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MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



The Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania
invites you to their AGM
and ANNUAL QVMAG STAFF LECTURE:
Map Spam - (yet more of) Launceston Revealed
a public lecture by Andrew Parsons, Esq.



to be held at the Meeting Room, QVMAG at
Inveresk at **1.15 pm** on **Sunday 22 March**
2020.

Andrew Parson's talk will be image-rich
and divided into four themes:

1. Books and the film that inspired
the creation of *Launceston
Revealed*.
2. A review of the book's contents.
3. The images that didn't make the
cut and those that might be
included in a possible future



edition.

4. A call to arms: what attendees can do to help preserve Launceston's spatial history.



Andrew (pictured right, photo by *The Examiner*) has worked at the AMC and UTAS libraries, Launceston and Hobart, and managed UTAS Library's rare and special collections in Hobart. As part of this role, he served as Hon. Librarian to The Royal Society of Tasmania. In 2013, he commenced as Library Coordinator with QVMAG, during which time the Library's rare book

collections have undergone significant development.

Admission: free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania *

\$6 general admission

\$4 for students, QVMAG Friends and members of the Launceston Historical Society

* *membership forms available at the door*

Generously supported by



The Royal Society of Tasmania

invites you to a lecture by Susannah Fullerton OAM on *Dr Johnson and his Dictionary.*

on Sunday 5 April 2020 at 3:00pm

Royal Society Rooms, Customs House Building, 21

Davey St, Hobart.

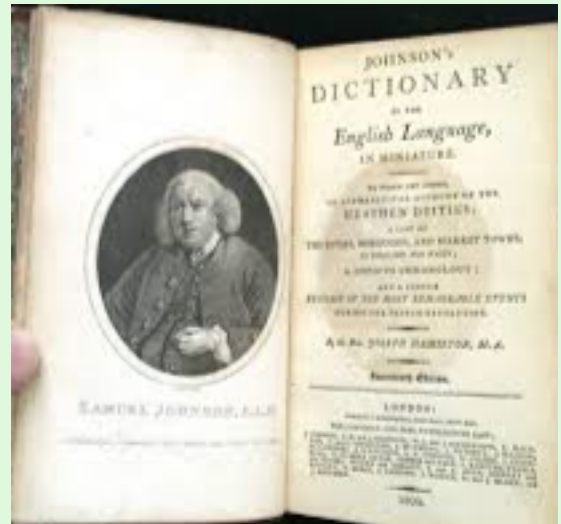
(Enter via Dunn Place)



The idea for a comprehensive dictionary of the English language first arose with the Royal Society in 1664 - a committee was formed and there was considerable enthusiasm for the project. However, finding the right person proved difficult and the idea was shelved. It was not until 1746 that a group of London

booksellers approached Samuel Johnson and asked him to begin work on a dictionary. Johnson thought he could complete the task in three years - it took him seven, working single-handedly! But the result was a masterpiece and it made Johnson's name.

Susannah Fullerton tells the extraordinary story, in an illustrated talk, of how the great dictionary was written, its quirks and errors, its method, reception and influence. Get to know 'Dictionary Johnson' and his remarkable achievement.



Biography: Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, has been president of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, this country's largest literary society, for the past 22 years. She is the author of several books on Jane Austen and gives many talks around the world about her favourite novelist.

Susannah also gives talks at libraries, schools, the Art Gallery of NSW and State Library of NSW on many other famous writers, such as Pepys, Oscar Wilde, the Brontës, Dickens, Trollope and many more. She has written *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* about famous authors visiting Australia, and has also written and recorded two audio CDs, *Finding Katherine Mansfield* and *Poetry to Fill a Room*. Susannah also leads literary tours to the UK, France, Italy, Scandinavia, NZ and America for Australians Studying Abroad.

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* membership forms available at the door

A New Year Begins for The Royal Society of Tasmania



At the Annual General Meeting held on 1 March, outgoing President, **Prof. Ross Large AO** (pictured left) warmly thanked the membership for their consistent support throughout his tenure as President of the RST over the past two years. He presented

the 2019 Annual Report and then requested IPP Prof Matt King to conduct the proceedings for the appointment of new members of the Committee and Council. The following office bearers and Council members were elected:

PRESIDENT: Mrs Mary Koolhof

VICE PRESIDENT: Prof. Jocelyn McPhie

SECRETARY: Mrs Marley Large

TREASURER: Mr David Wilson

COUNCIL POSITIONS:

Dr Greg Lehman

Mr Peter Manchester

Ms Niamh Chapman

Early Career Researcher: Dr Robert Johnson

Student Councillor: Ms Shasta Henry

Congratulations to all those elected and a very warm welcome to the new members of Council, including our new Editor, Dr Sally Bryant, and Mr James Crotty who has accepted the appointment of Honorary Solicitor. It is always appreciated when our members commit their skills and experience to furthering the aims of our Society in the advancement of knowledge.

Grateful thanks are extended to all those who worked hard behind the scenes in the organisation of the Annual General Meeting and the preparation of the Annual Report.

The Annual General Meeting was very well attended, with 90 members and guests, and many positive comments on the new venue. Warm thanks were extended to outgoing President, Prof. Ross Large AO, and the 2019 Council who worked so hard on behalf of the Society.

New **President, Mrs Mary Koolhof** (pictured right) was pleased to show the audience a new item for the Society's rooms: a specimen of each of the Society's medals beautifully framed for members to view up close and admire. The Society is thankful to Dr John Thorne for organising this lovely item.

The guest speaker was **Dr Jean-Philippe Beaulieu** (pictured left) who spoke about *The Secret Garden at Recherche Bay - 1792*. Under the command of Vice Admiral Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux, two ships, the 'Recherche' and the 'Esperance' with 218 men on board, left Brest, France, in 1791 on their

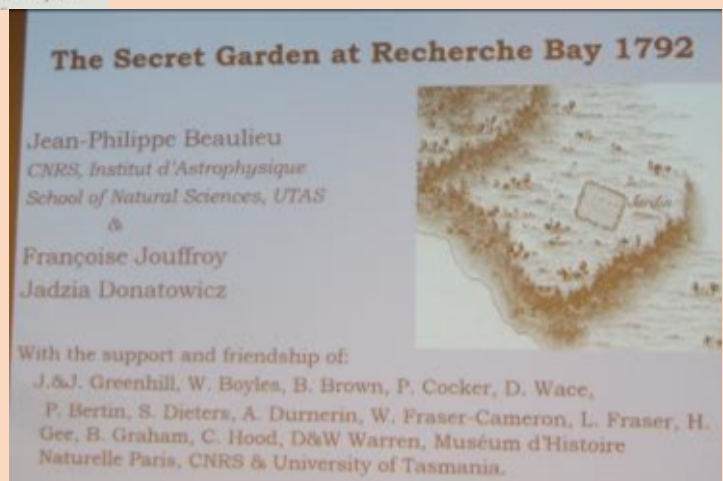
mission to locate and rescue the lost explorer La Pérouse and his two ships. They then travelled to Tenerife, the Cape of Good Hope and from there across the Indian Ocean for three months to land in Van Diemen's Land. They were hoping to land at Adventure Bay, but it was determined that Recherche Bay was a perfect anchorage for necessary ship repairs



and replenishment of fresh water and supplies.

It was on 23 April 1792, that the gardener Felix Lehaye stepped ashore at Recherche Bay in Van Diemen's Land. The gardener's role was to supply the local indigenous people with European plant seeds and implements and to bring back

from the foreign lands dried and pressed plant specimens as well as live ones in Wardian cases and woven baskets with protective covers to show the diversity of Tasmanian plants, such as casuarina, grevillea and eucalyptus. In addition, over three days and with the assistance of two other men, Lehaye prepared a 7m square garden bed (the 'secret garden') in which they planted a range of vegetable seeds, such as radish, celery, cabbages, turnips and potatoes. As the soil was difficult to dig, they also spread many seeds throughout the surrounding woodland.

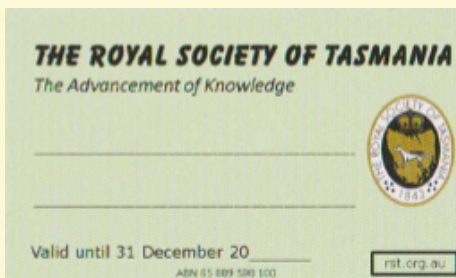


Whilst still searching for La Pérouse, the ships virtually circumnavigated Australia, the top of Papua New Guinea and Vanikoro, returning to Recherche Bay in 1793. Unfortunately, due to hungry wildlife, dry weather and dry, hard soil, few plants had germinated in the secret garden. However, some potatoes were able to be dug and removed. The crew intermingled amicably with the Lyluequonny People and often ate together and played simple games. The crew also conducted experiments in geomagnetism whilst at the Bay.



Dr Beaulieu continued his interesting presentation recounting events and further history of LeHaye.

As a thank-you gesture, Dr Beaulieu was presented with a copy of the Society's beautiful publication, *The Library at the End of the World* by President Mary Koolhof (see left).



Membership

Membership of The Royal Society Tasmania runs from January to December. 2020 Membership fees are now due.

Please include a membership form with ALL membership payments which can be sent via email or hard copy. Forms can be found at: https://rst.org.au/?attachment_id=6820

Sending out membership cards takes time. If you haven't already renewed, you are encouraged to do so ASAP to allow time for processing and the return of your membership card.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Roxanne Steenberg
RST Membership Secretary

Prime Minister's Prizes for Science

Nominations for the 2020 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are now open.



Each year the Australian Government honours Australia's scientists, innovators

and science teachers through the PM's Prizes. Recipients share in \$750 000 prize money across seven prizes – two \$250 000 prizes for science and innovation; three \$50 000 prizes for early to mid-career researchers and innovators; and two \$50 000 prizes for teaching in primary and secondary schools.

Nominating is easy! See the [“how to nominate” flyer](#) for more information. This flyer, and other resources you can use to help us promote the prizes can also be found in our online [toolkit](#).

Nominations are open from 6 February – 12 March 2020.

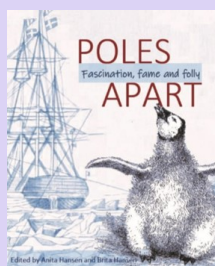
We want nominations to reflect the diversity of the communities that the Prizes celebrate. We encourage people to consider nominating someone from a group historically underrepresented in science such as women or Indigenous Australians, or someone from a regional or remote area.

For more information about the PM's Prizes, visit industry.gov.au/pmscienceprizes.

Thank you for your help, and please don't hesitate to contact the PM's Prizes team at PMPrizes@industry.gov.au or on 13 28 46 if you have any questions.

Publications Special Price Discount for Members

A 10% discount on the items listed below is available **only** when ordering directly through the Society office and not online.



Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

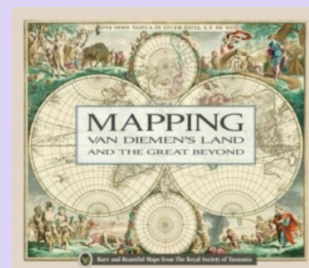
Hardcover \$60 reduced to **\$54**

Softcover \$40 reduced to **\$36**

Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond

Hardcover \$60 reduced to **\$54**

Softcover \$40 reduced to **\$36**



The Library at the End of the World

Hardcover \$60 reduced to **\$54**

Softcover \$40 reduced to **\$36**

Charles Darwin in Hobart

Softcover \$35 reduced to **\$32**



Calendars: 2020 edition \$16 reduced to **\$15**

2019 edition reduced to **\$5**

Cards:

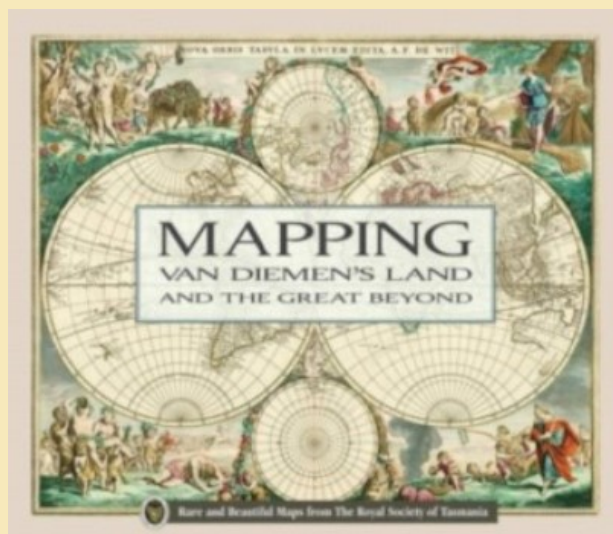
Individual - \$5 reduced to **\$4.50**

Pack of 5 - \$20 reduced to **\$18**

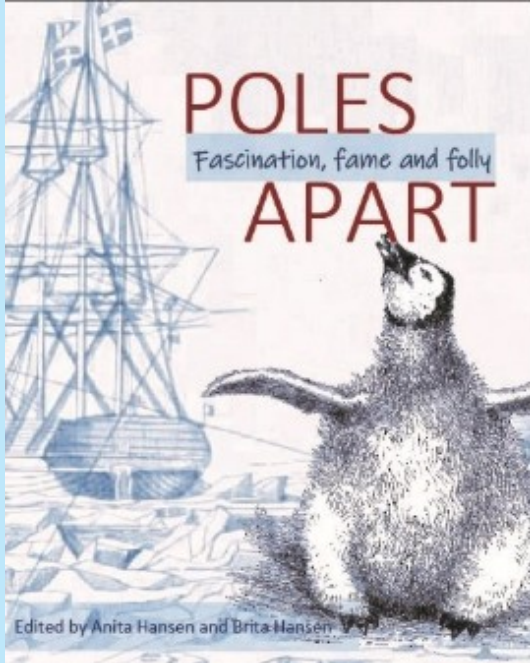
Recent Royal Society of Tasmania Publications

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 \$60 or soft cover \$40.



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.

REVISED 'POLES APART' INDEX

A number of errors have unfortunately been found in the index to our recent book *Poles Apart: Fascination, fame and folly*. A revised index is now available. A printed version is available free of charge to purchasers of the book and can be collected from the RST office on Wednesday mornings or at any of our lectures. Alternatively, a printed copy can be mailed out or pdf can be provided by email by contacting the office: Royal.Society@tmag.tas.gov.au

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

Save the Date

Hobart 2020 Events

All welcome: Members and friends are invited to attend the presentation on **Sunday 3 May 2020 at 3 pm** in the Royal Society rooms at Customs House (via Dunn Place). The presenter will be **Lauren Black** who will talk on ***A botanical artist's journey***.

Open to the general public. **Admission:** free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania *

\$6 general admission

\$4 for students and Friends of TMAG

** membership forms available at the door*

Special Event:

A joint lecture with the Geological Society of Australia (Tasmania Branch) on **Thursday 21 May at 6pm at the Geology lecture theatre Geo211, Geology/Geography Building, UTAS**. The presenter will be **Tony Webster** (a Hobart-based consulting geologist working with the GeoDiscovery Group Ltd.) who will talk on ***Geology, landscape and European settlement: small things meant a lot.***

The Northern Branch

The next meeting for the Northern Branch will be on **Sunday 26 April 2020 at 1.30 pm**. The presenter will be **Assoc. Prof. Michael Breadmore** who will talk on ***Chemical answers now - protecting us and our environment.***

Open to the general public. **Admission:** free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania *

\$6 for general admission

\$4 for students, QVMAG Friends and the Launceston Historical Society.

** membership forms available at the door*

[Meeting Room, Inveresk QVMAG](#)

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.](#)



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F O L L O W on F A C E B O O K RoyalSocietyTas



V I S I T the W E B S I T E



F O R W A R D to a F R I E N D RoyalSocTas newsletter

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