



# NORTHERN BRANCH NEWS February 2021



## LATE change to the 2021 Launceston Lecture Series

### 28 FEBRUARY

@ 1.30 pm

QVMAG @ Inveresk + Zoom (combined)

**“Pyrogeographic thinking:  
the key to tackling the global fire crisis”**



***Professor David Bowman***

Due to COVID restrictions,  
**registration** will be required for this lecture.

#### **EITHER:**

If planning to attend QVMAG, register

- by phone **0417 330 118** or
- by email [\*\*apcachris@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:apcachris@gmail.com)

#### **OR:**

If participating online via Zoom, please register  
*either via*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hxo2hhMXTheRZEO\\_Db6kWA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hxo2hhMXTheRZEO_Db6kWA)

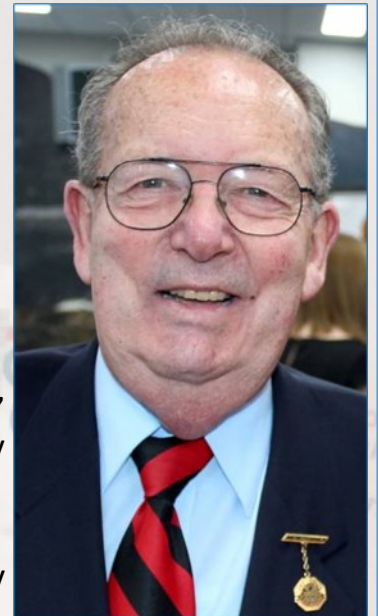
or [rst.org.au](http://rst.org.au)

# Royal Society of Tasmania

## Northern Branch

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM*



**W**HILE FOR MOST OF US 2020 has been a year to forget, 2021 will be a memorable one for the Royal Society in Northern Tasmania.

We are starting our Centenary Year on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February with the first lecture face to face as well as available on Zoom. We hope that we will be able to continue with the entire year's program in both media. It is hoped that Tasmania will remain Covid free and that regular face-to-face meetings will be possible for the remainder of what promises to be a program of varied and interesting topics. Our new format newsletter will also feature current events and information. Members are invited to contribute – please contact our Honorary Secretary.

The Royal Society delivered an apology to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people on February the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A copy of this is attached to the newsletter. It was an historic event coupled with a similar apology from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, it was recorded and is available on our website.

The Society's bookmarks which were produced at the end of last year are now being distributed to members and other areas of the community. They have been well received and thanks to Chel Bardell and Anita Hansen, Lynette Ross and Melanie Morris for their production and distribution. A new banner is in the process of being designed to replace the current one which features a picture of an early painting of Hobart Town – the new one will have a Northern Tasmanian illustration.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 is set down as celebration day for the Centenary of the Northern Tasmanian Branch. There will be a range of functions to allow members and the public to be involved. Keep an eye on our website and subsequent newsletters for further information as the program is developed - please put the date in your diary!

2021 will be an exciting year for the Northern Branch of the Royal Society and I trust that all members will participate and get enjoyment from what will be a very full and interesting program.





**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH  
OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

will be held in the Meeting Room of  
the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Inveresk  
at **1.15 p.m.** on Sunday **28 March** 2021

**28 MARCH**

@ 1.30 pm

QVMAG @ Inveresk + Zoom (combined)

**“Global and Australian Perspectives  
for COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout”**



***Professor Katie Flanagan***

Due to COVID restrictions,  
**registration** will be required for this lecture.

**EITHER:**

If planning to attend QVMAG, register

- by phone **0417 330 118** or
- by email [\*\*apcachris@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:apcachris@gmail.com)

**OR:**

If participating online via Zoom, please register *after 7th March* at

[rst.org.au](http://rst.org.au)

# IODINE DEFICIENCY SEMINAR

## The Status of Iodine in Tasmania

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### LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

*7 August 2021*

#### ***Conference Secretariat***

Level 5, Launceston General Hospital  
PO Box 1963, Launceston TAS 7250  
T 03 6777 6010 M 0418 993 157  
[www.cliffordcraig.org.au](http://www.cliffordcraig.org.au)



An impressive committee convened by Paul A.C. Richards AM and Australia's leading researchers in the field have been assembled to bring a landmark Seminar to Launceston on Iodine Deficiency later this year. The seminar will be a full day with a dinner to follow with After Dinner Speaker Dr Mark Veitch. Prof Creswell Eastman will be the keynote speaker. Following the seminar on Sunday will be a Medical Walk in Launceston followed by a tour of Launceston Whisky Distillery at Hangar 17, Western Junction and BBQ lunch.

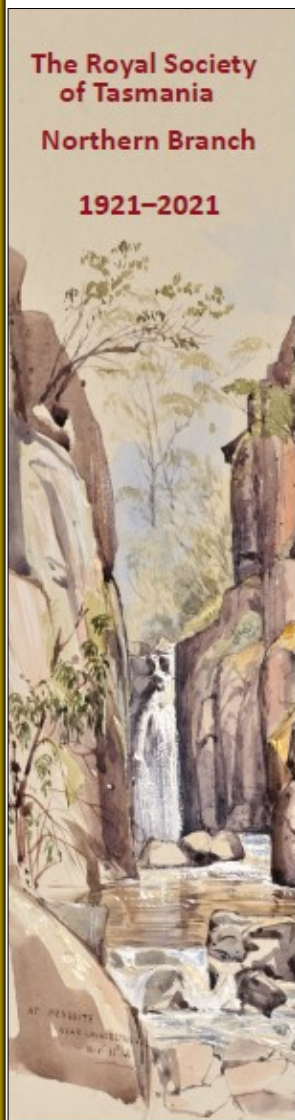
Registration will be online in cooperation with The Clifford Craig Foundation in due course

More detail will follow in the months to come.



# CELEBRATING THE NORTHERN BRANCH'S 100TH!

- ♦ **2021 Royal Society of Tasmania CALENDAR**—featuring Northern scene
- ♦ **Butterfly Specimen Cabinet** donated to the QVMAG
- ♦ **New banners**
- ♦ **Centenary Exhibition at QVMAG**
- ♦ **Special issue of the Society's *Papers & Proceedings***
- ♦ **Centenary Lecture 27 June & State-wide celebration**—details to come



## Centenary bookmarks

### for the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania

Bookmarks have been printed to celebrate 100 years of continuous operation of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

They will be available from February to November and may be found in Council offices, museums and art galleries around the North of the state.

There are two designs, both reproductions of water colours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow (1819-1906).

These paintings are part of the Royal Society of Tasmania's art collection in Hobart.

When memberships are renewed a bookmark will automatically be posted out to you.

If you would like one and are not a member, please come and join us at the QVMAG at Inveresk, 1.30 pm every fourth Sunday of the month, from February to November.

For more bookmarks, please contact: [melanieamorris@bigpond.com](mailto:melanieamorris@bigpond.com), tel: 0437072240

# Apology by the Royal Society of Tasmania to the Aboriginal People of Tasmania

***Today the Royal Society of Tasmania apologises unreservedly to the Aboriginal people of lutruwita (Tasmania).***

***This apology is long overdue.***

The Royal Society of Tasmania recognises that it has been responsible for negative impacts on Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the past, and that these impacts contribute to the disadvantage, injustice and intergenerational trauma suffered today.

The Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, on behalf of its membership, offers this sincere and formal apology to the Aboriginal people of lutruwita (Tasmania).

We acknowledge that:

The Society acted to exhume and to purchase the ancestral remains of Tasmanian Aboriginal people for scientific study. In some cases these remains were sent to collecting institutions outside of Tasmania.

Exhumation and mistreatment of ancestral remains occurred with a lack of regard for their deep cultural and spiritual significance. In at least one case, exhumation was against the expressed wish of the individual concerned.

These remains were held by the Society in the Royal Society Museum without care or respect, and without discussion or permission from Aboriginal community members.

For this, we are sorry.

Research and interpretation of Tasmanian Aboriginal material culture, language and cultural knowledge were undertaken without consultation or due respect.

For this, we are sorry.

While sometimes advocating for the recognition of the importance of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture, the Society at times failed to challenge prevailing attitudes that denied recognition and respect for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Past practices of collection, description and representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their material culture by the Society contributed to beliefs that continue to be misleading and destructive.

For this, we are sorry.

The Society failed to respond to a past request to support a proposal for a treaty with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Actions of some members of the Society, who were also leaders in the Tasmanian community, legitimised and facilitated the mistreatment of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their material culture.

Some members of the Society actively opposed requests for the return of ancestral remains to Aboriginal people.

For all this, we are sorry. We are unreservedly sorry.

Now we look to the future.

The Royal Society of Tasmania understands that this apology must influence all aspects of its undertakings in seeking the advancement of knowledge.

We intend to work co-operatively and respectfully with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on meaningful and lasting initiatives.

We will work to respect the values and perspectives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and understand and acknowledge protocols and processes determined by Aboriginal people.

We will seek a truthful and full account of the actions of the Society and its members that fully recognises impacts on Aboriginal people for which we take responsibility.

We will promote ethical research-related scholarly activities in consultation with, and of benefit to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

We will support Tasmanian Aboriginal people in seeking the repatriation of their ancestral remains and material culture.

Finally, we hope that the delivery of this apology today will mark the beginning of a new era, and a relationship that recognises the histories, cultures, knowledge and aspirations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people as fundamental to the future of Tasmanian society.

Resolution of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania  
22 September 2020

*M. Koolhof*

Mary Koolhof, President  
15 February 2021

