

# Northern Branch NEWS

AUGUST 2020

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

### *President's Special Report*

Since 1997 National Science Week has celebrated science and technology each August and provided an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge. It also aims to encourage an interest in scientific pursuits among the general public, and to encourage younger people to be fascinated by the world we live in.

The Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania in recent years has contributed to Science Week by hosting a forum for select doctoral candidates at the University of Tasmania to present to the general public an overview of the new research they are engaged with, showing the significance of this research in the advancement of knowledge.

This year National Science Week has moved online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And the Northern Branch's Science Week forum will be presented online as a webinar at **1.30 pm on Sunday 23 August**. A recording of this will be added later to the Branch's new YouTube channel.

There will be a panel of three doctoral candidates who will present diverse and intriguing topics outlining their research, exemplifying the forum's title, "Breaking New Ground". Details are on page 2 of this Newsletter. You will have the opportunity to write in to the panel, during their presentations, any questions you might have, and these will be moderated to minimise duplication of questions, and the presenters will answer your questions after their presentations.

Members need to register for this Science Week forum – and an invitation to register will be sent to members in early August.

### **National Science Week is a national strategy for getting Australians engaged with the sciences.**

It is sponsored by the Australian Government, the CSIRO, the ABC and the Australian Science Teachers' Association.



## 2021 Centenary Calendar

Next year marks 100 years of the Northern Branch's continuous operation. We will be celebrating this special anniversary in a number of ways. The Society's 2021 Calendar is dedicated to the Northern centenary, featuring paintings from the Royal Society of Tasmania's art collection of Northern Tasmanian subjects. Cost is **\$19.95 plus \$3.50** postage. Payment by electronic funds transfer to BSB 632-001, Acct No. 100200189 Royal Society of Tasmania Northern Branch – reference 'RST Calendar'. Please email our Treasurer [rejwalpole@bigpond.com.au](mailto:rejwalpole@bigpond.com.au) advising EFT.

# SCIENCE WEEK FORUM – BREAKING NEW GROUND

## *Panel of PhD Candidates from the University of Tasmania*

The forum will be presented online as a webinar. You will need to register to be able to participate. Invitations to register will be emailed to members mid-August.

**1.30 pm, Sunday 23 August 2020**

### **“Diabesity”: a new opportunity for reducing the incidence of Type 2 Diabetes in the Obesity epidemic**

**DUYEN TRAN** is a Pharmacy PhD candidate investigating the causes of insulin resistance in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM). Her project aims to determine whether the abnormal accumulation of toxic fats in skeletal muscles contributes to the elevation of glucose levels. Duyen’s findings will offer a novel prospective biomarker to predict the incidence of insulin resistance in the current “diabesity” (diabetes + obesity) epidemic.



### **A Bumpy Road to Perfect Fruits**

**INDIKA FERNANDO** is attached to the Australian Research Council (ARC) Training Centre for Innovative Horticultural Products. His research is focused on understanding the compound forces that create fruit damage during the lengthy road trips from the tropical areas where they are grown to major markets in the south. He is using an experimental approach to help industry deliver the perfect bananas.



### **Tidal energy is coming to Tasmania**

**CHRISTELLE AUGUSTE** has a passion for renewable energy and the ocean. Her research at the Australian Maritime College focuses on how tidal turbines could influence sediment transport in high energetic sites. She spent 17 days at sea to collect data in Banks Strait north east of Tasmania. The aim of her PhD research is to assess the sediment dynamics at tidal energy sites in Australia and predict the environmental response to the extraction of energy.



# NORTHERN BRANCH – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO'S WHO – PART 1

## Dr. Eric Ratcliff OAM

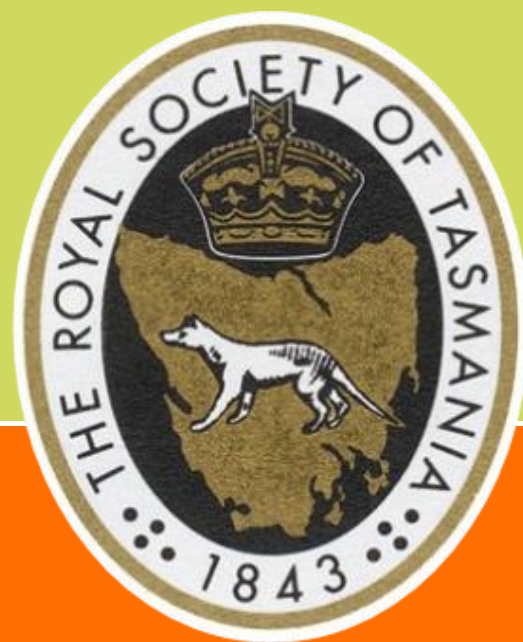
Eric Ratcliff was born in Launceston in 1938, completed secondary education at Launceston High School and graduated M.B.,B.S. from the University of Queensland in 1964. He qualified as a consultant psychiatrist in 1976 and became a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in 1981. He was a long-serving General Councillor of the College, chaired a number of bi-national committees, and was awarded the College Medal of Honour in 2006. He has served a number of terms as Chair of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society. In addition to continuing psychiatric and medico-legal practice in Launceston, he is a recognised architectural historian, and has published on aspects of nineteenth century architecture and design in Tasmania and in England and on hospital and medical history in Tasmania. He was honoured with the O.A.M. in 2004 for services to psychiatry and architectural conservation. He is Northern Branch representative on the Royal Society of Tasmania Foundation.

## Ms Lynette Ross

Lynette Ross was born in 1954 and grew up on the South Island of New Zealand. She moved to Australia in her 20s and, after living in various parts of the country, settled in Tasmania. She undertook a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in history and archaeology; the latter through the University of New England. Central to her Honours degree in history was a thesis on convict death at Port Arthur which led to a re-interpretation of the Isle of the Dead.

Lynette has a varied career history, including Heritage Officer at the Port Arthur site, as well as research roles and other positions at the University of Tasmania. She has also held the position of coordinator of operations at the historic Saumarez Homestead in NSW and other freelance roles. Her special interest is the history and archaeology of Australia's colonial period.

Lynette has enjoyed an active life of horse riding, scuba diving, travel, all subjects relating to the past, reading and the natural world. Lynette is now retired but occupied with completing writing projects related to the colonial period. Her history of Launceston's Government Cottage is due to be published in 2020. She also volunteers at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Natural Sciences working on special projects. Lynette joined the Royal Society of Tasmania in 2017, and in 2018 she joined the Northern Branch Management Committee. She is currently a member of the Branch's Centenary subcommittee.



### ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Fourth Lecture in the 2020  
Launceston Lecture Series

will be presented by webinar,  
1.30 pm on  
Sunday 27 September

You will be invited to register to  
attend this webinar.

**Professor  
Michael Breadmore**

Director of



will present

**"CHEMICAL ANSWERS NOW"  
– protecting us and our  
environment**