

The Royal Society of Tasmania  
Northern Chapter



## *Northern Chapter Notes*    **May 2015**

### Upcoming Launceston Lectures:

May 24<sup>th</sup> - *From Spiny Ant-Eater to Promiscuous Spiky Baby Killer: An Incomplete Natural History of Echidnas.* Associate Professor Stewart Nicol

June 28<sup>th</sup> - *Human-Centred Design and Maritime Simulation*  
Professor Margareta Lutzhoft

July 26<sup>th</sup> - *Joint Replacement, Past, Present and Future.* Mr John Batten

\*\* Please let us know if you are coming - phone the Museum on 6323 3798, or email [bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au](mailto:bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au)

### General News

- Seven Northern Chapter members visited the Australian Maritime College on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to tour the Maritime Simulator facilities. This state-of-the art suite of facilities offers real-time maritime simulation technology that includes a full-mission ship's bridge, a tug simulator and six ship operations bridges. It is used for research and investigation into port development, ship manoeuvring, and improving ship and port safety and efficiency.

Once inside the simulator, members were given the amazing experience on being on board a moving ship, as it negotiated its way around Sydney Harbour, clearly visible through the authentically replicated ships bridge windows. Changing weather conditions, as well as the effects of passing closely by other vessels, made the experience a particularly 'moving' one, and it was at times hard to believe we were, in fact, inside a stationary building.

The tour was an exciting prelude to our June lecture, by Professor Margareta Lutzhoft, on the intricacies of the Simulator technology, and we hope to be able to organise a further tour for members at a future date.

- We regret to inform you of the sad loss of our long-term member, and former Secretary of the Northern Chapter, Mr Frank Ellis. A tribute to Mr Ellis, written by our Immediate Past President, Dr Eric Ratcliff, is included below.

## **NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Northern Chapter Committee welcomed our new Chapter President for 2015, Dr Frank Madill AM, elected at the recent AGM on the 22nd March. Dr Madill brings with him a wealth of experience from his time as a Cabinet Minister, and Speaker of the House in the Tasmanian State Parliament, as well as from his many years in general medical practice. Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM moves to the position of Immediate Past President, Mr Brian East remains as Honorary Treasurer, Ms Chel Bardell as Honorary Secretary, and Mr Andrew Parsons as Librarian and Website Manager. Mr Elvin Fist, Mr David Morris, and Dr George Merridew remain as committee members.

## **PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE SOCIETY ENHANCED.**

News of our upcoming lectures is now displayed on the QVMAG Digital display screen at the Information Desk near the entrance of the Museum, and is also published in the QVMAG e-newsletter QNEWS, as well as on the UTAS Media Office's digital Events Calendar, and also within the UTAS Staff e-Newsletter. This will provide an excellent opportunity for students and staff to become involved with the Royal Society.

## **UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA LIBRARY**

One of the privileges of your Royal Society membership is the right to register as a borrower at all UTAS libraries. This is a free service. Please contact the Hobart office for further details. Note the new direct RST Office phone number: 6165 7014.

## **GREETING CARDS, CALENDARS NEW AND OLD, AND ROYAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

The Royal Society has recently produced sixteen new greeting cards in A6 size (post as a standard letter). The 2016 Calendar is now available, as well as the 2015 Calendar at a greatly reduced price. Also available, free of charge with the purchase of other items, are some of the earlier Calendars showing some of the Society's exquisite art works.

The Northern Chapter will have some of these items for sale before and after each lecture, near the entrance table. We hope to have some of the Society's recent publications available for purchase in the coming months.

Prices are as follows:

Single cards \$4.99 each

Pack of 5 \$19.99

Pack of 10 \$39.99

All 16 cards for \$59.99 - a saving of \$20.00 on individual card prices.

2016 Calendars \$19.95

2015 Calendars \$10.00

One of the older Calendars available free with the purchase of any other item.

## **2015 SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER**

Reminders have been sent out to members who have not yet renewed for 2015. Please forward your subscriptions as soon as possible to the Hobart office. The society relies on your membership to support its lecture programs, publications, and other activities.

## **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Management Committee Meeting will be prior to the Lecture on Sunday 26th July. Please feel free to contact any of the Committee members about matters related to our activities.

The Chapter Management Committee in 2015 comprises Dr Frank Madill (President), Dr Eric Ratcliff (Immediate Past President), Mr Brian East (Honorary Treasurer), Ms Chel Bardell (Honorary Secretary), and Mr Andrew Parsons (Librarian and Website Manager). Committee members are Mr Elvin Fist, Mr David Morris and Dr George Merridew

## **A PUBLICITY REMINDER**

A further reminder to members that it would be appreciated if you would consider printing one or more copies of the meeting flyers when you receive them and then asking your local shopkeepers to display them in their window.

## **WILLIAM FRANK ELLIS O.B.E. 1928-2015**

On 22 February 2015 Frank died as a result of a house fire at Perth in Tasmania.

Frank was Director of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston from 1955 to 1978, having first worked there from 1951 as anthropologist and later as Deputy Director. During the majority of those years he served as secretary of the Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania, and he was pre-eminent among those who ensured that the Branch not only survived but flourished during that period.

He was an anthropologist by training and maintained a special interest in Tasmanian Aboriginal sites and artefacts. He pioneered the archaeological evaluation of these twenty years before Rhys Jones and others found clear evidence of the more ancient occupation he had long suspected.

As Director of an institute caring for important collections in the fields of natural history, geology and mineralogy, Tasmanian and Pacific anthropology, colonial history, ceramics, decorative arts and fine arts, he developed very wide sympathies. He was a founder of the Australian Gallery Directors (AGDC), the first national body to organise major travelling exhibitions. The first of these displayed the works of John Glover, making them more widely known and appreciated outside Tasmania than ever before. He became the Chairman of the AGDC in 1976, and was appointed to the position of Director of the new Western Australian Art Gallery in 1978.

Returning to Tasmania in 1986, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Burnie Regional Art Gallery, and was its Director until his retirement in 1993.

We mourn the passing of a scientist, a polymath, a pioneering museologist and a man who did much to further the aims of the Society over at least a quarter of the twentieth century.

Eric Ratcliff  
Immediate Past President