



### A Message from the President

Dear Members,

I am delighted to share with you the news that our new Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, has kindly agreed to present the **M.R. Banks Medal to Dr Eloise Foo** on Monday 16 August at Government House, as Eloise was unable to take part in the medal presentations held last year. If you know an outstanding researcher, please nominate them for one of our RST awards. Details are on page 5.

Members and attendees have let us know how much they enjoyed the inaugural **Midwinter Dinner**, and this event will become a fixture in the RST calendar.

I would like to share one item of feedback with you:

*I so enjoyed the lecture by Susannah Fullerton. It is a rare treat to hear an erudite and enthusiastic speaker on literature present in a professional manner and reminded me of my excellent English Literature and French Literature lecturers at uni. It was a welcome change from the current plethora of issues lectures, which are interesting but not food for the soul as was this one.*

Our Northern Branch invites you to attend its **Science Week forum**, 'Breaking New Ground' on Sunday 22 August at 1:30 pm when three University of Tasmania PhD candidates will present their research. Priyadarshni Bindal investigates barriers to oral care access for seniors. Eric Gubesch will present the opportunities and challenges of generating renewable energy from ocean waves. Kate Edwards is investigating the connection between exercise induced gut damage, oestrogen and the gut microbiome. You can attend in person at QVMAG Inveresk, or register to [attend the event via Zoom](#). See p. 3.

On Thursday 26 August the RST is partnering for the first time with marine science program **Beer Aquatic** to present an evening lecture at the Hobart Brewing Company, 16 Evans St, Hobart starting at 6:30 pm. Entry is free and there are no bookings, so attendees are advised to arrive early to secure a seat. The speaker will be oceanographer [Dr Pete Strutton](#). Dr Strutton's research focuses on Southern Ocean carbon and bio-chemistry processes. You can keep an eye on the Beer Aquatic Facebook page for updates [at this link](#).

Coming up on 5 September at 5 pm is the second of our **Doctoral Award lectures**, presented by Dr Alessandro Silvano: 'The global influence of ice-ocean interaction in Antarctica'. Dr Silvano will be presenting his lecture via Zoom from Southampton, UK, where he has a post-doctoral research position. See p. 2. [Register here](#).

I would like to extend a warm welcome to **new member** Dr John Whittington. **Date for your diary:** please keep Sunday 10 October free for a special day of celebrations in Launceston to mark the Northern Branch Centenary.

Warm regards,

Mary Koolhof  
President

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**Above:** Dr Alessandro Silvano and the Antarctic research vessel, *Aurora Australis*.

Increased ice melting leads to warming of the oceanic waters surrounding Antarctica and has consequences for future sea level rise. Furthermore, increased melting of the Antarctic Ice Sheet affects the global ocean and its ability to store anthropogenic heat and carbon.

#### **Biography:**

Dr Alessandro Silvano is a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Southampton (UK), investigating how currents in the Southern Ocean regulate the oceanic heat transport toward the Antarctic Ice Sheet, causing ice melting and sea level rise. Dr Silvano has recently completed a PhD at the University of Tasmania and CSIRO, where he worked on ice-ocean interaction in East Antarctica, with a focus on the Totten Glacier. Dr Silvano won one of the 2020 RST Doctoral Awards.

**Right:** Mertz Glacier at the coast, East Antarctica.



## **RST September Webinar**

### **"The global influence of ice-ocean interaction in Antarctica"**

Dear Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

**When:** Sunday 5 September 2021 at 17:00, Hobart

**Topic:** RST Doctoral Award Lecture by Dr Alessandro Silvano

The Royal Society of Tasmania invites all members and supporters to a Zoom webinar on 5 September 2021 at 5:00 pm in which Dr Alessandro Silvano will present his RST Doctoral Award Lecture. Note the unusual time of 5:00 pm, set to accommodate Alessandro being in the UK.

To attend the webinar, please register in advance. [Use this link to register.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Dr Silvano will explore the oceanic processes that drive melting of the Antarctic Ice Sheet. Different processes lead to certain areas of the Antarctic Ice Sheet being more susceptible to rapid ocean-driven melting, while other areas are more resilient. He will describe the emergence of feedback between the ice sheet and Southern Ocean.

## **Brief Details for Upcoming RST Events for Your Diary**



**BEER AQUATIC**

More information about the following RST events will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

**The Beer Aquatic Event.** A very popular event! No bookings. Arrive early to obtain a seat.

#### **Remaining events for 2021:**

- **Thursday 26 August** – Joint Beer Aquatic Event for National Science Week at Hobart Brewing Company.
- **Sunday 5 September** – 2020 Doctoral Award Lecture by Dr Alessandro Silvano.
- **Sunday 3 October** – A/Prof Rebecca Carey - Volcanology and adventures investigating eruptions on the seafloor.
- **Sunday 7 November** – Dr Lila Landowski - Developmental neurobiology, neurorepair, neuropathy, stroke.
- **Thursday 9 December** – Prof Greg Lehman – Topic still to be finalised.



## RST Northern Branch

invites you to a public lecture:

### Breaking New Ground

Three presentations by

## University of Tasmania PhD Candidates

**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 22 August 2021

**Admission:** Free for members, \$6 general admission, \$4 students, QVMAG Friends and members of Launceston Historical Society.

No prior registration or notification is necessary. [For Zoom webinar, click to register.](#)



**Priyadarshni Bindal** (pictured right) investigates barriers to oral care access for community-dwelling seniors, aiming to design an oral health strategy to improve and maintain quality of life. An oral health professional, clinical academic and researcher, Priya

won the best presenter award at Federation Dental Internationale held in Poland in 2016.



**Eric Gubesch** (pictured left) will present the opportunities and challenges of generating renewable energy from ocean waves. A Bachelor of Ocean Engineering, he will introduce different types of wave energy converters with a focus on the oscillating water column type.



**Kate Edwards** (pictured left) is investigating the connection between exercise induced gut damage, oestrogen and the gut microbiome and how it may impact female health and performance. She completed her MSc in Sport and Exercise Nutrition at the University of Westminster in London.



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QUEEN VICTORIA  
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

## The Place of Women in The Royal Society of Tasmania

An excerpt from an address given by Mary Koolhof, President RST, to the Royal Commonwealth Society in Hobart on 19 May 2021. [Click to access the full address.](#)

'You may have noticed that I said that the Society was formed by a group of gentlemen, and photos of the early Royal Society of Tasmania certainly depict rows of white-bearded and black-moustachioed men. So, what was the role of women?

Interestingly, unlike many learned societies of the time, The Royal Society of Tasmania never banned women from being members or taking part in the business of the meetings. In fact, in 1843 Rule 8 of the newly-constituted Society specified that: 'Ladies were to be admitted as Fellows upon the same terms, with the same privileges and under the same regulations in all respects as gentlemen.' This was extremely forward-thinking for its time.

Our Minutes record that a Miss Louisa Bell was nominated for membership in December 1843 and elected a Fellow in January 1844. One historian erroneously concluded that when noted illustrator and naturalist Louisa Anne Meredith (pictured left) was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society in 1881, it was because a woman couldn't hold full membership of the Society. But a little digging in the records suggests that her honorary membership was due to her straitened financial circumstances at the time.

Other women are mentioned periodically in meeting records, but it wasn't until 1985 that a woman became Senior Vice-President and, in 2013, the Society elected a female President.

I'm actually only the seventh female office-bearer in the 178-year history of the Society, so that's not a great record. We're making up for it at the moment with a female Vice-President and female Honorary Secretary. There's a similar pattern with the awards to noted researchers that appear on the Honour Board in our RST Lecture Room: for many decades the names were all of male researchers, but in recent times outstanding female researchers have been recognised and the ratio of genders on the board is becoming more equal. Incidentally, our Honour Board was carved by noted Tasmanian artist Ellen (Nellie) Nora Payne and is worth viewing when you get the chance.'



## Women Office-holders in The Royal Society of Tasmania

- 1985 & 1986 and 1994 & 1995 Vice-President Dr Penelope W McCarthy.
- 1997 & 1998 Vice-President Dr Shirley W Jeffrey AM, FAA (pictured right).
- 1993 Secretary, Vice-President 1998 & 1999, and Treasurer in 2000 & 2001: Ms Patricia N Sabine OAM (who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2020 for service to the museums and galleries sector).



- 2003, 2004 & 2005 Secretary Ms Carol Bacon (pictured left).

- 2011 & 2012 Vice-President, and 2013 President Prof Susan Jones (pictured right).



- 2014 & 2015 Vice-President Prof Emily Hilder (pictured left).

- 2018 & 2019 Vice-President, and 2020 & 2021 President Mrs Mary Koolhof (pictured right).



- 2020 & 2021 Vice-President Prof Jocelyn McPhie (pictured left).

- 2020 & 2021 Secretary Mrs Marley Large (pictured right).



## Three RST Medals on Offer in 2021

Nominations for three RST medals will close on 31 August:  
The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, M.R. Banks Medal, and RM Johnston Memorial Medal.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal (pictured left) is reserved for a distinguished scholar who is also an active member of the Society.

The M.R. Banks Medal (pictured left) is awarded to an outstanding mid-career scholar.

The RM Johnston Memorial Medal (pictured below) is intended to acknowledge a scholar of great distinction in any field within the Society's purview.

Guidelines for these medals are available at <https://rst.org.au/awards/>

**Remember that nominations close  
on 31 August.**

Jocelyn McPhie,  
on behalf of the RST Honours  
and Awards Committee



## Royal Society Office

The Royal Society office is open on Wednesday mornings 9:00 am to midday. Enter the Custom House building from the **Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' Desk**. TMAG's Safety Plan requires all visitors' details to be recorded or use the QR code.

**A phone call prior to your visit will help with more speedy arrangements.**

**Please phone between the hours of 9:00am – 12 noon on a Wednesday morning on 03 6165 7014.**

**Main contact:**

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

Email: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

**Northern Branch contact:**

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

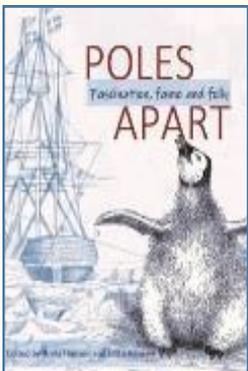
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

Membership forms and renewals can either be posted to the Post Box (see above) clearly marked 'Royal Society of Tasmania' or completed and emailed to the address above.

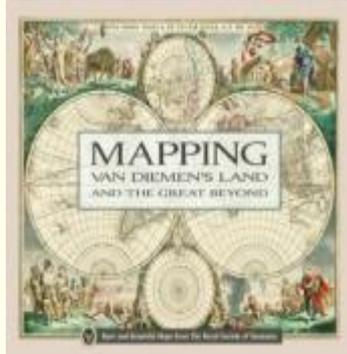
**Book and calendar sales are available either through the RST shop, on our [website](#), by email or by phone through the office.**

**10% discount for Members on these books.**

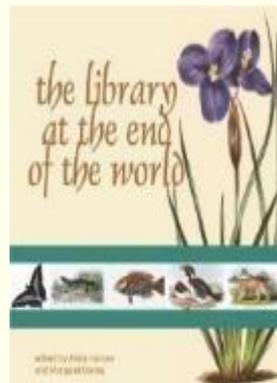
**Discounted prices for members are shown beside each book:**



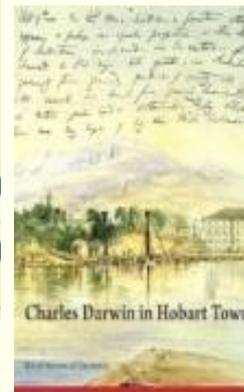
***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly***  
Hardcover (\$22.50) and Softcover (\$13.50)



***Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond***  
Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



***The Library at the End of the World***  
Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



***Charles Darwin in Hobart Town***  
Softcover (\$32)



***Papers and Proceedings***

Since 1849, the Society has published annual volumes of refereed scholarly papers. The *Papers and Proceedings* publishes research that focuses on Tasmania or is particularly relevant to Tasmanians.

Personal subscription to the *Papers and Proceedings* are made through membership of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Prices for back editions of *Papers and Proceedings* range from \$10 – \$40 per volume. Members of the Society are eligible for a

**10% discount**, please contact the **Honorary Editor** at [editor@rst.org.au](mailto:editor@rst.org.au)

**Royal Society 2021 Calendar**

Features 13 lovely watercolours by Francis Guillemard Simpkinson de Wesselow. Retail price: \$8.00 plus postage and handling as applicable.

**Members of the Royal Society can also order calendars from the [website](#) or the RST office at the newly discounted price of \$7.00.**

Purchase direct from the Royal Society Office on Wednesday mornings 9:00 to 12:00 noon or email [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au) or phone Wednesday mornings on 03 6165 7014.



More images of Members and Friends enjoying the Midwinter Dinner at RYCT on 12 July



**Above:** Peter Dowling with RST Office Manager Ruth Mollison. **Below:** RST VP Prof Jocelyn McPhie with Em. Prof Don Chalmers AO.



**Left:** Polly Foster with RST Hon Editor Dr Sally Bryant. While **below**, longstanding RST member Derris Wood browses the array of books and cards on the RST sale table.



**Below:** RST Treasurer David Wilson with his partner Polly Foster. (All photos on this page by Peter Manchester)



# IODINE DEFICIENCY SYMPOSIUM

## THE STATUS OF IODINE IN TASMANIA

*Symposium will be opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania*

20 November 2021  
PEPPERS  
SILO HOTEL



A landmark symposium will be presented in Launceston featuring Australia's leading researchers in the field of Iodine Deficiency.

A full day Symposium with keynote speaker Prof Creswell Eastman will be followed by a dinner with guest speaker Dr Mark Veitch - Director of Public Health, Tasmania.

On Sunday there will be an Medical Walk in Launceston followed by a tour of the Launceston Whisky Distillery & BBQ Lunch.

For registration [CLICK HERE](#)

Symposium Secretariat - The Clifford Craig Foundation

[admin@cliffordcraig.org.au](mailto:admin@cliffordcraig.org.au)



## The Status of Iodine in Tasmania a Medical History and Research Symposium

Public Symposium 20 November 2021  
at Peppers Silo Hotel, Launceston

Bookings are now open for this landmark event showcasing a variety of presentations on iodine deficiency in Tasmania, its history, management and academic research in the 21st century. The keynote speaker and plenary talks by leading experts in their fields, bring together a significant number of leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results setting new horizons for the management of this profoundly geological disease.

Internationally recognised speakers will speak on the subject of iodine covering its deficiency, role under climate change conditions (the Iodine Cycle – marine and terrestrial), prophylaxis, management and what the future holds for the control of iodine deficiency in Tasmania, Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania** will open the Symposium and launch the book *Iodophor: Tamed iodine: The status of iodine in Tasmania*.

**The Keynote Address “Iodine Deficiency Disorders: from Tibet to Tasmania”** will be given by Prof Creswell Eastman AO (Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Sydney University Medical School) a world renowned endocrinologist with a particular interest in iodine deficiency. [More information.](#)

### Invited Speakers:

- ◆ Prof John Burgess (Endocrinologist, Royal Hobart Hospital)
- ◆ Ms Judy Seal (Nutritionist, Tasmanian Health Department)
- ◆ Dr Kristen Hynes (Menziess Centre Researcher)
- ◆ Beth Penrose (Lecturer in Pasture Science, UTAS)
- ◆ Dr Ed Butler (Independent Marine Scientist)
- ◆ Dr Louise Brough (Massey University, NZ)
- ◆ Dr Iain Robertson (UTAS Researcher)
- ◆ Prof Stefan Petrow (UTAS Emeritus Professor of History; and Researcher)
- ◆ Alex Stewart and Sarah Bath - UK perspective

**A Symposium dinner will follow**, with after dinner speaker Dr Mark Veitch, Director of Public Health, Tasmania.

**Social events** on an historical, enjoyable theme have been arranged for the following day.





## Science and Engineering Investigation Awards – Needs Judges

### Meet and inspire Tasmania's future scientists

The Science and Engineering Investigation Awards are a state-wide competition for Year 5 to 12 students. Students either investigate a topic of their choice, following the scientific method of inquiry and experimentation, or engineer physical solutions (prototypes) to address specific problems or needs. Students plan what they are going to do, carry out their experiments or create their prototypes, then share their findings with a judge (THIS COULD BE YOU) with experience from research, industry or education.

If you register to assist from 9am–1pm on August 26<sup>th</sup> (Burnie), 31<sup>st</sup> (Launceston) or September 15<sup>th</sup> (Hobart) you will receive morning tea, lunch and a small portfolio of projects to judge. Which is simply listening to the student's short presentation and engaging with them about the strengths and weaknesses of their project. If you notice a standout project, you can nominate it to a head judge for a prize.

You will need a [Working With Vulnerable People Card](#) to participate as a judge. A Volunteer registration costs \$19.80.

[Register to judge here.](#)

[Register for a WWVP card here.](#)

## The Society's Library

Special & Rare Collections (5th floor, Morris Miller Library at UTAS Sandy Bay campus) including TRST Library asks that all visitors and researchers comply with the following COVID-safe practices:

- Please make appointments via [special.collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au) to assist with managing maximum occupancy requirements.
- Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5pm, Monday to Wednesday, closed for lunch 12:30 – 1:30 pm.
- Maximum occupancy of two visitors at any one time and must be adhered to.
- You are required to maintain the recommended 1.5m physical distance.
- Make sure you have had your temperature checked before entering the Library.
- Temperature checks will be undertaken at the entrance to Morris Miller Library.
- If you are not a staff member or student at UTAS, you will need to sign in on entry to Morris Miller Library to enable contact tracing.
- The Library is providing hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and carrying out additional cleaning.
- If you are feeling unwell, please do **not** come to the Library.

Library staff will continue answering all email enquiries and can scan and email requests as needed, so if you don't wish to visit the Library in person, there is no need. We will also be quarantining material handled by researchers and other visitors for 72 hours, in line with UTAS Libraries' COVID-safe practice.

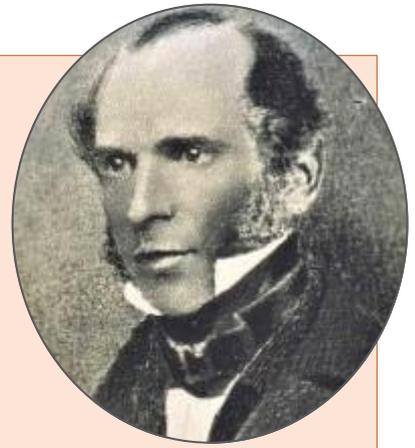
Any queries please contact [special.collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:special.collections@utas.edu.au)

**Juliet Beale**, Senior Librarian, Collections  
Library Services | Academic Division  
University of Tasmania



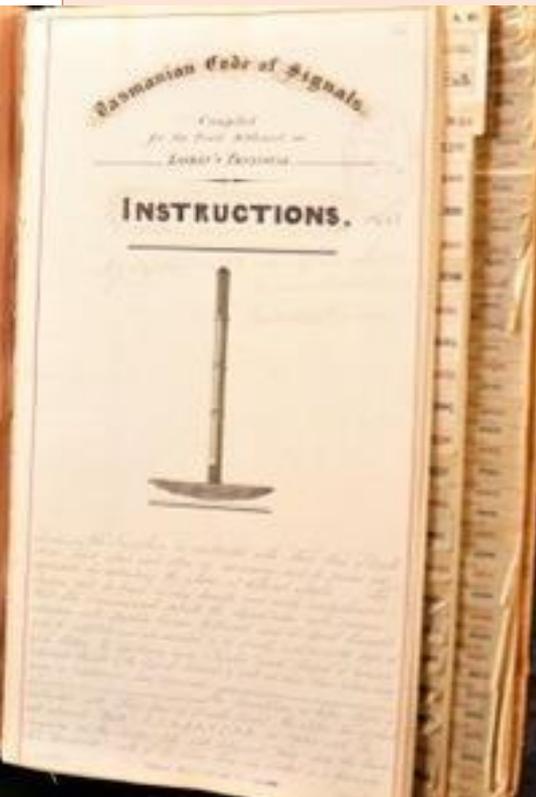
## Charles O'Hara Booth (1800 – 1851)

Booth was born in Basingstoke, England. Arriving in Hobart Town in 1833 on the *Georgiana* as captain of the 21<sup>st</sup> Fusiliers, he was appointed Commandant of the Port Arthur convict settlement, with jurisdiction over all stations on Tasman Peninsula. He achieved much during his time as Commandant from 1833 until 1844 – the township of Port Arthur was laid out; a government farm was established; both Lieutenant-Governors Colonel Arthur and Sir John Franklin praised his efficient administration; and a semaphore signalling system was established for speedy communication with Hobart – which was especially useful for notifying constables of escaped prisoners.



**Above:** Charles O'Hara Booth.  
(Courtesy [www.tasmaniatimes.com](http://www.tasmaniatimes.com))

Booth's health suffered considerably after he was lost in the bush for four days in 1838. Later that year, he married Elizabeth Charlotte née Eagle (referred to in his diary as Lizzie), stepdaughter of his regimental surgeon. He left the army in 1839, and in 1844 took a less demanding appointment at the Queen's Orphan School, New Town. He died at his home *Stoke* in New Town in 1851, and his widow returned to England. Lempriere's portrait of Booth hangs in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.



The **Tasmanian Code of Signals** (RS31/2) is one of the Royal Society's treasures held in the Special & Rare Collections. This folio volume, compiled for the penal settlements on Tasman Peninsula, includes:

- ◆ instructions and diagrammatic examples
- ◆ lists of stations and their numbers (including Battery Point, Mount Nelson, Eaglehawk Neck, Norfolk Bay, Wedge Bay, Settlement Staff, etc.)
- ◆ alphabetical list of words and corresponding code numbers
- ◆ list of codes for persons, nautical vessels, weather, prisoners absconding, provisions, arms and ammunitions, etc.

The arrangement of sails was used as a form of signalling since the time of Sir Walter Raleigh, until the introduction of mechanical semaphores into the Royal Navy in the early nineteenth century. The first type of moving arm semaphore began on the English coast between Anglesey and Liverpool for shipping purposes in 1827 and was soon introduced into Australia.

Booth was a signalling enthusiast who made that system work efficiently for government, military and penal use. He personally superintended the operations of testing suitable sites – ensuring that each hilltop station could be seen by at least two of the others. Initially using the three single rotating arms type of semaphore (which limited numbers to '666'), by 1838 a signal post had six arms – two near the top, two at the centre, and two near the bottom – allowing larger numbers to be signalled.

The stations on Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas were operated by good conduct prisoners under the supervision of an overseer. To prevent any trickery, the men were moved between stations, recalled to headquarters without notice, and risked severe punishment for making false signals. Outside of penal areas, the semaphores were operated by free men or officials. In some cases, the rigged semaphores were as substantial as the mainmast of a sea-going ship.

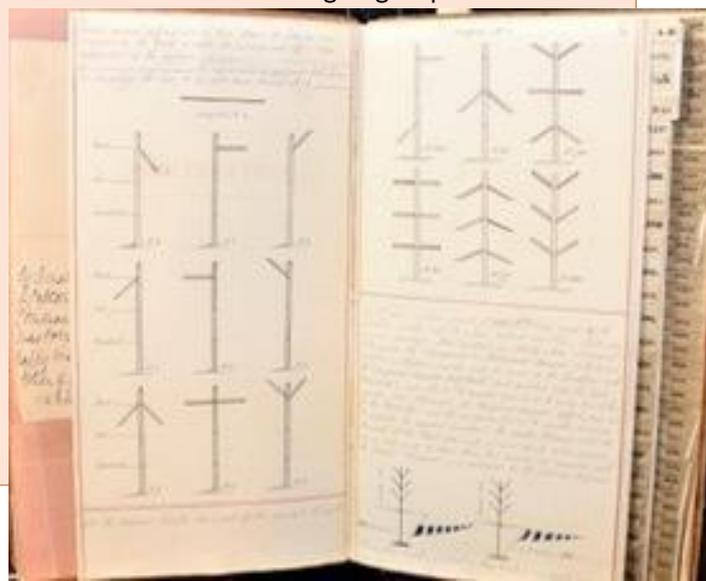
### References:

Booth (RS31) presented by Amelia Patricia Booth (the elder of Captain Booth's two daughters) in 1909:

[https://eprints.utas.edu.au/11188/1/rs\\_31\\_Capt\\_Charles\\_O%27Hara\\_Booth\\_Code\\_of\\_Signals.pdf](https://eprints.utas.edu.au/11188/1/rs_31_Capt_Charles_O%27Hara_Booth_Code_of_Signals.pdf)

Extracts from Captain Booth's diary (RS31/4): [https://eprints.utas.edu.au/13033/2/1925\\_journal\\_of\\_Captain\\_charles\\_o%27Hara\\_booth.pdf](https://eprints.utas.edu.au/13033/2/1925_journal_of_Captain_charles_o%27Hara_booth.pdf)

Australian Dictionary of Biography: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/booth-charles-ohara-1802>



# We are open!

Untimed ticket bookings now available

[www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au)

## Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

**Visiting TMAG:** It is no longer essential to book your visits to TMAG in advance, but when you arrive, you will need to register. The quickest and easiest way to do this is with the **Check In Tas** app: [click here to go to the Tasmanian Government website](#) to download the app.

The Museum Shop is open.

**TMAG from Home** initiative is available from the TMAG website.

**Free tours** for small groups are available on Saturdays and Sundays, and run for approximately 40 minutes.

Tour times are subject to change and availability and can be checked by phoning (03) 6165 7000. For guided tours for clubs, tourist groups or other organisations, please [click here](#).

**TMAG Art Tour – 11:00 am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays** Join the TMAG Art Guides for a tour of our current art exhibitions.

**TMAG Highlights Tour – 1:30 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays** Join the TMAG guides for a highlights tour of the treasures of the Central and Henry Hunter galleries and the historic Commissariat Complex and the Bond Store exhibitions.

### Festival of Bright Ideas

Join TMAG staff at the Festival of Bright Ideas on Hobart's waterfront as part of National Science Week 2021. Come along to the public open day on Saturday 21 August for a taste of the interconnections between First People's knowledge of Country and the evolution of edible plants in *Iutruwita*/Tasmania. There is also a special session on Friday 20 August just for schools.

Dates: Saturday 21 August 2021.

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Location: Princes Wharf No. 1.

Cost: Adults \$10, Under 18s free.

Bookings are essential, [click here for tickets](#). You can also see the full program at the [festival website](#).



### Follow RST on:

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Visit the website



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Society email address: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

### Our Office location is:

19 Davey Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

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

Phone: +61 3 6165 7014

### Our mailing address is:

GPO Box 1166, Hobart TAS 7001