

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ABN 65 889 598 100

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017



THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE



CONTENTS

Office-Bearers	1, 2
President	3
TMAG Trustees – Chairman	4
Editor	5
Librarian	6, 7
2017 Lectures – South	8
2017 Winter Series – South	8
Honorary Secretary	9
Publicity Officer	10, 11
Special Projects	12, 13, 14, 15
RST Foundation	16, 17
Honours	17
Northern Chapter	18, 19, 20, 21
Honorary Treasurer	22, 23
Financial Statements	24, 25
Auditor	26, 27
Acknowledgement of support	28

The Royal Society of Tasmania

ABN 65 889 598 100

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

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Prof Matt King
Vice President	Assoc/Prof Erik Wapstra
Immediate Past President	Prof Ross Large
Honorary Secretary	Dr John Thorne AM
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Peter Meyer
The Foundation of the RST	Prof Jim Reid (Chair) Dr John Thorne AM Mr Peter Meyer Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Mrs Mary Koolhof
Council Members	Mr David Wilson (2020) Dr Anita Hansen (2019) Mr Warren Boyles (2018) Mr John Hayton (2018) Dr Robert Johnson (2021) Mrs Mary Koolhof (2020) Dr Taryn Noble (2021)
Early Career Researcher	Dr Fei Fei Wang (2021)
Student Council Member	Dr Fei Fei Wang (2021)
TMAG Representative	Ms Janet Carding
Honorary Editor	Dr Margaret Davies OAM
Honorary Librarian	Ms Juliet Beale
Publicity Officer	Mrs Mary Koolhof
Honours and Bursary Committee (Chair)	Dr John Thorne AM
Honorary Auditor	Mr Richard James
Office Manager	Ms Jane Moran
Nominated by The Royal Society of Tasmania as Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)	Prof Jim Reid Prof Ross Large

OFFICE BEARERS

NORTHERN BRANCH

Management Committee President	Mr David Morris
Immediate Past Committee President	Dr Frank Madill AM
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Brian East
Northern Branch Representative on The Foundation	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Council Members	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Mr Andrew Parsons Dr George Merridew Mr Jonathan Morris Dr Damien Guihen Mr Robin Walpole Mr Neil MacKinnon Mr Richard Mulvaney QVMAG Director, <i>ex officio</i>
Northern Branch Representatives on Council	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Ms Chel Bardell <i>until October 2017</i>
Northern Branch Merchandise Sales 175th Anniversary Committee Representative	Ms Chel Bardell Ms Chel Bardell

PRESIDENT

It is a great delight to present my second and final report as President of the Society. As I write, preparations for the 175th anniversary are well underway, including the launch of two books and a major exhibition in partnership with Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG). Formally the Society's anniversary occurs in October, although celebrations will run right through 2018 and into 2019. The 175th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to promote the Society to the wider community and invite them to join with us in the establishing the future of the Society for the years to come.

Aside from the 175th, there has been work to consolidate major projects commenced in 2016 and earlier. In particular, new legislation was passed regarding the TMAG. The Society's interests were represented in a Legislative Council committee and amendments to the Bill were passed as a result to ensure the new legislation better reflects the Society's current rights in legislation. On request of the Minister for Arts we have nominated esteemed colleagues to the new Board of TMAG and the new Board's membership will be announced at the appropriate time. 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 continues, although slowly, on preparing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Tasmania.

Following the changes to the bylaws at last year's AGM we welcomed both a student member and an early career researcher member to the Council. We have re-established the Events Committee in order to share the load of planning and running events, and hope that this will allow better timetabling of events, especially lectures, in 2018. I particularly thank Mary Koolhof for her efforts in enthusiastically and effectively promoting events over the past years.

During 2017 the Society held monthly lectures in both the North and South, with some outstanding presentations. I had an enjoyable visit to the Northern Branch during 2017. Our Winter Series was entitled "The Future of the World's Oceans" and about 600 people explored the threat to coral reefs, our understanding of sea-level and ocean change and the potential (or otherwise) for humans to engineer a solution to climate change. The different evenings were ably chaired by the Chief Justice, The Hon Justice Alan Blow OAM, Professor Ian Allison AO and Prof Jan McDonald. We again live-streamed the lectures to the internet, reaching an audience right across Tasmania and further afield in real-time or indeed afterwards.

I would especially like to congratulate recipients of our major awards for this year: Professor Ross Large, winner of The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal and Professor Michael Breadmore, winner of the M.R. Banks Medal, and Dr Lavenia Ratnarajah, the winner of the Doctoral Award.

Finally, 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. Peter Meyer has carefully managed the finances of the Society and membership continues to steadily grow toward 500 members. Dr John Thorne is regrettably stepping down from the role of Secretary – he has been essential to the smooth running of the Society over the recent years! A/Prof Erik Wapstra steps down as Vice President, while Professor Large finishes his term as Past President – we expect those valued members to continue working with the Society. A new President, Vice President and Secretary together with several Council members will be elected at the AGM.

I commend the Annual Report to you and look forward to an exciting 175th.

Professor Matt A. King

TMAG TRUSTEES - CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Trustees, I am delighted to report to The Royal Society of Tasmania that the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) has had another very successful year in 2016–17. Award-winning exhibitions, dynamic programming, new partnerships, important acquisitions and research and achieving a balanced budget for the second year running have all contributed to this success.

It is little surprise that attendance numbers climbed to over 400 000 for the first time in several years when we were able to present such a splendid array of exhibitions and programs. Total visits across all TMAG sites were 415 172 for the year. Our visitor numbers exceeded expectations and are a validation of the strong strategic direction that has been established to make TMAG a ‘must-see’ destination that is activated year-round with a vibrant program of exhibitions, activities and events.

TMAG's art collection was recently strengthened with the important gifting of a large number of modern Australian works by Mr Richard and Mrs Anna Green. These works expand and augment the collection in a way that would not be possible without such generous support.

A review of the Financial Statements for 2016–17 reveal that TMAG has made significant progress towards sustainability by developing a sound financial base. Another year of tight financial control has delivered a small budget surplus. Operationally we settled into the pattern of seasonal opening hours, enabling us to open seven days a week through the peak summer period and we also increased the contribution from both the Museum Shop and venue hire revenue.

This year, we repaired the roof and replaced the lift in the 1966 Building as we continue to manage assets on an emergency response basis. We have now developed a well-considered, risk based, asset management plan and we will be proposing a capital plan for the important heritage buildings that is based on this planned approach.

During the year, a contemporary new legislative framework was developed to modernise the governance of TMAG. The new TMAG Bill was tabled in Parliament in May 2017. Once this Bill is passed, we expect TMAG to become a statutory authority in the next year and we foresee this streamlining and modernising management practices.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr Vanessa Goodwin for her wholehearted commitment and support of TMAG throughout her term as Minister for the Arts. The new legislation is but one of the outcomes of that commitment and upon introduction it will be testament to her desire to set TMAG up for success.

We would not have been able to achieve such progress and success over the past year without the generous support of our corporate sponsors, the Foundation of TMAG, the Friends of TMAG and, of course, the Tasmanian Government who have provided additional investment over three years to enable TMAG to start implementing its Strategic Plan. May I also thank the Trustees for their diligent attention to the many important issues we have addressed during the past year and in particular may I single out Penny Clive who completed her term as a Trustee on June 30 2017 but who remains part of the fabric of TMAG in so many ways. Finally, on behalf of the Trustees we would like to thank and acknowledge Director Janet Carding and her dedicated team of staff and volunteers on all the achievements over the past year.

Geoff L. Willis AM

EDITOR

Volume 151 of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* was published on 6 December 2017 and comprised five papers covering disturbance ecology of Tasmanian highland grassland, non-seasonal plant foods of the palawa, the freshwater fauna of the South Polar region, an irreplaceability map of Tasmanian priority species and a paper on the steeples and chimneys of the architect Alexander North.

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

The website for the journal was upgraded and changes in editorial structure are currently in train.

The 2-year embargo on the uploading of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* to the University of Tasmania eprints website was changed to a 1-year embargo and the Society registered for DOI numbers.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Calendar for 2018 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.

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 continued on the volumes *Poles Apart: fascination, fame and folly* (edited by Anita and Brita Hansen) scheduled for publication in October 2018 and *Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond* (edited by Lynn Davies, Margaret Davies and Warren Boyles) scheduled for publication in March/April 2018. These two publications based on the collections of The Royal Society of Tasmania are part of the 175th Anniversary celebrations of the Society in 2018.

Images and text for the calendar for 2019 have been completed for design early in 2018. Matthew Baker at the Tasmanian Herbarium is gratefully acknowledged for this contribution.

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. The Special & Rare Collections are open Monday to Wednesday inclusive from 9:30am to 4pm, closed for lunch between 12:30 and 1:30.

The longstanding MOU between the University Library and TRST was up for its three-year revision at the end of 2016. Through 2017 a Deed of Agreement was drafted by UTAS Legal, with advice from UTAS Finance, and continued discussion between TRST President, Council Members and UTAS Library management. There is no agreement currently in place.

Collections: Management

Special and Rare Library staff continue to manage the collection, addressing the recommendations from the Preservation Needs Assessment 2016.

RST material was respaced and re-shelved to protect material and staff handling.

Disaster management plan for Library Collections has been updated. Disaster Management Team for Library Collections established including regular meetings with university wide services, concerning fumigation, building inspections.

Quarantine area has been established for new material coming into the collection.

Manual handling training for staff, is provided in situ.

Staff continue to gain skills and knowledge through a program of staff development:

- Arts Tasmania Roving Curator Grant – secured 10 days of training and workshops from skilled conservators in conservation and preservation
- Museum Standards Program – working closely with Arts Tasmania to develop procedures & policy to best practice standard
- Membership of Australian Archivists Society and Museums Australia
- Attended Australian Society of Archivists Conference (2017) which included a visit to the very new Geelong Heritage Centre
- Attended workshops: Access to Digital Collections workshop GLAM Peak
- Cultural Conservation Workshop hosted by the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation
- Participation in developing the GLAM peak framework and inclusion in the national case studies
- Consultant visiting archivists provided hands on session in organising and describing archival material

Collections: Usage

	2017	2016
Royal Society Members visits	34	46
Royal Society Rare books viewed	272	813
Royal Society Deposits viewed	735	352
Papers & Proceedings downloads (2016 anomalous)	74,209	158,430
Visitors (including tour groups)	379	411
Research enquiries, in person, via phone and email	328	412
Physical items viewed from all collections, includes rare books and deposit boxes	1612	1795

Papers and Proceedings most downloaded articles for 2017:

Article title	Downloads
The food of the Tasmanian Aborigines	691
Notes on some Tasmanian Aborigines and on portraits of them	572
Origin and evolution of the subantarctic islands: the foundation	557
The orocline concept in geotectonics- Part I	551
Tasmanian Aborigines and DNA	428

Items from the collection have been used in exhibitions and tours, including the TMAG exhibition The Remarkable Tasmanian Devil. Items from the collections were displayed for tours provided for various groups including visiting academics, Bibliographical Society of ANZ, and the GLAM (Galleries, libraries and museums) peak body.

Collections: Discoverability

Together with President and Editor, library staff made recommendations about how to improve the citedness of the Papers and Proceedings. As a result of this, Library staff are working on minting DOIs for the P&P, and progressing indexing in the major science databases, Scopus and Web of Science.

SPARC the Online Archival Management System was soft launched in 2017.

<https://sparc.utas.edu.au> The Library team hopes to demonstrate this to Council in 2018, to start discussion about how TRST material could be included in this system.

Plomley Foundation Research Grants: Special & Rare staff successfully applied for and acquitted for this Plomley grant to ensure the preservation of the precious Mitchell sketchbook. The Mitchell Sketchbook has been completely digitised and transcribed and an e-book created. These files will remain unpublished and restricted until change of copyright laws at end of 2018.

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

Copyright negotiations continue re the Leo Luckman title *Some notes on the excavation of aboriginal carvings at Mt. Cameron West, Tasmania* with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation and the lawyers representing the copyright beneficiaries.

Juliet Beale

Senior Librarian, Collections

Library | Division Students & Education

University of Tasmania

2017 LECTURES – SOUTH

7th March – Kathryn Medlock, TMAG – The history of the Thylacine in Tasmania and the Royal Society – 128 attendees

4th April – Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stuart, University of Tasmania – Height, Health and History – 37 attendees

2nd May – R.M. Johnston Memorial Lecture, David Green – ‘Tectonic plates’ and ‘seismic shifts’ have crept into common language – what are they and why do they occur? – 64 attendees

6th June – Professor Barry Brook, ARC Laureate Fellow, University of Tasmania – The Future of Humanity – 122 attendees

4th July – Dr Meredith Nash – What is it like to be a woman in STEM? Gender bias, sexual harassment, and the myth of meritocracy – 52 attendees

1st August – Dr Henry Reynolds – From Tasmanian patriotism to Australian nationalism: A little known story in three acts – 35 attendees

5th September – Dr Tas van Ommen – Ice cores and climate: looking back over a million years of earth history – 36 attendees

3rd October – Prof Maggie Walters – Looking Back to Move Forward: The Royal Society and Tasmanian Aborigines – 45 attendees

11th October – Mr Marc-André Bernier – Ghost Ships of the Arctic: The Exploration of Sir John Franklin’s HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* – 300 attendees, a collaboration with TMAG, High Commission of Canada in Australia and UTas

7th November – Assoc/Prof Tracey Dickson – Cortical Inhibitory Dysfunction in Motor Neuron Disease: How can we get the balance back – 19 attendees

14th November – Saul Eslake – @Government House – Australia’s ongoing quest for ever-greater ‘security’ – is it rational and has it made us safer? – 150 attendees, kindly hosted by our patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

5th December – Dr John Simons – Queen Victoria’s Hippopotamus – 83 attendees

2017 WINTER SERIES

SESSION 1 Wed July 5, 7.30pm

Chair: Prof Ian Allison AO AAM FAA

1. Future Seas: climate change and the world’s marine ecosystems – A/Prof Gretta Pecl, UTas

2. Blue revolution: innovative food production for a sustainable future – Prof Stewart Frusher, UTas

SESSION 2 Wed July 19, 7.30 pm

Chair: The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Justice Alan Blow OAM

1. Past oceans: an insight to future changes – Dr Taryn Noble, UTas

2. The future of sea level: how fast, how much? – Prof Matt King, UTas

SESSION 3 Wed Aug 2, 7.30 pm

Chair: Prof Jan McDonald

1. Coral reefs in the Anthropocene: what does the future hold? – Distinguished Professor Terry Hughes, Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University

2. Geoengineering the planet: can we, should we try to offset global climate change? – Prof Philip Boyd, UTas

HONORARY SECRETARY

This last year has demonstrated how a strong team of volunteers can deliver professional quality programs for members and also for the general community. Other reports will detail the excellent notice given to members through our Newsletters and the media. The diversity of topics presented by local and visiting lecturers has been outstanding including an evening at Government House, courtesy of our Patron, Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC.

The program, as delivered in 2017, occurred with the support of Council members who had a clear oversight of the activities and, when available, worked hard to ensure consistency and an increasing professionalism in the service of our members and the community.

During 2017 the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) ushered through Parliament a new Act that reflects an updated management structure for that organisation. Embedded in this 2017 Act is the Deed between The Royal Society of Tasmania and TMAG which clearly gives your Society continuing occupation of our current rooms and facilities as well as an understanding of the management of the Society's extensive art collection.

I am pleased to report that a set of key documents (Governance Papers) has been collated with the tenacious help of a member (Bernard Pryor) and these documents have been placed together on the web for all members to view or even download. They include:

- The Royal Society of Tasmania Act of 1911;
- The Annual Report;
- Two significant historical papers about the Society (Somerville & Winter);
- A list of Office Bearers since 1843;
- The current Rules of the Society;
- The Deed between TMAG and the Society of 2008;
- The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Act of 2017; and
- A list of recipients of the Society's Medals and Honours.

It is not my intention to continue as Honorary Secretary of the Society – this has been my second appointment in this position. May I congratulate the leadership of the Society and especially note the conscientious and continuous work given to members by Mary Koolhof, Peter Meyer and Jane Moran. I do appreciate the honour given to me by the Society to be on the Executive and the opportunity to serve.

Dr John G. Thorne AM

PUBLICITY OFFICER

This has been a very busy year on the publicity front. Advertising our monthly lectures has been the priority with flyers circulated widely in the community, articles in the *Mercury* newspaper and interviews on ABC Radio 936 arranged for speakers. Special events such as the Eslake lecture at Government House and the Bernier lecture at UTAS in November were also advertised to the wider community. Warm thanks go to interviewer Ryk Goddard and producer Jo Spargo from ABC Radio 936, and to Damian Bester, Education Manager at the *Mercury*, for their continuing support of the Society. Particular appreciation goes to the Events Team at UTAS including Belinda Brock, Jeanette Farnell and Pat McConville. Our community partners are thanked for their help in publicising the Society's events, including TMAG staff; Zoe Kean at *whysci*; David Reilly at ACE CRC; Andrew Rhodes at IMAS; Dr Peter Jarvis, von Humboldt Fellows; Damien Blackwell, RACI and Shae Huddleston, National Science Week. Lectures and events were also advertised to relevant interest groups.

Increasing use has been made of social media in 2017. The Society's Facebook page was launched in February, initially run by Jeannie-Marie Leroi and later by Chel Bardell from the Northern Chapter. During the year 103 posts were published, the most popular post heralding the release of the 2018 RST calendar on 22 June, with 650 views, followed by the post offering the UTAS livestreaming of the Winter Series on 3 August, with 547 views. The page now has 117 followers. It is interesting to note that, of the Facebook page viewers, 54% are female and 46% male, with numbers fairly even between the age brackets covering 25 to 65. While the majority of readers were from Australia, posts also reached USA, UK, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand. Of our Australian readers, most were from Hobart, followed by Melbourne, then Launceston. The Twitter account run by President Matt King now has 219 followers, and impressions (views) in recent months have been between 200 and 1200 per post. Members and friends are encouraged to support the Society on social media as it is a great way to spread news and let people know about our events: www.facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas and Twitter, [@RoyalSocTas](https://twitter.com/RoyalSocTas).

A full-colour education page was published in the *Mercury* on 31 May, on Tasmanian author and naturalist Louisa Anne Meredith. The page, written by myself and Dr Anita Hansen, featured beautiful illustrations from works held in the Society's collection housed in the Morris Miller Library at UTAS. This page was very well received and was distributed at the Society's event held in Hadley's Art Gallery in September. It has joined the suite of pages available for download from the RST website under the Education tab. President Matt King was interviewed for an article in the *Tasweekend* supplement of the *Mercury* newspaper (9 July) regarding the Society's Winter Series. Livestreaming of the Winter Series through the University of Tasmania enabled the lectures to reach a much wider audience.

Special awards won by the Society's members have been acknowledged on social media and on our website, notably the AAS Mawson Medal and Lecture awarded to Prof. Matt King and the NSW Premier's Award for Science and Engineering won by Prof. Trevor McDougall. Our monthly newsletter has been an important means of communicating with members, and sincere thanks go to our office manager Jane Moran for her work on this. 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 Society has been out and about in the community with stands providing information on membership and RST merchandise at the CONASTA national science teachers' conference at Wrest Point and the Vaucluse Gardens Christmas fair, and our banner on display at events such as the UTAS Science Investigation Awards prize-giving. This all helps to increase the profile of the Society in the community.

Many thanks go to the members who have helped to publicise our events, sharing newsletters, flyers and social media posts, and inviting people along to our events. It all helps to keep our Society vibrant and growing.

Mary Koolhof

175 REPORT COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

This is the first report of the Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) 175 Committee, which was formed after a Planning Meeting of the RST Council on 18 July 2015, where it was decided that events should be held to commemorate the anniversary of 14 October 2018. At the Council meeting in September 2015, I was asked to convene the committee.

All RST members were invited to join the committee (and other Committees that were formed at the time; Publications, Marketing, Events, and Membership). Professor Ross Large (President), Chel Bardell (Northern Chapter) and Dr Brita Hansen (RST member) agreed to join the Committee.

The Committee meets monthly and reports monthly at the RST Council meetings.

In February 2016, the first Project Plan was submitted with a list of possible events/projects to commemorate the anniversary. These included:

- exhibition – an exhibition based on a book, to be held at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)
- travelling Exhibition – the exhibition would travel to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery
- book – based on The Royal Society of Tasmania's Rare Books Collection, held at the Morris Miller Library, University of Tasmania
- exhibition – an exhibition based on the book at the Morris Miller Library, University of Tasmania, where The Royal Society of Tasmania's library is held
- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens – the Society's long history with the Botanical Gardens could form part of the celebrations
- an event at Government House – the Governor being the Patron of the Society
- an evening for members of the Society
- street banners – Hobart and Launceston
- an event during Science Week
- Symposium.

During time some of these projects have evolved into different events, some have had to be abandoned and new projects have been added to the list.

Recently Mary Koolhof joined the 175 Committee in her role as the RST Publicity Officer, and in September 2017, the new Council members were asked if they would join the Committee. All accepted. The 175 Committee now comprises; Anita Hansen (Convenor), Ross Large, Brita Hansen, Chel Bardell (Northern Chapter rep) Mary Koolhof, Robert Johnson, David Wilson, Fei Fei Wang and Taryn Noble.

Meetings have been held with Mary Koolhof to discuss publicity associated with the events, and Robert Johnson and David Wilson to discuss the various projects. Due to overseas and conference commitments, meetings with Fei Fei Wang and Taryn Noble have yet to be arranged.

THE PROJECTS

A logo for the 175 anniversary has been developed.



"This project was assisted through Arts Tasmania by the Minister for the Arts".

Exhibition

Ross Large, Brita Hansen and I also started developing a sponsorship prospectus for the proposed exhibition.

A series of meetings with TMAG (and QVMAG) was held to discuss an exhibition based on the book.

After several months, the theme of the exhibition changed to the present exhibition (the first public announcement of the theme will be in June/July 2018, so I will refer to it as the exhibition during this report).

The exhibition will run from early December 2018 till mid May 2019.

This will be a major exhibition, both for the Society and TMAG, with a budget of approximately \$450 000. As such, although sponsorship, RST and TMAG funding have ensured the project will go ahead, it will be a ticketed event.

A Steering Group was established in September 2017, comprising representatives from TMAG and the RST (Ross Large and Anita Hansen) with monthly meetings.

A Marketing Group was also established around that time, again comprising members from TMAG, RST (RL, MK, AH) and the major sponsor.

It is now not possible for the exhibition to travel to QVMAG.

Books

Dr Brita Hansen and I commenced research for a book, provisionally titled *Exploration, Settlement and the Land*. This book will be based on the RST Rare Books collection and other ephemeral material held at the Morris Miller Library, University of Tasmania.

After looking through the material available, it was decided to narrow the theme to the Arctic and Antarctic – with a working title of *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*. It was agreed to produce a 'dip-in, dip-out' style book with each page being a short standalone article of approximately 400 words.

Two meetings were held with Pat Quilty and Annie Rushton, to discuss possible authors. Twenty-one authors were approached, with twenty agreeing to submit work.

Brita Hansen developed a spreadsheet with all images at the RST Rare Books Collection related to the poles (over 1400 images).

Brita Hansen and I met with all the authors (apart from one at Cambridge University) to discuss the project and to give them a selection of images related to their area of expertise to work from. We met with the authors again after work had commenced.

All authors have now submitted their text and work has commenced on editing of the text and the selection of final images to be used. The selected images will then be photographed to a higher standard for publication.

The book is planned to be similar to *The Library at the End of the World*, 256 pages with text and colour photographs. The book will be launched around the date of the 175 anniversary, 14 October 2018.

Map book

Some members of the Publications Committee (Margaret Davies, Warren Boyles and Lynn Davies) have worked on a book, based on the RST map collection, to be published in early 2018, which can be considered a 175 Anniversary project.

The Publications Committee will be reporting on this.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Brita Hansen and I have met with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) about possible events. They are celebrating their 200th Anniversary in 2018, and have some concerns regarding conflicts with their celebrations.

I have also discussed possible projects with Damian Bugg AM Chairman of the RTBG Board. Proposed projects to be discussed are: event related to the exhibition (this has also been discussed with TMAG), and a plaque to commemorate the RST involvement in the early history of the RTBG. Work on possible grants for these projects is underway.

Exhibition – an exhibition at the Morris Miller Library

An exhibition at the foyer of the Morris Miller Library to feature the *Poles Apart* book has been arranged for November 2018.

An event at Government House

An evening at Government House – a lecture on the history of the RST.

An evening for members of the Society

Planning is underway for members of the Northern Chapter to visit Hobart to visit the exhibition, and to see the art exhibition at Hadley's Hotel with digital copies of RST art (held at TMAG).

Science Week

Talks have begun with TMAG to link in with their Beaker Street Science Week Event. A hypothetical discussion is planned. Work on possible grants for these projects is underway.

Symposium

Planning for a symposium linked to the exhibition is underway. Work on possible grants for these projects is underway.

Northern Chapter

Proposed play based on Sir Joseph Banks. Well-known playwright Stella Kent has a new play based on Joseph Banks and is in negotiations with the Northern Chapter and the Drama Department of Scotch Oakburn College to use senior students as technical support to perform a reading of the play.

Additional

Janet Carding (Director TMAG) and I met to discuss the possibility of putting a plaque on the old TMAG building (corner Argyle and Macquarie Streets) as part of the 175 Anniversary, and a plinth, similar to the one already at the Customs House entrance near the entrance to the RST office.

Quotes for the proposed plaque and a possible similar one at the Royal Botanical Gardens have been obtained.

During the past year a number of projects have been considered, but have been abandoned when possible funding or grants fell through. Two examples are the Trails Project and Antarctic Festival Exhibition. Trails Project: A number of meetings were held with Tasmania Community Funds, who were initially interested in the project. Although costings were established and research was carried out, it was eventually decided the project did not suit their funding criteria. Antarctic Festival Exhibition: During a meeting with TMAG, it was suggested we could launch the *Poles Apart* book with an exhibition during the Antarctic Festival. I had a couple of meetings with the Director of the festival and was preparing a project plan when the dates for the 2018 festival were released. The festival dates had changed and would now conflict with another exhibition at TMAG (in the Bond Store Basement Gallery) that would not leave enough turnaround time to dismantle one exhibition and install another.

Reconciliation

The RST President, Matt King is working with members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to formulate a formal apology by the RST for the past treatment of the community and this may occur in 2018 as part of the 175 Anniversary.

A **new project** in development is a creative collaboration between scientists and artists, which could form part of the 10 Days on the Island festival held in March 2019. The play reading mentioned above could be part of this project.

Brita Hansen, Robert Johnson have met to discuss other possible collaborations. He has been involved in a similar collaboration in the past as part of the Lynchpin Arts-Ocean Science Collaboration (IMAS), which resulted in a symphony being composed and recorded by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

I have met with possible artists who would be interested in such a collaboration and who have worked on previous art/science projects.

We are also working on an alternative venue for a possible *Poles Apart* exhibition.

Dr Anita Hansen

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation has continued to monitor the Foundation investments. The committee expressed appreciation to Prof Pat Quilty AM for his recent diligence in Chairing and Dr Albert Goede for serving on the committee.

It should be noted that all tax deductible donations from general operations account were transferred as part of the 10 000 dollars into the Foundation.

During the year the committee decided to move 100 000 dollars to a banking institution that incorporates the Federal Government guarantee.

The current accumulated funds are 408 435.38 dollars (financial report follows below).

Prof Jim Reid
Chairman

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION FUNDS

Current Credit Balances				
The Royal Society of Tasmania Funds as at December 31st, 2017				
CBA current Balance	37,133.03			
My State Bank Term Deposit 1	32,011.52	maturing April 2nd, 2018	2.75%pa	
My State Bank Term Deposit 2	31,865.10	maturing June 29th, 2019	2.80% pa	
Total RST Transaction	101,009.65			
Foundation	408,435.38			
Total RST	509,445.03			

The Royal Society of Tasmania Foundation Funds - Current Position					
	Institution	Current \$	Term	Current Performance	2017 Interest Earned
Fund 1 - Select Mortgage Fund	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	2.99%	
Previous Holding		144,496.57			
Interest earned Q1		971.65			971.65
Interest earned Q2		1,080.96			2,052.61
Interest earned Q3		999.17			3,051.78
Interest earned Q4		1,023.30			4,075.08
Current Holding		88,571.65			
Fund 2 - Long Term Fund	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	2.77%	
Current Holding		25,137.22			
Interest earned Q1		136.18			136.18
Interest earned Q2		173.76			309.94
Interest earned Q3		173.15			483.09
Interest earned Q4		175.35			658.44
Current Holding		25,795.66			
Fund 3 - Fixed Term Fund - ANZAAS	Perpetual Trustees		ongoing	2.78%	
Previous Holding		66,860.77			
Interest earned Q1		472.02			472.02
Interest earned Q2		466.06			938.08
Interest earned Q3		470.91			1,408.99
Interest earned Q4		474.11			1,883.10
Current Holding		28,743.87			
Fund 3 - Term Deposits	My State Bank	37,278.12	10/04/2018	2.75%	
Fund 4 - Term Deposit	My State Bank	128,046.08	2/04/2018	2.75%	
Fund 5 - Term Deposit	CBA	40,000.00	17/06/2018	2.30%	
Fund 6 - Term Deposit	CBA	60,000.00	17/02/2019	2.40%	
Total		408,435.38			6,616.62

Note:				
	* Money diversified into separate Funds/Term Deposits			
	* All Term Deposits renewed and interest earned re-invested			
	* ANZAAS Fund supported the UTAS Science Investigation Award			
	* The \$250K Federal Government Deposit Guarantee only protects funds deposited in Banks			
	* \$10,000 transferred from transaction account to Foundation to cover 2017 deductible donations			
	* \$100,000 from Perpetual Trustee Funds have been transferred into CBA Term Deposits to take advantage of the Deposit Guarantee			

HONOURS

Over the years, The Royal Society of Tasmania has developed a set of honours, medals and awards that range from recognising the emerging scholar to scholars of some distinction. Each must have studied and worked in Tasmania or contributed significantly to knowledge about Tasmania.

The awards have developed over the years as time has changed. For instance, the R.M. Johnston Memorial Medal was first introduced in 1920 while the latest, the Peter Smith Medal was initiated in 2017 and will be first awarded in 2018.

There is a planned sequence of recognition ranging from, for example, every five years for the R.M. Johnston Memorial Medal, every three years for the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and every year a consideration for the Doctoral (PhD) Awards.

The Peter Smith Award and the M.R. Banks Award will be offered in alternate years. Members are encouraged to nominate worthy potential awardees. Advertisements are announced in the Society's Newsletter at specific times and the Honours Committee considers the nominations and makes recommendations to the Council of the Society strictly to a time-table.

The 2017 nominations accepted by the Council were:

- The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal – Distinguished Professor Emeritus Ross Large;
- M. R. Banks Medal – Professor Michael Breadmore and
- The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Doctoral Award – Dr Lavenia Ratnarajah.

We all congratulate these awardees and know that through recognition by the Society the 'advancement of knowledge' has been valued and enhanced.

Dr John G. Thorne AM FACEA
Convenor

NORTHERN CHAPTER

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met on five occasions during the year; on each occasion prior to a lecture. Committee members communicated frequently on other occasions as necessary, by email and telephone. After Ms Bardell stepped down from State Council in October, David Morris consulted with John Thorne who in turn spoke with TMAG re videoconferencing or teleconferencing of Council meetings and this may be possible in the future, to facilitate Northern attendance at Council meetings. Committee papers stored and made accessible through a cloud-sourced depository such as Dropbox was explored and this has begun as a trial.

Nominations for election to membership and as office-bearers of the Management Committee will be called for at the February 2018 meeting. The increasing vision and projects planned for the Northern Chapter during 2018, 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

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 has been efficiently maintained by both Ms Chel Bardell and Mr Andrew Parsons throughout the year. 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 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. The paid services of an external audio-visual technician from *SoundHouse* continued successfully throughout 2017. No recordings or documentation of the lectures are maintained.

NEWSLETTER

All Northern lectures and other activities were included in the monthly State newsletter for distribution to all members in 2017. The Committee hopes to welcome many more state-wide members to its monthly lectures and other events during 2018.

LECTURE PROGRAM 2017

The Committee extends its thanks to all 2017 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 local history book, as a token of thanks for their contribution.

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 2017 remained as for 2016, 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.

2017 LECTURES - NORTH

26th February Professor Dominic Geraghty — Cannabis Use and Medical Applications

26th March Dr George Merridew — The Geneva Conventions: Protection of Medical Personnel in War Time — 84 attendees

23rd April Dr Nicholas Chantler — Get it Right – Trousers First, Then Boots! – What is Military Intelligence? — 65 attendees

28th May Mr Nigel Burch — Ephemeral Lisle: The Town that Disappeared — 94 attendees

25th June Professor Matt King — Continental Loss: The Quest for Antarctica's Contribution to Sea Level Rise — 52 attendees

23rd July Ms Sarah Lloyd — The Hidden World of Slime Moulds — 64 attendees

27th August Science Week Lectures – Dr Mark Dewsbury — Sustainable Housing in Cold and Temperate Climates — and, Zac Corbett — reporting on his involvement in The 2017 London International Youth Science Forum — 77 attendees

24th September Dr Clare Hawkins — Extinction Matters: Could Citizen Science Help? — 47 attendees

22nd October Dr Anita Hansen — Celebrating 175 Years of the Royal Society of Tasmania — 45 attendees

26th November The Annual Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery Lecture — Mr Martin George — Planets, planets everywhere – the search for other solar systems — 58 attendees

The Committee and members owe special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine Beswick, for her hard work and dedication to a demanding job. Thanks are due to Ms Bardell for her great help and forbearance during the transition between Chapter Secretaries, and to Mr Walpole's wife, Julie, for her patient and enthusiastic 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.

David Morris
President

Christine Beswick
Honorary Secretary

**Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year Ended December 31, 2017
For Presentation at Northern Chapter's AGM, March 25, 2018**

		2017	2016
		\$	\$
<u>Receipts</u>			
Door receipts from non-member patrons		1868	1443.00 ⁽¹⁾
Interest from Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees		39.15	44.57
Operating grant from State Council		-	2000
Revenue share from sales of RST Merchandise		171.5	75.5
Total Receipts		2078.65	3563.07
<u>Payments</u>			
Audio-visual costs – Sound House Tasmania		2925.00 ⁽²⁾	975
Travel & accom RST State Council		1020.6	429
Laminating speakers' certificates		-	4.95
Postage		54	61
Printing, photocopying		185.3	120
Catering		171.71	129.06
QVMAG additional charges		-	58
Total Payments		4356.61	1777.01
Change in Cash Balance		-2277.96	1786.06
	Cash Balance TPT, January 1	3991.12	2205.06
	Change in Cash Balance	-2297.96	1786.06
	Cash Balance TPT, December 31	1713.16	3991.12
Notes			

1	Comparison : 2013, \$ 853; 2014, \$ 1148; 2015, \$ 1419		
2	Includes \$ 975 for 2016 costs that had not been billed by the end of 2016; only \$ 1950 is attributable to 2017.		

B. M. East
Honorary Treasurer (Northern Chapter)

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

HONORARY TREASURER

The annual results for the fiscal year 2017 were very encouraging, and revenue was considerably better than for the previous period. Expenses have been well contained and this helped contribute to a net income of approximately \$29 000.

The engaging and extended lecture program, which included the popular Annual Winter Series, was very well received, attracting new members and advancing the aims of the Society, as well as resulting in new possible corporate partnerships.

The sales of a reprint of *Charles Darwin in Hobart Town* together with the greeting cards, the beautiful 2018 calendar, the coffee table book and other society publications meant that sales of these items were a major factor in the improved net income result. Such merchandise keeps the society afloat.

For the financial period 2017, revenues were as expected and just short of budget. Revenue relied on the following items:

- Book sales
- Calendar & card sales
- Donations
- Grants
- Membership dues
- Publications

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

Membership fees in 2017 were unchanged. Membership revenue increased by \$6000 and was well beyond budget.

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

An anonymous donation of \$5000 was received.

Grants were received from Treasury, State Growth and UTAS. An Arts Tasmania grant was also received and has been positively utilised over the 2016 and 2017 period particularly in the planning and implementation of the 175th anniversary celebrations. 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, movie and book production, anniversary trails and the staging of the Winter Series of lectures.

The expenses for the fiscal year were below budget.

Three awards for exceptional student performance of \$1000 each have been issued.

The major expense items were:

- Cost of publications – Paper & Proceedings and the Calendar
 - Printing
 - Editing
 - Setting
 - Copy editing
 - Postage
 - Calendar
- Grants and awards as per budget

- Aliaa Shallan, Jane Younger – Doctoral Awards
- Zac Corbett – Student Award
- Winter Series and lecture programs
 - expenses for interstate and overseas lecturers as per budget
- Postage
 - as per budget
- All others
 - not budgeted
 - Christmas dinner – cost neutral as per budget
 - 175th year event – costs as per budget

The net income for 2017 amounted to \$29,000 which is a considerable improvement over the financial year 2016 and as budgeted.

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

Current Membership								
	Ordinary Members	Life members	Honorary Members	Total 2017	Total 2016	Total 2015	Total 2014	Total 2013
Total Members	415	18	5	438	408	396	387	390
North	86	1	0	87	79	79	85	93
South	293	10	4	307	283	278	264	260
Australia	30	6	0	36	36	32	33	32
Overseas	6	1	1	8	10	7	5	5

Associate memberships no longer exist as they are redundant. All previous associate members have been transferred to ordinary membership without the Papers & Proceedings. Funds surplus to day to day requirements have been invested in term deposits and transferred to the Society's Foundation as per the budget. The Foundation holds over \$408 000 in diversified, well-invested funds. RST ordinary funds are secured by the Federal Government's Financial Claims Scheme and are protected up to \$250,000 per account per institution. \$10 000 has been transferred from the operations account to the RST Foundation as per charter including \$6900 of deductible donations or bequests.

In accordance with 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 2018 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 feed-back received, the budget also includes yet another very interesting set of Winter Series lectures, our special 175th year event to be celebrated over 2018 and 2019 fiscal years 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 2017

	Jan - Dec 17	Jan - Dec 16	Jan - Dec 15
Income			
Calendar Sales	7,407	8,780	10,233
Cards	761	461	2,280
Christmas Function	3,143	3,080	2,695
Copyright	0	1,014	293
Gifts and Donations	6,935	6,230	2,469
Grants	10,000	10,700	11,600
Tabletop Books - Income	2,965	2,225	13,840
Membership Dues			
Associate - No Papers	0	610	765
Full – No Papers	10,140	5,675	8,331
Full – With Papers	10,475	8,220	11,305
Student - No Papers	360	140	152
Student – With Papers	225	90	0
Total Membership Dues	21,200	14,735	20,553
Miscellaneous Income	2,994	0	0
Publications	3,257	4,405	3,602
Interest Earned	0	0	1,388
Total Income	58,662	51,630	68,953
Expenses			
Administration	5,705	7,429	7,488
Bank Service Charges	992	875	814
Books and Publications	8,815	15,441	4,883
Calendar Expenses	5,562	5,996	5,560
Christmas Dinner	2,812	3,059	2,747
Communications	1,166	1,500	999
Grants and Awards	4,462	2,950	2,500
Insurance	1,373	1,457	784
Darwin Book Reprint – Expenses	0	4,760	0
Meeting Expenses	4,187	2,476	1,866
Miscellaneous	0	6,000	0
Office Supplies	772	1,570	284

Parking Expenses	565	446	568
Postage and Delivery	2,723	2,983	2,691
Printing and Reproduction	822	0	108
Professional Fees – Audit	160	150	140
Programme Expenses	2,552	1,316	2,516
Card Expenses	0	0	6,548
Marketing/Advertising	199	1,589	2,075
Transfers – to Northern Chapter	0	2,000	0
Total Expenses	42,867	61,997	42,571
Surplus/Shortfall	15,795	-10,367	26,382

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Dec 31, 2017	Dec 31, 2016	Dec 31, 2015
Accumulated Funds			
As at 1 January 2015/2016/2017	114,004	124,370	97,988
Surplus/Shortfall	15,795	-10,366	26,382
As at 31 December 2017	129,799	114,004	124,370
Current Assets			
CBA Current Account	37,133	40,215	50,224
My State Term Deposit 30020969 maturing April 2nd, 2018	32,012	30,000	11,317
My State Term Deposit 30024910 maturing June 30th, 2019	31,865	30,000	31,837
Sub-total	101,010	100,215	93,378
Other Assets			
Publications, Books, Calendars & Cards Medals & Office Furniture etc. written-off	28,789	24,155	4,619
Sub-total	28,789	24,155	4,619
Total	129,799	114,004	124,370

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 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 \$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 \$28,789.
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 2017 to 31 December 2017. 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 2017.

Signed:



Richard H. James

B Bus FIPA

Commissioner for Declarations and Auditor

17 January 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

In thanks and recognition of our partners and supporters: Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, University of Tasmania and our members.