

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA**

**ABN 65 889 598 100**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016**



**THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE**



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**The Royal Society of Tasmania**

**ABN 65 889 598 100**

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

**OFFICE BEARERS**

<b>President</b>	Prof Matt King
<b>Vice President</b>	Assoc/Prof Erik Wapstra
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Prof Ross Large
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Dr John Thorne AM
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Mr Peter Meyer
<b>The Foundation of the RST (Chair)</b>	Prof Pat Quilty AM
<b>Council Members</b>	Dr Albert Goede (2019) Dr Anita Hansen (2019) Mr Warren Boyles (2018) Mr John Hayton (2018) Ms Jeannie-Marie Leroi (2017) Ms Jenny Warren (2017)
<b>TMAG Representative</b>	Ms Janet Carding
<b>Honorary Editor</b>	Dr Margaret Davies OAM
<b>Honorary Librarian</b>	Mrs Lynn Davies & Ms Juliet Beale
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Mrs Mary Koolhof
<b>Honours and Bursary Committee (Chair)</b>	Dr John Thorne AM
<b>Honorary Auditor</b>	Mr Richard James
<b>Administration Assistant</b>	Ms Jane Moran
<b>Nominated by The Royal Society of Tasmania as Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)</b>	Prof Jim Reid and Prof Ross Large

**Congratulations**

Our Patron, Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner AC (formerly AM), was recognised in the 2017 Australia Day Awards and appointed “Commander” or AC. The short citation states, “On 26 January 2017 Her Excellency was awarded an Order of Australia (AC) for her significant service to the law, particularly in the areas of law reform and education.” Therefore, from 26 January, 2017 our Patron is designated:

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

## **NORTHERN CHAPTER**

<b>Management Committee President</b>	Dr Frank Madill AM
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Mr Brian East
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Ms Chel Bardell
<b>Committee Members</b>	Dr George Merridew Mr David Morris Mr Jonathan Morris Mr Andrew Parsons
<b>Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery</b>	Mr Richard Mulvaney, Director ( <i>ex officio</i> )
<b>Contact for the North West</b>	Mr Andrew Bishop

## **PRESIDENT**

It is a great delight to present my first report as President of the Society. As I write, we are in our 174<sup>th</sup> year and much activity is underway in preparation for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. It is important that our Society celebrates this substantial anniversary and some exciting events are under development – stay tuned for more information from the 175<sup>th</sup> Committee during the coming year. But more than being a great chance to celebrate amongst ourselves, the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a great opportunity to communicate the purpose of the Society to the wider community and invite it to join with us in establishing the future of the Society for the years to come.

I found the past year to be a busy one; indeed, those involved with the Society much longer than I, noted that there have been an unusual number of substantial items on the agenda. Aside from the 175<sup>th</sup>, there has been work to consolidate action following the 2015 half-day planning session led by Prof Large while he was President. Also, substantial new (currently draft) legislation regarding the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) has been the focus of discussion and consultation with the Department of State Growth. We continue to work with TMAG and the UTAS Library to ensure that our works of art and manuscripts and other documents are cared for and promoted as well as possible. Work has begun on preparing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Tasmania, following the required review at the end of 2016. Through all of this, I have received fantastic support and insight from the Council, especially from John Thorne.

Discussions about the ownership and long-term loan of The Royal Society collection to TMAG are on-going.

At my first Council meeting as President, I outlined my desire to see the diversity of the Society's membership increased, in particular with a focus on attracting younger members. So it is my hope that the Society will approve proposed changes to the by-laws regarding a more substantial role for student members, including a position on the Council and a new early-career researcher award. I commend all the changes to you.

During the past year, the Society held its monthly lecture program in both the North and South, with some outstanding presentations. A number of Council members, including myself, had enjoyable visits to the Northern Chapter during 2016. Our Winter Series was entitled "Living in an Uncertain World: Data and Decisions". Over three appropriately wintry evenings we heard about topics that showed us how decisions are being made in the face of incomplete information. Topics spanned broad topics, from the location of the South Pole, to environmental protection, to inferences of the properties of the solid Earth, and to the psychology of climate change denial. The different evenings were ably chaired by our Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, Governor of Tasmania (who attended with Mr Warner), the Hon Michael Ferguson MP and Prof Brigid Heywood (UTAS Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research). For the first time, we live-streamed the lectures to the internet, allowing anyone to watch in real-time or indeed afterwards. The live uptake (about 100-150/night) of this option was encouraging and allows us to reach an audience right across Tasmania and further afield.

I would especially like to congratulate recipients of two major awards for this year; Professor David Green winner of the R M Johnston Memorial Medal; Professor Henry Reynolds winner of the Clive Lord Memorial Medal; the winners of the Annual Doctoral Awards will be announced at the AGM. In conclusion, I thank the Council of the Society for a very successful year and especially for the members' willingness to generously give their time to the benefit of our Society.

**Professor Matt A. King**

## TMAG TRUSTEES - CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Trustees, it is my great pleasure to report to The Royal Society of Tasmania that the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) had an excellent year in 2015–16, both front of house and behind the scenes, as evidenced by a series of acclaimed exhibitions and a balanced budget. TMAG had another successful year of engaging Tasmanians and visitors from interstate and overseas who were treated to a vibrant schedule of exhibitions and programs throughout the year. These included the delightful family exhibition *Pattern Play*, the first-ever TMAG Children's Festival, the poignancy of the migrant story in *Snapshot Photography and Migrant Women: A Tasmanian Experience* and the magical major art exhibition *Tempest*, conceived by internationally acclaimed curator Juliana Engberg.

This dynamic combination resulted in growth in daily visitation to TMAG of 11 per cent on the previous year, with TMAG's city site attracting 383 026 visits throughout the year. The management team exercised sound budgetary control throughout the year and brought home a balanced budget for the first time in seven years, all the while making progress on a broad front.

TMAG's Strategic Plan was developed, communicated and introduced during the year. This is an extremely valuable piece of work, setting the scene for our increasing relevance as a cultural hub and a tourist destination, the research that can be undertaken and the way we will be able to present the collection.

In May 2016, the Government announced an investment of \$700 000 over three years to TMAG as part of the State Budget 2016-17. This additional funding will help us to begin the implementation of important goals within the Strategic Plan, including the introduction of seasonal opening hours. We will reinstate Monday openings during the busy summer season from Boxing Day until the end of March each year and the museum will also open on every public holiday Monday year-round. This proposal offers a balanced approach and ensures the museum is able to meet community expectations during the busy summer season and is able to maintain quality programming and deliver on the broader objectives established in the Strategic Plan.

One of the first goals to be implemented is the establishment of an effective governance framework for the museum. The Government recently conducted a review of TMAG's governance in consultation with the Trustees and as a result has begun the process of drafting legislation that will enable TMAG to become a Statutory Authority.

These legislative changes will provide the clarity to allow TMAG to function effectively as a 21st century museum and provide greater flexibility and accountability for the Trustees. The changes will include the introduction of a skills-based board. While this would lead to some changes in the representation of The Royal Society of Tasmania at TMAG board level, my aim is that the important relationship between our two organisations, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, will remain as close.

TMAG finished the year on a financially strengthened position with an overall surplus of one million dollars thanks to a balanced budget and very substantial bequests from the Jessie Luckman and Jayne Wilson Estates. We are ever so grateful for their important gifts that will underpin further development of the organisation.

The TMAG collection was further enhanced this year with significant gifts and with financial support from the Foundation of TMAG, which works tirelessly to support our acquisitions program. My thanks to The Royal Society of Tasmania representatives on the TMAG Board, Ross Large and Jim Reid, for their dedication and service to TMAG this year, and to The Royal Society of Tasmania President, Matt King, and the Council for their engagement with TMAG during this time of change along with their careful consideration and constructive conversations over the last year.

**Geoff Willis AM**

## EDITOR

Volume 150 of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* comprised two parts:

Part 1 was published on 31 August 2016 and comprised seven papers presented at the Biennial Conference of the Australian Association of von Humboldt Fellows in association with the New Zealand Association of von Humboldt Fellows, 20–22 November 2015, Hobart, Tasmania with the theme *Global Perspectives, Local Knowledge*. This Part was 60 pages in length and was coedited by Margaret Davies and Trevor R. Finlayson.

Part 2 was published on 15 December 2016 and comprised six papers covering changes to Macquarie Island post pest eradication, alpine tree ecology, alien plants in Tasmania, early Italian collectors of plants and animals, a new species of mayfly and Swift Parrot distributional changes over historical time. This Part was 80 pages in length.

June Pongratz, as ever, ably set the volume and Caroline Mordaunt's eagle eye provided a final copy edit.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Calendar for 2017 was published comprising images from the Society's 2014 publication *The Library at the End of the World: Natural Science and its Illustrators*, edited by Anita Hansen and Margaret Davies. Kent Whitmore again designed the calendar beautifully. Calendar sales continue to be an important source of revenue for the Society.

*Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* was reprinted.

The Publications Sub-Committee made up of the Editor (Convenor), Drs Anita Hansen and Brita Hansen, Lynn Davies and Warren Boyles met on numerous occasions. Work commenced on a volume (working title *Poles Apart*) to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society in 2018 (Anita and Brita Hansen), and a volume on the Society's map collection (Lynn Davies, Margaret Davies and Warren Boyles). Study of this collection highlighted the poor storage of the material and the lack of a comprehensive catalogue. The Royal Society of Tasmania therefore made a grant of \$4,900 to the University of Tasmania Library to rectify this situation. Elizabeth Seymour was engaged to undertake the project.

**Dr Margaret Davies OAM**

## LIBRARIAN

The Royal Society of Tasmania materials (special and rare books, maps and extensive private deposits) are housed in the University Library and managed by the Special & Rare Collections staff. These materials form a significant part of the overall Special & Rare Collections (S&R) resources. The Special & Rare Collections are open Monday to Wednesday inclusive from 9:30am to 4pm.

### Agreement

The longstanding MOU between the University Library and TRST was up for its three-year renewal at the end of 2016. University Library and TRST President have worked with UTAS Legal to form an agreement which will be signed off early 2017.

### Collections: Usage

Royal Society Members visits	<b>46</b>
Royal Society Rare books viewed	<b>813</b>
Royal Society Deposits viewed	<b>352</b>
Visitors (including tour groups)	<b>411</b>
Research enquiries, in person, via phone and email	<b>412</b>
Physical items viewed from all collections, includes rare books and deposit boxes	<b>1795</b>
Online visitors via the Library Open Repository	<b>200 000+</b>

TRST *Papers & Proceedings* are published in the Library Open Repository (and embargoed for two years). In 2016, 158 430 downloads are recorded, although a spike of about 40 000 downloads in July was attributed to a Bingbot.

Most downloaded articles for 2016:

Article title	Downloads
<i>The Tasmanian blackbird eradication programme, 1941-47</i>	1573
<i>The early history of Bruny Island</i>	1534
<i>On Atrax injensius sp. n. (Araneida: Dipluridae), its habits and a method of trapping the males</i>	1105
<i>General features of the ecology and biogeography of Tasmanian subtidal rocky shore communities</i>	1066
<i>Pre-settlement exploration of Tasmania and the natural sciences: the Clive Lord Memorial Lecture 1983</i>	1051

A new visitors' form has been written and implemented to ensure visitors understand how they can use and reproduce items from S&R collections, including TRST collections. A new clause in the form covers requiring permission to photograph items, as photography has become so accessible with mobile phones. Additionally, a Request to Publish Form is now available to manage copyright permissions.

Over 50 community members have been shown through the S&R collections this year, with items from TRST collections being displayed. Tour visitors included conference groups, such as the Annual Quaker Meeting, Digital Humanities Australasia conference, UTAS Global Engagement and Foundation activities, and study visit tours from Charles Sturt University and William Angliss Institute.

Items from TRST collections were used in the Treasures from *Special and Rare* exhibition prepared for Open Day 2016. Further exhibitions with the UTAS cultural collections group are planned for 2017.



S&R staff has been assisting The Royal Society of Tasmania researchers prepare for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2018. Two book publications are planned – one on TRST’s extensive map collection and one on polar research and exploration. The digitised copies of TRST map collection have been made restricted access until the research for the map book has been completed.

#### **Collections: Management**

TRST provided \$4,900 funding to work towards conserving and making an inventory of TRST map collection. Libby Seymour was employed to manage this project. Priority was given to older Tasmanian maps, as the collection is large and diverse. Advice was sought from the Roving Curator program, Arts Tasmania, as how best to conserve the maps. Archival materials have been ordered for preservation and a process of ‘relaxing maps’ has flattened out many of the rolled and folded maps. Three additional map cabinets were sourced and donated to prevent overcrowding of map drawers. A full report on the project will be available in early 2017.

Michael Sprod from Astrolabe was commissioned to evaluate TRST books on the open access shelves. Books assessed to be special or rare (criteria of market value over \$1000) have been moved to the Rare Book Room. Approximately 30 titles were re-located to the Rare Book Room. The compactus on Level 5 is now locked until further notice.

The Library’s *Disaster Preparedness Plan* has been extensively revised and will be in place as the new agreement is signed.

All titles damaged by water in 2015 have been replaced. Lists of titles were provided to TRST.

#### **Preservation Needs Assessment**

The Preservation Needs Assessment report has been completed and given to TRST President. This is an independent assessment of the physical condition, current housing and storage of the Library’s Special & Rare (S&R) collections, including TRST collections, and there are several recommendations for improvements which have been accepted by the Library and will be progressively addressed. The Library is pleased to note the assessors found: *Measurement of the temperature and relative humidity in the Rare Book Room indicate a stable environment is maintained.*

The collections are relatively stable and there was no sign of pest activity. While some items show evidence of historical pest damage, this occurred prior to those collections coming into the Library.

Glass plates, photographic prints and negatives, and costumes are in good condition.

S&R staff have a deep interest in and commitment to the collections they manage.

S&R staff are aware of the fragility of items in their collection and the need for careful handling. Staff were commended for their general housekeeping.

Digitising is a positive step towards reducing handling and wear on the most popular [i.e. most used] items in the collections.

Extending the footprint of the atmosphere-controlled Rare Room will be critical to improving the current housing and storage of the collections. Planning has commenced to extend the footprint and is awaiting funding.

#### **Collections: Discoverability**

Archival Management System Chosen: Discoverable Special and Rare Collections Project, funded by Research Infrastructure Bid.

With Steering Committee members from TMAG, TAHO and the University, this project has surveyed and consulted a wide number of stakeholders to consider options for an archival management system to increase discoverability of the Special & Rare collections, and other University collections. Two

open source software systems have been selected: *AtoM*, for description of archival material; and *Omeka*, as a showcasing tool. Work has commenced on the implementation and population of these systems, focussing on material pertaining to the West Coast of Tasmania. A consultant archivist has been employed as part of this implementation to advise on best practice archival management. The pilot will be completed by 31 January 2017. Once the pilot is completed, discussions will continue with TRST on making TRST collections globally discoverable.

Plomley Foundation Research Grants: The Royal Society of Tasmania's Mitchell Sketchbook. The Library received a grant from the Plomley Foundation last year to digitise the beautiful sketchbook compiled by Sarah Mitchell, containing drawings by her sister, Catherine Penwarne Mitchell, alongside Sarah's recollections from her diary entries. This is an important primary source, donated by Sarah Mitchell to The Royal Society of Tasmania's collection, as it provides insight into early colonial life on the East Coast of Tasmania.

Determining the copyright owners for this unpublished work has taken up some time in 2016 and has delayed the progress of this project. It is hoped that the project will be completed in early 2017 with an exhibition at the Morris Miller Library. Library Services staff have completed digitising the sketchbook and are currently transcribing the diary entries and entering images and metadata into the repository. The first pages can be seen at:

<http://eprints.utas.edu.au/view/collections/MitchellSketchbook.html>

*Island* magazine published an article about the Mitchell Sketchbook in the February 2016 edition.

#### **Copyright and accessibility**

Issues have been raised through the year around publishing online in the Library's Open Repository unpublished items from the TRST collections and the ensuing copyright questions. These questions and issues will continue to be addressed in 2017 with ongoing discussions with TRST council members.

#### **Staffing**

Special & Rare collections staff were awarded a University of Tasmania Career Development Scholarship to allow the team to develop expertise in preservation planning. A Roving Curator from Arts Tasmania has been employed to deliver four days of workshops on conservation and preservation management best practice. The first workshop was delivered in December 2016 and it is envisaged skills gained will benefit TRST collections.

#### **Juliet Beale**

**Senior Librarian, Collections**

**Library | Division Students & Education**

**University of Tasmania**



## 2016 LECTURES – SOUTH

19th January

Mr Alan Jackson, *Seeking the Master Cave: Junee-Florentine Karst, Tasmania*

Attendance: 59

Following the lecture a field trip was held to look at some of the sites described.

2nd February

Professor Ross R Large, 2016 President's Address — *Ocean Acidification and Atmosphere Oxygenation in Deep Time: A Multi-Proxy Approach to Tracking Past Ocean Chemistry*

Attendance: 61

1st March

Professor Matt King, *Antarctica: Frigid Not Frozen*

Attendance: 64

5th April

Mr John K Davidson, *The Upstream Petroleum Industry; Tasmania's Position*

Attendance: 33

3rd May

Dr Dan Gregory, *The Accumulation of Trace Elements In Diagenetic Pyrite, An Example From the Metal Rich Derwent Estuary and metal Poor Huon Estuary.*

Attendance: 38

7th June

Dr Mathew Wilson, *Commercialisation of Tasmanian Native Pepper*

Attendance: 38

5th July

Prof John Dickey, *Astronomical research at UTAS and significance of the LIGO detection of gravitational waves*

Attendance: 26

2nd August

Assoc/Prof Penny Edmonds, *An Anti-Slavery Movement in the Antipodes*

Attendance: 39

15th August

Dr Jules Hartnett, *Reflections on a Career in Astrophysics: National Science Week Presentation*

Collaboration with National Science Week

6th September

Dr Clare Hawkins, *Extinction Matters: Could Citizen Science Help?*

Attendance: 31

4th October

Postgraduate Research Evening — UTAS postgraduate research students

Attendance: 49

1st November

Assoc/Prof Gretta Pecl, *Global and Local Implications of 'Species on the Move' as a Function of a Changing Climate*

Attendance: 47

9<sup>th</sup> November

Prof Steve Rintoul, *Hunting for Climate Clues in the Southern Ocean*

Collaboration with ATSE

6th December

Dr Dianne Nicol, *A Biobank for Tasmania*

Attendance: 83

#### WINTER SERIES – SOUTH

##### **“Living in an uncertain world: data and decisions”**

– presented in conjunction with the University of Tasmania. All lectures held in the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay.

Wednesday 13th July

Chair: Professor Brigid Heywood, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), UTAS

1. *Where is the South Pole? Uncertainty, Place and Imagination*, Associate Professor Elizabeth Leane
2. *Science at the Environmental Policy Interface*, Professor Marcus Haward, UTAS

Estimated attendance: 60

Wednesday 20th July

Chair: Hon Michael Ferguson MP, Minister for Information Technology and Innovation

3. *Probing the Earth with Sparse Data*, Associate Professor Anya Reading, UTAS
4. *Embracing Uncertainty in Molecular Evolution*, Associate Professor Barbara Holland, UTAS

Estimated attendance: 75

Wednesday 27th July

Chair: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, Governor of Tasmania

5. *The Psychology of Climate Science Denial*, Dr John Cook, UQ
6. *Smart Grids, Messy Society*, Associate Professor Heather Lovell, UTAS

Estimated attendance: 100

## 2016 LECTURES – NORTH

28th February

Dr Nick Shuley, *Reflections on Radar*

Attendance: 44

20th March

Prof Matt King, *Antarctica: Frozen not Frigid*

Attendance: 38

24th April

Dr Nicholas Chantler, *Bee Bop a Lula, She's My Honey*

Attendance: 75

22nd May

Dr Nigel Swarts, *Terrestrial Orchid Conservation and Research: A Tasmanian Perspective*

Attendance: 45

26th June

Prof Nicholas King, *The Enthusiastic Immune System: Curbing Nature's Oldest Attack Dogs without Foregoing their Protection*

Attendance: 36

Sunday 24th July

Dr Eric Ratcliff, *Firm, Famous, Fragile or Forgotten: The Buildings of Our Small Universe*

Attendance: 92

Sunday 28th August

### **Science Week**

Mr Peter King, *Autonomous Underwater Vehicles in Under-Ice Exploration and Research*

Attendance: 38

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Dr Kieren J Mitchell, *Genetic Analysis of Australia's Extinct Fauna*

Attendance: 47

Sunday 23rd October

Mr Alan Jackson, *Seeking the Master Cave: Junee-Florentine Karst, Tasmania*

Attendance: 65

Sunday 27th November

Mr Richard Mulvaney, *The Queen Vic: 125 and Still Going Strong*

Attendance: 40

## HONORARY SECRETARY

This last year was very active from an administrative point of view as we try our hardest to serve the membership, the Council and also the continuity of the ethos of The Royal Society of Tasmania. It has been heartening to participate in the steady planning for the celebration of 175 years of the Society and its service to Tasmania.

The Society is closely entwined with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, so with intense interest, we observed, then participated in, the renewal of the legislation for the Museum, which we understand will be presented early in 2017. The link between the two organisations always needs to be examined and, in our view, strengthened. During these processes, as Secretary, I became aware that a particular document we now call “the Deed” had been filed and was in danger of being forgotten with the succeeding administrations in both our organisations. Corporate memory is a valuable asset and to this end, I have undertaken to produce for the Annual General Meeting for 2017 and thereafter a booklet containing key documents, such as:

- A copy of the 1911 Government Act that incorporates the Society;
- The Deed between the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and The Royal Society of Tasmania;
- The rules of the Society;
- The current and proposed legislation for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery;
- Two excellent papers written to summarise our history: Janet Somerville (1943) and Gillian Winter (1993); and
- The current Annual Report of the Society.

The booklet containing the above documents will be made available to all members as an e-book, but will also be available on the front desk at each general meeting as hard copy. From the papers, I note with great interest many fascinating points, however, the following two stand out:

- “When Collins landed, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1804, and tents were pitched, Knopwood’s tent was on the spot where the Museum steps and entrance now stand. Later, the block of land formed that portion of the Government House grounds on which was situated the Private Secretary’s cottage.” (Somerville); and
- “Under the 1843 rules ... Ladies were to be admitted as Fellows ‘upon the same terms, with the same privileges and under the same regulations in all respects as gentlemen’.” (Winter).

I was heartened by the forward thinking of our early members in the second quotation, while in the first I am reminded of the genuine historic position that The Royal Society of Tasmania had in the granting of land by the early Government. By the way, when above it states, “the Museum steps and entrance now stand”, it refers to the original building, steps and entrance that still exist at the corner of Argyle and Macquarie Streets.

As Secretary, I continue to be impressed by our Administrative Assistant (Jane Moran) and her work-ethic and wide set of skills as she supports the Treasurer (Peter Meyer), myself and the Council. It should be noted that Jane also volunteers her time considerably for the good of the Society. Both Peter and Jane should be congratulated for attaining the prestigious “Charity Tick” of approval as a Registered Charity for the Society from the ACNC. A monthly newsletter is produced and a website supported ([www.rst.org.au](http://www.rst.org.au)). As a team, we attend the Society’s office each Wednesday morning.

**Dr John G. Thorne AM FACEA**

## **PUBLICITY OFFICER**

Publicity work this year has continued previous collaborations with a wide range of media services and community partners, focussing on broadening the exposure base of the Society's events. To this end, we have developed productive partnerships with the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (Tasmanian branch), Australian Institute of Physics (Tasmanian branch), University of Tasmania (UTAS) Alumni and the Von Humboldt Fellows.

The Society continues to receive excellent coverage of monthly lectures and special events on ABC Radio 936, and grateful thanks go to interviewer, Ryk Goddard, and producer, Jo Spargo. The insightful interviews have been a means of widening the community exposure of the Royal Society and have resulted in new people attending the Society's events. Thanks go to Warren Boyles for facilitating an interview with Past President, Prof. Ross Large on Chris Wisbey's ABC Weekends program.

Particular thanks go to Damian Bester, Education Manager at the *Mercury*, for promoting the Society's lectures and events to Tasmanian teachers and students through his Education page. Monthly lectures are also advertised in the *Mercury's* Diary page and in November the Society was very pleased to be featured in the Join the Club section of the *Mercury's TasWeekend* magazine. An article on Past President Prof. Ross Large's Eureka Award was published in the *Mercury*. The previously successful journalism project was revived this year – UTAS journalism student Patrick Gee covered the postgraduate students' night in October and wrote an excellent article that was published in the *Mercury* with an accompanying photograph.

For the inaugural Government House National Science Week event organised by the Society, a concerted effort was made to reach University early career researchers and postgraduate students with event information being circulated via the UTAS Research Office, as well as the weekly UTAS staff news.

The Society is also grateful to Sarah Bayne (Inspiring Australia's science engagement network, Whysci) and Shae Huddleston (National Science Week) for their stalwart support in advertising the Society's events within their networks. Belinda Brock and Jeanette Farnell from the UTAS Events Office once again provided excellent support for monthly lectures and the Winter Lecture Series. Appreciation to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) Director Janet Carding is recorded for the coverage that the Society received at the opening of the Hadley's Gallery Exhibition featuring some works from The Royal Society of Tasmania art collection at TMAG. Thanks also go to Andy Baird, Deputy Director, Engagement at TMAG for arranging coverage of the Society's TMAG-based events in the museum's quarterly brochure.

During the year, a very pleasing development was the appointment of a Deputy Publicity Officer. I am very grateful to Jeannie-Marie Leroi for accepting this position and for her excellent work during my absence overseas in the middle of the year. The monthly newsletter to members has been an important means of communicating with members, and sincere thanks go to Administrative Assistant Jane Moran for her work on this. The publicity team is grateful to President Matt King for initiating and running a Twitter account. We have exciting plans for a Facebook Events Page for 2017 as one initiative to attract some younger members.

**Mary Koolhof**

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established with the following aims:

1. To take over and undertake the investment and administration of the funds and investments of the Society which have been provided by donors to the Society or which are raised by the Foundation for the purposes of the Society or which are surplus to the requirements of the Society from time to time (the Fund);
2. To raise by subscription, gift, bequest, public appeal or other means, funds for the use of the Society and to invest and deal with those funds under this rule;
3. To pay such part or parts of the annual income of the Fund to the Council as the Council may require for the purposes of the Society and to invest any surplus income as capital of the Fund;
- 4 To invest any monies or assets which have been provided by donors to the Society subject to special conditions as part of the Fund but so that the values of those monies or assets remain separately identified so as to allow the Society to give effect to the special conditions imposed by the donors.

The Committee of the Foundation met twice and the Northern Chapter of the Society was represented at the meetings.

In addition to routine matters, discussion this year concerned a proposal to support an exhibition on dinosaurs as part of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society in 2018. The support would take the form of a loan to be repaid from proceeds of the exhibition. Our decision was to wait until initial 'seed' funding has been secured by the TMAG, by the end of January 2017 before proceeding with a final decision. In addition, the Foundation funded The Royal Society of Tasmania Awards (Youth Science Investigation Awards - 2016) based on the ANZAAS funding.

This year, the accumulated funds reached \$376,214 (financial report attached). Again, I congratulate all the earlier Council members on establishing the trend towards this total.

Dr Goede has asked to be relieved of his role on the Foundation Committee and has formally resigned.

Professor Quilty has asked to be relieved of his role but has agreed to stay on until a satisfactory replacement has been identified.

I thank all members of the Committee for their continued support and their contribution towards its success.

Current Committee members are:

Prof. Patrick Quilty AM (Chairman)  
Mr Peter Meyer (Honorary Treasurer)  
Dr John Thorne AM (Honorary Secretary)  
Dr Albert Goede  
Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM

**Prof. Pat Quilty AM**  
**Chairman**



**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION**

<b>The Royal Society of Tasmania Foundation Funds</b>					
		<b>Current</b>		<b>Current</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>Institution</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Interest Earned</b>
<b>Fund 1 - Select Mortgage Fund</b>	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	3.25%	
Current Holding		130,262.05			
Interest earned Q1		1,037.03			1,037.03
Interest earned Q2		1,130.75			2,167.78
Interest earned Q3		1,042.91			3,210.69
Interest earned Q4		1,023.83			4,234.52
Holding		<b>134,496.57</b>			
<b>Fund 2 - Long Term Fund</b>	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	3.34%	
Current Holding		18,285.40			
Interest earned Q1		159.31			159.31
Interest earned Q2		177.12			336.43
Interest earned Q3		146.59			483.02
Interest earned Q4		138.80			621.82
Holding		<b>18,907.22</b>			
<b>Fund 3 - Fixed Term Fund - ANZAAS</b>	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	3.23%	
Current Holding		65,693.82			
Interest earned Q1		542.85			542.85
Interest earned Q2		561.92			1,104.77
Interest earned Q3		521.59			1,626.36
Interest earned Q4		490.59			2,116.95
Holding		<b>67,810.77</b>			
<b>Fund 3 - Term Deposits</b>	My State Bank	<b>35,000.00</b>	10/04/2017	3.25%	
<b>Fund 4 - Term Deposit</b>	My State Bank	<b>120,000.00</b>	2/04/2017	3.35%	
<b>Total</b>		<b>376,214.56</b>			<b>6,973.29</b>

**Note:**

Money diversified into separate Funds/Term Deposits  
 ANZAAS Donation deposited into segregated Perpetual Trustees Foundation Fund  
 ANZAAS Fund supported the UTAS Science Investigation Award 2016 with \$950  
 Term Deposits Interest Earned in 2016 have been re-invested - Value \$5,192.50  
 \$6,230 of deductible donations received in 2016 to be transferred to the Foundation  
 The \$250K Federal Government Deposit Guarantee only protects funds deposited in MyState Bank

## HONOURS

During the last year, the members of the Honours Committee examined the coverage of the Honours and submitted to the Council of your Society three changes:

- To introduce a new medal that will recognise early career scholars. This has been named to honour a long-time member of the Society, Dr Peter Smith. Throughout his time at the University of Tasmania, Peter encouraged and supported the younger members of the university, both students and staff.
- The Council suggested that the Honours Committee would in future be responsible for making recommendations that once were the domain of the Bursary Committee. Indeed, Peter Smith (above) had been the driving force behind that Committee. It should be noted that, at most times, the funds for an approved bursary may be sought from the former ANZAAS funds now lodged with our Foundation; and
- The Annual Doctoral Award has recently attracted an amount of \$2000 for the successful nomination. The Honours Committee suggested to the Council, and it was accepted, that we nominate up to two people each year for this award and that each successful awardee be granted \$1000.

During the year, we called for nominations for the R M Johnston Memorial Medal, the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and the annual Doctoral Awards.

The 2015 Awards were:

- M R Banks Medal     Prof Matt A. King
- Doctoral Award         Dr Daniel Gregory

The President, Prof Matt King, will publicly announce all the 2016 awardees at the AGM.

**Commented [1]:** See President's report

We again remind members that the awards are aimed at two or more objectives: recognising outstanding scholarship and achievement as well as bringing some recognition to the Society for that encouragement. The Honours Committee members thank the Publicity Officer, Mary Koolhof, for bringing the successful awardees to the attention of the general public in a professional manner.

Prof Pat Quilty has served on this Committee several times over a long period. He has decided to share the load and offer the place for others to serve. The members of the Committee, the Council and the membership wish to record our most sincere thanks and appreciation for his conscientious work and attention to detail while also sharing his vast experience.

**Dr John G. Thorne AM FACEA**  
**Convenor**

## **NORTHERN CHAPTER**

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Dr Frank Madill AM (President)  
Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM (Immediate Past President and Northern Chapter Representative on The RST Foundation)  
Mr Brian East (Treasurer)  
Ms Chel Bardell (Secretary)  
Mr Andrew Parsons (Librarian and Website Manager)  
Dr George Merridew  
Mr David Morris  
Mr Jonathan Morris  
Mr Richard Mulvaney, Director of QVMAG (*ex officio*)

The Committee met on four occasions during the year; on each occasion prior to a lecture. Committee members communicated frequently on other occasions as necessary, by email and telephone. Mr Jonathan Morris joined the Committee during 2016 and, following the tradition set by his father and grandfather before him, is making a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee, particularly in the area of attracting student memberships.

Dr Ratcliff and Ms Bardell attended all Council meetings in Hobart between them, presenting the views of the Northern Chapter on appropriate matters and contributing to the work of the Council where possible. Ms Bardell also attended meetings of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee during the year, contributing to the Committee's work where appropriate.

Nominations for election to membership and as office-bearers of the Management Committee will be called for at the February 2017 meeting. The increasing vision and projects planned for the Northern Chapter during 2017, along with the increasing workload of the Committee generally, make the appointment of several new team members an urgent priority.

### **NORTHERN COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY**

The Northern Chapter Library collection continues to grow and evolve under the experienced hand of Mr Andrew Parsons.

### **WEBSITE**

The Northern section of the Society's website has been efficiently maintained by both Ms Chel Bardell and Mr Andrew Parsons throughout the year.

### **VENUE**

The Committee acknowledges the assistance extended to the Chapter by 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 Mr Richard Mulvaney, its Director, for his support of our efforts to bring important and interesting lecturers before the community. We have been particularly grateful to Mr Jon Bardell over the last few years for his willing assistance and very competent attention to the physical set-up of the QVMAG

facilities prior to each lecture, and the associated packing-up and cleaning tasks at the end of each day. As he will not be available during 2017, these tasks will need to be shared between existing Committee members. The paid services of an external audio-visual technician from *SoundHouse* will continue during 2017.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

All Northern lectures and other activities have been included in the monthly State newsletter for distribution to all members in 2016. The Committee hopes to welcome many more state-wide members to its monthly lectures and other events during 2017.

#### **LECTURE PROGRAM 2016**

The Committee extends its thanks to all 2016 speakers for their generosity and for the excellence of their presentations. This year's program has 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 copy of Dr Frank Madill's book, *Out of the Darkness*, as a token of thanks for their contribution.

An outstanding feature of the 2016 programme was the lecture held on 24<sup>th</sup> July by Dr Eric Ratcliff discussing Launceston's architectural past, which attracted an audience of 92 people.

Admission to Northern lectures is free to all Royal Society members and also to all children under 16 years of age. A slight increase in the admission price to \$6 was made for the general public in 2016 and members of the Launceston Historical Society were included in the discounted admission price of \$4, also available to Friends of QVMAG, and full-time students.

The Committee and members owe special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Ms Chel Bardell, for her hard work and dedication to a demanding job well done. Thanks, also, are due to all Committee members for their efforts in making sure our lectures and meetings are well run.

**Dr Frank Madill AM**  
**President**

**Ms Chel Bardell**  
**Honorary Secretary**

**The Royal Society of Tasmania, Northern Chapter**

Receipts and Payments for the Year ended December 31, 2016  
For Presentation at the Chapter's AGM in March, 2017

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>Receipts</b>		
Door receipts from non-member patrons	1443.00 <sup>(1)</sup>	1419.00
Interest from Tas Perpetual Trustees	44.57	54.68
Operating grant from State Council	2000.00	-
Merchandise sales	75.50	243.20
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3563.07</b>	<b>1716.88</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Audio-visual costs - QVMAG staff	-	1321.44
- private contractor	975.00 <sup>(2)</sup>	260.00
Travel - Visiting speakers	-	97.87
- RST State Council	429.00	418.40
Laminating speakers' certificates	4.95	10.25
Postage	61.00	46.20
Printing, photocopying	120.00	125.42
Catering	129.06	113.45
QVMAG additional charges	58.00 <sup>(3)</sup>	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1777.01</b>	<b>2393.03</b>
<b>Change in Cash Balance</b>	<b>1786.06</b>	<b>- 676.15</b>
Cash Balance January 1	2205.06	2881.21
Change in Cash Balance	1786.06	- 676.15
Cash Balance TPT, December 31	3991.12	2205.06

**Notes:**

1. This revenue item is growing each year as a result of the Chapter attracting a broad clientele of non-RST members to its meetings, reflecting the excellence of speakers and topicality of their subject. A challenge is to attain self-funding through this item.

2. The private (and only) provider of AV services (*Sound House Tasmania*) has not sent an account for the last five meetings. Their charge is \$195 per meeting, so the Chapter has an accrued debt of \$975, which will have an obvious effect on the cash balance when an account is received. The Treasurer is unwilling to persevere with additional prompting.

3. These comprise a charge for late departure and cleaning of meeting room, each \$29 and non-recurring.

**B. M. East**  
**Honorary Treasurer (Northern Chapter)**

**The above Statement has been audited and shows a full and accurate record of activities.**

## HONORARY TREASURER

Commented [2]: Font needs to be regularised throughout

The engaging and well-received extended lecture program, which included the popular Annual Winter Series, attracted new members and advanced the aims of the Society, as well as resulting in satisfying product sales.

These products contributed significantly to the financial results. With the production and launch of a reprint of *Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* together with a new set of greeting cards, the beautiful 2017 calendar, the coffee table book and other Society publications, an attractive set of products is available for sale. For example, since its launch date, the coffee table book has contributed a profit of \$26,500.

For the financial period 2016, revenues were as expected and within budget. The main reasons for this are:

- book sales
- calendar and card sales
- copyright income
- donations
- grants
- membership dues
- publications
- interest from term deposits

Membership numbers have increased slightly. The new members are mainly younger individuals and not all are Tasmanian or Australian residents. These individuals may have been attracted by our wide distribution of the *Papers & Proceedings*, the improved website and the use of social media platforms.

Membership fees in 2016 increased to keep up with inflation. This, together with the membership numbers, will contribute to annual revenue as per budget.

Because funds are invested in various 24-month Term Deposits, 2016 results do not include these interest payments which will fall due in 2017.

An anonymous donation of \$5000 was received.

Grants were received from Treasury, State Growth and UTAS. These funds are applied to the production of the *Papers & Proceedings*, the preservation and archiving of rare books and maps, as well as for the preparations for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, for example, exhibitions, movie and book production, anniversary trails and the staging of the Winter Series of lectures.

The expenses for the fiscal year are in line with the budget, except for additional outlays incurred for the reprinting of *Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* and for worker's compensation insurance. We also made a grant to the University of Tasmania Library for care of our map collection and had the external stacks of library volumes assessed for transfer to the Special & Rare collection and those particular volumes valued for insurance purposes.

The major expense items were:

- Cost of publications - two sets of *Paper & Proceedings* and calendar:
  - printing
  - editing
  - setting

- copy editing
- postage
- calendar
- Card production as per budget - investment
- Grants and awards as per budget
  - Dan Gregory – Doctoral Award
  - UTAS Science Investigation Award
  - Patrick Gee - Journalist Award
- Winter Series and programs expenses for interstate lecturers
- Marketing increased outlays
- Postage as per budget
- All others not budgeted
  - Reprint of *Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* \$4,760
  - UTAS TRST Map Project \$4,900
  - Book revaluation \$1,100

This resulted in a shortfall of \$10,366 for 2016, but provides a favourable basis for good future results and an excellent 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

The fully paid-up membership of the Society now stands as follows:

<b>Current Membership</b>					
	Ordinary members	Life members	Honorary members	Total 2016	Total 2015
Total members	385	19	4	408	396
North	77	2	0	79	79
South	270	10	3	283	278
Australia	30	6	0	36	32
Overseas	8	1	1	10	7

Funds surplus to day-to-day requirements have been invested in term deposits and transferred to the Society's Foundation in accordance with the budget. The Foundation holds over \$376,000 in diversified, well-invested funds. A substantial donation of \$65,550 was received from ANZAAS in 2015. RST ordinary funds are secured by the Federal Government's Financial Claims Scheme and are protected up to \$250,000 per institution.

As per legislation, the Society has now been 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 2017 is being prepared for approval by the Council. This budget document will help to provide good operating guidelines and cash flow requirements for the coming year. Based on positive feedback received, the budget also includes yet another very interesting set of Winter Series lectures and other new programs.

**Peter Meyer**

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA**  
**ABN 65 889 598 100**

**Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 31 December 2016**

	Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15	Jan - Dec 14
<b>Income</b>			
Calendar Sales	8,780	10,233	10,412
Cards	461	2,280	443
Christmas Function	3,080	2,695	2,680
Copyright	1,014	293	394
Gifts and Donations	6,230	2,469	5,643
Grants	10,700	11,600	7,000
Coffee table Books - Income	2,225	13,840	43,173
Membership Dues			
Associate - No Papers	610	765	545
Full - No Papers	5,675	8,331	8,355
Full - With Papers	8,220	11,305	8,463
Student - No Papers	140	152	140
Student - With Papers	90	0	0
Total Membership Dues	14,735	20,553	17,503
Publications	4,405	3,602	4,710
Interest Earned	0	1,388	1,708
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>51,630</b>	<b>68,953</b>	<b>93,665</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Administration	7,429	7,488	6,492
Bank Service Charges	875	814	1,172
Books and Publications	15,441	4,883	8,582
Calendar Expenses	5,996	5,560	5,124
Christmas Dinner	3,059	2,747	2,414
Communications/Internet	1,500	999	900
Grants and Awards	2,950	2,500	3,800
Insurance	1,457	784	820
Coffee table book - Expenses	0	0	32,851
Darwin Book - Expenses	4,760	0	0
Meeting Expenses	2,476	1,866	2,283
Miscellaneous	6,000	0	266
Office Supplies	1,570	284	1,269
Parking Expenses	446	568	359
Postage and Delivery	2,983	2,691	3,004
Printing and Reproduction	0	108	550
Professional Fees - Audit	150	140	120
Program Expenses	1,316	2,516	0
Card Expenses	0	6,548	0
Marketing/Advertising	1,589	2,075	748
Write-off Assets	0	0	0
Transfers - to Northern Chapter	2,000	0	2,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>61,997</b>	<b>42,571</b>	<b>72,753</b>
<b>Surplus/Shortfall</b>	<b>-10,366</b>	<b>26,382</b>	<b>20,912</b>



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ABN 65 889 598 100

## Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2016

	Dec 31, 2016	Dec 31, 2015	Dec 31, 2014
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
As at 1 January 2014/2015/2016	124,370	97,988	77,086
Surplus/Shortfall	-10,366	26,382	20,912
<b>As at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>114,004</b>	<b>124,370</b>	<b>97,998</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
CBA Current Account	29,917	40,215	50,224
MyStateTerm Deposit 30024810	30,000	30,000	11,317
MyStateTerm Deposit 30020969	30,000	30,000	31,837
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>89,917</b>	<b>100,215</b>	<b>93,378</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Publications, Books, Calendars, Cards & Receivables	24,087	24,155	4,619
Medals & Office Furniture etc.	0	0	0
Library at insured value	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>24,087</b>	<b>24,155</b>	<b>4,619</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,004</b>	<b>124,370</b>	<b>97,998</b>

## **AUDITOR**

### 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 Statement 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 \$250,000. This valuation was performed in 2013 and 2016.
5. Publications, books, cards and office equipment used and stored at the Society's and TMAG's offices are estimated at \$24,087.
6. Other assets, such as office furniture and medals are fully written-down.
7. The Society is now a registered entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will retain the Deductible Gift Recipient status.

## AUDIT REPORT

I report that I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers for The Royal Society of Tasmania for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. 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, subscriptions, symposia, calendars, cards, publications and other fund-raising 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 2016.

Signed:



Richard H. James

**B Bus FIPA**

Commissioner for Declarations and Auditor

10 January 2017