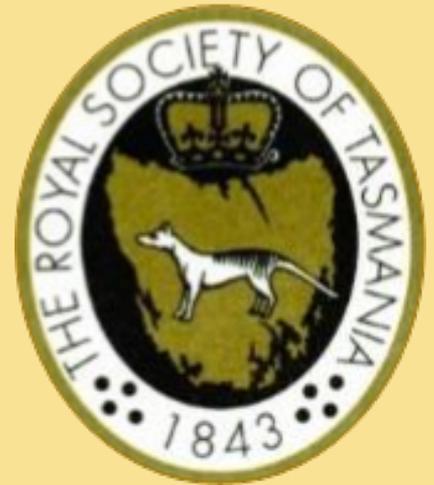


[View this email in your browser](#)

# APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



## A Message from the President



Dear Members,

A very warm welcome to our new members for March: Alastair Anderson, Brita McDougall and Rachel Rose. At our Council meeting yesterday by videoconference, it was resolved that while we are unable to hold General Meetings, new members will be approved by Council and ratified at the next achievable General Meeting. Council meetings will be held via videoconference, and in-person General Meetings and lectures suspended, until further notice.

Warm thanks also go to all the members who have renewed their membership and sent supportive messages. This represents true support for our Society in these challenging times, and is really appreciated.

I am very pleased to announce that the Council has nominated Treasurer and former Secretary, Mr David Wilson, for Honorary Life Membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society in many aspects of its operation. This nomination will go forward to the next General Meeting of the Society.

In this newsletter, we introduce you to some of our new Council members. A list of Council members for 2020 is included for your information, together with a list of Committees and Chairs. Our volunteers are working hard on various projects that the Society has in hand. Council Members and Committee Chairs may be contacted through an email to our RST office:

[royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au) We have a contingency plan in place in the event that COVID-19 pandemic restrictions mean we are unable to physically access the RST office.

I would also like to express my thanks to our Webmaster Dr Angela Ryan, Facebook page manager Ms Chel Bardell, Twitter account manager Dr Adele Wilson and Newsletter Editor Mr Bernard Pryor OAM, who are all busy behind the scenes making sure we provide our members with up-to-date information. The work of all our volunteers is very much appreciated.

We are working on plans to deliver some lectures digitally and will keep you informed as these plans progress. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this newsletter.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Koolhof". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Koolhof  
President, The Royal Society of Tasmania  
1 April 2020

**The Royal Society of Tasmania May Lecture has been cancelled, and the Northern Branch May lecture and Annual General Meeting have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation.**

**[New Society Office Arrangements](#)**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that the Royal Society Office within the TMAG Customs House building will soon need to be closed for the foreseeable future. In this event, we will endeavour to keep the office running remotely from our homes.

Our mail and phonenumber will be diverted to our Office Assistant, Ann Watson, who will be able to continue providing support and take sales and membership payments over the phone, as usual, on a Wednesday morning 9:00am to midday ONLY.

**Main contact:**

GPO Box 1166  
Hobart TAS 7001

Email: [royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au)

**Northern Branch contact:**

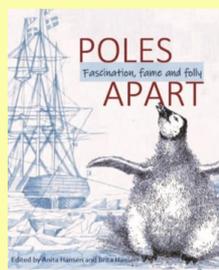
Christine Beswick, Secretary:  
0417 330 118

PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

Membership forms and renewals can either be posted to the Post Box (see above) clearly marked 'Royal Society of Tasmania' or scanned and emailed to the address above.

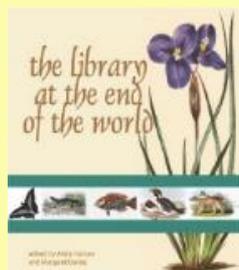
**Contact the Royal Society office only between the hours of 9.00am – 12pm on a Wednesday morning on 03 6165 7014.**

For the time being, we will also endeavour to maintain book and calendar sales by phone order. Book and calendar sales will be limited to the following:



***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly***

Hardcover and softcover

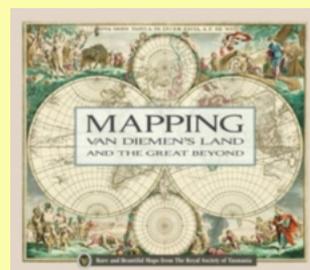


***The Library at the End of the World***

Hardcover and softcover

***Hobart***

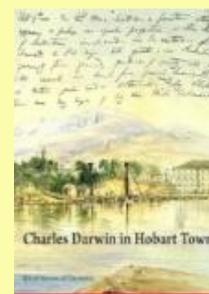
Softcover



***Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond***

Hardcover and softcover

***Charles Darwin in***



Charles Darwin in Hobart Town



## Calendars:

2020 edition pictured left

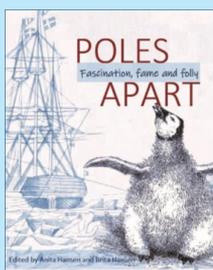
There won't be an option of local pickup of books from the office for the time being.

## 10% discount on books to all members

David Wilson

Honorary Treasurer

[dwilson.tas@gmail.com](mailto:dwilson.tas@gmail.com)



## 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 and can be mailed out or a pdf

copy provided by email by contacting the office:

[Royal.Society@tmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:Royal.Society@tmag.tas.gov.au)

## Introducing Our New Council Members

**Shasta Henry** is completing her PhD in 2020, investigating the impact of wildfire on Tasmania's smallest alpine residents, invertebrates. She is a passionate entomologist and educator, having transitioned to science and science communication from eco-tourism in 2009.



During her time at UTAS, Shasta has completed a Bachelor of Science and Honours in zoology/entomology; worked as a tutor for Riawunnah and junior lecturer in the Geography department; volunteered as a Young Tassie Scientist; and completed an internship at the Smithsonian Natural History

Museum in Washington DC – "That's how I got a species of beetle named after me."

Shasta also maintains a public presence as the 'Bug Girl' via ABC Radio <https://www.facebook.com/TasBugGirl/>, The Gourmet Farmer and Libraries Tasmania to name a few. Interpreting insects for the Tasmanian public, Shasta often talks about insects as food, introduced pests, native pollinators, ecological adaptation and how to identify insects for kids. From her days working as a white-water rafting guide and rock-climbing instructor, Shasta still loves to travel and explore nature, "... but collecting insects is much easier on the knees".



**Niamh Chapman** is a passionate medical researcher and science communicator. Niamh is based at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research in the Blood Pressure Research Group. Her research is focused on the role of health policy and digital technology for the prevention of cardiovascular disease.

Niamh is the Founding Director of the radio show and podcast ***That's What I Call Science***, which won the national award for Best New Program 2019 from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia. *That's What I Call Science* is run by a team of women in STEM that aims to deliver accurate, accessible and engaging content on areas of public interest with expert guests from across the State of Tasmania. The podcast can be found on major streaming services or at: <http://bit.ly/ThatsScienceTAS>

Niamh is a member of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance Emerging Leaders Committee, the Australian Society for Medical Research Tasmania state committee and the Tasmanian National Science Week Coordinating Committee.

**Jocelyn McPhie** is a geologist and for most of her career (1990 to 2015), held an academic position at the University of Tasmania. As an academic, she conducted fundamental and applied research in volcanology, and taught volcanology as well as other undergraduate geology units. Since retiring from the university, she has been consulting to the minerals industry,

providing technical advice and professional training in volcanology. She maintains an adjunct position with the University of Tasmania, continuing to supervise PhD students and to participate in research projects.



## **Peter S**

**Manchester** B.Sc. (Hons), B.Ed., TTC. Photographic Honors (AFIAP, AAPS, FAPS, FTPF) is Launceston born and educated at the University of Tasmania in geology, geochemistry and education. Apart from a short period at the Mines Department, then in ocean mining, he served his National Service in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.



On his return, he served 40 years lecturing at TAFE, University and Colleges in geology, chemistry, still and video photography, multimedia (former Head of a Department) and recently geotourism to Australian and overseas clients of all levels of experience. He is an accredited international judge in digital imagery and has conducted seminars, field trips and weekend getaways on Tasmanian Geology, photography and astronomy throughout Tasmania and mainland Australia. He was Australian President of the Australian Photographic Society in 2002 – 2006.

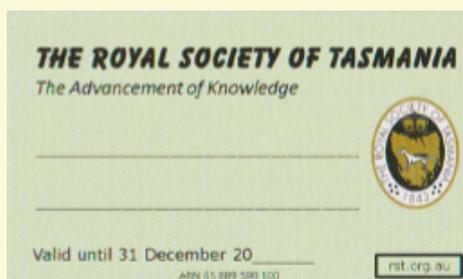
In 2010, Peter self-published a book which has been distributed Australia-wide on Tasmanian geology *Created from Chaos – 100 geological sites in Tasmania* (- now out of print but Peter is in the process of writing an updated edition).

In June this year, Peter was given the challenge to photograph, write and publish a book and poster on Tasmanian fossils, taking over from the late Dr Max Banks. He is also producing a booklet on *30 Tasmanian Geotrails* as a tourism resource.

Peter is a much sought-after lecturer and educator in geology, geotourism,

mineralogy and lectures at places like U3A on various topics such as scientific toys, inventions, meteorites and orchid growing. As an orchid grower and collector, he cultivates his collection at his home in Oakdowns.

## Membership Renewals



We have been very pleased to receive a steady flow of membership renewals since the beginning of January 2020. The Royal Society Tasmania

needs its members now more than ever. We thank you for your continued support. If you haven't renewed yet then please do so by going to:

[https://rst.org.au/?attachment\\_id=6820](https://rst.org.au/?attachment_id=6820)

Save or print the form, complete it and return it via email or snail mail. Mark the email Attention Membership Secretary, [royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au)

It is **very** important that every payment is accompanied by a membership form. Some membership cards are not reaching members due to incorrect addresses.

When making payments online, be sure to include your name as a reference otherwise we cannot trace who the payment is from. We appreciate you taking the time to let us know your current address, phone number and email.

Roxanne Steenbergen  
RST Membership Secretary



## Changes to access to The Society's Library to comply with Government response to CoVid-19

The Morris Miller Library is now closed to UTAS and community clients. Physical access to the collection in person is not currently possible. However, we encourage all members and all other clients to continue to make research

enquiries via our email [special.collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au)

Our team will continue to answer your queries. At this stage, we anticipate staff will be able to access the collection on a regular basis and scan material to answer queries; however, this could change with further government restrictions. We anticipate the service will be slower than usual as access to the collection will be time-restricted. Please contact us with any queries, and there is a wealth of information on our website:

<https://www.utas.edu.au/library/research/special-and-rare-collections>

**Juliet Beale**, Senior Librarian, Collections  
Library Services | Academic Division  
University of Tasmania

## Progress Toward an Apology by Prof Greg Lehman

On Wednesday, 4 December 2019, the University of Tasmania became the first learned institution in Tasmania to offer a formal apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Rufus Black, marked the day as one on which "... we reflect on the parts of our past we are not proud of ... a moment for humility, truth-telling, pain and accountability." Broadly welcomed by Aboriginal people and positively reflected on across Tasmanian media, the University's apology was offered in response to over a century of disrespectful treatment of Aboriginal people by the academy. "For too long the histories we taught hid the true story of war and genocidal behaviour. For too long the wisdom of Aboriginal people was not thought worthy of our academy," Prof Black said.

During 2019, the Royal Society of Tasmania has made substantial progress toward the development of its own Apology. Like the University of Tasmania, the Society was also involved in research and treatment of Aboriginal ancestral remains that is now recognised as disrespectful, and has contributed to ongoing hurt being felt by today's Aboriginal people. The development of the Society's Apology has been a painstaking one, involving independent commissioned research and close examination of Society

records to ensure that an accurate and objective assessment could be made of a range of activities that impacted on Aboriginal people. The Society's approach has been to thoroughly account for the decisions and actions that it should take responsibility for and to better understand the context of those actions.

An Aboriginal Engagement Committee jointly chaired by Prof Matt King and Prof Greg Lehman worked under close direction of the RST Council to produce two discussion papers and reports to Members during 2019, outlining key issues considered by the Apology process, and identifying a number of recommended actions to accompany a formal Statement of Apology.

Following a special meeting of the Council on 19 December 2019, a draft Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people has now been produced. This was recently presented for confidential consideration by the Aboriginal Advisory Council of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, which is also developing its own apology. It was agreed that the RST and TMAG would work cooperatively to plan an event at which both institutions would present their respective statements. Similar consultation will also be held with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery's Aboriginal Reference Group to ensure that sensitive matters involved in the Apology are dealt with appropriately and respectfully. Further information will be provided to Members of the Society when the Apology is finalised and a date for its announcement is set.

## **The Royal Society of Tasmania 2020 Council**

**President:** Mrs Mary Koolhof

**Vice-President:** Prof Jocelyn Mcphie

**Secretary:** Mrs Marley Large

**Treasurer:** Mr David Wilson

### **Council Members:**

- **Immediate Past President:** Prof Ross Large AO
- **Early Career Researcher:** Dr Robert Johnson
- **Student Councillor:** Ms Shasta Henry
- **Hon. Editor:** Dr Sally Bryant

- **Hon. Librarian:** Ms Juliet Beale
- **Hon. Solicitor:** Mr James Crotty
- **TMAG Representative:** Ms Janet Carding
- Ms Niamh Chapman
- Prof Greg Lehman
- Mr Peter Manchester
- Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen
- Dr John Thorne AM
- Dr Adele Wilson, Publicity Officer and Twitter

### Northern Branch Delegates:

- Mr David Morris
- Dr Frank Madill AM

## The Royal Society of Tasmania Committees 2020

Committee	Chair	Members
<b>Aboriginal Engagement</b>	<b>Co-Chairs:</b> Prof Matt King and Prof Greg Lehman	Dr Robert Johnson Mary Koolhof Marley Large Prof Jocelyn McPhie David Morris David Wilson
<b>Artworks Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Prof Ross Large AO	Dr Anita Hansen Marley Large
<b>Bursaries Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Dr Deborah Beswick	Penny Cocker Dr Robert Johnson Andrew Porter Dr Adele Wilson
<b>Events Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Dr Robert Johnson	Niamh Chapman Shasta Henry
<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Prof Jim Reid	Mary Koolhof Marley Large Peter Meyer Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Dr John Thorne AM David Wilson

<b>Honours and Awards Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Prof Jocelyn McPhie	Dr Margaret Davies OAM Dr Eva Meidl Prof Jim Reid Dr Steve Rintoul
<b>Membership Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Roxanne Steenberg	Shasta Henry Peter Manchester Dr John Thorne AM
<b>Publications Committee</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Dr Sally Bryant	Chel Bardell Dr Margaret Davies OAM
<b>Treasury Operations</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Prof Ross Large AO	Juliet Beale James Crotty Dr Anita Hansen Mary Koolhof Marley Large David Wilson



## **Society Snippets**

### **Thomas Edgar Burns OAM: RST Honorary Life Member – 1978**

In May 1959, with a few Rover Scouts, I walked into Waterfall Hut behind Barn Bluff with Tom Burns. It was a privilege, as I had first met him as my Social Studies teacher in 1950. Tom was literally a mine of information about the outdoors: rocks, plants, our early landowners whom he admired, photography and more. At that time we walked across Cradle Valley from Waldheim and he related stories to me of former times when he was there with Gustav Weindorfer – and even, when in deep soft snow, the parties would strip near naked and ‘swim’ in the snow.

In class Tom was a gentleman. My school was an all boys’ school and many teachers were tested to the extreme; however, with Mr Burns there was no disorder because he was so interesting, whatever the topic. He was an excellent teacher illustrating any subject with the depth of his personal extraordinary experience. He was co-author of several books, but the one I most remember was *Wildflowers of Tasmania* (with Jack Skemp - another Northern identity). Tom was a major collector/contributor to *The Endemic Flora*

of *Tasmania* that was compiled and sponsored by Lord Talbot of Malahide.

As a young scout leader, I had planned to take some scouts to Cradle Mountain and stay at Waldheim. To prepare me for this, Tom took me into his study which was directly off the kitchen. Normally the study was locked and a “no go” area for family. In the study, Tom produced cards mounted with dozens of samples of leaves, grasses, nuts, pressed flowers and much more. I’m not sure that I retained anything except the awe of being with a man who had spent a lifetime recording this flora - each card was filled with dates, temperature, place ... and even when he had sent a specimen to Kew Gardens! He also told me where to spot striations as we hiked across the valley floor, so we did cover a little geology.

Tom Burns was honoured by the people of Australia with a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Awards of 1983 – the year he died. He was a Life Member of the Launceston Field Naturalists Club.

Earlier, I mentioned Jack Skemp. Jack and Tom were great friends and outdoor colleagues. Together they wrote, *Tasmania, Today and Yesterday* as Tom Burns was also a very keen collector and observer of early Tasmaniana. Tom published a book of Jack’s ABC radio talks (posthumously) titled, *My Birds*.

In 1967, Tom instituted a memorial to Jack Skemp in the form of a Memorial Lecture. It became an annual tradition. Tom also had arranged and financed a suitable medal.



There’s a little more! In about 1957, I met Kerry Burns (Tom’s son) who was probably doing honours in the Geology Department with Prof Sam Carey and Dr Max Banks. Dr Kerry Burns has for a long time been a member of The Royal Society of Tasmania (while living in the USA) and has had a distinguished career in geology. For these notes, I tracked him down (on the internet) and a photo is included. From my memory, Kerry certainly has a close resemblance to his father. No doubt Tom would have been justly proud of Kerry’s work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, his work in Tierra del Fuego, experience in the coal industry and also Hot Dry Rock technology.

Most likely, I became a teacher directly because Mr Tom Burns was my

teacher. I thank him for that and his service to the Tasmanian community.

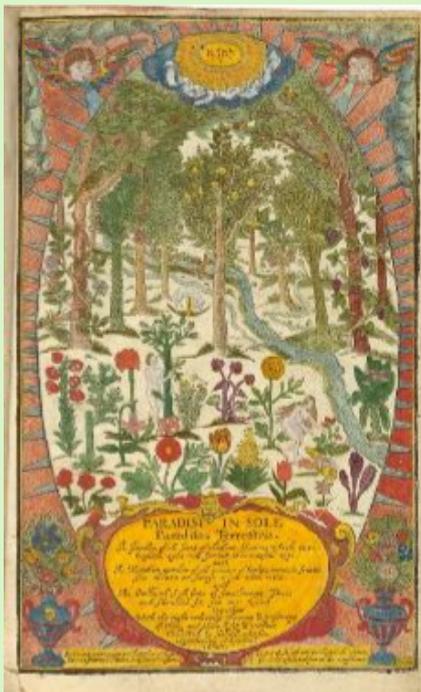
**Dr John G Thorne AM**

## The Society's Special and Rare Collections

Two of The Royal Society of Tasmania's oldest natural history books in the Special and Rare Collections are by **John Parkinson** (1567–1650). He was widely regarded as the last of the great English herbalists and one of the first of the great English botanists, being the official apothecary to James I and the royal botanist for his successor, Charles I.

Parkinson published two botanical works that make an interesting pair. *Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris* (1629) is often considered the first purely horticultural book in England. Eleven years later, he published *Theatrum botanicum* (1640), a massive compendium that is often called the last of the English herbals. One of the pre-eminent gardeners of his day, he kept a walled garden at Long Acre (near Trafalgar Square) where he grew over 484 types of plants and maintained close relations with other important English and continental botanists, herbalists and plantsmen.

Both volumes were donated to the Society in memory of Leonard E Couchman (1901–1992), a well-known expert on Tasmanian butterflies, who contributed several articles to the Society's *Papers and proceedings*.



The title of Parkinson's first book *Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris* is a pun on his name, translating as 'Park-in-sun's earthly paradise'. The woodcut title page is quite playful, showing not the traditional Garden of Eden, but Parkinson's own garden, with Adam and Eve as caretakers (see image at left). Some of the flowers featured, at the front, are new introductions to England from eastern Europe and the Middle East – plants such as the tulip, fritillary, dog's tooth and cyclamen. The book is divided into three sections: flower garden, kitchen garden and orchard. It also contains a portrait of Parkinson. The

Society's copy contains beautifully hand-coloured woodcuts - some in

watercolour and some that appear to be in oil paints.

The frontispiece is signed by the engraver Christoph Switzer who is generally regarded as having provided the woodcuts for all the illustrations in this work, many of which were re-engraved in England from works by Matthias de Lobel (1538–1616) and Carolus Clusius (1526–1609). The front cover (right) has a handwritten list of plant names.



Morris Miller - Royal Society Rare-Book QL 444 .M33 S23 1665  
*Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris* / collected by John Parkinson  
London: Printed by H Lownes and R Young, 1629  
Digitised by Biodiversity Heritage Library  
<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/118671#/summary>

## Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

**Rewarding excellence in the fields of research & innovation, leadership, science engagement and school science.**



The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are the country's most comprehensive national science awards, honouring excellence across the areas of research & innovation, leadership, science engagement and school science.

Presented annually in partnership with some of the nation's leading scientific institutions, government organisations, universities and corporations, the Eureka Prizes raise the profile of science and science engagement in the community by celebrating outstanding achievement.

In 2020 the Australia Museum, and each of the prize partners, are excited to mark 30 years of recognising and rewarding outstanding achievement in

science. Since the prizes first began in 1990, more than four million dollars in prize money, and a total of 416 Eureka Prizes have been awarded.

For more information, visit: <https://australianmuseum.net.au/get-involved/eureka-prizes/>

## 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Travelling Research Award

The Australian Academy of Science is calling for applications for the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Travelling Research Award](#).



This award recognises research by outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD students and early- and mid-career scientists in the physical and biological sciences.

It allows interdisciplinary and sociocultural research that could straddle the social sciences and humanities.

The award aims to support the expansion and growth of recipients' research networks and international knowledge exchange through visits to relevant international centres of research. Two annual awards of \$5500 are planned, with additional support provided to attend the Academy's annual Science at the Shine Dome event.



The deadline for the 2021 round of applications is 9.00 am AEST, **Monday 1 June 2020**.

For further information on all of the awards on offer in the 2021 award round, please [download the awards fact sheet](#) and [visit the website](#).

For enquiries, please email the [awards team](#).

(Picture above: Sash Gwion panel painted over early art and hand stencils)

# TMAG from home

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) was temporarily closed to the public from Thursday 19 March until further notice.

Find out how you can keep exploring from home while TMAG is closed by clicking on the image at left.



F O L L O W on T W I T T E R @RoyalSocTas



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

**Click here and scroll down to the PayPal DONATE button on our website's home page. Thank you for your support!**

*Copyright © 2018 The Royal Society of Tasmania, All rights reserved.*

ABN 65 889 598 100

**Our mailing address is:**

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

**Our office location is:**

19 Davey Street

Hobart TAS 7000

Office hours: Wednesdays 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

+61 3 6165 7014

Thank you for reading!

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [ryanam@utas.edu.au](mailto:ryanam@utas.edu.au)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The Royal Society of Tasmania · 19 Davey Street · Hobart, Tas 7000 · Australia

