



The Royal Society of Tasmania NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



WHAT A DINOSAUR PICNIC!



one visitor (pictured at right) just evaded being a tasty snack for T-Rex's picnic lunch.

Seemingly carnivorous, two life-size dinosaurs roamed through the crowds of around 6000 at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens looking for tasty morsels on 10 November at the Dinosaur Picnic. Traffic jammed the streets and parking was at a premium as thousands attended the exciting event hosted by the Gardens and The Royal Society of Tasmania celebrating The Royal Society of Tasmania's 175th Anniversary and the RTBG's 200th Anniversary.

According to official records, no humans were consumed by the dinosaurs although



Special guided tours by RTBG representatives showed visitors the plants from the dinosaur era, especially the beautiful Wollemi pines (see left), which constituted some of the dinosaurs' diet. The talks also included where you can find other dinosaur plants in the Gardens and other parts of Tasmania.



The helpful, very friendly Gardens guide David

Marrison (see right) offered advice about the dinosaur plant locations in the RTB Gardens. He also included some fascinating graphics to support his comments about different dinosaurs' diets and eating habits (see over top left).





Other guided walks and talks were conducted by representatives from the Gardens, the Royal Society and the Herbarium. RST President, Em. Dist. Prof Ross Large (see right) talked to children and families about how dinosaurs came to be feathered and



eventually evolved into birds. Prof Large also took picnickers on a dinosaur hunt through the Gardens. Another guided walk told of the earth's history in 'A Walk-Through Time' by University of Tasmania's Karin Orth.



There were many children's activities available, stalls to visit and even dinosaur showbags. The archaeological digs organised by the Society and Brittany Trubody from the History Museum and Events Coordinator of the Central Coast Council in the sandpits were especially popular as children learned how to use appropriate archaeological tools, discovered buried fossils (such as trilobites) and



understood how archaeologists work to uncover the past.

Congratulations to the organisers and all involved in this special and highly successful event!

Don't forget to renew your subscription to The Royal Society of Tasmania for 2019 (the membership year is a calendar year from 1 Jan - 30 Dec). [Click to renew](#)

**Dr Margaret Davies
Honorary Life Member**

At the October meeting of The Royal Society of Tasmania, Dr Margaret Davies OAM was elected as an Honorary Life Member in recognition of the distinguished service that she has rendered to the Society over many years. **Warmest congratulations, Margaret!**



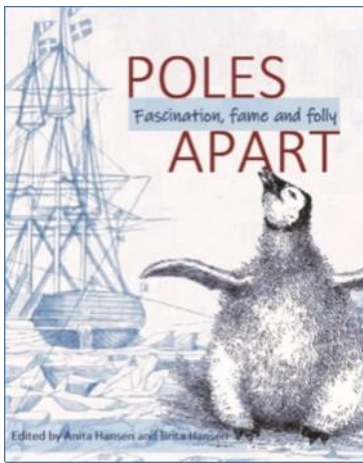
The President and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania warmly invite members and friends to attend the 2018 Christmas Function to be held on Tuesday 4 December, 6pm at the CSIRO Lecture Theatre, Castray Esplanade, Battery Point.



The annual address will this year be presented by Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of Tasmania and will be followed by a two-course buffet meal (\$42 per person). [For further information click here.](#)

Prof Black has worked extensively for government at Federal and State levels. He was a Board Member of Innovation Science Australia, conducted the Black Review into the Department of Defence and the Prime Minister's Independent Review of the Australian Intelligence Community and was the Strategic Advisor to the Secretary of Education in Victoria. Prof Black holds degrees in law, politics, economics, ethics and theology from the University of Melbourne and Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

Prior to his appointment at UTAS, Prof Black was Master of Melbourne University's Ormond College and an Enterprise Professor in the Department of Management and Marketing and a Principal Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Melbourne.



A second book has been published as part of the Society's 175th Anniversary celebrations is ***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*** edited by Dr Anita Hansen and Dr Brita Hansen and is based on the Society's Rare Books Collection.

This valuable text was launched by the Society's Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, at the TMAG on 6 November (- see photo below).

The last two frontiers on Earth, the Antarctic and the Arctic, are the stuff of heroes, heartache, courage, mystery, misery, endurance and loss. All these and more are captured in the pages of *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*. This wonderful book lays out, in a series of snapshots, mankind's incredible persistent battle in both taming and understanding our amazing icy wilderness.

Both hard and soft cover versions are now available after a delay in shipping from Melbourne and can be obtained from the Society's website rst.org.au and from bookshops.– the 1000 hardcover copies are numbered and signed by the editors. The hardcover version is \$75.00 and the soft cover version is \$50.00.

An exhibition for the *Poles Apart* book has been hung in the foyer of the Morris Miller Library at the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus. Pop in if you get the chance. The display features artefacts and specimens on loan from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Australian Antarctic Division, as well as some of the volumes featured in the book.

The *Poles Apart* book will have its Northern launch at the Society's November talk on Sunday 25 November at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. The editors will be there to talk about the book.

Ensure that a copy of this exciting book finds its way to your bookshelves or give copies as superb Christmas presents!

[Purchase now.](#)



Left (from left): Co-editor of *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly* Dr Anita Hansen, Mr Richard Warner, the Society's Patron Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania and the other co-editor, Dr Brita Hansen at the launch of the Society's valuable new book.

Right (from left): Also attending the launch (from left) were RST Student Committee Member Austen Hawkins, Shirley Thorne, RST Honours, Awards and Bursary Committee Chairman Dr John Thorne AM and RST VP Mary Koolhof. (Photo courtesy *The Mercury*)



Left (from left): Amongst the large audience, four other RST members enjoyed attending the launch and listening to the Governor's engaging and enlightening presentation about *Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly*. From left: Juliette Beale, Ben Maddison, Heidi Krajewsky and Stephen Anstee. (Photo courtesy *The Mercury*)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Call for volunteers

The Royal Society of Tasmania needs your help. We are seeking volunteers to help with the events planned for the 175th Anniversary.

How can you help?

- Help to set up and pull down events (all)
- Help pack and distribute books
- Sell publications at the Society stall (all events except Government House)
- Gallery sit at exhibition (e.g., Louisa Anne Meredith exhibition)
- Any number of ways.

Contact Anita Hansen at anita.hansen@utas.edu.au for more details about volunteering for the 175th Anniversary events.

The Society's Annual Doctoral Awards

Closing on 30 November is the opportunity to nominate people for the Society's Doctoral Awards. We may award two, each receiving \$1000.

The rules and guidelines are on our website, but briefly nominations may be made for PhD graduates who are under 35 years of age with graduation no more than three years ago. The Award is not restricted to Australian nationals; however, the work of the nominee needs to have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation.

Over the years, these awards have highlighted significant scholars who are now working world-wide. The fields of study may be in any area - sciences, medicine, arts or humanities - within the purview of the Society's aims.

Please refer to [our website](#) for specific details.

The closing date is 30 November 2018 and applications should be presented in digital form to: royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au and marked to the attention of Dr John Thorne, Chairman, Honours, Awards and Bursaries Committee.



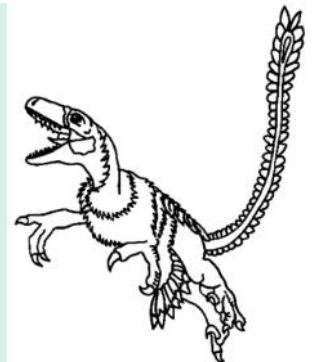
175th Events Calendar



Events	Location	Time	Date
Poles Apart exhibition	Morris Miller Library foyer, Sandy Bay	8.30-9pm weekdays 8.30-6pm weekends	Nov-Dec 2018
DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION: Secrets of Survival	TMAG	Tues - Sun 10.00-4pm Closed Mondays	7 December 2018- 5 May 2019
Louisa Anne Meredith Exhibition	Jane Franklin Museum	1.30-5.00pm Sat and Sun	February 2019
Dinosaur Symposium - register at rst.org.au	Stanley Burbury Theatre UTAS	To be advised	23-24 March 2019
Francis Guillemard Simpkinson De Wesselow exhibition	TMAG	Daily 10.00-4pm Closed Mondays	March 2019 (TBA)



The Royal Society of Tasmania in association with
The Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery
presents **DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION**,
Secrets of Survival
opening 7 December 2018 until 5 May 2019
at Tasmania Museum and Art Gallery
Dunn Place, Hobart



Journey back 100 million years to a time when fearsome beasts stalked the earth!

This summer, TMAG's galleries will be transformed into an amazing exhibition exploring the ancient world of the dinosaurs.

Get up close and personal with life-sized animatronic models, view close-to-life sized murals, touch fossil casts, learn about the amazing creatures recently discovered in the icy Antarctic and even uncover Tasmania's fascinating dinosaur links.

How did dinosaurs evolve?
What were their secrets of survival?
And do they still exist today?



Our Society's Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, greeted the November special event guest speaker, **Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN** at the TMAG entrance (- see left).

Fullerton gave a highly engaging presentation about *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, his life and history of the era. Pepys (1633-1703) became a member of The Royal Society in England in 1665 and had as his contemporaries such outstanding 'natural philosophers' as Christopher Wren, Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke, William Petty and Isaac Newton.

In 1684, Pepys became President of The Royal Society and was revered for his strong organisational skills honed whilst working for the English navy. Pepys authorised the publication of Isaac Newton's *Principia* and the title page bears his name, forever linking him with Newton's masterwork containing his universal laws of motion and gravitation.

Louisa Anne Meredith Painting Exhibition

Jane Franklin Museum, Lenah Valley
27 January – 24 February 2019

Louisa Meredith was a naturalist and illustrator and the first woman to be elected as an Honorary Member of the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1881.



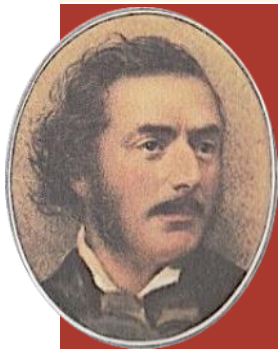
Meredith was an active member of the Royal Society of Tasmania and a number of her natural history illustrations were presented at Royal Society meetings. She was joint founder of the first Tasmanian branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. As a passionate conservationist, she influenced her husband, who was a Member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council, to legislate for the preservation of native wildlife. In 1884, the Tasmanian government awarded her a pension for her 'distinguished literary and artistic services'.

She published at least twelve books, including poetry, fiction and biographical accounts of her life in Australia, as well as studies of local flora and fauna, including *Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania* (1860) which contained full-colour plates printed by the new chromolithography process and *Tasmanian Friends and Foes, Feathered, Furred and Finned* (1880).



An exhibition of the watercolour works of Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow (1819–1906)

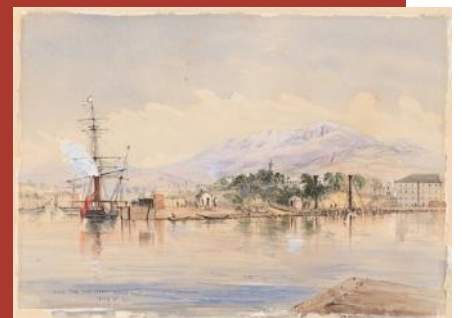
at Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
in March 2019 (TBA)



Simpkinson, naval officer and artist, was born in London the son of Sir John Augustus Francis Simpkinson. His mother, Mary Griffin, was the sister of Lady Jane Franklin. On joining the navy in 1832, he served with his uncle, Sir John Franklin. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land in September 1844 to take up his appointment to the Rossbank Magnetic Observatory in Hobart Town.

Simpkinson was an accomplished artist and recorded a great many landscapes around Van Diemen's Land. He was often accompanied on his painting excursions around the colony, and even to Port Philip, by the artist John Skinner Prout.

When Lieutenant Simpkinson returned to England in December 1848, he took his collection of some 200 drawings and watercolours with him. In 1869, he added de Wesselow to his name by deed poll. Responding to a request from The Royal Society of Tasmania, Simpkinson de Wesselow gifted his colonial collection of paintings and drawings to the Society when he was aged 81. (Continued over...)





On 10 July 1900, he wrote to the Bishop of Tasmania, Henry Hutchinson Montgomery:

I happen to have several volumes of drawings and sketches made during the years I passed there – 1844 to 1849 – which have been lying packed away almost ever since my return. I am exceedingly glad there is now a chance of their being of some use or interest and I forward them to you with much pleasure.

A Symposium: Dinosaurs and Evolution of Life

Hobart, Tasmania
23–24 March 2019

Supported by The Royal Society of Tasmania,
Geological Society of Australia (Tas. Div.) and The University of Tasmania

Abstract submission deadline
12 December 2018

First circular: Call for abstracts

The Organising and Scientific Committee of DEL2019, invites you to participate in a two-day symposium to highlight recent advances in understanding the evolution of life on Earth, with a focus on Dinosaurs.

The conference is organised by The Royal Society of Tasmania as part of their 175th Anniversary celebrations, with support from the Tasmanian Division of the Geological Society of Australia and the University of Tasmania. The venue is the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue, Hobart. The Symposium will run in parallel with an exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) called “Dinosaur rEvolution: Secrets of Survival” prepared by Gondwana Studios.

Participants will benefit from hearing Plenary Session Keynote talks by several distinguished scientists on dinosaurs, evolution and mass extinction:

Professor John Long – Flinders University, will give an overview on the origin of the species, including dinosaurs.

Dr Steve Salisbury – University of Queensland Dinosaur Lab, will talk about the recent discovery of dinosaur tracks in northwest Western Australia.

Dr Stephen Poropat – Swinburne University of Technology, will talk about Australian dinosaurs through the Mesozoic period and the Triassic fossils found in the Hobart area. Are they dinosaurs?

Dr Phil Bell – University of New England, will talk on recent opalised dinosaur discoveries from Lightning Ridge, NSW.

Professor Ross Large – University of Tasmania, will talk about research on past ocean chemistry, evolution and mass extinctions over the last 600 million years.

Peter Norton – Gondwana Studios, is the creator of the *Dinosaur rEvolution* exhibition at TMAG. He will talk about bringing dinosaurs to life by exhibition.

John Pickell – a well-known author who has published several books on dinosaurs, will run a Q & A session on dinosaurs, fielding questions from the audience.

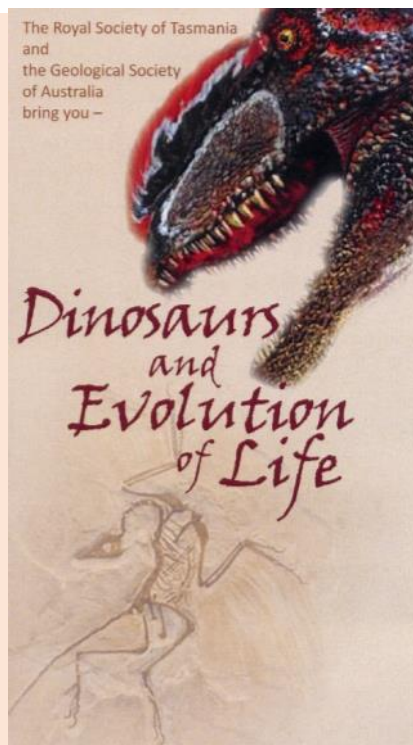
Calendar of main events:

September 1, 2018: Abstract submission launch

December 12, 2018: Abstract submission deadline

March 23 - 24, 2019 Symposium (- see costing on next page)

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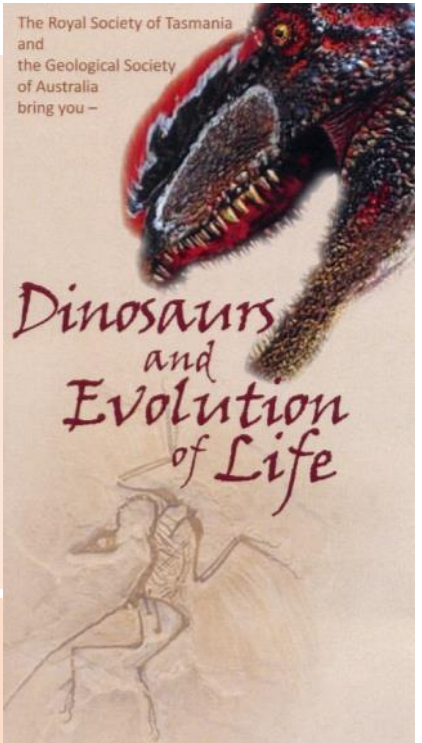
Themes of the Symposium:

Recent research on dinosaurs
Evolution of dinosaurs and birds
Proterozoic evolution of life
Phanerozoic evolution of life
Mass extinction events

To register for the Symposium, see below.

Submission of Abstract

Abstracts should be a maximum of 250 words in Times 12 font, headed by the title, authors and affiliations. Please email to: royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au before the deadline of December 12, 2018.



Book Your Symposium Ticket Early - Don't miss out!

BOOKINGS:

[Please register online for the Symposium.](#)

Full two-day registration (incl. lunches): \$250

Morning tickets only: children (6 to 15 yrs): \$15
accompanying adult \$25

Morning tickets are for either Sat 23 or Sun 24 December.

Note: The Royal Society of Tasmania is sponsoring two dinosaur events: the Symposium in March and the DINO-SAUR rEVOLUTION exhibition at TMAG from 7 December 2018 to 5 May 2019.

We encourage you to attend both events to learn all the latest information about dinosaurs. You will then become a 'dinosaur expert' and be eligible to claim the '**RST Dinosaur Expert' Certificate.**



Be ready for Christmas and order a specialty book or beautiful The Royal Society of Tasmania calendar for friends and family.

[Click here view the range of publications and to order online.](#)



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Thank you for your generous support!

Save the date

The Northern Branch

After the November meeting, our Branch meets next on 24 February 2019.