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MAY NEWSLETTER

**The Royal Society of Tasmania Lecture
on Tuesday 4 June at 8.00pm
in the Royal Society Lecture Room
Customs House Building, entrance from Dunn Place**

***palawa kani* – The revival of Tasmanian Aboriginal language.**

From the flourishing, possibly sixteen, original languages spoken in *Iutruwita* (Tasmania) to near extinguishment under post-invasion colonial pressures and sleeping for almost two hundred years, *palawa kani* has emerged as the language of Tasmanian Aborigines. It is now fundamental to Aboriginal community activities and family life, with two generations of children having learnt it from infancy.

palawa kani is shared with the public through renaming of places and things as varied as a newly-discovered squat lobster and the next Antarctic icebreaker. How did this happen? Where does the knowledge of the language come from? And can it ever be a 'living' language, one that is used in daily life?

Theresa Sainty (pictured left) is a Pakana woman and has been Aboriginal Linguistic Consultant for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's *palawa kani* Language Program since 1997. Theresa has also worked with the Tasmanian Department of Education, Aboriginal Education Services, developing Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training and a number of curriculum resources about Tasmanian Aborigines. Theresa is current Chair of TMAG's Tasmanian Aboriginal Advisory Council and has begun a Senior Indigenous Research Scholarship at UTAS.

Annie Reynolds (pictured right) has evolved from graduate studies of Old Norse, Old



English and Old Irish in Sydney and Adelaide to coordinating the work of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's *palawa kani* Language Program statewide since the mid-1990s. Within the TAC, she also conducts historical research and writes and edits a variety of material, mostly for the Aboriginal community.

Northern Branch May Lecture

On Sunday 26 May, at 1.30pm at the QVMAG Meeting Room at Inveresk, **Dr Alison Alexander** will speak on **Jane Franklin - the real founder of the Royal Society of Tasmania.**

Various people have desired to gain kudos from establishing themselves as the founder of the Royal Society of Tasmania, notably Governor Sir John Eardley-Wilmot. Alison will argue that Jane Franklin was the real founder, though as a woman with no official status she had to work behind the scenes.

Open to the general public. Admission is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania; \$6 for general admission; \$4 for students, QVMAG Friends and the Launceston Historical Society.



Born and educated in Tasmania, Alison Alexander has written 33 books about Tasmanian history. Her paid career was writing commissioned histories, including Launceston Church Grammar School and the Australian Maritime College. The subjects of her biographies range from romantic writer Marie Bjelke Petersen to the Governor's wife Jane Franklin – this book winning the National Biography Award in 2014. *Duck and green peas! Forever! Finding Utopia in Tasmania* (2018) is her most recent book.

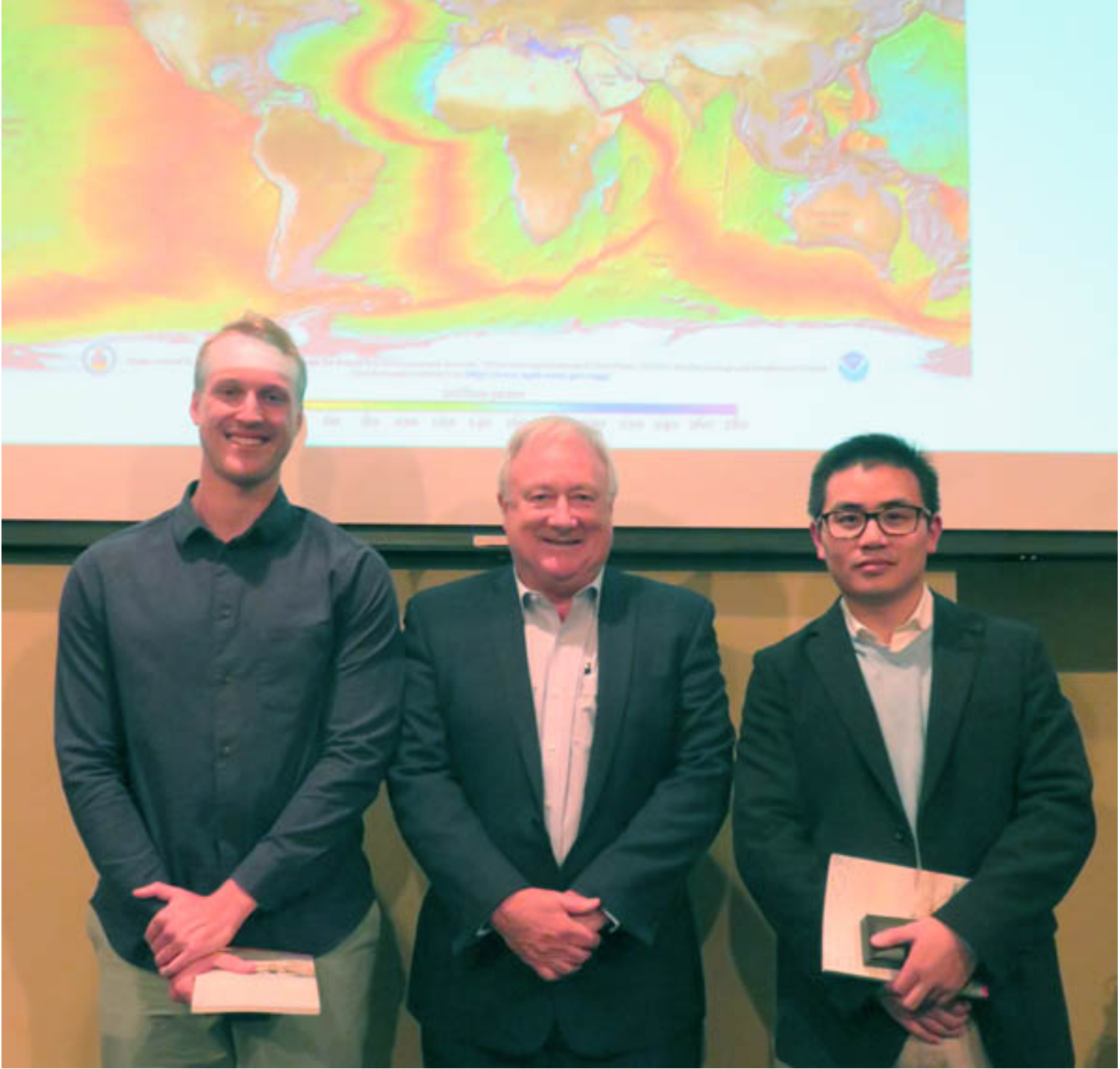
2019 Subscription: For those who haven't done so, don't forget to renew your Royal Society of Tasmania subscription for 2019. (Note: The membership year is a calendar year from 1 Jan - 30 Dec)



2020 Calendar: Advanced orders coming soon

Doctoral Awards Lectures May Meeting

At the May meeting, **2018 Doctoral Awards winners Dr Feng Pan and Dr Jacob (Jack) Mulder** gave very engaging presentations about their research. Pictured below from left: Dr Mulder, RST President Prof Ross Large and Dr Pan. The image above them is part of a slide from Dr Mulder's research about the movement of tectonic plates on our planet over a billion years ago.



Below left: Dr Feng Pan, Research Fellow, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, supported by the NHMRC Early Career Fellowship, is pictured beside his entry on the Society's Honour Board and that of Dr Jacob Mulder – both recipients of the 2018 Doctoral Award presented by the Society on 7 May 2019. **At right:** Dr Jacob Mulder, Research Fellow, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University.



Below: Attending the May meeting were Society members Dr Len and Mrs Libby Stephens and Mrs Margaret Marstrand.



DINOSAUR REVOLUTION

SECRETS OF SURVIVAL



The dinosaurs have gone from the south!
We said a sad goodbye to the dinosaurs this week. The DINOSAUR rEVOLUTION exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery finished this week after a five-month run.

The exhibition has been a great success, both financially and in bringing the Royal Society of Tasmania to the attention of Tasmanians and visitors to our State. It has been a wonderful collaboration with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Rosie and Rex (pictured right and below) will be particularly missed by the children of Hobart.

Many thanks must go to everyone involved, especially the



Society's President Prof Ross Large who was the driving force behind the exhibition.

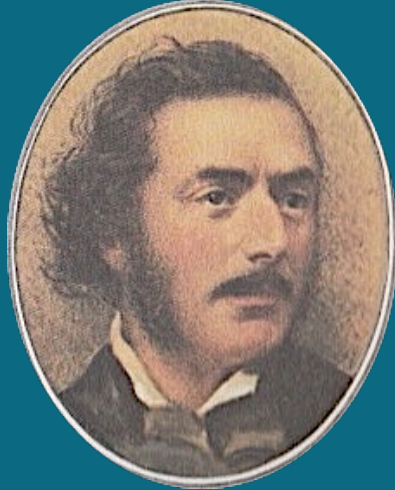
The dinosaurs are now migrating to the north and will soon be appearing at QVMAG.

Simpkinson de Wesselow's Hobart

Exhibition at Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Presented in conjunction with the Royal Society of Tasmania in celebration of their 175th Anniversary

Until 11 June 2019



Francis 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.



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

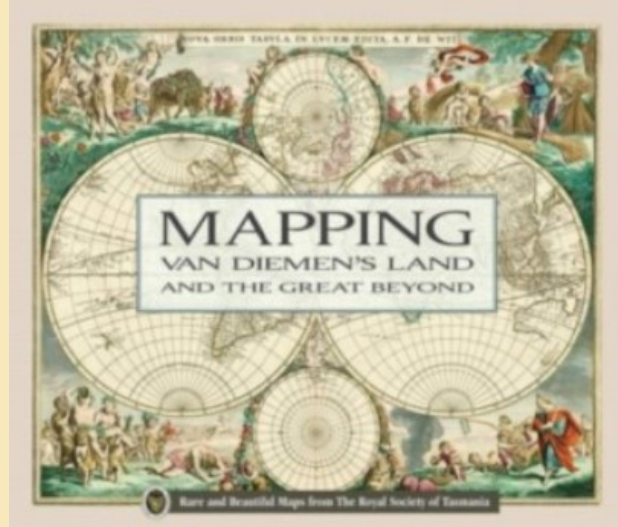
I happen to have several volumes of drawings and sketches made during the years I passed there – 1844 to 1849 – which have been lying packed away almost ever since my return. I am exceedingly glad there is now a chance of

their being of some use or interest and I forward them to you with much pleasure.

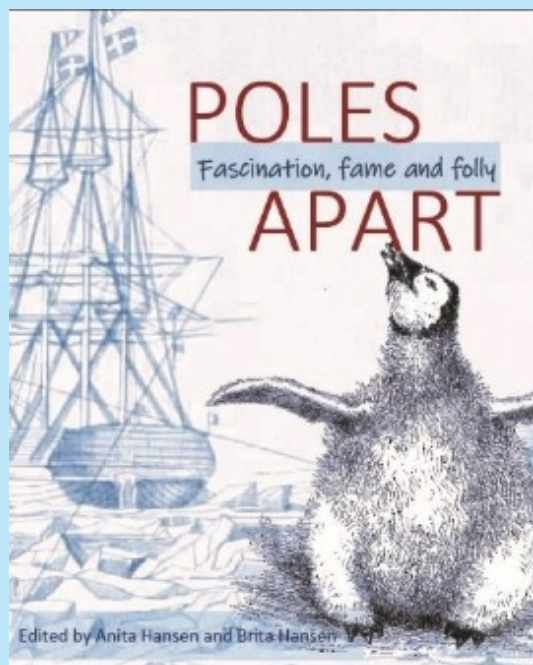
Recent Royal Society of Tasmania Publications

The first book published in 2018 by The Royal Society of Tasmania to celebrate its 175th Anniversary year was ***Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond***, edited by Lynn Davies, Margaret Davies and Warren Boyles.

This highly informative volume contains over 100 high resolution images of rare and beautiful maps from the Society's Rare Book Collection with interpretive text from a range of authoritative contributors. This beautiful book is a 'must' for everyone's personal library. Available in hardcover for \$65 or soft cover \$45.



Purchase your copy of 'Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond' now.



The second book 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.

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 available and can be obtained from the [Society's website](#) 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.

Ensure that a copy of this exciting book finds its way to your bookshelves or

give copies as superb gifts!

Purchase 'Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly' now.



The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) is open Tuesdays to Sundays between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm from 1 April until 24 December.

TMAG is also open from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Monday public holidays year-round.

The museum is closed Good Friday, Anzac Day (25 April) and Christmas Day.

[TMAG What's On - calendar of events.](#)

Save the date

Hobart July Meeting

All welcome: members and friends are invited to attend. The July meeting and lecture will be held on **Tuesday 2 July** with presenter, **Neil Spark** - on **Road Safety in Tasmania** @ 8 pm at the Royal Society Room, Customs House Building, Dunn Place entrance.

The Northern Branch

This Branch meets next on **Sunday 23 June** at 1.30pm for a lecture by **Professor Ross Large AO** on **The Rhythms of Earth and Life Through Time**. (How biological evolution was dominantly driven by earth and ocean processes over 3.5 million years.)

Open to the general public. Admission is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania; \$6 for general admission; \$4 for students, QVMAG Friends and the Launceston Historical Society.

[Meeting Room, Inveresk QVMAG](#)

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