeting RST & GSA	Dr Claire Kain	Hazards of flooding and flood modelling for Northern Tasmania	86
28 July	Prof Gustaaf Hallegraeff	Harmful algal blooms in the Australian region	52
11 August Science Week	<i>Forum for PhD students:</i> (1) Dr Raj Eri (PhD supervisor) (2) Matt Taylor (3) Rachael Sanders (4) Rajesh Raj	(1) Ravichandra Vemuri's PhD Candidature on Microbiome: the new clinical frontier (2) The Socio-Ecology of wildlife conservation on private land (3) Changes in the surface waters of the Southeast Pacific and beyond (4) Living long or living well: dilemmas older people face when considering dialysis	70
25 August	HE Prof the Hon. Kate Warner, AC, Patron, RST	The History of Government House gardens	126
22 September	Dr Tas van Ommen	Ice cores and climate change	106
27 October	Prof Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor, UTAS	Ethics of place	103
24 November	Distinguished Prof James Vickers	Reducing risk of dementia - evidence and opportunities	110

Executive Support

Dr Madill was compelled to take leave in the last four months of 2019 due to personal health problems, and thanks Mr David Morris for so capably taking over the reins as Acting President during that period. The President extends his thanks to David for preparing this report, and also to the rest of the Management Committee for a job well done. It has been an outstandingly successful year, and we owe special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine Beswick, for her hard work and dedication to a demanding job, and to Ms Chel Bardell for her work at State level on behalf of the Chapter. Thanks are due to Mrs Julie Walpole for her continuing assistance in the task of formatting files transitioned between Mac and PC. Finally, our sincere thanks to all Committee members for their efforts in making sure our lectures and meetings are well run.

Dr Frank Madill, AM
President

Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Secretary

Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Chapter)
Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Donor Receipts from non-member patrons ¹	2,851.40	1,982.00
Interest from Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees	31.72	36.15
Operating Grant from State Council	1,000.00	2,000.00
Revenue Share from sales of RST merchandise	620.00	
Butterfly Collection Fund	914.05	
Total Receipts	5,417.17	4,018.15
Payments		
Audio-visual - Sound House Tasmania	1,950.00	1,852.50
Travel and Accommodation - RST Council	50.00	
Laminating Speakers Certificates		6.97
Postage		90.55
Printing and Photocopying		214.37
Catering	201.00	138.95
Retiring QVMAG Director's Gift		88.00
Net Cost 175th Celebrations		772.50
Total Payments	2,201.00	3,163.84
Cash Surplus for the Year	3,216.17	854.31
Chapter Funds		
Bank Balance - TPT 1st January, 2019	2,567.47	1,713.16
	2,567.47	1,713.16
add Cash Surplus for the Year (as above)	3,216.17	854.31
Closing Balance, 31 December 2019	5,783.64	2,567.47
Bank - Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees	5,501.19	
Cash on Hand	282.45	
Outstanding Expenses		
Audio-visual - Sound House Tasmania	390.00	
Catering	68.10	
Total Outstanding Expenses	458.10	
Available Funds at 31 December	5,325.54	

Notes

1. The improved door receipts reflect an attempt to select speakers with more audience appeal. Average attendance (Members and Non-Members) over 10 Meetings: 89.7

Robin Walpole

Honorary Treasurer, Northern Chapter of The Royal Society of Tasmania

HONORARY TREASURER

The Society's 175th Anniversary celebrations dominated the year's activities.

The programs that impacted the financial results were:

- The Dinosaur exhibition hosted together with TMAG
- The Picnic with Dinosaurs in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in 2018
- The production of two books in 2018:
 - *Mapping of van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond*
 - *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*
- The Lady Franklin Museum Exhibition
- The Dinosaur Symposium

All these activities were very successful, being well-received by the attending public. The income generated exceeded the budget and the Society's expectations. Further, the awareness of the Society in the general public has been greatly enhanced.

The financial results for the year 2019 were robust. The ordinary income achieved was considerably better than the previous period, as well as also exceeding the budget.

The sales of publications, including the beautiful 2020 calendar, the coffee table books, have meant that they are a major factor in income. Such merchandise keeps the Society afloat.

For the financial period of 2019, revenues relied on the following main items:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Book sales | \$18,335 |
| • Calendar & card sales | \$ 9,550 |
| • Donations | \$13,882 |
| • Grants | \$ 6,000 |
| • Membership dues | \$20,698 |
| • Publications | \$ 8,852 |
| • 175 th year celebration programs | |

Membership revenue fell short of both the budget and the previous year's results. Requests for subscriptions were sent out a little later than previously, which may account for some of this shortfall.

Because funds are invested in various Term Deposits, interest earned at the end of these term deposits are reinvested and is, as such reflected, in the current balance sheet.

Gifts and donations of about \$13,882 were received. Grants of \$6,000 were also received from Treasury and UTAS. The funds from grants are generally applied to the production of the Papers and Proceedings, the preservation and archiving of rare books and maps, exhibition development and book production, as well as the staging of the Winter Series of lectures.

The expenses for the fiscal year were below budget and in line with previous non-175th year event numbers. Bursaries and other awards were made to deserving students.

The major expense items were:

- Cost of publications - Paper & Proceedings, and the Calendar, and include:
 - Printing
 - Editing
 - Setting
 - Copy editing
 - Postage
 - Calendar
- Bursaries and awards as per budget
- Lecture programs expenses for interstate lecturers
- Postage as per budget
- All others not budgeted
 - Christmas dinner – cost neutral as per budget
 - 175th year event – costs as per budget
 - Legal Fees for UTAS Library not budgeted

Funds surplus to day-to-day requirements and from most of the proceeds of the 175th year event activities have been invested in term deposits and funds and transferred to the Society's Foundation. The Foundation now holds over \$524,000 in diversified, well-invested funds and term deposits. These investments are regularly reviewed and adjusted if and when required.

A grant of about \$80,000 had been borrowed from the Foundation and provided to TMAG as RST contribution to seed funding for the *Dinosaur rEvolution* exhibition. These funds and the associated net income from the exhibition were promptly repaid to the Society and deposited into the Foundation. An amount of \$25,000 from these funds has been earmarked for special revenue-generating projects only and/or to offset our forecasted operational losses for 2020.

The Society's funds are secured by the Federal Government's Financial Claims Scheme and are protected up to \$250,000 per account per institution.

The Society is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and maintains its Deductible Gift Recipient status. It is now also entitled to use the ACNC Charity Tick to indicate the legitimacy of the Society.

A budget for 2020 has been prepared for approval by the council. This budget document will help to provide good operating guidelines and cash flow requirements for the coming year.

Peter Meyer FAICD
Honorary Treasurer

ABN 65 889 598 100

Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31 December 2019

	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2018	Jan - Dec 2017
Income			
Calendar Sales	9,346	11,238	7,407
Cards	204	593	761
Christmas Function	3,916	3,696	3,143
Gifts and Donations	13,882	11,918	6,935
Grants	6,000	6,300	10,000
Tabletop Books - Income	17,294	26,957	2,965
Membership Dues			
Full - No Papers	10,725	12,058	10,140
Full - With Papers	9,618	11,592	10,475
Student - No Papers	205	160	360
Student - With Papers	150	275	225
Total Membership Dues	20,698	24,085	21,200
Miscellaneous Income	348	5,167	2,994
Publications	8,852	12,994	3,257
Total Income	80,539	102,948	58,662
Expense			
Administration	6,279	10,497	5,705
Bank Service Charges	1,250	1,383	992
Books and Publications	79	47,854	8,815
Calendar Expenses	6,227	6,217	5,562
Christmas Dinner	3,794	3,726	2,812
Communications	1,270	600	1,166
Grants and Awards	7,505	7,550	4,462
Insurance	1,503	1,421	1,373
Meeting Expenses	4,742	1,588	4,187
Miscellaneous	3,807	1,495	0
Office Supplies	917	1,602	772
Parking Expense	1,226	1,768	565
Postage and Delivery	1,777	3,624	2,723
Printing & Reproduction	720	1,007	822
Professional Fees - Audit	1,390	7,056	160
Programme Expense	0	2,000	2,552
Marketing/Advertising	720	1,507	199
Total Expense	43,205	100,895	42,867
Surplus/Shortfall	37,335	2,053	15,795

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Dec 31, 2019	Dec 31, 2018	Dec 31, 2017
Accumulated Funds			
As at 1 January 2017/2018/2019	131,852	129,799	114,004
Surplus/Shortfall	37,335	2,053	15,795
As at 31 Dec 2019/2018/2017	169,186	131,852	129,799
Current Assets			
CBA Current Account	32,016	37,133	37,133
My State Term Deposit 30020969	33,764	32,012	32,012
My State Term Deposit 30024910	33,650	31,865	31,865
Sub-total	99,429	101,010	101,010
Other Assets			
Publications, Books, Calendars & Cards	69,758	30,842	28,789
Medals & Office Furniture			
etc.	0	0	0
Sub-total	69,758	30,842	28,789
Total	169,186	131,852	129,799

AUDIT REPORT FOR 2019

Notes to the Accounts

1. **Statement of Accounting Policies.** This is not a general purpose financial report. It is a special purpose report to meet the requirements of the Society. The Society is of a type identified in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 as a non-reporting entity. No regard has been paid to other Statements of Accounting Concepts in the preparation of this report. The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis from historical cost records, except where otherwise stated.
2. **Income Tax.** Pursuant to Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, The Royal Society of Tasmania is exempt from Income Tax.
3. There is an Art Collection held by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery which has been catalogued, but the ownership of some items is still being resolved. The value of this collection is not as yet determined and as such is not shown in the accounts.
4. The Rare Book Library has been professionally valued to be worth \$2,757,355 and the remaining books are estimated to have a value of approximately \$300,000. This valuation was performed in 2013 and 2016.
5. A rare and historical Map collection also owned by the Society and professionally stored at the University of Tasmania is currently being valued, but is estimated to be worth about \$45,000.
6. Publications, books, cards and office equipment used and stored at the Society's and off-site facilities are estimated at \$69,758.
7. Other assets, such as office furniture and medals are fully written-down.
8. The Society is a registered entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will retain the Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Richard H James

ABN: 40 849 023 979

Registered Tax Agent and Public Accountant

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AUDIT REPORT

Independent auditor's report to members of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

1. Scope

I have audited the attached Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 and Balance Sheet at 31 December 2019. The Management Committee is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the special purpose financial report and information contained therein. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting accounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

2. Independence

To the best of my knowledge and belief, there has been no contravention of auditor independence and any applicable code in relation to the audit.

3. Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the special purpose financial report of The Royal Society of Tasmania. presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards the financial position of the Club for the period 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the periods then ended.

To the best of my belief and knowledge, all relevant information and explanations required have been obtained and rules relating to the administration of funds appear to have been observed.


Richard H James FIPA

AUDITOR

20 January 2020

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



Tax agent
57671 007

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Audit Report

I report that I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers for The Royal Society of Tasmania for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. The Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 above are appropriate to its needs. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an independent opinion on it to members of The Royal Society of Tasmania. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

Donations, bequests, subscriptions, symposia, exhibitions, calendars, cards, publications and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Society. The Society has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations, subscriptions and other funds prior to entry into the financial records. The accounts record all the income and expenditure recorded in the books of the Society, but while I have no reason to believe that there has been any unrecorded income or expenditure, I am not able to confirm this. With these reservations, in my opinion, the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure and Asset List represent a true and fair view of the Society's affairs for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Signed:



Richard H. James

B Bus FIPA

Commissioner for Declarations and Auditor

20 January 2020