



A Message from the President



Dear Members,

I would like to offer a warm welcome to **new members** Dianne Bye, Dr Bruce Cameron, Suzanne Cameron, Kim Munyard and Terry Munyard. Now is a good time to invite friends and colleagues to join, as new members joining from now until the end of the year receive membership until December 2022.

We have a great selection of **interesting events** coming up for you in the next few months. Our Northern Branch invites you to a lecture on Sunday 24 October at 1:30 pm, *Breathing New Life* by agriculturalist Tim Smallbon. Tim's lecture will focus on the history of the Cressy Research Station and will be held in person at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Launceston, and via Zoom. The Society is sponsoring a public symposium on *The Status of Iodine in Tasmania* at Peppers Silo Hotel, Launceston. Originally planned for 20 November, due to COVID-related travel restrictions, the date has been moved to 9 April 2022. [You can book at this link.](#)

On Sunday 7 November **award-winning neuroscientist** Dr Lila Landowski will give the next Hobart lecture at the RST Lecture Room in the Customs House at TMAG, starting at 3 pm in person and via Zoom: *Brain hack: Sharing the secrets to productive learning, backed by neuroscience*. If you've missed any past lectures, you can catch up with them on our [RST YouTube channel](#).

Behind the scenes, our various **committees are hard at work**. The Honours Committee is currently accepting nominations for Doctoral Awards; if you know an outstanding young researcher who has completed their PhD, please check the guidelines on our website and put in a nomination. Nominations close on 15 November. The Aboriginal Engagement Committee has arranged an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training day for RST Council members in early November. Our Publications Committee has been busy with the second printing of *Australian Mineral Discoverers* as well as preparing to print a visually attractive and informative *Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles* and the important edition of the *Papers and Proceedings* to be published in December. Rather than a calendar, this year the Society is producing an elegant notebook that will arrive in time for pre-Christmas sales. The cover features a choice of three designs with images from the RST Art Collection. See p. 7.

Don't forget the RST promotional stall at the **Garden Clubs of Australia Plant Fair** to be held at 'Valleyfield', New Norfolk on the weekend of 30–31 October. There will be a wonderful variety of plants and garden-themed products for sale, as well as the chance to see the beautiful garden at this historic property.

I hope you can attend the Royal Society of Tasmania **Christmas Dinner** at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay on Thursday 9 December. The speaker will be RST member Professor Greg Lehman, Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal Leadership at the University of Tasmania. Greg will be speaking on the topic *Terra nullius in Tasmanian colonial art*. This is an event for friends and supporters as well as members, so do invite your friends and colleagues to join us. Details on pp. 3–4.

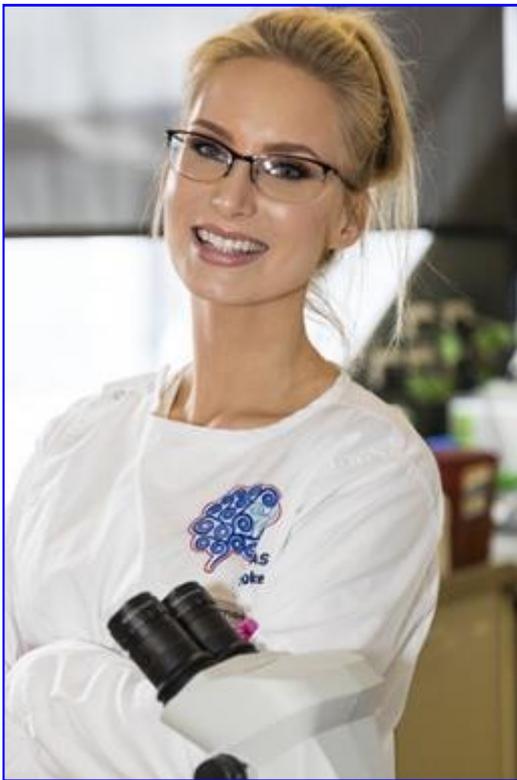
Warm regards,

Mary Mary Koolhof, President

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Above: Dr Lila Landowski.
(Photo courtesy of Reg Ashman.)

RST November Lecture

Brain hack: Sharing the secrets to productive learning, backed by neuroscience

Dear Royal Society of Tasmania members and supporters,

You are invited to a presentation by
Dr Lila Landowski

on Sunday 7 November 2021 at 3:00 pm.

The lecture will be presented in person at the RST Lecture Room in TMAG (Hobart) and as a Zoom webinar.

If you wish to attend in person: Register using Eventbrite before Saturday 6 November using this link. The password is RST. Attendance in person is limited by current pandemic restrictions to 20. Attendance is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Non-members are welcome to attend and donations are appreciated at the door or through our website. Suggested donation \$6; \$4 for students and Friends of TMAG.

If you wish to attend via ZOOM: Follow this link to register for the Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Attendance is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

Non-members are welcome and donations are appreciated through our website. Suggested donation \$6; \$4 for students and Friends of TMAG.

Abstract: Our brains change as we age, making it significantly harder to learn – but it doesn't mean an old dog can't learn new tricks!

There are smarter ways to learn than whatever it is you are doing right now. Lila will take you on a journey through the brain, examining some of the existing research on learning, and empower you with tools that help you learn faster and more effectively.

Biography: Dr Lila Landowski (Hons.) PhD, Australian Institute of Policy and Science Young Tall Poppy 2018, Young Australian of the Year, Tasmanian Finalist 2016.

Bioscience Lead (Hobart) | Unit Coordinator | Lecturer | Neuroscientist, University of Tasmania
Executive Director, Australian Society for Medical Research
Director, Epilepsy Tasmania

Dr Lila Landowski is a multi-award-winning neuroscientist and lecturer at the University of Tasmania, an Executive Director of the Australian Society for Medical Research, a Director of Epilepsy Tasmania, as well as a regular guest expert science communicator for the ABC. Her research background spans across stroke, nanotechnology, fatigue, dementia, axon guidance and peripheral nerve regeneration.

As a thought leader in science and science advocacy, Lila's honorary titles include being a "Superstar of STEM," an ambassador for public school education, a patron of National Science week, and being named a "Science Superhero" by Australia's Chief Scientist.

Right: Image courtesy of wall-street.com



Above: Image courtesy of neurosciencecoaching.co.uk





The Royal Society of Tasmania Annual Doctoral (PhD) Awards 2021

Nominations are now open for the RST annual Doctoral awards. Two awards are made for excellence in research by recent PhD graduates. In 2021, one award will be reserved for nominations in non-STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) disciplines. The other award will be open.

Conditions of the Doctoral Awards

The awards shall be made to nominees who are no more than three years, or three years' equivalent-full-time, after their PhD graduation.

The awards are intended to recognise significant advances based on the PhD research, as evidenced by published or in press peer-reviewed papers in national/international journals or equivalent outputs in fields where publications are not the norm.

The research should have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation.

Nominations may be made by anyone, although no self-nominations will be accepted.

The value of each award is \$1000 (AUD). **Nominations will close on 15 November 2021.**

[Click here](#) for the guidelines to the awards.

The Royal Society of Tasmania 2021 Christmas Function

On the following page is the Invitation to this exciting event.

The address will be presented by:

Professor Greg Lehman BSc, GradDipEnvStuds
(Hons), PhD, *UTas*, MSt History of Art, *Oxford*
on the topic of

Terra nullius in Tasmanian colonial art

The idea of Australia as an 'empty land' was dismissed by The Australian High Court in 1992. However, the implication of *terra nullius* as a rationale for British occupation of Aboriginal territory persists, largely unrecognised, in our colonial archive. Art Historian Greg Lehman will illustrate a dramatic example of this in the visual history of Van Diemen's Land. Attendance form below.



INVITATION

The President and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania
warmly invite members and friends to the

2021 Christmas Function

to be held on Thursday 9 December, 5:30 for 6pm

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

The address will be presented by

Professor Greg Lehman

Title: Terra nullius in Tasmanian colonial art

and will be followed by a two-course plated meal (\$65 per person).

Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

- * If you have special dietary requirements, please contact the office.
- * If attending only the lecture there is no charge, but please complete and return this form giving your name and email.

LECTURE ONLY: Number of people attending only the lecture. _____

DINNER: Number of people attending the dinner ____ @ \$65 each Total \$ _____

Email _____ Phone _____

NAMES _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Bank Deposit Commonwealth Bank BSB 067 000 Acc 00800763
Please leave name and "dinner" as the reference.

Cheque Credit Card

Card Number: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____ (if posting)

*RSVP: Please complete this form and email to admin@rst.org.au
or post to: The Royal Society of Tasmania, GPO 1166, HOBART TAS 7001
to arrive by **16 November 2021**.*

The form can be filled electronically or printed and scanned.



THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

ABN 65 889 598 100



RST Northern Branch

invites you to a public lecture:

Breathing New Life presented by Tim Smallbon

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 24 October 2021

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

BOOK for QVMAG lecture - 0417 330 118

or apcachris@gmail.com

for Zoom webinar, register at rst.org.au

Breathing New Life outlines the journey of the Cressy Research Station, founded in 1937 and becoming a Land Army training centre through the war, then a farmer training facility and then a centre of excellence for Tasmanian agriculture. But what has become of the Cressy Research Station today, and can it be revitalised with a new breath of life and scientific purpose?

Tim Smallbon has enjoyed a career in Tasmanian Agriculture spanning almost 40 years. Always having a passion for applied science, detail and technical skill led him to train as a seed and vegetable crop agronomist. Embracing the challenge of lifelong learning, he completed a Master's degree by research within the last five years and was appointed Research Manager for Upper Murray Seeds to breathe new life into the Cressy Research Station.



Generously supported by





RST Northern Branch
invites you to a public lecture

A Double Devil Dilemma

presented by
Emeritus Professor Greg Woods



Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 28 November 2021

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

BOOK for QVMAG lecture – 0417 330 118
or apcachris@gmail.com

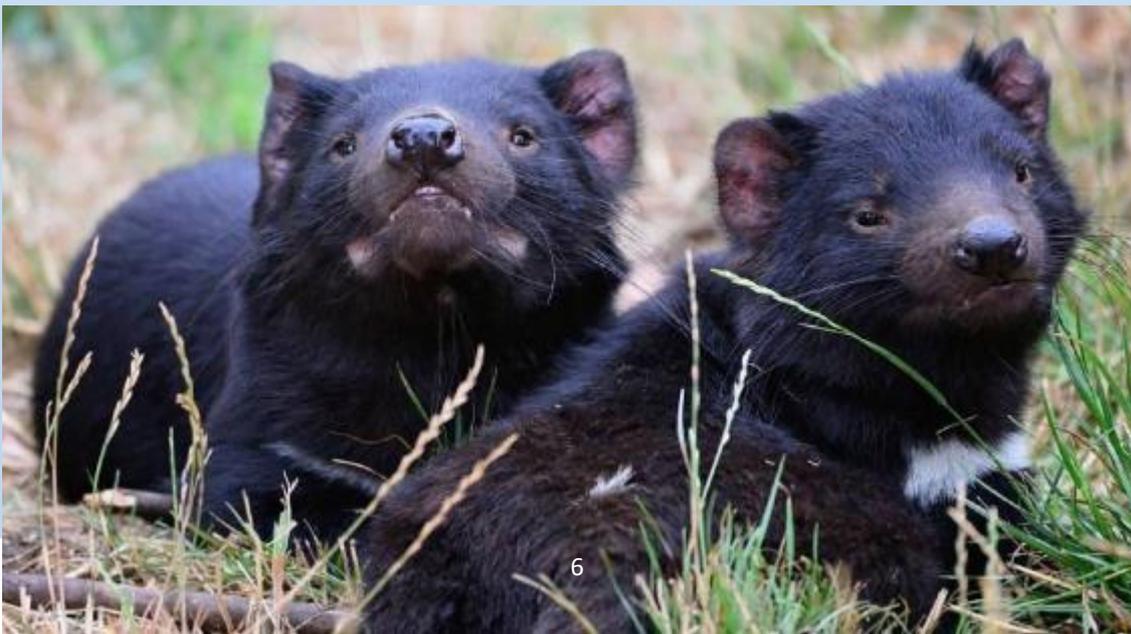
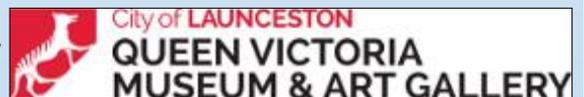
for Zoom webinar, register at rst.org.au



Abstract: Transmissible cancers are rare. However, Tasmanian devils are dying from two transmissible cancers that comprise Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). Both cancers arose from Schwann cells that avoided immune elimination. Research is revealing why devils appear to be susceptible to these transmissible cancers. Promising vaccine research and field observations that some devils can recover from DFTD provide hope for the devil population's future.

Biography: Greg Woods' (PhD, FFSc [RCPA]) lifelong interest in immunology has led to studies of T cells, leukaemia, UV irradiation, tumour immunology, dendritic cells and Devil Facial Tumour Disease in laboratories in Hobart, Toronto, London and Scotland. Awards include a "Eureka Award for Environmental Science" and the "ASMR Research award in Recognition of Distinguished Service to Medicine, Science and Community".

Generously supported by



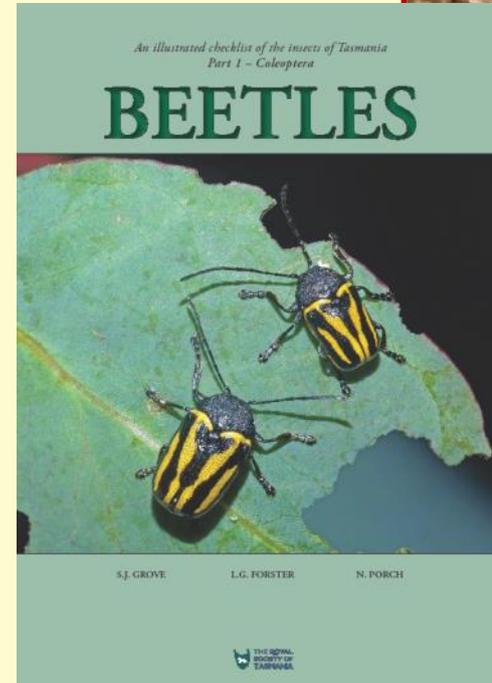
Exciting new RST publications coming your way!

Three new publications will be available shortly to add to your reading list or Christmas shopping and if you missed out on your copy of *Australian Mineral Discoverers*, a second print run has just arrived.

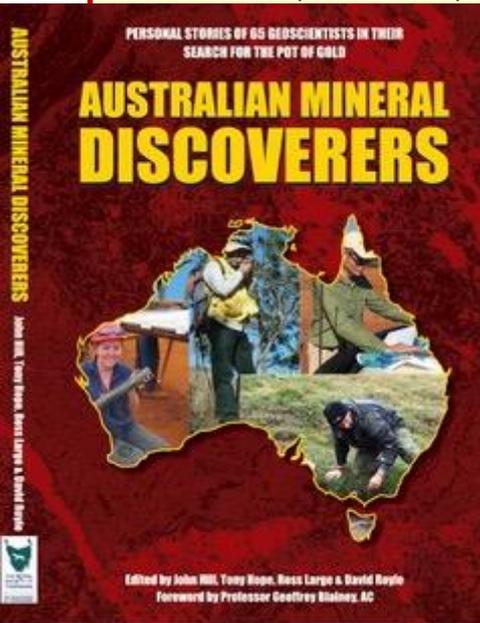
All items below are available for purchase online via the [RST Shop with some offering a membership discount](#).

RST Notebooks featuring a choice of three cover images from the Society's rare art and book collection (- see cover at left), will be on sale shortly in lieu of the long-standing RST calendar which is no longer being produced. Beautifully bound and presented, these prestigious notebooks are ideal for meeting notes or creative writing, so why not buy yourself a couple or as gifts for others?

An **Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles**, prepared by experts Simon Grove, Lynne Forster and Nick Porch (- see cover at right), is an exciting new taxonomic guide to Tasmanian beetles with diagnostic information on nearly 3000 species, including over 600 endemics and seven species found only on Macquarie Island. Featuring thumbnail images of every group and 16 full colour plates, this fantastic new resource will help you identify and learn more about Tasmania's enigmatic beetle fauna.



Following Volume 155(1) celebrating the RST Northern Branch centenary in June 2021, the RST Journal **Papers and Proceedings Volume 155(2)** will be published in December featuring the transcripts of speakers at the historic *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people*, as well as a diverse range of scientific and review papers of wide interest. Your copy will be automatically posted if it's selected as part of your annual RST membership. Otherwise volumes can be purchased separately until sold out.

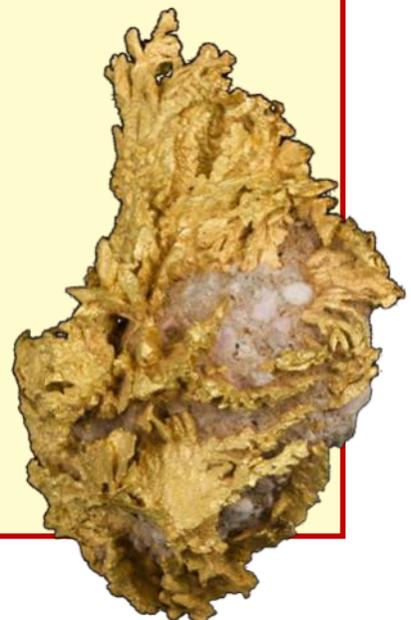


Australian Mineral Discoverers: 1950–2010 first published in December 2020 has now been reprinted. Edited by John Hill, Tony Hope, Ross Large and David Royle, this book features the biographies of 65 Australian mineral explorers and educators. Their stories show that the discovery of buried minerals is an extremely complex science, requiring knowledge, innovation, disciplined application of geological principles, teamwork, persistence and luck. **\$60.00 full price**

Members of the Royal Society discount on this item @ \$50.00

For overseas orders, please contact the Society directly to calculate postage and place the order: admin@rst.org.au

For orders of more than one copy, please contact the Society direct: admin@rst.org.au



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

Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

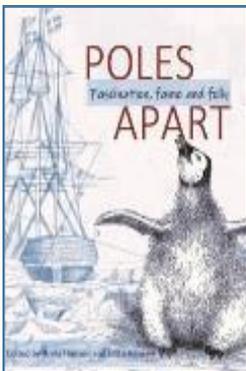
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

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.

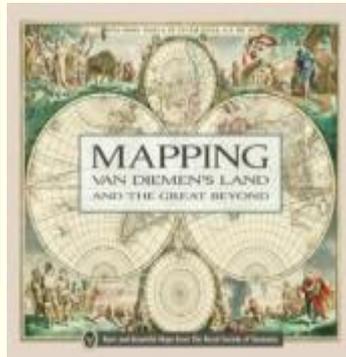
10% discount for Members on these books.

Discounted prices for members are shown beside each book:



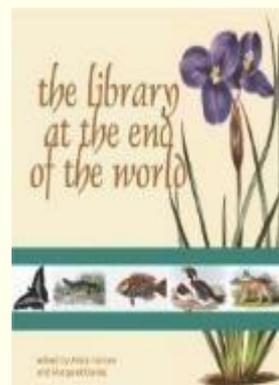
Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

Hardcover (\$22.50) and Softcover (\$13.50)



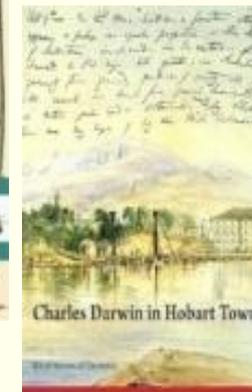
Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond

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

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 or phone Wednesday mornings on 03 6165 7014.



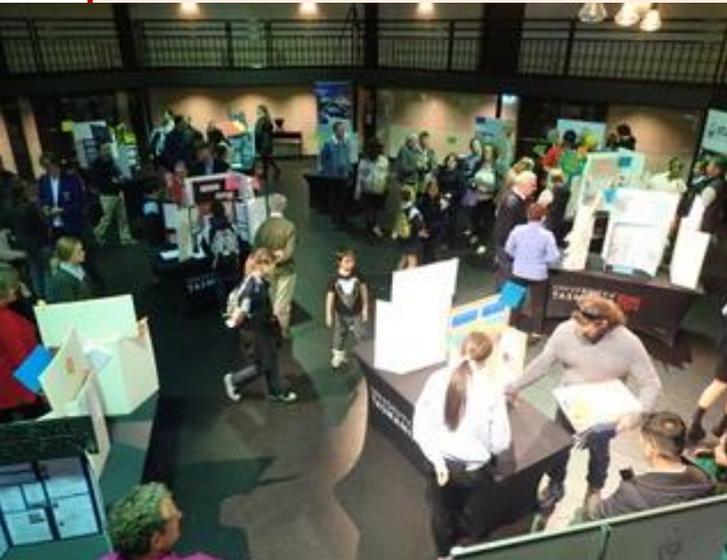
Science and Engineering Investigation Awards

Report by Peter S Manchester

– Member of the RST Council

Peter Manchester represented The Royal Society of Tasmania as a judge and attended the Southern Awards evening of the Science and Engineering Investigation Awards. This was held on 23 September 2021 at the University Centre, UTAS, Sandy Bay. Dr Eric Ratcliff, President of the Northern Branch of RST, attended the awards evening in Launceston.

These awards are granted after a **state-wide competition** for Years 5 to 12 students. The awards encourage school students to 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 outline their topic then share their findings with judges from research, industry and education, to whom they also present their projects, supported by a poster display and a written report. Students who were involved during the judging were very enthusiastic and extremely well versed in explaining their results and projects.

In Southern Tasmania, **91 entries** from students were entered from schools: Fahan, St. Mary's College, Hutchins, Friends, Springfield School, Elizabeth College and two home schooling groups.

53 students who won awards were for Best Project, Honourable Mention, Runner-up, and Encouragement in the areas of Agricultural Science: Engineering, Environmental and Marine Science, Health and Wellbeing and the Physical Sciences.

Students who won awards were presented with a certificate, a monetary award and in most cases a Dr Karl Kruszelnicki book, *Random Road Trip through Science*.

Observations indicate:

- ◆ Students have a real passion for world issues.
- ◆ The younger grades are quite concerned about health matters and their well-being.
- ◆ The middle grades are well aware of environmental matters especially in the marine sciences.
- ◆ Diversification of science investigation is evident.
- ◆ Some advanced research skills were shown by some students, especially in the Years 10 to 12 area. For example, one student's project was 'optimising the fall rate of a paper helicopter'. Another student showed chirality in chemistry [- in chemistry, 'chirality' refers to a geometric property of some molecules or ions. A molecule or ion is called chiral (pronounced ky-ral) if it cannot be superposed on its mirror image by any combination of rotations, translations, and some conformational changes.]



The Royal Society of Tasmania is a **proud and regular financial supporter** of the Science and Engineering Investigation Awards.

It is recommended that support be continued to nurture and promote the interest of young Tasmanian students in science.



IODINE DEFICIENCY SYMPOSIUM

THE STATUS OF IODINE IN TASMANIA

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

9 April 2022
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 Professor Creswell Eastman will be followed by a dinner with guest speaker Dr Mark Veitch - Director of Public Health, Tasmania.

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

For registration [CLICK HERE](#)

Please Note: Registrations close 1 April 2022

In the event that due to COVID restrictions the Symposium is cancelled a refund will be made as per instructions above.

Symposium Secretariat - The Clifford Craig Foundation

admin@cliffordcraig.org.au



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

9 April, 2022

“The Status of Iodine in Tasmania” Symposium Event on 9 April 2022 is a landmark seminar showcasing a variety of presentations on iodine deficiency in Tasmania, its history, management and academic research in the 21st century. Our 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. The symposium covers all aspects of iodine deficiency and its present status. It is a foremost integrative platform for researchers, educators and practitioners alike to witness and explore the latest innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of its management.

We are pleased to present this symposium with 10 internationally recognised speakers 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. We are also pleased to announce that, due to COVID restrictions, the Symposium will be zoomed live internationally. A special Zoom registration is available for international interests. Our keynote speaker is Professor Creswell Eastman. Listen to his ABC interview: [The man who saved a million brains: Creswell Eastman's pioneering work with iodine deficiency disorder](#).

Biography: Professor Creswell (Cres) Eastman has led projects to abolish Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) throughout the developing world. Children born to mothers deficient in iodine can suffer a range of defects including mental retardation, deafness, and speech and physical impairments.

Over the past decades, Cres and his teams have been effective in Malaysia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, China and Tibet. His transformative work with populations in remote areas of China led him to be dubbed 'the man who saved a million brains'.

During his first visits to Tibet, Cres discovered that 13 per cent of the population were born with cretinism as the result of iodine deficiency. In the course of his field work in Asia, Cres almost lost his life to altitude sickness.

Cres' current focus is on the recurring problem of IDD in Australian and Thai populations. He is concerned that IDD may be affecting the ability of Australian children, and in particular Indigenous Australian children, to perform at school. Cres has started programs in central Australia to get iodine and folate given to all Indigenous pregnant women.

[You can register here through Eventbrite](#). The full day symposium is \$80.

Registrations close on 1 April 2022

The symposium will be opened by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

Associated social events include a dinner with after-dinner speaker Dr Mark Veitch, Tasmanian Director of Public Health. On Sunday 10 April there will be a tour of Launceston Whisky Distillery and BBQ lunch.

Please note: Continuing Professional Development Credits

Medical, nursing, allied Health and other professionals attending the Iodine Symposium are eligible for CPD activity points which can be self-logged post event.



The Society's Library



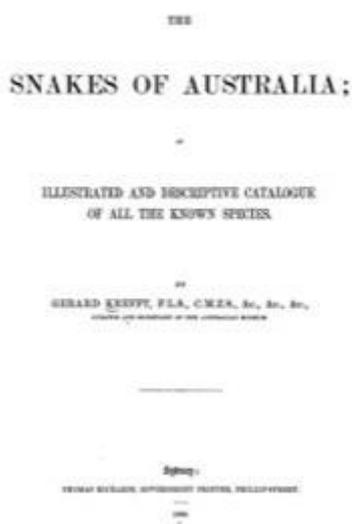
Special & Rare Collections (5th floor, Morris Miller Library at UTAS Sandy Bay campus) including TRST Library asks that all visitors and researchers comply with the following COVID-safe practices:

- Please make appointments via special.collections@utas.edu.au 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

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



Australian Snakes by Krefft and Waite

Prompted by a warning that the snake season is early this year due to the warmest winter in decades, this month's focus is on two snake books in the Special & Rare Collections:

The snakes of Australia; an illustrated and descriptive catalogue of all known species by Gerard Krefft, published in 1869.

A popular account of Australian snakes: with a complete list of the species and an introduction to their habits and organisation by Edgar Waite, published in 1898.

Johann Ludwig Gerard (Louis) Krefft (1830–1881), zoologist, was born in Germany. He migrated to the United States in 1850 and then to Victoria in 1852. After five years on the goldfields, he accompanied William Blandowski's expedition to the Lower Murray and Darling Rivers and catalogued a large natural history collection for the National Museum, Melbourne. He drew many natural science specimens, including the now-extinct, pig-footed bandicoot – although he wrote: "They are very good eating and I am sorry to

confess that my appetite more than once over-ruled my love for science".

Krefft was appointed assistant curator of the Australian Museum in 1860 and curator in 1864. He built up the collections; recorded through sketches and descriptions many new species (including the saltwater crocodile and the cassowary) - as well as some that are now extinct; discovered the Queensland lungfish; published over 200 scientific articles and books; wrote many illustrated articles for the *Sydney Mail*; and gained international repute as a scientist.

He had a broad knowledge of zoology and geology but specialised in snakes. Krefft was one of the few Australian scientists to accept Darwin's theory of evolution and disseminated his ideas in the 1860s. In 1866, Krefft explored the Wellington caves and publicised their fossils, which included a giant kangaroo and Diprotodon.

Krefft's major herpetological work, *The Snakes of Australia*, was published in 1869. Unable to find a publisher, he self-financed and it was published by the Government Printer with

Right: Green Tree Snake illustrated in Krefft's book.



Left: Brown Snake. **Right:** Black Snake illustrated in Krefft's book.

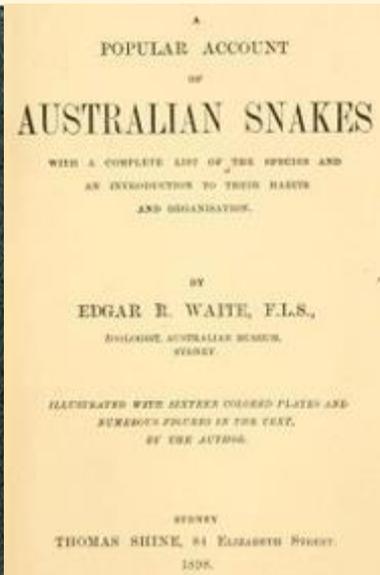
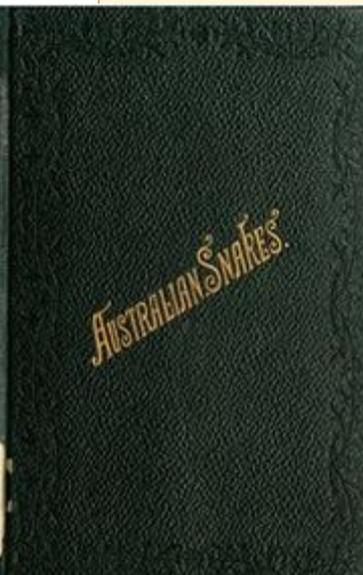
700 copies issued. This first definitive work exclusively on Australian reptiles was produced wholly in Australia and was up to the highest standards of contemporary natural history publishing, receiving high praise at the Sydney Intercolonial Exhibition of 1870. The 12 lithographic plates (mostly not hand-coloured) were illustrated by Harriet Scott (1830–1907) and Helena Scott (1832–1910), daughters of the businessman and amateur Australian naturalist Alexander Walker Scott who wrote *Australian Lepidoptera and their translation*. Apparently, the artists were both afraid of snakes and would only illustrate specimens from photographs or museum specimens taken out of bottles of alcohol, which accounts for the coiled positions of the subjects.



He was a councillor of the Royal Society of New South Wales, a fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, and a member of several European scientific societies. During his 13 years as curator, he introduced the formal study of science at the Australian Museum.

However, Krefft had notable clashes with some of the trustees: he was implicated in a parliamentary inquiry following the theft of gold at the museum, and several court cases included allegations of drunkenness and refusal to follow orders from trustees. He was dismissed in 1874 but refused to leave, barricading himself inside the Museum until he was forcibly evicted, still seated in his red leather chair. His livelihood was destroyed in this demoralising end to his career and many of his research papers remained unpublished. He fell on hard times and died in Woolloomooloo from congestion of the lungs, aged 51. His name is honoured in two endemic reptiles: *Cacophis krefftii*, a species of venomous snake; and *Emydura macquarii krefftii*, a subspecies of freshwater turtle.

Thirty years later, Krefft's book was out of print. It was also outdated because of additions to the known fauna (he had recorded 21 innocuous and 42 venomous snakes). Edgar Waite listed 31 and 62 respectively in *A popular account of Australian snakes: with a complete list of the species and an introduction to their habits and organisation*, published 1898. This small octavo book, with 16 chromolithographed plates, was illustrated by the author.



Edgar Ravenswood Waite (1866–1928), zoologist and museum director, was born in Yorkshire. From 1893–1905, he was assistant curator in charge of vertebrates at the Australian Museum in Sydney. In 1906, he was appointed curator of the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand. His many improvements included the introduction of exhibits and new display techniques, and the establishment (1907) and editing of the *Records of the Canterbury Museum*. Apart from his faunal work, the extensive studies he undertook of New Zealand and Antarctic fishes established him as a leading ichthyologist. He frequently participated in major land and sea expeditions, among them Douglas Mawson's first Sub-Antarctic cruise in 1912.

In 1914, he was appointed director of the South Australian Museum, a position he held until his death in 1928. He led the museum's expedition to Strzelecki and Cooper Creeks

(1916) and published the results in the *Transactions of the Royal Society, South Australia*; established and edited the museum's *Records*; made collecting trips to New Guinea, New Britain and New Ireland in 1918, and in 1926 inspected museums in the United States and Europe.

Waite published diversely and prolifically, mostly on vertebrate taxonomy – particularly fishes, reptiles and mammals. A fellow (1890) of the Linnean Society and a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, he was senior vice-president of the Royal Society of South Australia, and councillor of the South Australian Zoological and Acclimatisation Society. He was also an editor of the South Australian handbooks committee of the British



Right: Black Snake illustrated in Waite's book. **Below:** Brown Snake.

Science Guild, a member of the Flora and Fauna Board of South Australia and of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, and a founding member and president of the South Australian Aquarium Society.

Waite's early research on Australian vertebrate fauna had been highly regarded, and he was already a leading ichthyologist and herpetologist before his move to New Zealand. He later became a world authority on the fishes of the Australasian-Antarctic region. An exceptionally capable and innovative museum administrator, by the mid-1920s he was at the zenith of his professional standing. Versatile, thorough, meticulous and highly productive, he had formidable accomplishments and greatly influenced the development of natural science in South Australia.

He became gravely ill in 1928 before leaving Adelaide to attend a meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in Tasmania and died of enteric fever in Highbury Hospital, Hobart.

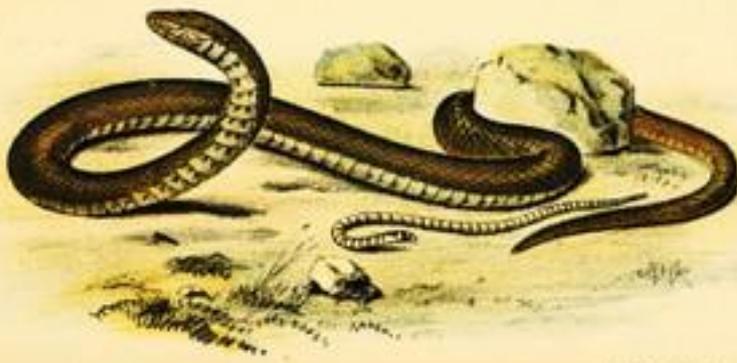
The snakes of Australia: an illustrated and descriptive catalogue of all the known species / by Gerard Krefft, Sydney: T. Richards, Government Printer, 1869

Morris Miller-Royal Society Rare-Book (QL 666 .O6 K8 1869)

Biodiversity Heritage Library <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>



PLATE 8



[title/57456](https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/title/57456)

More information:

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/rs/pdf/rs09146>

and

<https://australian.museum/search/?query=krefft>

A popular account of Australian snakes: with a complete list of the species and an introduction to their habits and organisation / by Edgar R. Waite
Sydney: Shine, 1898

Morris Miller-Royal Society Rare-Book (QL 666 .O6 W35 1898)

Biodiversity Heritage Library

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/title/5479>

More information, including diaries: <https://australian.museum/search/?query=edgar+waite>

Right: Tiger Snake illustrated in Waite's book.



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.

Seniors Week Tours 2021

Convict Artisans in Van Diemen's Land

Join a TMAG museum guide to find out about and see some of the fascinating items that convict artisans created.

Date: Thursday 14 October 2021

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

[Bookings are essential.](#)

First Nations

Visit TMAG's [ningina tunapri gallery](#) with Nicole Smith, First Peoples learning facilitator, and expand your understanding of the thought-provoking history and culture of Aboriginal people in *lutruwita* (Tasmania).

Date: Thursday 14 October 2021

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

[Bookings are essential.](#)



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