

Royal Society of Tasmania
Northern Chapter



Northern Notes November 2013

Upcoming Launceston Lectures:

Our last lecture for 2013:

November 24th: ***Delving into the Soil carbon Black Box***, Dr Leigh Sparrow

First lecture for 2014:

February 23rd: ***Early Australian Archaeology***, Dr Richard Cosgrove

** To facilitate organisation please let us know if you are coming –phone the Museum on 6362 3718, or email bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au

General News:

- The 2014 Northern Lecture Program is being finalised, and we have confirmed speakers on topics as diverse as ancient Aboriginal archaeology, the vaccination debate, viticulture and climate change, current advances in psychiatry, researching ocean currents in the Southern Oceans and Antarctica using seals to carry measuring instrumentation, and an exploration of the Royal Society's own Library and Archives. Send your suggestions as to topics you would like presented to our honorary secretary, Chel Bardell: cj.bardell@bigpond.com .
- We are planning to hold three forums for 2014, one on the current management of bowel cancer, at which an oncologist, a gastroenterologist, and a specialist surgeon will speak. Further forums on education and science are still at the planning stage.
- A recent field trip to the Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HITLab) at the Newnham campus of UTas by eight members provided a fascinating insight into innovative ways humans can interact with computers. Several members enjoyed standing in front of a screen and using gestures to design a molecule using atoms from a displayed list. Others practised using a rehabilitation/physiotherapy computer model which assessed their ability to follow the movements shown on the screen by tracking how well they moved their arms and legs in response to the instructions. Members appreciated the time Professor Henry Duh and his staff gave to inform us of their activities and research

- The RST website has been updated. Go to www.rst.org.au and explore the new layout, including our own **Northern Chapter** Tab, which contains information on both our upcoming and past lectures, plus all our news and contact details. Please send any comments you have on the website to our website manager, Andrew Parsons: andrew.parsons@launceston.tas.gov.au . A first for the Northern Chapter!
- News from the RST Council: The Society's Honours Committee has met and decided who the recipients of the three prestigious Council medals should be. The names of those selected will be released soon.
- Council is also inviting applications for its 2013 Doctoral award of \$1,000 for a recently graduated doctoral (PhD) academic. Application details can be found on the Society website.
- The Society is also in the process of applying for renewal of its not-for-profit status and to ensure that gifts to the Society remain tax deductible. Other news is available on the website at www.rst.org.au
- Dr John Paull, the President of our chapter attends the Council meetings in Hobart on the first Tuesday of each month whenever he is free to do so. If you have any matters you wish Council to consider please inform the Honorary Secretary, cj.bardell@bigpond.com and they will be discussed by the Management Committee and referred to Council.
- The term of our current President, Dr John Paull, will expiry in February 2014 and having served the permitted two year term a new president must be elected.
- If you would like to nominate for a position on the management committee or for the position of President, nomination forms will be distributed early in the new year. Your participation is essential if the Northern Chapter is to continue to make it's contribution to the members, and to the Northern community of Tasmania.
- Dr John Paull's informative book on the life of Dr Pugh, *Not Just an Anaesthetist*, was launched at our most recent meeting. A major launch took place three days later on the 30th October at the home of Mr John Millwood, formerly the house built by Dr Pugh and his wife in 1839 and Pugh's home, practice, and laboratory for fifteen years. Copies of the book are available at Launceston bookshops or by purchase using a secure PayPal facility on the website www.jdpaul.com.au
- Any members needing to update their contact details - including email addresses - are asked to contact the honorary secretary Chel Bardell at cj.bardell@bigpond.com
- To widen the reach of our publicity and knowledge of the Society's activities the Management Committee asks you to 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.