

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Annual Report for 2020



The Tasmanian Society for the Advancement of Knowledge
ABN 65 889 598 100

The Royal Society of Tasmania acknowledges, with deep respect, the traditional owners of this land, and the ongoing custodianship of the Aboriginal people of Tasmania. The Society pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge that Tasmanian Aboriginal Peoples have survived severe and unjust impacts resulting from invasion and dispossession of their Country. As an institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, the Royal Society of Tasmania recognises Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices and seeks to respect and honour these traditions and the deep understanding they represent.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Report for 2020

Produced by The Royal Society of Tasmania for the Annual General Meeting 7 March 2021



ABN 65 889 598 100

The Royal Society of Tasmania

Mail: GPO Box 1166, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

Office: 19 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000 (open Wed 9.00 am – 12.00 pm)

Phone: +61 03 6165 7014

Email: admin@rst.org.au

Web: www.rst.org.au



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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

PATRON: Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

OFFICE BEARERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Mrs Mary Koolhof
Vice President	Prof Jocelyn McPhie
Immediate Past President	Prof Ross Large AO, FTSE
Honorary Secretary	Ms Marley Large
Honorary Treasurer	Mr David Wilson
Council Members	
	Ms Niamh Chapman
	Ms Shasta Henry (Student Councillor)
	Dr Robert Johnson (Early Career Researcher)
	Prof Greg Lehman
	Mr Peter Manchester
	Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen
	Dr John Thorne AM
	Dr Adele Wilson
Northern Branch Representatives	
	The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM
	Mr David Morris

EX OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorary Librarian	Ms Juliet Beale
Honorary Editor	Dr Sally Bryant
TMAG Representative	Ms Janet Carding
Honorary Solicitor	Mr James Crotty

NORTHERN BRANCH & OTHER ROLES

NORTHERN BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Northern Branch President	The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Robin Walpole
Northern Branch Rep on The Foundation	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Northern Branch Management Committee Members	Mr Brian East
	Mr Neil MacKinnon
	Mr David Morris (Immediate Past President)
	Mr Jonathan Morris
	Mrs Melanie Morris
	Mr Andrew Parsons (Honorary Librarian)
	Mrs Tracy Puklowski (Director of Creative Arts & Cultural Services / QVMAG Director, ex officio)
	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Northern Branch Merchandise Sales & Publications Committee Representative	Ms Lynette Ross
	Ms Chel Bardell

OTHER RST ROLES

Auditor	Mr Richard James
Newsletter Editor	Mr Bernard Pryor OAM
Webmaster	Dr Angela Ryan / Mr Eddy Steenbergen
Publicity & Twitter Account	Dr Adele Wilson
Facebook Account	Ms Chel Bardell
Office Assistant	Mrs Ann Watson
RST Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (TMAG)	Prof Jim Reid
	Assoc Prof Penny Edmonds

COMMITTEES 2020

RST COMMITTEE Aboriginal Engagement	CHAIR Prof Matt King	MEMBERS Dr Robert Johnson Mrs Mary Koolhof Ms Marley Large Prof Greg Lehman Prof Jocelyn McPhie Mr David Morris Mr David Wilson
Artworks Committee	Prof Ross Large	Dr Anita Hansen Ms Marley Large
Bursaries Committee	Dr Deborah Beswick	Ms Penny Cocker Dr Robert Johnson Mr Andrew Porter Dr Adele Wilson
Events Committee	Dr Robert Johnson	Ms Niamh Chapman Ms Shasta Henry
RST Foundation	Prof Jim Reid	Mr Tony Culberg (from November) Mrs Mary Koolhof Ms Marley Large Mr Peter Meyer Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Dr John Thorne AM Mr David Wilson
Honours & Awards Committee	Prof. Jocelyn McPhie	Dr Mike Coffin (Doctoral Awards only) Dr Margaret Davies OAM Prof Simon Foote Dr Eva Meidl Prof Jim Reid Dr Steve Rintoul
Membership Committee	Roxanne Steenbergen	Ms Shasta Henry Mr Peter Manchester Dr John Thorne AM
Publications Committee	Dr Sally Bryant	Ms Chel Bardell Dr Margaret Davies OAM Ms Ruth Mollison (from October)
Treasury Operations (in recess from May)	Prof Ross Large, AO	Ms Juliet Beale Mr James Crotty Dr Anita Hansen Mrs Mary Koolhof Ms Marley Large Mr David Wilson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking back on this year, we have made remarkable progress as a Society despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A cornerstone of the Society's work is promoting and recognising scholarly endeavours in Tasmania; under the capable leadership of Prof Jocelyn McPhie, the Honours Committee attracted record numbers of very high-quality nominations for the Peter Smith Medal awarded biennially to an early career researcher, and the annual Doctoral Awards. Very warm congratulations go to Dr Frances Sussmilch on winning the 2020 Peter Smith Medal for her outstanding research in plant science focussing on molecular biology and genetics. Very warm congratulations are also extended to Dr Adam Abersteiner (Earth Sciences) and Dr Alessandro Silvano (Oceanography) on winning the Society's 2020 Doctoral Awards for their impressive research. All three awards are particularly notable as the field of nominations was large and very strong.

Due to the mandated lockdown and the pandemic-related room capacity restrictions, we were unable to hold monthly meetings in our lecture room at TMAG. The incoming Executive decided to move firstly Council meetings to the Zoom online platform, to allow the Society's business to be transacted. This worked well, and it was decided to hold the monthly lecture meetings via Zoom webinar from May onwards. The Northern Branch lecture series came online in July. Uptake of the online lectures has been excellent, as has the dedicated Royal Society of Tasmania YouTube channel, an initiative of Events Committee Chair Dr Robert Johnson. The Society's enhanced online presence has allowed us to extend our reach: each month we have had people overseas viewing lectures live, and our November speaker joined us live from New Zealand. Quite a number of YouTube viewers are also from overseas, as well as across Tasmania and Australia. Up to December 2020, our lectures on YouTube had attracted over 2100 views.

The 2020 lecture program offered a series of really interesting talks on a wide range of subjects. A highlight of the year was the successful National Science Week program organised by Niamh Chapman, a series on women working in marine science with interviews broadcast on radio and videos released on YouTube. Thanks to Dr Adele Wilson (Publicity Officer) and Chel Bardell (Facebook Page Manager), our lectures and other activities have received excellent promotion including via social media. Our monthly newsletter has been of inestimable value in keeping members informed and engaged, and sincere thanks go to newsletter editor Bernard Pryor OAM for his sterling work. The Council introduced a Certificate of Appreciation to recognise significant service to the Society by volunteers, and the first of these certificates was presented to Bernard in December 2020.

The Council has developed a strategic plan to guide the Society's work during the next five years and has implemented a Code of Conduct for members.

The Society has embarked upon a process of digitising important records held in its library, and in 2020 many historic business documents such as ledgers and correspondence were digitised, with Hon. Librarian Juliet Beale leading the team. Progress has been made in developing a new style guide for documents, including work towards a refreshed logo. With the aim of supporting aspiring young scientists in Tasmanian schools, the Society provided a number of prizes for the Tasmanian Science Talent Search conducted by the Science Teachers' Association of Tasmania, and several Society members served as judges for this event.

An update of information on the Society's website was needed, and this much-appreciated work has been completed by new webmaster Eddy Steenbergen. We thank Dr Angela Ryan for all her previous work on the website.

As increasingly complex business is coming onto our agenda, the Council resolved to create the position of Hon. Solicitor with inaugural appointee James Crotty, whose advice has been highly valued. December saw the launch of a successful new publication, *Australian Mineral Discoverers* edited by John Hill, David Royle, Prof Ross Large and Tony Hope, featuring the lives and achievements of 65 geologists who made significant discoveries in Australia including important discoveries that helped shape Tasmanian industry. The 2020 *Papers and Proceedings* produced under the leadership of Dr Sally Bryant is an excellent edition full of interesting articles.

We were very pleased to welcome 31 new members this year. The Membership Committee under the capable guidance of Membership Secretary Roxanne Steenbergen surveyed members on a variety of topics and gained valuable data on a number of matters. Our Art Committee has devoted many hours to researching the provenance of artworks in the Royal Society Collection currently on long-term loan to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and more recently to inspecting the physical condition of the works. Their report is very close to completion.

The Council and Aboriginal Engagement Committee have given a great deal of time and thought to preparing for our Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people regarding past deeds of the Society. This event is planned for 15 February 2021. The strong partnership with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and in particular collaboration with Director Janet Carding and Board Chair Brett Torossi, has been much appreciated.

The year finished with a very well-attended and much enjoyed dinner and lecture at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, attended by our Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania. We are grateful for all the support received from Her Excellency this year.

All these achievements have been possible due to the resilience, commitment and many hours of hard work by our Council members and other volunteers behind the scenes. To all who have contributed their skills and talents to the work of the Society in advancing knowledge this year – thank you. In particular, my very warm thanks go to Vice-President Prof Jocelyn McPhie, Hon. Secretary Marley Large and Hon. Treasurer David Wilson for their dedicated and outstanding service to the Society. The efforts of our volunteers have allowed the Society to not only survive the many challenges posed by the pandemic, but to flourish.

Mary Koolhof
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary, under the direction of the Council is responsible for the executive supervision of the affairs of the Society including the arranging of meetings of the Society and Council. Much of the time spent in the RST office in 2020 was devoted to making these arrangements and transcribing minutes of the monthly meetings of Council. The position is also ex-officio to the Foundation with similar duties.

While COVID-19 has presented many organisational difficulties, the Society's adoption of the on-line Zoom platform for meetings and web conferencing for lectures meant that business could be conducted as planned. The utility of Zoom has presented opportunities undreamed of twelve months ago and is likely to remain a delivery platform for our programs into the future. The fact that Council meetings and lectures were able to continue on schedule and still be delivered in a professional manner is due to the combined efforts and co-operation of many people within and outside our organisation.

There have been several time-consuming and challenging projects in 2020. Arguably, the most challenging of these has been participation in the Aboriginal Engagement Committee and the RST/TMAG Working Group working toward the historic delivery of Paired Apologies to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Another challenging project has been as a member of the Artwork Committee examining and investigating the Society's Art Collection on long term loan to TMAG. This process has been very useful in understanding the Collection as well as solving a few mysteries about particular items in the Collection. The final report is yet to be prepared and presented as examination of the artworks will continue into 2021. After thorough investigation of all available documents, it is hoped that our work in this part of the project will finally be completed in the first half of 2021.

I was very proud to witness the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to the immediate past Honorary Secretary, David Wilson by the President, Mary Koolhof at our Christmas event. The Life Member status is well deserved recognition of David's distinguished service to the Society during a particularly hectic period over the last five years.

The position of Hon Secretary requires communication with all members of Council as well as general members and co-supervision of our very busy and productive Office Assistant Ann Watson. As a newcomer to Council this was a daunting prospect, however, Council members and others are generous with their time, co-operative with their expertise and, above all tolerant and welcoming of new Council members for which I am personally immensely grateful.

Marley Large
Honorary Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

2019–20 was a year of change at TMAG. My role as Chair commenced in mid-February after a handover from my predecessor Geoff Willis AM. Geoff, as with every aspect of his leadership of this important organisation, handled the transition with the utmost professionalism and attention to detail. My profound thanks to Geoff for his contribution over many years at TMAG and, in particular, for the last five years when he has served as Chair and overseen the implementation of our new Act, the transition to a statutory authority, and secured important funding to support vital improvements to the museum's buildings.

During the first part of 2019–20, under Geoff's leadership, TMAG saw the completion of the compelling exhibition *Julie Gough: Tense Past* that examined the dispossession of Tasmania's Aboriginal people through this talented artist's eyes. In December 2019, the Board took the historic decision to deaccession the ancient petroglyphs removed from Preminghana and seek approval to return them to Country. We aim to continue to strengthen the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community during my time as Chair, in particular by working with the Royal Society of Tasmania to deliver paired formal Apologies for past practices – planned for February 2021.

As I took the Chair, we were joined by two new members, Heather Rose and Andrew Catchpole and I would like to thank them for the contribution they have already made over the past months.

Despite all the careful preparations as I began my term, within four weeks the world had changed with the declaration of the COVID-19 global pandemic. As we all remember, restrictions saw TMAG close to the public by 19 March, and unable to re-open until just before the conclusion of the financial year on 23 June.

During this period, the Board met frequently online to support the management team. Our priorities were to ensure the safety of our staff, our volunteers and our invaluable State Collection. TMAG adapted quickly to this unprecedented time under the leadership of our Director, Janet Carding, and the management team. The majority of the museum's work continued during the lockdown. We innovated by quickly commencing digital programming, keeping in touch with our local and global community, ensuring the museum remained a place of knowledge and learning even when scholars and visitors were unable to be with us in person.

My thanks to the Board, to our Director Janet Carding, and our staff, volunteers and many supporters, as they responded with exceptional professionalism, grace, determination and flexibility to the challenges of 2020.

At TMAG we tell Tasmania's stories. We interact daily with the international scientific community, art and cultural institutions, historical institutions, scholars of indigenous history, with educators and with students of all ages. This year we showed that our stories can be told in many ways and using many platforms. We were able to prove that our reach is infinite and our contribution invaluable even when we are constrained by geographic isolation.

With the rapid deterioration of the economic situation due to the pandemic, the Tasmanian Government announced the Public Building Maintenance Fund, and TMAG was allocated \$3.8 million in total, which has enabled us to commence a series of essential projects across our extensive heritage property portfolio, including the redecoration of the Royal Society offices. My thanks to the Tasmanian Government, and the Minister for the Arts in particular, for her support of TMAG through this allocation and throughout the whole year.

Through working together, particularly on the development of the paired Apologies, I am pleased that we have built a stronger, collaborative relationship with the RST Council, and I would like to thank Mary Koolhof and her team for all their efforts and conversations this year.

As we look ahead the situation remains uncertain but I know that with our Board and the strong team at – and around – TMAG including the RST, we are well-placed to adapt and change as needed and to grow our role as part of the cultural, creative and scientific lifeblood of Tasmania.

Brett Torossi

Chair, TMAG Board of Trustees

RST FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established in 1995 by the Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania to provide additional funds to enhance the Society's activities in advancing knowledge, particularly about Tasmania. It was thought there should be some significant funds put aside for 'a rainy day' and to allow new strategic initiatives to be developed.

The Rules of the Society are set by Council and have recently been updated to allow for a Foundation which basically has the following aims:

- To steadily grow a body of funds, invest it wisely and encourage donations, bequests, gifts, or transfer from general funds,
- To (preferably) only use the income from investments on special projects or activities as determined by Council, and
- To ensure the on-going growth of the funds to ensure the long-term aims of the Society are achieved.

The Foundation has successfully met these aims by building up funds and using them to support or seed initiatives such as the extremely successful dinosaur exhibition in 2018–19. The investment conditions for term deposits has substantially reduced over the last 12 months and this has had a significant impact on the returns achieved, even though the conservative investment approach has resulted in a substantial level of funds on hand (see financial statement).

The 2020 Committee of the Foundation consisted of: Prof Jim Reid (Chair), Mary Koolhof, Marley Large, Peter Meyer, Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM, Dr John Thorne AM and David Wilson. In addition, the Council recently appointed a further member with taxation expertise, Tony Culberg.

The Foundation would welcome further bequests or donations, confident that they will be wisely used to further the aims of the Society and to the benefit of the wider Tasmanian community by the advancement of knowledge about the natural and cultural histories of Tasmania.

Prof Jim Reid
Foundation Committee

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION FUNDS
AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 2020

	Institution	Current \$	Term	Current Performance	2020 Interest
Fund 1 - Select Mortgage Fund	TPT Wealth		ongoing	2.4%	Earned
Previous Holding		27,311.35			
Interest earned Q1		125.93			
Interest earned Q2		129.46			
Interest earned Q3		102.55			
Interest earned Q4		79.11			
Current Holding		27,748.40			437.05
Fund 2 - Long Term Fund	TPT Wealth		ongoing	2.5%	
Previous Holding		188,845.92			
Interest earned Q1		1,086.54			
Interest earned Q2		989.11			
Interest earned Q3		851.97			
Interest earned Q4		731.22			
Current Holding		192,504.76			3,658.84
Fund 3 - Fixed Term - ANZAAS	TPT Wealth		ongoing	2.4%	
Previous Holding		30,461.86			
Interest earned Q1		132.22			
Interest earned Q2		135.86			
Interest earned Q3		116.58			
Interest earned Q4		101.07			
Current Holding		30,947.59			485.73
Perpetual Trustees Totals		251,200.75			4,581.62
Fund 3 - Term Deposits	MyState Bank	40,323.73	10/04/2021	1.85%	1,024.58
Fund 4 - Term Deposit	MyState Bank	138,712.54	2/04/2021	1.85%	3,656.50
Fund 5 - Term Deposit	CBA	42,363.97	15/01/2022	0.55%	834.72
Fund 6 - Term Deposit	CBA	63,606.85	15/01/2022	0.55%	1,976.64
Term Deposit Totals		285,007.09			7,492.44
Foundation Fund Totals		536,207.84			12,074.06

MEMBERSHIP

Priorities for the Membership Committee for 2020 were:

- Review of all procedures for application and renewal of membership of the Society, and
- Development of additional benefits to increase attractiveness of membership.

Membership numbers as at the end of 2020 were as follows:

South.....	237
North	81
Australia (outside Tasmania).....	23
Overseas	4

The membership numbers were pleasing given the inability of the Royal Society of Tasmania to host face to face meetings due to COVID-19. Members joined Zoom to participate in the online lectures.

Council determined the membership fees for 2021 would stay the same as for 2020:

Full member with papers and proceedings	\$90
Full member without papers and proceedings	\$65
Student member with papers and proceedings.....	\$50
Student member without papers and proceedings	\$25

Throughout the year the membership database was updated with corrections made as membership applications and renewals were received. Application and renewal forms were updated to include the new member Code of Conduct ratified in June by Council. Applicants for membership agree to abide by the Code of Conduct with a signature. Current members do so in renewing their membership each year.

All members were invited to complete an online survey later in the year. Approximately 14% of members completed the survey. Detailed results of the survey were shared with Council and members were provided with a summary in the December newsletter.

The Membership Committee used survey results and input from Council to develop suggestions for maintaining and increasing membership through increasing member benefits. Some of these will be included in the strategic plan. One action already undertaken was to provide automatic renewal for membership, a popular option in survey responses.

Finally, I want to thank the Membership Committee and other Council members for their commitment to improving the benefits to members with a view to maintaining and increasing membership.

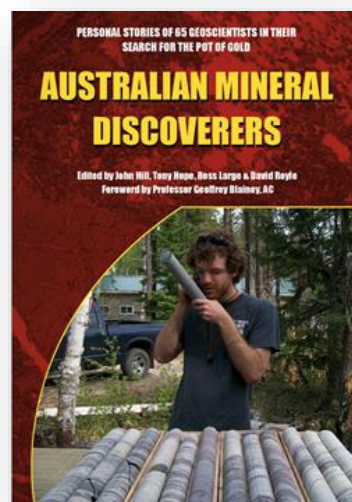
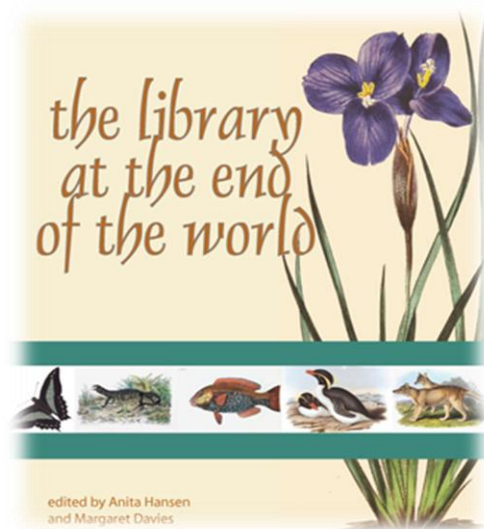
NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED IN 2020:

Maureen Ferris, Harro Drexler, Jane Drexler, Barbara Frankel, Niamh Chapman, Prof. Jocelyn McPhie, Brita McDougall, Rachel Rose, Alastair Anderson, Alex Hewitt, Mike Coffin, Melanie Morris, Andrew Flies, Hilary Burden, Andrew Vidor, Joshua Phillips, Ross Doddridge, Alice Grieve, Arko Lucieer, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Indika Fernando, Christelle Auguste, Claire Butler, Megan Hartog, Mary-Anne Lea, Duyen Tran, Rolan Eberhard, Ruth Mollison, Janet Lane, Susan Steenbergen, Jessica Ericson.

Roxanne Steenbergen
Membership Secretary

LIBRARY

The Royal Society of Tasmania Library materials (special and rare books, maps and extensive member deposits) are housed in the University of Tasmania Library and managed by the University's Special & Rare Collections staff. The Special & Rare Collections are open Monday - Wednesday by appointment inclusive from 10 am to 5 pm but closed between 12:30 and 1:30. The Collection is accessible to members and the public, and a reference service is provided by phone, email and in person. To access the Collection: <https://www.utas.edu.au/library/research/special-and-rare-collections>



COVID-19 2020

COVID-19 outbreak affected physical access to the Library for 2020. The Library was closed to in-person visits from March to June, however queries were answered by phone and email as needed, and where possible items from the collection were digitised to assist with research enquiries. From June, visits by appointment were made available and this continues to be the modus operandi, to keep people numbers within government guidelines. This will continue through 2021 until reviewed.

To maintain connection with the Collection throughout COVID restrictions, Library staff contributed regular newsletter items highlighting some treasures from the Collection, including Bleeker's eels, Sarah Mitchell Diaries and Scrapbook and The Derwent Star. Online puzzles were created using maps and drawings from the Collection.

COLLECTIONS: MANAGEMENT

The Library team has been working on uploading indexes from the RST collection into the AtoM online archival management system. AtoM is web-based software specifically for the archival material such as the private deposits in the Library Collection and reflects the hierarchical nature of these collections. AtoM also allows for the RST Collection to have its own instance, which promotes and differentiates the identity of TRST, unlike the UTAS Library Open Repository where digitised items are currently stored. There are currently 161 sub collection entries.

<https://sparc.utas.edu.au/index.php/the-royal-society-of-tasmania-collection>

The digitisation of the RST meeting minutes, correspondence and financial records has been completed. These digitised copies have restricted access and are available on request. The transcription of selected minutes has been completed, including Book 1 and 1918 and 1919 minutes, also restricted access.

COLLECTIONS: USAGE

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Royal Society Members visits	7	72	67	34	46
Royal Society rare books viewed	60	221	475	272	813
Royal Society Deposits viewed	129	347	351	735	352
Papers & Proceedings downloads (2016 anomalous)	67,059	83,225	41,624	74,209	158,430
Visitors (including tour groups)	90	412	404	379	411
Research enquiries, in person, phone & email	342	414	441	328	412
Physical items viewed from all collections, includes rare books and deposit boxes	1011	1114	1842	1612	1795

PAPERS & PROCEEDINGS

553 DOIs have been created for the *Papers & Proceedings*, dating back to the 1979 issues. 120 DOIs were created in 2020. *Papers & Proceedings* most downloaded articles for 2020:

Article Title	Downloads
An account of food and drink in Tasmania, 1800-1900	608
Notes on some Tasmanian Aborigines and on portraits of them	375
Breeding of Black Swan in Tasmania	351
On the dialects and language of the Aboriginal Tribes of Tasmania, and on their manners and customs	324
Notes on the history of the Central Plateau	294

EXHIBITIONS


Material from the Library collection was used in the following exhibitions and displays:

- UTAS Plimsoll Gallery 'Too Many Cooks' exhibition borrowed two items,
- A voyage to the Pacific Ocean : A new, authentic, and complete collection of voyages round the world,
- Library tour organised by RST student representative.

As part of Shasta Henry's initiative, 'Study in the Secret Library', the team hosted two small tour groups of students, showing highlights from the collection, relating to biogeography and other science disciplines.

Juliet Beale

RST Honorary Librarian



STUDY in the SECRET LIBRARY {this summer}

Utas Sandy Bay Campus
houses the
Royal Society of Tasmania
library (plus other special collections);
Never heard of them before?
Like our other learning resources,
these are all available to YOU.

- Hobart Commerce in 1834
- International whale map 1851
- Diaries, letters & photographs
- Natural History records
- RST Papers & Proceedings

Let the librarians show you around.
TOURS are being organised by demand:
join the mailing list, contact RST Student rep.
✉ Shasta.Henry@utas.edu.au

Ready to contact the librarians right now?!
✉ special.collections@utas.edu.au

Right here at the Morris Miller

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

COMMERCE, 1834. Hobart Town.

IMPORTS FROM.		EXPORTS TO	
Great Britain	£245923	Great Britain	£9.
New South Wales	68023	New South Wales ..	1482
Mauritius	8272	Mauritius	924
Calcutta	9145	Madras	50
Madras	278	Batavia	18

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee coordinated several publication projects during the 2020 year.

Production of the 2021 RST calendar featuring thirteen watercolours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow (1819–1906) was expertly managed by Margaret Davies and printed by Forty South Publishing. This year a series of complementary style bookmarks, managed by Chel Bardell and designed by Anita Hansen, including two further works of de Wesselow, were also produced. Calendar sales continue to be an important source of revenue for the Society and work is underway on a suitable theme for 2022.

The RST was pleased to support the publication of a new book *Australian Mineral Discoverers 1950–2010* featuring the biographies of 65 exploration geologists relevant to Tasmania and Australia. Edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Ross Large and David Royle and printed by Franklin Direct, it was launched at the UTAS Staff Club on 15 December by Professor Geoffrey Blainey and the UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Rufus Black. The launch was a great success and many of those profiled in the book attended in person or joined remotely from around Australia via a web link. Sincere thanks go to the editors, especially Ross Large, for delivering this project which is financially underpinned by a large percentage of pre-sales orders.

Sally Bryant took over the role of Honorary Editor of the Journal *Papers and Proceedings* in March 2020 and Volume 154 was published 9 December 2020. It comprised eight quality scientific papers from 27 contributing authors and co-authors covering a range of topics, including three on Tasmania's offshore islands and four flora papers. The volume also contained the first RST Acknowledgement to Tasmania's Aboriginal people. Sincere thanks to Caroline Mordaunt who copy edited the accepted papers, June Pongratz ably type-set the volume, and printing was organized by Jonathan Eadie of Print Tasmania.

A promotional flyer on the Journal, designed by Bernard Pryor was produced mid-year to showcase its prestigious history and encourage future submissions with a strategic target of ten papers per year.

Planning is already well advanced on Volume 155 of *Papers and Proceedings*, which in 2021 will be published in two parts. Part 1 is a special volume being produced to showcase the centenary of the RST Northern Branch and will feature papers promoting achievements in history and science in northern Tasmania over the last century. Chel Bardell has expertly sourced and managed twelve engaging papers for this volume, ten of which had already been received by December and undergone independent review, well ahead of schedule.

By December 2020 three papers had been submitted for Vol 155 (part 2) which, when published in December 2021, will also contain a transcript of the RST Apology to Tasmania's Aboriginal people.

Dr Sally Bryant
Publications Committee



The Royal Society of Tasmania

Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania

Since 1849, The Royal Society of Tasmania has published an annual journal of *Papers and Proceedings* featuring refereed scholarly papers. Papers from a wide range of disciplines are accepted as research, review and presentation papers, and as short notes.

Copies of this prestigious journal are held by academic institutions around the world and papers are accessible online at:

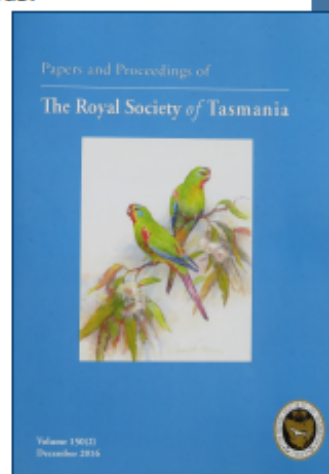
<https://rst.org.au/papers-and-proceedings/published-papers/>

In 2019, the Society's journal experienced over 83 000 downloads.

Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania publishes research with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on Tasmanian and Antarctic natural science and history. Papers in the arts, social sciences or other disciplines associated with these same geographic areas are also encouraged. Papers are accepted from researchers worldwide.

The Society welcomes your submission. Please check The Royal Society of Tasmania website for author guidelines and more information: <https://rst.org.au/papers-and-proceedings/>

**Be seen.
Be recognised.
Publish your
research in
*Papers and
Proceedings.***



Society mailing address: GPO Box 1166, Hobart TAS 7001

Society Office location: 19 Davey Street, Hobart

Office hours: Wednesdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Email: royal.society@tmag.tas.gov.au

Phone: +61 3 6165 7014

EVENTS

2020 LECTURES – SOUTH

1st March:

Speaker: RST AGM, Prof. Jean-Philippe Beaulieu
Title: The Secret Garden at Recherche Bay, 1792
Venue: The Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart

17th May:

Speaker: Dr Edward Doddridge
Title: Going with the Wind – Our Changing Southern Ocean
Venue: Zoom webinar
Recording: <https://youtu.be/aSPIPWr8oFo>

21st June:

Speaker: MR Banks Medallist, Dr Eloise Foo
Title: Dating in the Dark – The Underground World of Beneficial Plant-Microbe Relationships
Venue: Zoom webinar
Recording: <https://youtu.be/faBikQ8o1kE>

2nd August:

Speaker: MR Banks Medallist, Associate Professor Arko Lucieer
Title: From Surface to Satellites – Remote Sensing from Drones Advances Understanding of Plant Biodiversity
Venue: Zoom webinar
Recording: <https://youtu.be/6Q7EdOrvMxE>

15th August:

Event: The Royal Society of Tasmania & That's What I Call Science: Working on Water for National Science Week
Speakers: Claire Butler, Mary-Anne Lea, Mibu Fischer, Megan Hartog
Venue: Pre-recorded Interviews also aired on local Edge-Radio in Hobart.
Recording: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzn2N4MvUU_d2qq6HSuMKhYXfP0vKlx1I

6th September:

Speaker: Clive Lord Medallist, Prof. Jamie Kirkpatrick AM
Title: Cyclic Dynamics in Tasmanian High Mountain Treeless Vegetation
Venue: Zoom webinar
Recording: <https://youtu.be/00sadU9ANHk>

4th October:

Speaker: Doctoral Award Winner, Dr Indrani Mukherjee

Title: An Account of Earth's Middle Ages – Life and Resources

Venue: Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://youtu.be/c3y3ZIM0-il>

8th November:

Speaker: Doctoral Award Winner, Dr Jessica Ericson

Title: Antarctic Krill: What do Southern Oceans 'Omega-Fauna' Eat & How will they Fare in a High CO₂ World?

Venue: Zoom webinar

Recording: https://youtu.be/l_A6vr1NZpA

30th November:

Speaker: Christmas Lecture, John Williamson

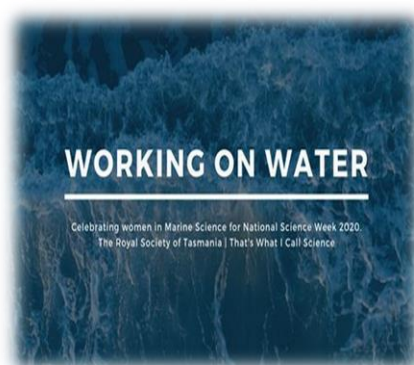
Title: Hobart and Amundsen: An Antarctic Gateway Illusion?

Venue: In-person lecture at the RYCT and recorded for YouTube

Recording: <https://youtu.be/mxC1bxHjj1o>

Dr Robert Johnson

Events Committee



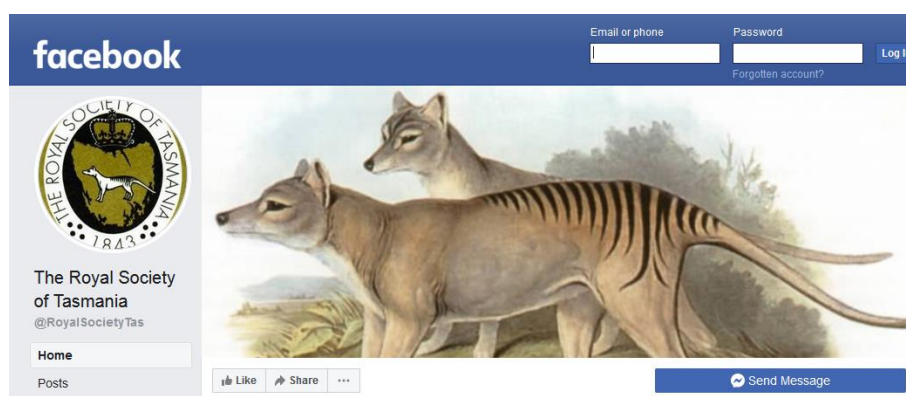
MEDIA & PUBLICITY

A change to the delivery of RST monthly lectures commenced at the start of 2020, as talks moved from Tuesday evenings to Sunday afternoons, and a small entry fee for non-members was introduced. This was to be short-lived, as Prof Beaulieu's lecture on 1st March 2020, was one of the last in-person public events attended by an audience for some months. Around mid-March it became apparent that the unfolding COVID-19 situation would restrict most Tasmanians to their homes for some time, which resulted in the cancellation of RST's April events. Quick thinking from President Mary Koolhof, Treasurer David Wilson and Events Committee Chair Rob Johnson allowed RST to present its first online lecture in May 2020 (Dr Doddridge) as a broadcast using Zoom – and was also recorded to upload to the new RST YouTube channel.

The Publicity Officer's role has had to accommodate only relatively minor adjustments to this new lecture delivery method. The move to online broadcasts of the RST lectures has attracted broader audiences from outside RST and outside of Tasmania – this is due in part to social media promotion of the lectures, which will continue to play a bigger role in publicising lectures beyond 2020.

Supporting the promotion of The Royal Society of Tasmania's monthly lectures and assisting with publicity of relevant Society activities is the role of the Publicity Officer. Lectures and events are promoted in the community through ABC Radio interviews, Facebook, Twitter, flyer distribution through established email networks, and through online event listings maintained by QVMAG, Inspiring Tasmania and the University of Tasmania's Event Calendar as well as the RST website.

Social media plays an increasingly important role in promotion of lectures and events to new audiences, with regular Twitter and Facebook posts from the Royal Society of Tasmania accounts. The Facebook page (facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas) is maintained by Chel Bardell from the Northern Branch and promotes lectures in both the North and South. As of the end of 2020, the Facebook page had 691 followers (an increase of 98 since 2019) and published over 50 posts during the calendar year. These posts attracted around 30,000 engagements, 2,000 likes/comments/shares, and resulted in 183 new page 'likes' and 95 new followers.



The Twitter account (twitter.com/RoyalSocTas) is maintained by Dr Adele Wilson and posts updates on lectures, awards, events and other relevant information. During 2020 there were 52 tweets posted from the RST account, which yielded over 72,000 impressions, 850 profile views, attracted 84 new followers and 51 mentions in tweets from other accounts.

We thank Adele and Chel Bardell for their work on social media on behalf of the Royal Society of Tasmania and recognise the many hours of work required to maintain this important online presence. Chel's work in preparing event pages for individual RST lectures has been an important promotional avenue, as it allows event information to be easily shared with new and potential audiences, enabling interested people and groups to distribute the event information through their own networks.

Lectures and events are also shared directly through email networks to relevant interest groups and organisations such as the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, Libraries Tasmania, the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (Tasmanian branch), the Science Teachers Association of Tasmania, the Australian Antarctic Division, von Humboldt Fellows, Friends of TMAG, Elizabeth College and to groups with an interest in given monthly lecture topics. Dr Adele Wilson distributes this information by email regarding lectures in the South, whilst Christine Beswick and Chel Bardell promote lectures in the North.

Promotion through established networks was undertaken for The Royal Society of Tasmania Medals and Awards, inviting nominations for the Peter Smith Medal and Doctoral Awards.

Publicity and promotion 'takes a village', and there are numerous people who must be recognised for their support throughout 2020. The Royal Society's monthly newsletter is an important means of communicating with members, and my sincere thanks go to our outgoing Newsletter Editor, Bernard Pryor, for his hard work in compiling and distributing the Newsletter. Bernard has stood down from this position near the end of 2020, and his time and efforts over the years have been greatly appreciated.

Thank you to President Mary Koolhof for assisting in maintaining established networks between the RST and local media, and in identifying new opportunities for promotion. Thanks also go to RST Webmasters in 2020 who play a large role in publicising RST and ensuring that information can be sourced on the RST website. Thank you to Dr Angela Ryan as the outgoing Webmaster and new webmaster Eddy Steenbergen, who stepped into the role during the year. Thank you also to Council and other RST members who have helped to publicise events, shared newsletters, flyers and social media posts, and who have invited friends and colleagues to events, ensuring ongoing interest in the Society's activities.

Special thanks to morning radio hosts Ryk Goddard and Leon Compton, and producers Rachel Edwards and Penny McLeod from ABC Hobart who regularly interviewed our guest lecturers and RST Award and Medal winners on air. Thank you to the Events team at UTAS including Jeanette Farnell and Belinda Brock, for allowing the lectures to be included on their public events calendar and the associated email newsletter.

Thank you to Jenni Klaus, Communications and Events Manager for National Science Week, who actively promotes Royal Society of Tasmania events through Inspiring Tasmania and National Science Week websites and related social media accounts. Jenni's contribution to the promotion of RST events state-wide is significant, ongoing, and greatly appreciated.

My heartfelt thanks also to Chel Bardell for her significant work promoting lectures in both the North and the South through Facebook. Maintaining a social media presence is a time-consuming task, but as we have seen the resulting broadening of the RST audience, is a welcome result.

Dr Adele Wilson
Publicity Officer

HONOURS & AWARDS

The Royal Society of Tasmania medals and awards recognise outstanding scholars at PhD, early, mid and senior stages of their careers. The 2020 Honours and Awards Committee comprised Dr Margaret Davies OAM, Professor Simon Foote, Professor Jocelyn McPhie (Chair), Dr Eva Meidl, Professor Jim Reid and Dr Steve Rintoul. The committee has the responsibility of seeking and assessing nominations for the Royal Society of Tasmania medals and awards.

In 2020, the Royal Society of Tasmania offered the Peter Smith Medal (June) and the Doctoral Awards (October). The Peter Smith Medal is awarded biennially to an outstanding early career researcher in any field. For this medal, 'early career' means within the first seven years (effective full-time) since the award of a PhD. The Call for Nominations resulted in 20 nominations being received. Nominations came from diverse fields including the sciences, medicine, management, history, maritime engineering and social sciences. Although the calibre of the nominee cohort was exceptional, Dr Frances Sussmilch emerged a clear winner. Dr Sussmilch specialises in the molecular biology of plants and has investigated the molecular mechanisms that allow plants to regulate water use. She is currently a Research Fellow (ARC DECRA Fellow) in the School of Natural Sciences at the University of Tasmania.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral Awards recognise two doctoral (PhD) graduates within three years (effective full-time) of graduation who have made significant advances in the course of their doctoral research. Committee member, Dr Steve Rintoul advised that he would be submitting a nomination and temporarily stood down from the Honours Committee, to avoid a conflict of interest. Professor Mike Coffin agreed to join the committee for the purpose of assessment of the 2020 Doctoral Awards nominations.

Twenty nominations for the Doctoral Awards were received, the overall standard of which was remarkably high. Although dominated by science disciplines and medicine (~80%), the social sciences, engineering, management and English literature were also represented. The two successful nominees were Dr Adam Abersteiner (Earth science) and Dr Alessandro Silvano (Oceanography). For his PhD, Dr Abersteiner studied kimberlites, unusual igneous rocks that are important worldwide as the main source of diamonds. He now holds a Research Fellow position at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Dr Silvano's PhD research focused on ocean-driven melting of the East Antarctic ice shelf. He is currently a Research Fellow at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

Three Royal Society of Tasmania medals and two Doctoral Awards will be offered in 2021. The medals are the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, the MR Banks Medal and the RM Johnston Memorial Medal.



Prof Jocelyn McPhie
Honours & Awards Committee

BURSARIES

In 2020, The Royal Society offered bursaries to Tasmanian secondary/senior secondary students to represent Australia at an overseas event. The bursaries were offered in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, arts, humanities, and social sciences, in keeping with the aim of the society of 'advancing knowledge' in a wide variety of ways. These bursaries and the application process were advertised to government, independent and Catholic schools, subject associations, curriculum leaders, and on the RST website.

Sophie Newton returned her bursary money of \$1500 for the 2020 Crimson Education STEM Accelerator Tour, to have been held the US in April, due to its cancellation. Sophie was listed in the top 100 students in Tasmania in December, based on her ATAR result, at the conclusion of her Year 12 studies at Elizabeth College.

Only one query was received late this year by Richard Gregory from Riverside High School for support for the F1 competition. He supplied the information below, and a website for additional information is located at: [F1 in Schools | REA Foundation](#), accessed December 24, 2020. I explained that we would look at a future application for support of participation in an International event.

"F1 in schools is an exciting and dynamic challenge for engineering students that involves building and racing miniature cars. This fantastic event gives students from primary school right through to university level the chance to experience many of the fundamentals of engineering including teamwork, design and planning, manufacturing and testing, and of course making your work come to life for the race.

F1 in schools conjures up the feel of a classic derby environment, putting real-world engineering skills and high-tech tools and techniques to the test. Teams of three to five utilise computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) software to plan and create their F1 miniature in a setting that's both exciting and high-paced.

Sounds like fun? It is! But it's also much more than that. It's one of the most successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs in the world and has reached 20 million students in 40 countries. The competition takes place at regional, national and international levels and even allows for international teams to compete at the world finals. The depth of experience offered by F1 in Schools is perfect for budding engineers who want to enter a global marketplace."

Unfortunately, this part of the Royal Society's activities has been impacted upon by the COVID-19 pandemic. I would expect that in 2021, applications may be similarly affected, and that only events held within Australia or New Zealand would be feasible. It will probably not be until 2022, that bursary applications and financial commitment by the Royal Society would be required to any significant degree. It was, therefore, pleasing that The Society supported the Tasmanian Science Talent Search (TSTS), conducted by the Tasmanian Science Teachers Association (STAT), sponsoring sections of the competition, which incorporated a range of learning disciplines. Some members of the Royal Society volunteered their time as judges for the competition, demonstrating great community involvement.

Dr Deborah Beswick
Bursary Committee

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the Aboriginal Engagement Committee (AEC) is to advance engagement between the Society and Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The committee was formed by Council in recognition of the often-terrible history of encounters between the Society and Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the Council's desire to address this history in ways that lead to improved relationships and recognition of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and their history and knowledge.

Over the past year the primary and most important business of the AEC has been to advance the 'idea of an apology' to the 'reality of an apology'. This has included substantial work within the committee, working with Council, and discussions with external bodies. A major achievement – even historical achievement – was made during 2020 when the wording of an apology was agreed by the Council. This involved consultation with TMAG and QVMAG Aboriginal advisory groups and our own members. The planning for the apology event is now well advanced and scheduled for February 15th, 2021.

While of lesser prominence, the AEC has also worked on updated wording for the suggested Acknowledgement of Country at RST events, and confirmed similar wording for inclusion within each issue of the Society's Journal *Papers and Proceedings*. These are all important landmarks for a changed way of relating with, and recognition of, Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

There is much more to follow these developments, and our apology will outline several of them. The challenge for the AEC in 2021 and beyond will be to assist the Council and the wider Society to act in accord with the apology.

This year Prof Greg Lehman stepped down as co-chair of the committee to allow him to focus on his new role as UTAS Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal Leadership. Greg's co-leadership of the AEC was very important, and we thank him for this, and his ongoing membership of the AEC.

Prof Matt King
Aboriginal Engagement Committee

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

As Student Councillor in 2020 I have played a small role on the Membership Committee and the RST Logo Design Committee. I have also organised two activities for RST outreach to a younger audience; Entomology GO, and UTAS student tours of the RST Library.

EntomologyGO!

April: President Mary Koolhof encouraged me to develop a digital outreach activity as Tasmania went into lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I devised Entomology GO! a Pokemon-like activity where our members could ask and receive insect ID cards. April was taken up getting legal clearance for the potential Pokemon infringement.

May: Entomology GO! was referred by our Patron Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania to the Peter Underwood Centre's publication for young scientists. It was also featured on the RST webpage, Facebook page and in the newsletter. All this led to several enquiries and the production of several Entomology GO! cards. (One young reader of the Wonder Weekly later invited me to speak to their Joey Scout troop and assist them in securing a special interest insects' badge.)

June As Entomology GO! launched in autumn, activity ended in winter. I wrote an update in the May newsletter, and it has had no inbox activity since.

RECOMMENDATION: This project suggests itself as reusable, perhaps quarterly/seasonally it could be rebranded depending on the specialist identification skills of the Royal Society. Or it could serve for further community engagement by 'recruiting' an outside specialist to be our 'Fossil GO', 'Bird GO', 'Garden Plant GO' identifier for the quarter. The Student Councillor, if they have the graphic design/management skills, could still be responsible for creating the cards if provided with text and images by the specialists. I have created several templates for simple reuse by the next Student Councillor.

June: To meet my obligation to bridge the gap between UTAS students and the Royal Society the concept of the RST Library tours was approved by Council.

July: Meetings with the Library staff and project design.

Sep: RST Library tours and advertising flyers were designed, and places were ready to fill by late September.

Oct: Several RST Library tours catered to seven students in total. COVID-19 social distancing restrictions kept numbers low and stopped me from 'advertising' more widely this year.

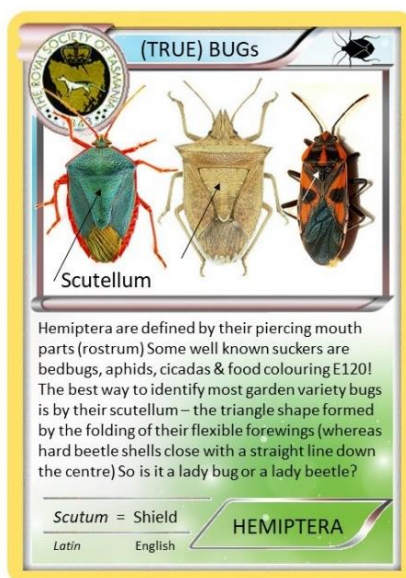
Nov: Flyers were re-worded to attract teachers at the end of semester but led to no enquiries.

RECOMMENDATION: I believe the project has been an effective pilot, proving that students are interested and with some guidance willing to engage with the RST Library, moreover, that the library staff have many valuable resources and skills to share with the student body. The materials (flyers) now exist for me to reinstate the activity during semester one next year and to hand it onto the next incoming Student

Councillor at the end of my term. A potential shortfall of the activity is that no way was identified to tie the RST Library tours to improved student recruitment/membership with the Royal Society.

Jan: I recorded during several RST Library tours. By the next RST AGM (March 2021) I will have edited a digital version of the RST Library tour for the Society and Library to use, also making it accessible to any interested parties who are unable to attend campus tours.

Entomology GO Cards



STYLE GUIDE & LOGO

A Committee was established early in 2020 to investigate a refresh of the RST logo and development of a style guide for the RST letter head, RST banners, RST flyers and other merchandise produced by RST. It was felt by Council that the current RST Logo and associated colour palette was a bit tired and not suitable for most digital applications. After a selection process, a commercial designer, Becks Design was employed by RST to work with the Committee, initially on the refresh of our logo.

Several alternative designs have been discussed by the Committee and we are now close to deciding on the final logo and colour palette.

Prof Ross Large

Logo & Style Guide Committee

ROYAL SOCIETY ART COLLECTION

The RST Art Committee was established to work with TMAG representatives to resolve the ownership of the paintings on the “Loans List” of artworks that were placed on long-term loan to TMAG by RST in 1965. The list includes over 650 paintings, most of which were originally donated to RST or purchased by RST prior to 1965. The list includes watercolours and pencil sketches mainly by well-known colonial artists. A previous investigation by Max Banks and Tony Brown suggested that ownership of some of the works was in doubt, leading to establishment of this Committee to finally resolve this issue and access protocols to the Collection.

The Committee has worked assiduously to determine provenance and evidence of current ownership for individual works of art on the “Loans List”. The previous research by Brown and Banks has been of great help and much progress has been achieved over the last twelve months. A database has been established jointly by TMAG and RST which includes all details on each painting, including a thumbnail copy of each painting, details on provenance, features indicative of ownership and current condition. This data base will be invaluable for future reference and study.

The Committee is now in the process of inspecting each of the 650 or so paintings (over 1000 images when contents of Louisa Anne Meredith sketchbooks are included) with the help of TMAG staff. This is a slow process that has been significantly impeded by COVID-19 and the closure of TMAG for several months. However, good progress has been made and we anticipate that the completed database and accompanying reports will be completed by mid-2021.

I would like to thank Anita Hansen and Marley Large for their herculean work to establish the art database and accompanying reports for this very important project.

Prof Ross Large
Artwork Committee



NORTHERN BRANCH – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee elected at the Branch's Annual General Meeting saw the retirement of Ms Chel Bardell from local committee work. The Committee co-opted Mrs Melanie Morris to the Management Committee as Branch newsletter editor. The Management Committee met prior to lectures seven times during the year, mostly via videoconference facilities, Zoom Meeting, due to the pandemic restrictions. Committee members communicated frequently on other occasions as necessary, by email and telephone. Participation in Council meetings continued to be via videoconference facilities. Committee papers continued to be stored and made accessible through a cloud-sourced depository, Dropbox, for Management Committee work.

Nominations for election to membership and as office-bearers of the Management Committee will be called for at the March 2021 Northern Branch Annual General Meeting.

NORTHERN COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Accessions, including donations, to the Northern Branch Library collection are administered under the experienced hand of Mr Andrew Parsons, who is a member of the Northern Branch Management Committee.

WEBSITE

The Northern section of the Society's website is now maintained from Hobart by the Society's Webmaster. Ms Chel Bardell has been assisting with Northern material for the Royal Society's Facebook page.

VENUE

The Committee acknowledges the assistance extended to the Branch by the City of Launceston Council through our official Partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, whose Inveresk facilities are used for both lectures and committee meetings, and whose staff assist us enormously. We thank Mrs Tracy Puklowski, its Director, for her support of our efforts to bring important and interesting lecturers before the community. The paid services of an external audio-visual technician from SoundHouse continued successfully in our only face-to-face meeting in February 2020. The Public Health Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to suspend face-to-face meetings from March onwards. The remainder of the year's program was delivered by videoconference using Zoom Webinar software. Our thanks to Dr Robert Johnson for his facilitating the uploading of webinar recordings on the Society's YouTube channel.

NEWSLETTER

All Northern lectures and other activities were included in the monthly State newsletter for distribution to all members in 2020. Northern members were also kept up to date with the change to online program delivery via the Branch's own newsletter, kindly edited by Mrs Melanie Morris.

LECTURE PROGRAM 2020

The Committee extends its thanks to all 2020 speakers for their generosity and for the excellence of their presentations. This year's program has again been notable for the quality of the speakers and for the healthy attendances at many of our lectures. Each guest speaker was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a local history book, as a token of thanks for their contribution.

Admission to Northern face-to-face lectures is free to all Royal Society members and also to all children under 16 years of age. The admission price in 2020 remained as for 2019, viz. \$6 for the general public, with a discounted price of \$4 for members of the Launceston Historical Society, members of the Friends of QVMAG, and secondary students and tertiary students who were half-time or greater.

2020	GUEST LECTURER	LECTURE TITLE	ATTENDANCE
23 Feb	Ms Ngaire Hobbins	Live It Up – Nutrition in the elderly	120
State Government restrictions on public assembly due to the Covid-19 pandemic caused a cancellation of all face-to-face meetings for the remainder of 2020. From July 2020, lectures were presented by videoconference using Zoom Webinar software.			
26 Jul	Andrew Parsons (The 5 th Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture)	Map Spam – yet more of Launceston Revealed	60 viewers (48 users)
23 Aug	Science Week Forum – Duyen Tran, Indika Fernando, Christelle Auguste	3 Speakers: diabetes & obesity; transporting perishable foods; tidal energy possibilities in Tasmania	46 (31)
27 Sep	Prof Michael Breadmore	Chemical Answers Now – Protecting Us & Our Environment	45 (31)
25 Oct	Trevor Lambkin, David Maynard, Simon Fearn	The Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection	46 (37)
22 Nov	Prof Henry Reynolds	Patriotism and Place in 19th Century Tasmania	67 (45)

CENTENARY COMMITTEE

The Northern Branch was formed in 1853 as a branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania and has met continuously since 1921. In 2021 the Northern Branch will celebrate 100 years of continuous operation in the north of the State. A sub-committee of the Branch's Management Committee, the Centenary Committee, was established to oversee plans to observe the centenary in 2021. Membership includes the Immediate Past President, Mr David Morris, the Treasurer, Mr Robin Walpole, Ms Chel Bardell and Ms Lynette Ross.

The support of Council in a number of initiatives is greatly appreciated. The Royal Society's 2021 calendar is dedicated to the northern centenary, as will be a special issue of the Society's Journal *Papers and Proceedings*. The centenary is planned to be formally observed in June 2021 with a public lecture, marking the passage of 100 years.



EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

Dr Madill was compelled to take leave in the last couple of months of 2020 due to health problems, and thanks Mr David Morris for again taking over the reins as Acting President during that period. The President extends his thanks to David for preparing this report, and also to the rest of the Management Committee for a job well done. It has been a successful year in spite of the necessary restrictions caused by the pandemic precautions, and we owe special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine Beswick, for her hard work and dedication to a demanding job, and to Ms Chel Bardell for her work at State Publications Committee on behalf of the Branch. Thanks are due to Mr Walpole's wife, Julie, for her continuing assistance in the task of formatting files transitioned between Mac and PC. Finally, our sincere thanks to all Committee members for their efforts in making sure our lectures and meetings are well run.

Dr Frank Madill, AM
President

Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Secretary



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS, YEAR TO 31 DEC 2020 NORTHERN BRANCH

RECEIPTS			\$					
Donor Receipts from non-member patrons			\$105.60					
Interest from Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees			\$6.92					
TPT Distribution on closing of account			\$1.50					
Operating Grant from State Council			\$2,000.00					
Revenue Share from sales of RST merchandise			\$0.00					
Butterfly Collection Fund			\$1,025.00					
Total Receipts			\$3,139.02					
Payments								
Audio-visual - Sound House Tasmania			\$585.00	Expenses from 2019 \$390				
Travel and Accommodation - RST Council			\$0.00					
Laminating Speakers Certificates			\$0.00					
Postage			\$0.00					
Printing and Photocopying			\$0.00					
Catering (Cash)			\$68.10	Expense from 2019				
Transfer Fee			\$2.50					
Butterfly Cabinets			\$3,090.00					
Webinar Licensing costs			\$1,416.59					
Centenary Bookmarks			\$385.00					
Total Payments			\$5,547.19					
Balance				-\$2,408.17				
Branch Funds								
Bank - PT - 31 Dec 2019			\$5,501.19					
Cash - 31 Dec 2019			\$282.45					
				\$5,783.64	(Includes \$458.10 outstanding expenses)			
Interest - 1 Jan			\$3.24					
Banked to TPT 27 Feb			\$459.50					
TPT Distribution on closing of account			\$1.84					
				\$5,965.77				
Bank - TPT - Close of account 3 March 2020				\$0.00				
Interim Account - RMW Keycard				\$5,965.77				
Paid from Robin Walpole Key Card Account								
QVMAG - Butterfly Cabinets			\$3,090.00					
Bank Transfer Fees			\$2.50					
Soundhouse - all outstanding expenses			\$585.00					
				\$3,677.50				

Bank - TPT - Close of account 3 March 2020		\$0.00						
Less	Paid from Robin Walpole Key Card Account	\$3,677.50						
Bank of Us Account								
Bank - Robin Walpole Key Card Account		\$2,288.37						
Bank - surplus cash		\$349.50						
Butterfly donation		1025						
Webinar software			1308.89					
Connect up - software access			107.7					
Centenary bookmarks			385					
Grant - RST		2000						
Cash on Hand		\$52.45			(Kitty \$50 plus \$2.45 spare change)			
		\$5,715.32	1801.59					
			\$3,913.73					
Outstanding Expenses								
Audio-visual - Sound House Tasmania					-			
Catering					-			
Total Outstanding Expenses					-			
Available Funds at 31 Dec 2020					\$3,913.73			

Robin Walpole
Honorary Treasurer
Royal Society Northern Branch
12 January 2021

RST FINANCIAL REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated the Society's activities this year. Apart from the impact on the finances, it required a change from our two-signature bank transaction approvals to the use of an on-line CommBiz application, allowing separate and remote transaction authorisations.

Influences on the 2020 financial results included:

- COVID-19
- The change in lecture and meeting delivery style
- The inability of the society to provide bursaries
- The production of a new book in 2020: *Australian Mineral Discoverers*

The changed lecture style was well-received by the members and the public and the *AMD* book enjoyed strong sales. Further, the awareness of the Society by the public has been greatly enhanced, largely due to our international exposure through our live stream lectures via Zoom with lecture and other podcasts available via the RST YouTube channel.

The financial results for the year 2020 were robust. The ordinary income achieved was better than the previous period, as well as also exceeding the budget.

Publication sales provides a considerable proportion of the Society's income. Publications sales included the newly published *Australian Mineral Discoverers* book as well as the 2020 calendar and other coffee table books.

For the financial period of 2020, revenues relied on the following main items:

Book sales (inc. <i>AMD</i> book)	\$48,900
Calendar & card sales	\$ 7,250
Donations	\$ 7,700
Grants	\$ 9,500
Membership Dues	\$21,455
Papers & Proceedings	\$ 2,065

Membership revenue was up both on the budget and the previous year's results. This may largely be due to the additional effort of our Membership Secretary, Roxanne Steenbergen. Members who take the *Papers & Proceedings* contribute about \$8,500 in revenue above membership without it.

Interest earned on funds invested in various term deposits was reinvested and, as such is reflected, in the current balance sheet.

Tax deductible donations of \$7,700, comprising mainly our distribution from the Peter Smith Trust, were received. Grants of \$6,000 were also received from Treasury and UTAS. Funds from grants are generally applied to the production of the *Papers & Proceedings* and the preservation and archiving of rare books and maps.

Neglecting the production cost of the *Australian Mineral Discoverers* book, which was not budgeted for, expenses for the fiscal year were below budget. No bursaries were made to students this year due to COVID-19 preventing interstate and international travel.

The major expense items were:

Post Doctoral Awards	as per budget
Publications	
Publication of AMD book	This was a major cost item for the year
Publications, other	Includes payment for previous year's <i>Papers & Proceedings</i> and annual calendar
Office administration	Slightly less due to COVID-19
Administration	This is a major cost item for the Society
Postage	The cost of postage is now split between the office and publications.
Equipment	New office furniture and an internet router were purchased.
Programme Expenses	
Christmas dinner	The Christmas lecture and dinner event were cost neutral as per budget
Lecture programs	Down due to non-use of TMAG facilities despite purchase of equipment for live stream and cost of Zoom account
Transfer to Northern Branch	Additional this year for the centenary celebrations
Other events	Science Week and "Working on Water" production costs were additional to budget
Library	Digitisation of RST documents as budgeted

The Foundation now holds over \$536,208 in diversified, well-invested funds and term deposits. These investments are regularly reviewed and adjusted if-and-when required. The Society's funds held with banks are secured by the Federal Government's Financial Claims Scheme and are protected up to \$250,000 per account per institution.

The Society is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and maintains its Deductible Gift Recipient status. The Society is entitled to use the ACNC Charity Tick to indicate the legitimacy of the Society.

A budget for 2021 has been prepared for approval by the Council. This budget document will help to provide good operating guidelines and cash flow requirements for the coming year. The Society's Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and Current Credit Balances for the year ended 31 December 2020 are tabulated below.

Mr David Wilson
Honorary Treasurer

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	Jan - Dec 19	Jan - Dec 18
Income			
Christmas Function	4,290	3,916	3,696
Total Deductible	7,703	12,840	11,918
Grants	9,500	6,000	6,300
Interest Earned	2,699		
Membership Dues			
Full - No Papers	12,215	10,725	12,058
Full - With Papers	9,090	9,618	11,592
Student - No Papers	100	205	160
Student - With Papers	50	150	275
Total Membership Dues	21,455	20,698	24,085
Publications			
Book Sales	48,949	18,335	26,957
Calendar & Card Sales	7,250	9,550	11,831
Papers & Proceedings	2,065	8,852	12,994
Postage	2,154		
Total Publications	60,418	36,737	51,782
Miscellaneous Income	520	348	5,167
Total Income	106,585	80,539	102,948
Expense			
Bank Service Charges	1,035	1,250	1,383
Bursaries and Awards Expenses	2,900	7,505	7,550
Marketing & Advertising	2,212	749	1,507
Miscellaneous	2,565	2,807	1,495
Office & Admin. Expenses			
Administration	7,583	6,279	10,497
Insurance	1,970	1,503	1,421
Internet & Software	1,453	600	600
Meeting Expenses	988	4,742	1,588
Office Printing and Postage	864	360	1,007
Office Supplies & Equipment	2,407	917	1,602
Parking Expense	1,283	1,226	1,768
Total Office & Admin. Expenses	16,547	15,626	18,483
Professional Fees	200	1,390	7,056
Programme Expense	2,451		
Christmas Dinner	4,301	3,794	3,726
Lectures & Meetings	2,402	1,000	
Transfer to Northern Branch	2,000	1,000	2,000
Publications			
Books	22,891	79	39,063
Calendar	6,337	6,227	6,217
Papers & Proceedings	17,882	0	8,791
Postage	1,328	1,777	3,624
RST Library	5,550		
Total Expense	90,603	43,203	100,895
Surplus/Shortfall	15,982	37,336	2,053

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Dec 31, 2020	Dec 31, 2019	Dec 31, 2018
Accumulated Funds			
As at 1 January 2020/2019/2018	169,188	131,852	129,799
Surplus/Shortfall	15,982	37,336	2,053
As at 31 Dec 2020/2019/2018	185,170	169,188	131,852
Current Assets			
CBA Current Account	44,796	32,016	37,133
CBA VISA Account	1,000		
My State Term Deposit 30020969 maturing April 2nd, 2021	34,678	33,764	32,012
My State Term Deposit 30024910 maturing June 29th, 2021	33,650	33,650	31,865
Sub-total	114,124	99,429	101,010
Other Assets			
Publications, Books, Calendars & Cards	71,046	69,758	30,842
Medals & Office Furniture etc. written-off	0	0	0
Sub-total	71,046	69,758	30,842
Total	185,170	169,188	131,852

CURRENT CREDIT BALANCES AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 2020

			Interest Earned
CBA Current Account Balance	44,796.43		-
CBA VISA Account Balance	1,000.00		-
My State Bank Term Deposit 1	34,678.14	maturing April 2nd, 2021	914.13
My State Bank Term Deposit 2	33,649.55	maturing June 29th, 2021	1784.45
Total RST Transaction	114,124.12		2698.58
Peter Smith Trust	12,977.16	Held in Current Account	6,781.78
Foundation	536,207.84		
Total RST	650,331.96		



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policies. This is not a general-purpose financial report. It is a special purpose report to meet the requirements of the Society. The Society is of a type identified in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1 as a non-reporting entity. No regard has been paid to other Statements of Accounting Concepts in the preparation of this report. The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis from historical cost records, except where otherwise stated.
2. Income Tax. Pursuant to Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, The Royal Society of Tasmania is exempt from Income Tax.
3. There is an Art Collection held by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery which has been catalogued, but the ownership of some items is still being resolved. The value of this collection is not as yet determined and as such is not shown in the accounts.
4. The Rare Book Library has been professionally valued to be worth \$2,757,355 and the remaining books are estimated to have a value of approximately \$300,000. This valuation was performed in 2013 and 2016.
5. A rare and historical Map collection also owned by the Society and professionally stored at the University of Tasmania is currently being valued but is estimated to be worth about \$45,000.
6. Publications, books, cards and office equipment used and stored at the Society's office and off-site facilities are estimated at \$72,046.
7. Other assets, such as office furniture and medals are fully written-down.
8. The Society is a registered entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will retain the Deductible Gift Recipient status.

GPO Box 1166, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
19 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000
admin@rst.org.au
www.rst.org.au
+61 3 6165 7014

ABN: 65 889 598 100



AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

Richard H James

ABN: 40 849 023 979

Registered Tax Agent and Public Accountant

P O Box 501, Rosny Park 7018

21 Riawena Road, Montagu Bay, TAS 7018

Phone: (03)62445142 Mobile: 0418 135 808

Email: rjames@trump.net.au



INSTITUTE OF
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Independent auditor's report to members of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

1. Scope

I have audited the attached financial reports, of The Royal Society of Tasmania. for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The Management Committee is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the special purpose financial report and information contained therein. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting accounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

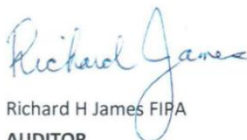
2. Independence

To the best of my knowledge and belief, there has been no contravention of auditor independence and any applicable code in relation to the audit.

3. Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the special purpose financial report of The Royal Society of Tasmania. presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards the financial position of The Royal Society of Tasmania for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the periods then ended.

To the best of my belief and knowledge, all relevant information and explanations required have been obtained and rules relating to the administration of funds appear to have been observed.


Richard H James FIPA
AUDITOR

27 January 2021

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Richard H James

ABN: 40 849 023 979

Registered Tax Agent and Public Accountant

P O Box 501, Rosny Park 7018

21 Riawena Road, Montagu Bay, TAS 7018

Phone: (03)62445142 Mobile: 0418 135 808

Email: rjames@trump.net.au



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Audit Report

I report that I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers for The Royal Society of Tasmania for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 above are appropriate to its needs. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an independent opinion on it to members of The Royal Society of Tasmania. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

Donations, bequests, subscriptions, symposia, exhibitions, calendars, cards, publications and other fund raising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Society. The Society has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations, subscriptions and other funds prior to entry into the financial records. The accounts record all the income and expenditure recorded in the books of the Society, but while I have no reason to believe that there has been any unrecorded income or expenditure, I am not able to confirm this. With these reservations, in my opinion, the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure and Asset List represent a true and fair view of the Society's affairs for the year ended 31 December 2020.


Richard H James FIPA
AUDITOR

27 January 2021

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