

The Royal Society of Tasmania
Northern Chapter



Northern Chapter Notes November 2014

Upcoming Launceston Lectures:

Last lecture for this year:

November 23rd - *The Royal Society of Tasmania Library, 1845-*
Andrew Parsons

First lecture for next year:

February 22nd - *The Early History of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society*
Solomon Walker-Bowd

** Please let us know if you are coming - phone the Museum on 6323 3798, or email
bookings@qvmag.tas.gov.au

LECTURE PROGRAM FOR 2015

- Our first lecture of the year, by honours student Solomon Walker-Bowd, should provide some fascinating insights into the early workings of our own Branch of the Royal Society, including the issues leading to its dissolution in 1860, and its rebirth in 1921.

Plans are underway to hold an Education Forum later in the year, aiming to address any major changes in the educational structure for Tasmania as a result of the change in Government, and new roles emerging from these changes.

Dates are being arranged for speakers on the Architectural History of Launceston, and the sea voyages of early explorers. Other potential topics include Tasmanian orchids, ginseng growing, the natural history of the echidna, the role of genetic modification in food security, the avian family tree, and a medical forum on the topic of joint replacement is also being investigated.

National Science Week falls on the 15th - 23rd August in 2015, with a theme of *Making waves - the Science of Light*, based on the 2015 International Year of Light. We aim to provide a light-themed lecture in August as part of the official National Science Week program.

We are always interested to hear your ideas for potential speakers or topics, which you can forward to the honorary secretary, Chel Bardell: cj.bardell@bigpond.com.

ROYAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LECTURE AND DINNER.

- The Royal Society's Christmas lecture for this year will be held on Tuesday the 2nd December at 6pm in the Hobart CSIRO Lecture Theatre. The Speaker will be the Northern Chapter's Immediate Past President, Dr John Paull, who will present *Walking with Dr Pugh from Hobart to Launceston in 1836*. The lecture will be followed by a Christmas-themed two-course buffet meal, and the cost for the evening is \$40 per person. Please contact the Royal Society's Hobart office on 03 6211 4177, or by email royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au if you wish to attend.

SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS.....

- The Royal Society's excellent new book *The Library at the End of the World: Natural Science and its Illustrators*, would make an ideal Christmas present, as would the Society's 2015 Calendar, featuring Australian frogs, photographed by the Royal Society's honorary editor, Margaret Davies. All Royal Society publications are available from the Society website www.rst.org.au or by contacting the Hobart office on 03 6211 4177, or email royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au.....

NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2015

- We are in need of fresh faces on our Management Committee, as several of our long-term members, who have done outstanding work for the Society for many years, will be retiring from the Committee this year. Please consider if you, or another member you know, could make a contribution to the running of our dynamic and very successful Chapter. There are roles to suit various levels of involvement, from organising our afternoon teas, to contributing to an array of administrative tasks the Committee undertakes. Please speak to a Committee member, or contact the honorary secretary for further information: Chel Bardell cj.bardell@bigpond.com.

SMALL CHANGE IN ADMISSION CHARGES FOR 2015

- Members of the general public will be asked for an entry fee of \$6 from next year, while Friends of QVMAG and students will pay \$4. Our costs for running each lecture amount to nearly \$200, so it was felt a small increase in entry fees was warranted. All members of the Royal Society will continue to receive free entry to all lectures, in both the North and South of the State.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Management Committee Meeting will be held prior to the Lecture on Sunday 22nd February, 2015. Please feel free to contact any of the Committee members about matters related to our activities.

The Chapter Management Committee in 2014 comprises Dr Eric Ratcliff (President), Dr John Paull (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, Dr George Merridew, and Dr Gavin Earles.

A PUBLICITY REMINDER

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