



# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

*THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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 2022

Produced by The Royal Society of Tasmania for the Annual General Meeting 6 March 2023



ABN 65 889 598 100

### The Royal Society of Tasmania

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Cover Image: Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*. Hand-coloured lithograph, John Gould and Henry Constantine Richter, Gould, J. 1848: *A Synopsis of the Birds of Australia, and the Adjacent Islands*.



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# THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

**PATRON:** Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

## OFFICE BEARERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Professor Jocelyn McPhie
Vice President	Dr Tony Webster
Immediate Past President	Mrs Mary Koolhof
Honorary Secretary	Ms Marley Large
Honorary Treasurer	Mr David Wilson
Council Members	Ms Chel Bardell Dr Anita Hansen Ms Shasta Henry (Student Councillor) Professor Ross Large AO Mr Peter Manchester Associate Professor Julie Rimes Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen (Membership) Dr Imogen Wegman Mr John Williamson
Northern Branch Representatives	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM Mr Neil MacKinnon
EX OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS	
Honorary Librarian	Ms Juliette Beale (until 1 April), Ms Janette Burke (after 1 April)
Honorary Editor	Dr Sally Bryant
Honorary Solicitor	Mr James Crotty
Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery Representative	Ms Mary Mulcahy (Director)

## NORTHERN BRANCH & OTHER ROLES

### NORTHERN BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Northern Branch President	Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Christine Beswick
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Neil MacKinnon
Northern Branch Rep on The Foundation	Mr Neil MacKinnon
Northern Committee Members	Mr Andrew Alexander Dr Lois Beckwith Mr Brian East Mr Shane Fitzgerald <i>ex officio</i> QVMAG Rep (Director of Creative Arts & Cultural Services / QVMAG Director) Dr Frank Madill AM (Immediate Past President) Mr David Morris Mrs Melanie Morris Mr Andrew Parsons <i>ex officio</i> (Honorary Librarian) Dr Martin Renilson Ms Lynette Ross Mr Robin Walpole

### OTHER RST ROLES

Auditor	Mr Richard James
Newsletter Editor	Mr Bernard Pryor OAM
Webmaster	Mr Eddy Steenbergen
Honorary Editor Journal <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i>	Dr Sally Bryant
Honorary Art Curator	Dr Anita Hansen
Office Manager	Mrs Bronwyn Beechey
RST Nominee to Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery	Professor Jim Reid

## RST COMMITTEES 2022

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
<b>Aboriginal Engagement</b>	Professor Jocelyn McPhie	Mrs Mary Koolhof Dr Sally Bryant Professor Greg Lehman (to August 2022) Mr David Morris Mr David Wilson
<b>Art Collection</b>	Professor Ross Large AO	Dr Anita Hansen (Hon. Curator) Ms Marley Large
<b>Art Fundraising</b>	Mrs Mary Koolhof	Professor Ross Large AO Associate Professor Julie Rimes Professor Jocelyn McPhie Ms Lynne Uptin
<b>Bursaries</b>	Professor Jocelyn McPhie (Acting Chair)	Ms Shasta Henry Dr Adele Wilson
<b>Events &amp; Publicity</b>	Assoc Professor Julie Rimes (Events) Ms Chel Bardell (Publicity)	Ms Shasta Henry Professor Ross Large AO Dr Tony Webster Dr Imogen Wegman Mr John Williamson
<b>Foundation</b>	Mr Neil MacKinnon	Mr Tony Culberg OAM Ms Marley Large (Secretary) Dr John Thorne AM Mr David Wilson (Treasurer)
<b>Honours &amp; Awards</b>	Professor Jocelyn McPhie	Dr Margaret Davies OAM Dr Eva Meidl Professor Jim Reid Dr Steve Rintoul Professor Jonathan Sprent (Medical Sciences Consultant)
<b>Membership</b>	Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen	Ms Shasta Henry Mr Peter Manchester Dr John Thorne AM Ms Chel Bardell
<b>Publications</b>	Dr Sally Bryant	Ms Chel Bardell Dr Margaret Davies OAM Dr Tony Webster

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first big event for 2022 was the award by the RST Council of Honorary Life Membership to Past President, Mary Koolhof. As President, Mary led efforts behind the RST Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the formal recognition of RST ownership of the artworks loaned to TMAG. She also established our online presence via Zoom and YouTube and updated many RST documents and procedures.

Mediation between the RST and TMAG in November 2021 established the RST as the owner of more than 900 mostly nineteenth century artworks that now constitute the RST Art Collection. The formal statement of RST ownership – the “Deed of Settlement and Release” – was finally agreed and signed by the two parties in August 2022. The collection is housed in TMAG’s Print Room under the special conditions required to preserve such fragile artworks. Following signing of the Deed, negotiations have been underway on a formal Loan Agreement that will set out the terms under which the RST loans the collection to TMAG. This agreement is expected to be settled early in 2023. Ownership of some illustrations by Louisa Anne Meredith of fish, snails and shells was not agreed at the 2021 Mediation, so discussions are ongoing.



(L) Past RST President Mrs Mary Koolhof receiving her Honorary Life Membership certificate presented by current President Professor Jocelyn McPhie, (R) Signature page of 2022 Deed of Settlement and Release between RST and TMAG, setting out RST’s ownership of over 900 artworks.

Ownership has brought the responsibilities of managing, valuing, insuring, restoring, conserving, and exhibiting the collection, which require finances beyond the typical annual budget of the Society. Honorary Art Curator, Dr Anita Hansen, was appointed at the beginning of 2022 and, together with the Art Committee, manages the collection. Following valuation by Warwick Oakman, the immediate challenge the Society faces is how best to insure, restore and conserve the RST Art Collection.

An Art Fundraising Committee, chaired by Mary Koolhof, was created in early 2022 and the RST Art Fund was launched at the Mid-Winter Dinner. A second high-profile fundraising event was held in September, hosted at Government House by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC and Distinguished Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO. Guests were treated to a unique musical performance created by Thomas Rimes, specially crafted refreshments and a selection of paintings from the RST Art Collection.

The Society was successful in two grant applications in support of the RST Art Collection, due largely to the efforts of the Art Fundraising Committee, Art Committee and Honorary Art Curator: one from the National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants and the other from the Community Underwriting Small Grants Program.



L to R: Matthew Goddard, Thomas Rimes, Martin Penicka and Jabra Latham performing “Echoes of Van Diemen’s Land” at the RST fundraising event held at Government House, 6 September 2022.

A second major event in 2021 – the RST Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people - continued to guide and influence the Society’s operations in 2022. RST members participated in events organised by Reconciliation Tasmania. The Society publicly supported removal of the statue of William Crowther in Franklin Square, in accord with the wishes of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. In December, Tasmanian Aboriginal leader Rodney Gibbins presented a lecture to the Society explaining his perspective of how a treaty with the State Government might be achieved.

The Society presented 15 events in Hobart and 11 in Launceston. All but the Government House fundraising event, were formal lectures. Without exception, the speakers put a great deal of effort into producing and delivering first-rate lectures. Among the highlights was the lecture on forty-spotted pardalotes by Dr Sally Bryant in Hobart which attracted a record audience. Five lectures were presented jointly: two with the Geological Society of Australia, one with the Academy of Technology and Engineering, one with the Friends of TMAG, and one with Beer Aquatic. The Northern Branch hosted the inaugural Elvin Fist Lecture delivered by Dr Allison Trimble. This lecture is named in honour of Elvin Fist, a leading Tasmanian educationist.

In 2022, the RST awarded the Clive Lord Memorial Medal and the Peter Smith Medal. The Clive Lord Memorial Medal is offered every four years to a scholar distinguished for research in, alternatively, Tasmanian science or as in 2022, Tasmanian history. Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow was the winner in recognition of his outstanding contribution to diverse aspects of Tasmanian history. The Peter Smith Medal is intended for an outstanding early-career scholar but this year, two medals have been awarded to two equally deserving nominees, exercise physiologist Dr Rachel Climie and materials scientist, Dr Vipul Gupta. The RST Doctoral Award was won by medical scientist, Dr Zhen Zhou for her contribution to primary prevention of cardiovascular disease.

The Society continues to benefit from the support and expertise of Library staff at the University of Tasmania. The RST Library Collection is held in the Morris Miller Library of the University and managed by Cultural Collections personnel. The Society has been progressively digitizing the collection, especially the particularly valuable and/or rare items, and much of it is accessible online. In May, heavy rain resulted in the library roof leaking, and about 30 RST items sustained minor water damage (pages slightly buckled, water marks along some edges of pages). Library staff acted immediately to mitigate and prevent further damage and protective measures have since been installed in case the roof leaks again.

Also in May, the Society welcomed new TMAG Director Mary Mulcahy. Mary immediately joined the RST and accepted an *ex officio* position on the RST Council representing TMAG. In making appointments to the TMAG Board of Trustees, the Minister for Arts is required to consult and seek nominations from the RST. The Society had two opportunities in the past year to put forward nominees for vacant positions on the TMAG Board of Trustees, neither of which was successful.

The *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* continues to flourish under the editorship of Dr Sally Bryant. Volume 156 (2022) contains 11 full papers and one article on the statue of William Crowther in Franklin Square. More than 78,000 downloads of articles in the RST *Papers & Proceedings* were recorded in 2022. Another RST publication, *The Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles* by lead author Dr Simon Grove, officially launched in December 2021, was promoted at a Friends of TMAG event in February this year.

Honorary Secretary Marley Large and Honorary Treasurer David Wilson both intend to step down in 2023. Marley and David have been in their respective positions for three years, ensuring the business of the Society has been conducted correctly and professionally. Given the numerous projects underway in the Society, these two positions have required more-or-less daily attention. Sincere thanks to Marley and David for their contribution to the successful operation of the Society.



**Honorary Treasurer David Wilson and Honorary Secretary Marley Large in the RST office.**

Early in 2022, Bronwyn Beechey was appointed as RST Office Manager, a role that she has mastered quickly and at which she now excels.

Thanks to Council members, Committee Chairs and Committee members for all their time and effort devoted to the RST in 2022. Thanks also to Webmaster Eddy Steenberg and Newsletter Editor Bernard Pryor for contributing their time and invaluable skills to ensuring the Society's web presence and Newsletter are accurate, up-to-date, and informative. We also greatly appreciate and value the help from Honorary Solicitor James Crotty who has provided advice and acted on behalf of the RST many times in the past year.

**Professor Jocelyn McPhie**  
**President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Society had a very successful year and the details of a variety of activities are available elsewhere in this Annual Report. By the beginning of May, many restrictions that were imposed to assist in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic had been eased or withdrawn completely, so in-person events were able to be scheduled with confidence. Although none of the Society's core activities have suffered during the pandemic, it is less time-consuming for members and volunteers to now manage the many activities the Society undertakes without the restriction to numbers and compulsory registration.

Fortunately, the year began with the appointment of Ms Bronwyn Beechey as the Society's new Office Manager. Bronwyn's experience is a very good fit for the Society, and although she currently works approximately 16 hours per month, there is capacity to increase her hours if necessary. Her expertise and ability to adjust and absorb information quickly have been very welcome during an exceedingly busy year.



### Appointment of New RST Office Manager

A new Office Manager has been appointed to the Royal Society team. Her name is Bronwyn Beechey and I know that our Royal Society members will join me in wishing her a very warm welcome. Bronwyn has fitted in beautifully and has already tidied us up considerably.

Bronwyn will be available in the office every Thursday morning between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm to answer your calls and to assist you with enquiries and book sales.

Bronwyn can be contacted on the email address: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

This year Committee Chairs and Council members required a considerably higher level of secretarial support for various activities. The greater demand for support arose from the major fundraising event at Government House, our interactions with other institutions, assuming responsibility for the RST Art Collection and support for fundraising. These demands came on top of the usual work arising from Council meetings and associated reports prepared for Council, Hobart lectures, newsletters and two dinners at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. These issues were discussed by Council, and it was agreed to introduce a number of measures in 2023 to reduce the workload of the Executive. These measures were explained to the membership in the Society's December Newsletter.

I am stepping down after 3 years as Honorary Secretary. I am confident that by the time of the Annual General Meeting in March, the new arrangements will be in place and my replacement will have a much more manageable workload with the support of extra hours from the Office Manager when necessary.

Although I am stepping down from Council, I will concentrate my attention on the RST Art Collection, working with the Honorary Art Curator to provide the membership and interested art lovers and other groups and institutions, with a variety of ways to access the collection.

My grateful thanks go to all the members of Council, the RST Executive and the members who continue to support the Society.

**Ms Marley Large**  
**Honorary Secretary**

## RST FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

The financial and office procedures set up in 2020 continued to operate smoothly throughout this year and accommodated the return to in-person lectures and events, including a Mid-Winter Dinner as well as the usual Christmas lecture and dinner.

Influences on the 2022 financial results included:

- The ongoing additional costs of live streaming lectures
- RST Art Collection.

Our international exposure continues through our live stream of lectures via Zoom and lectures and other podcasts being made available via the RST YouTube.

The financial results for the year 2022 are better than budgeted, mainly due to considerably more donations than expected and less expenditure than proposed on the RST Art Collection and calendars. Membership receipts and book sales are slightly down compared with the previous year.

The finalisation of ownership of the RST Art Collection and its subsequent valuation along with the value of the RST Library Collection made a large difference to our balance sheet. The RST Art Collection was professionally valued in August 2022 at \$8,100,000. The Rare Book Library has been professionally valued at \$2,757,355 and the remaining books are estimated to have a value of approximately \$300,000. The valuation of the RST Art Collection also has financial implications regarding insurance, restoration, conservation, and exhibitions.

For the financial period of 2022, revenues relied on the following main items:

• Book sales (inc. AMD Book)	\$10,036
• Donations	\$49,413
• Grants	\$14,050
• Membership dues	\$23,560
• Journal <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i>	\$ 3,125

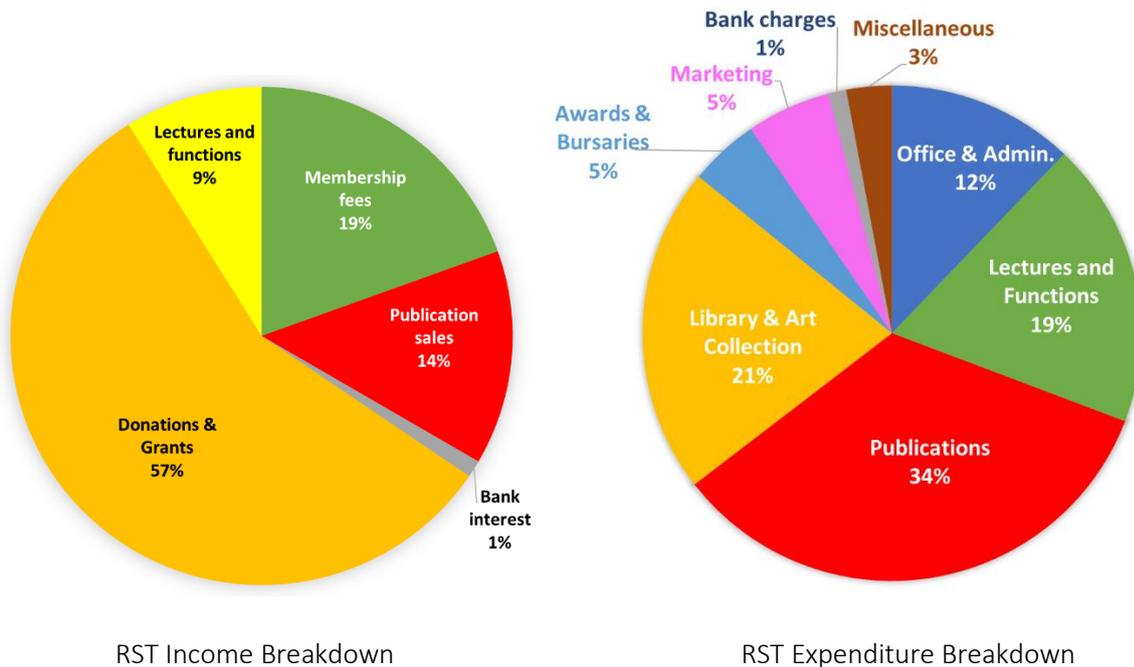
Interest earned on funds invested is down due to the lower interest rates on fixed term loans rolled over at the beginning of the year and due to the downturn in Australian and global markets.

Most expenses for the fiscal year were below budget. Again, no bursaries were made to students this year due to restricted interstate and international travel. The one exception of increased expenses was that of meeting costs due to the resumption of in-person lectures in the RST lecture room which attracts security costs from TMAG. The two dinner functions are designed as break-even events.

The major expense items were:

	As per budget
Post-Doctoral Awards	
Publications	
Publications, other	Includes payment for two editions of <i>P&amp;P</i>
Administration	Is a major cost item for the Society
Programme Expenses	
Christmas and Midwinter lectures and dinners	Both events are cost neutral as per budget
Lecture programs	Greater this year due to return of in-person lectures

A breakdown of income and expenditure is presented in the following two charts.



The Society is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and maintains its Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. The exact status and DGR endorsement with regard to donations that are tax-deductible were clarified during 2022. The Society is entitled to use the ACNC Charity Tick to indicate the legitimacy of the Society.

A budget for 2023 has been prepared for approval by the Council. This budget will help to provide good operating guidelines and cash flow requirements for the coming year.

The Society's Current Credit Balances, Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2022 are provided.



ABN 65 889 598 100

Mr David Wilson  
Honorary Treasurer

**RST FUNDS CURRENT CREDIT BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

BUSINESS TRANSACTION ACCOUNT	CBA	52,807.93			2022
VISA ACCOUNT	CBA	1,000.00			Interest
TPT SELECT MORTGAGE FUND	TPT Wealth	74,353.78	ongoing	2.45%	877.48
TERM DEPOSITS	My State	0.00	Transferred to Foundation		456.20
<b>TOTAL RST TRANSACTION FUNDS</b>		<b>128,161.71</b>			
<b>COMPRISING:</b>					
RST LIBRARY & ART FUND		38,300.91			
PETER SMITH TRUST BALANCE		23,925.47			
GENERAL FUNDS		65,935.33			
<b>FOUNDATION</b>		<b>536,431.39</b>			
<b>INCLUDING:</b>					
RST LIBRARY & ART FUND		30,587.55			
<b>TOTAL RST</b>		<b>664,593.10</b>			

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020
TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS	49,413	9,162	7,703
PETER SMITH TRUST	4,990		
GRANTS	14,050	6,000	9,500
<b>TOTAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS INCOME</b>	<b>68,453</b>	<b>15,162</b>	<b>17,203</b>
INTEREST EARNED	1,334	1,989	2,699
MEMBERSHIP DUES			
FULL - NO PAPERS	11,445	13,715	12,215
FULL - WITH PAPERS	11,810	12,830	9,090
STUDENT - NO PAPERS	105	75	100
STUDENT - WITH PAPERS	200	50	50
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>	<b>23,560</b>	<b>26,670</b>	<b>21,455</b>
PROGRAM INCOME (INC. DINNERS)	10,756	10,727	4,810
PUBLICATIONS			
BOOK SALES	10,036	19,375	48,949
CALENDAR & CARD SALES	1,241	4,897	7,250
PAPERS & PROCEEDINGS	3,125	2,133	2,065
POSTAGE & HANDLING	2,446	2,254	2,154
<b>TOTAL PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>16,848</b>	<b>28,658</b>	<b>60,418</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>120,951</b>	<b>83,206</b>	<b>106,585</b>

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	1,277	1,579	1,035
BURSARIES AND AWARDS EXPENSES	4,987	2,045	2,900
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS		275	
MARKETING & ADVERTISING	50	3,649	2,212
MISCELLANEOUS			
ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT	2,980	4,537	
MISCELLANEOUS - OTHER		1,389	2,565
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>2,565</b>
OFFICE & ADMIN. EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	6,445	6,913	7,583
INSURANCE	2,055	1,946	1,970
INTERNET & SOFTWARE	2,061	1,900	1,453
MEETING EXPENSES	536	78	988
OFFICE PRINTING AND POSTAGE	953	815	864
OFFICE SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT	575	2,743	2,407
PARKING EXPENSE	716	1,655	1,283
<b>TOTAL OFFICE &amp; ADMIN. EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,342</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>16,548</b>
PROFESSIONAL FEES	260	250	200
PROGRAM EXPENSE			
CHRISTMAS & MIDWINTER DINNER	14,868	227	4,301
LECTURES & MEETINGS	3,622	6,937	4,853
TRANSFER TO NORTHERN BRANCH	2,000	3,200	2,000
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSE</b>	<b>20,490</b>	<b>10,364</b>	<b>11,154</b>
PUBLICATION EXPENSES			
BOOKS	5,360	16,186	22,891
CALENDARS / RST NOTEBOOK	5,033	5,863	6,337
PAPERS & PROCEEDINGS PRODUCTION	24,546	13,781	17,882
POSTAGE AND HANDLING	2,164	1,664	1,328
<b>TOTAL PUBLICATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>37,102</b>	<b>37,495</b>	<b>48,438</b>
RST LIBRARY & ART COLLECTION			
ART COLLECTION EXPENSES	18,309	5,750	
ART FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	5,953		
RST LIBRARY EXPENSES	5,150	150	5,550
<b>TOTAL RST ART COLLECTION</b>	<b>29,412</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,550</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>109,901</b>	<b>83,532</b>	<b>90,602</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>11,050</b>	<b>-325</b>	<b>15,983</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2020
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
AS AT 1 JANUARY 2022/2021/2020	184,846	185,171	169,188
SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	11,050	-325	15,983
<b>AS AT 31 DEC 2022/2021/2020</b>	<b>195,896</b>	<b>184,846</b>	<b>185,171</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
CBA CURRENT ACCOUNT	52808	44,958	44,796
CBA VISA ACCOUNT	1,000	1,000	1,000
TPT SELECT MORTGAGE FUND	74,354		
MY STATE TERM DEPOSIT 30020969 MATURING APRIL 2ND, 2022	0	35320	34,678
MY STATE TERM DEPOSIT 30024910 MATURING JUNE 29TH, 2022	0	34,997	33,650
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>128,162</b>	<b>116,275</b>	<b>114,124</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>			
PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS, CALENDARS & CARDS	67,734	68,571	71,047
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>195,896</b>	<b>184,846</b>	<b>185,171</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
RST LIBRARY INC. RARE BOOK COLLECTION <sup>1</sup>	3,057,355	3,057,355	3,057,355
RST ART COLLECTION <sup>2</sup>	8,100,000		
MEDALS & OFFICE FURNITURE ETC. WRITTEN-OFF	0	0	0
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>11,157,355</b>	<b>3,057,355</b>	<b>3,057,355</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,353,251</b>	<b>3,242,201</b>	<b>3,242,526</b>
<sup>1</sup> MOST RECENT VALUATION 2016			
<sup>2</sup> VALUATION AUGUST 2022			

### 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. The Society's Art Collection which is now on long term loan and stored at TMAG was professionally valued in August 2022 at \$8,100,000.
6. Publications, books, cards and office equipment used and stored at the Society's office are estimated at \$68,059.
7. Other assets, such as office furniture and medals are fully written-down.
8. Fixed term and income investments provided poor returns (1.3%) and the long-term growth fund (Balanced Fund) book value decreased by 4.5% (Unrealised Investment Changes) due to a downturn in Australian and global markets.
9. The Society is a registered entity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will retain the Deductible Gift Recipient status.



David Wilson  
Honorary Treasurer  
12 January 2023

# **Richard H James**

**ABN: 40 849 023 979**

**Registered Tax Agent and Public Accountant**

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**INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTANTS\***

IPA#: 134606

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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 2022 to 31 December 2022. 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 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 2022 to 31 December 2022 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**

23 January 2023

*Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.*



# ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Activities of the Aboriginal Engagement Committee during 2022 have been underpinned by commitments made in February 2021 in the RST Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The RST Apology, paired with TMAG’s Apology, attracted commentaries by Bernice Murphy (Australian Museums & Galleries Association Magazine Vol. 29(2), 2021, pp. 66-75) and Zoe Rimmer and Rebe Taylor (Australian Historical Studies, Oct. 2022). Murphy noted the care taken in preparations for the event and recommended it as a worthy case study for all museums, public galleries, and historical societies across Australia. Rimmer and Taylor were critical of the language used in the RST Apology, citing examples that are considered by the authors to be disrespectful or too general. These authors also claimed that “..... the Society has embargoed the Aboriginal responses and our reproduced 2018 report until January 2023.” However, a video of the entire event was posted on the RST website in March 2021 and the complete transcripts of the replies from Michael Mansell and Rodney Gibbins, and the Rimmer and Taylor paper referred to in this claim, were published in the *Papers and Proceedings* of the RST on 15 December 2021 and available on-line.



First page of the article by Bernice Murphy on the RST-TMAG Paired Apologies to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, published in the AMaGA Magazine, Vol. 29(2), 2021, pp. 66-75. Mr Michael Mansell is shown pointing to photos of Tasmanian Aboriginal people taken during the early days of the Van Diemen's Land colony.



In 2021, the Hobart City Council (HCC) initiated the Crowther Reinterpreted Project, aimed at identifying a permanent response to the William Crowther statue in Franklin Square. William Crowther (1817–1885) was a prominent surgeon, naturalist, and politician in Tasmania’s early colonial society. Together with members of the RST, Crowther was involved in the desecration of Tasmanian Aboriginal graves and mutilation of Tasmanian Aboriginal ancestors for the purpose of scientific research. The Crowther statue is considered offensive to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

In June 2022, the HCC sought input from the RST. A majority of RST Council Members approved the recommendation that the statue of William Crowther be removed, and a written interpretation be provided on the site where the statue now stands. This recommendation derives from the commitment made in the RST 2021 Apology to respect the perspectives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, an awareness that this statue, erected in 1889, is not appropriate today, and the desire to “advance knowledge” by stimulating discussion of the events and their impacts.

In August 2022, the RST was asked to give a deputation to the HCC subcommittee dealing with the Crowther Reinterpreted Project. The deputation was prepared and presented by Jocelyn McPhie, as RST President and Chair of the Aboriginal Engagement Committee. After the RST presentation and those of five additional invited speakers, the HCC subsequently resolved to remove the statue, seven Councilors voting for removal and four voting against. The Crowther Reinterpreted Project and the ensuing debate and discussion have greatly increased awareness of the events and their impacts. An article on the Crowther Re-Interpreted Project and RST's response was published in the *Papers and Proceedings* of the RST in December 2022.

Sally Bryant, Julie Rimes and Jocelyn McPhie represented the RST at the Reconciliation Collective lunch on 28 April. The Reconciliation Collective was established by Reconciliation Tasmania in 2019 to facilitate reconciliation activities and promote communication. Committee members attended the Laney Pillar Lectures presented by the Allport Museum in May, covering topical issues such as the Pathway to Treaty and the 1985 repatriation of the Crowther collection. Jocelyn McPhie (Hobart) and David Morris (Launceston) represented the RST at the Reconciliation Week Breakfast organised by Reconciliation Tasmania to mark Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June).



(L) RST financially supported the TMAG *taypani milaythina-tu* Return to Country project,  
(R) Mr Rodney Gibbins delivering his lecture to the RST in December 2022.

In September, the Director of TMAG and RST Councillor Mary Mulcahy, offered the RST the opportunity to contribute financially to the TMAG *taypani milaythina-tu* (Return to Country) project. The project aims at facilitating the reconnection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community with historic cultural objects held in institutions globally and involves an exhibition running from October 2022 until February 2023. Council resolved to contribute \$5,000.

The lecture by Mr Rodney Gibbins "Truth-telling and Treaty as it relates to Tasmania Now" in December was a highlight of the 2022 Hobart lecture program. The lecture was preceded by a Welcome to Country by Tasmanian Aboriginal singer and songwriter, Cheryl Mundy. Rodney reviewed the disastrous impacts on the Tasmanian Aboriginal people of invasion at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and efforts over the past 50 years to regain recognition, acceptance, autonomy and land. Professor Kate Warner offered a Vote of Thanks to Rodney.

**Professor Jocelyn McPhie**  
Chair, Aboriginal Engagement Committee

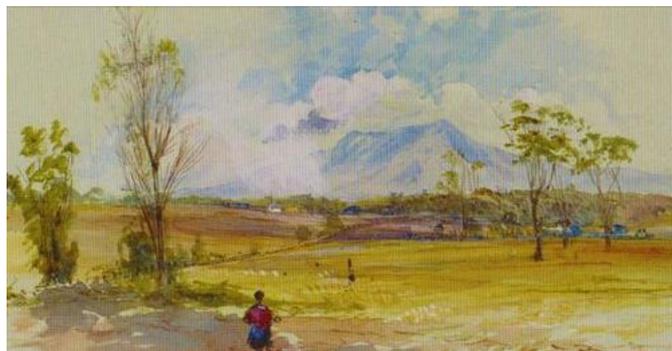
## ART COLLECTION

2022 was a year of transition for the RST Art Committee after several years of research to establish provenance of the artworks and discussions with TMAG concerning ownership. The Committee now acts as a coordinating group working closely with the Art Fundraising Committee, Events Committee and particularly the Honorary Curator who is also a member of the Art Committee. The committee members contributed to successful grant bids to support the RST Art Collection.

A major effort went into preparing high quality reproductions of selected artworks for presentation at the Mid-Winter Dinner and the fundraising event at Government House to celebrate the RST Art Collection. We worked closely with Wagner Frame Makers for the printing and framing of selected artworks, six of which were displayed at the Mid-Winter Dinner and a further 18 displayed at the Government House event.

A special one-off selection of framed prints was produced as the “RST Government House Limited Series”, one of which was presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, and Distinguished Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO for their generous support of the RST fundraising event at Government House in September.

Easels were purchased for exhibition items, several high-quality prints were produced for sale, and large reproductions of themed groups of reproductions were also produced as pull-up banners. These items were used at fundraising events during the year and will be available for future events promoting the RST Art Collection. Some of the framed reproductions were successfully auctioned to raise funds for the future conservation of the collection.



(L) (L to R) President Professor Jocelyn McPhie, Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds, Professor Ross Large AO and Past President Mrs Mary Koolhof at the RST Mid-Winter Dinner, (R) RST artwork *Part of the Western Tier from Perth, Jan 1846*, by Simpkinson de Wesselow featured at the Government House event in September.

Two members of the Committee (Dr Anita Hansen and Ms Marley Large) presented the lecture at the Society’s Mid-Winter Dinner providing context for the collection and highlighting some of the artists and their works. For many members, this event was the first occasion where they could view some of the art in the collection.

The Art Committee is currently preparing a proposal to present to RST Council to produce a catalogue of the artworks in the collection. It is hoped the catalogue (if approved), will be available some time in 2024.

**Professor Ross Large AO**  
**Art Collection Committee**

## ART CURATION

In my first year in the role of Honorary Curator of the Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection, I have had the opportunity to delve deeper into this important collection. My first tasks were to determine the role of the Honorary Curator and to submit a five-year plan for the position.

Following the formal recognition of the Society's ownership of the collection, I organised valuation for insurance purposes, and secured a conservator for the artworks. Warwick Oakman was employed to complete the valuation and Amy Bartlett will undertake the conservation of the artworks.

This year the Art Fundraising Committee was successful in winning three Cultural Heritage Grants from the National Library of Australia – Significance Assessment, Conservation Assessment and Cataloguing and Collection Management Software Purchase. I oversee the management of these grants. Warwick Oakman will complete the Significance Assessment; Amy Bartlett will work on the Conservation Assessment, and I will manage the Software Purchase part of the grants.

As part of my duties as Honorary Curator, I have written an article each month for the RST Newsletter. These eleven articles, based on the artists and artworks in the RST Art Collection, are also available on the Society's website. Below is part of an article from the July 2022 Newsletter.

### Louisa Anne Meredith (1812–1895)

**Right:** Portrait of Louisa Anne Meredith by JW Beattie.

Louisa Anne Meredith was quite a remarkable woman; a prolific artist, writer and social commentator. The Society has a large number of her sketches and watercolours in its Art Collection, as well as a number of her books in its library. I won't attempt to write her complete biography here as it would soon turn into a whole book, and Vienne Ellis has already written the excellent *A Tigress in Exile: Louisa Anne Meredith* if you want to find out more about her. I will however, tell you a little something of her life and work in the articles I write for this newsletter over time.



A proposal for an exhibition featuring several the Society's artworks has been submitted to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery scheduled for late 2023 to early 2024. Negotiations are still in progress.

Marley Large and I presented the Mid-Winter Dinner lecture this year, introducing the RST Art Collection to members and giving some insight into our work documenting the ownership of the artworks.

Work continues on ownership of the Louisa Anne Meredith fish illustrations with the other members of the Art Committee. Some valuable information has already been unearthed.

**Dr Anita Hansen**  
Honorary Art Curator

## ART FUNDRAISING

The Art Fundraising Committee was established early in 2022 with the aim of raising funds for the conservation, restoration, and exhibition of the Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection. The committee developed a detailed plan for 2022 and outlined directions for future years. We liaised closely with the Art Collection Committee, including Honorary Curator Dr Anita Hansen and Honorary Secretary Marley Large, to ensure common goals and to maximise outcomes. A two-pronged approach was adopted, comprising carefully targeted grant applications and fundraising activities.

The committee was successful in gaining a grant through the National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program. The CHG program is an Australia-wide initiative helping community organisations preserve locally owned and nationally significant Australian cultural heritage collections. Gaining this grant is a very important step, as it represents an acknowledgement that our collection is of national significance. The funding of \$6,500 will be used for a significance assessment, preservation needs assessment and cataloguing software for the RST Art Collection and will greatly help the management of the collection.



### Successful Community Heritage Grants – RST Art Collection

Members and supporters will be very pleased to hear that the RST Art Fundraising Committee has been successful in gaining funding through the National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program. The CHG program is an Australia-wide plan helping community organisations preserve locally owned, but nationally significant, Australian cultural heritage collections. The application involved a significant amount of work from the RST Art Fundraising Committee, Honorary Curator and Art Committee.

Our second grant application was also successful, winning \$2,000 from Community Underwriting as a contribution to the restoration of the RST Art Collection. Honorary Curator Dr Anita Hansen is working with qualified conservator Amy Bartlett, to identify appropriate works. Warm appreciation is expressed to both the CHG program and Community Underwriting for their support. Further grant applications are planned for the coming year.

Our major fundraising event for the year was held at Government House on Tuesday 6 September. This event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the RST Art Collection in the elegance of Government House and was a very successful start to raising the much-needed funds for conservation. The event sold out two weeks before the evening and drew considerable interest from a large group of people who appreciated the quality of the art display set up by Professor Ross Large AO, Mr John Davidson, Mr John Williamson, and Mr Grady Koolhof. Ticket sales for the event added \$18,200 to the RST Library and Art Fund, and a total of \$27,758 in donations has been received over the year.

We are indebted to our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, Distinguished Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO and Government House staff, especially David Owen and Colonel David Hughes, for generously and graciously hosting the event. Head Chef at Government House, Ainstie Wagner, provided extraordinary food inspired by artworks in our collection.

Much to the delight of guests, noted composer and conductor Thomas Rimes, together with a group of musicians from the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and soprano Zoë Fitzherbert-Smith, presented a commissioned musical work by Thomas in response to projected images of selected artworks. Grateful thanks are expressed to Thomas and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for their support.



Above (L) Soprano Zoë Fitzherbert Smith accompanied by composer and pianist Thomas Rimes, (R) (L to R) RST Northern Councillor Mr Neil MacKinnon and Mr Richard Warner AM.

Below: (L) (L to R) Mrs Gillian Groom AO, Dr Derris Wood with Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania: (R) (L to R) The Honourable William Cox AC, RFD, ED, QC Governor of Tasmania 2004-08 with TMAG Director Ms Mary Mulcahy and Mr Andrew Stacey.



During the evening, renowned art valuer Mr Warwick Oakman explained the significance of the RST Art Collection. We are also very grateful to film maker Anthos Simon who most kindly captured highlights of the evening for us to enjoy and share more widely via the RST website. Very warm thanks go to the RST members who helped to bring the event to fruition: Professor Ross Large AO, Ms Marley Large, Associate Professor Julie Rimes, Dr Anita Hansen, Professor Jocelyn McPhie, Ms Chel Bardell and Mr John Williamson, supported by Mr David Wilson and Mrs Bronwyn Beechey.

The fundraising kitty was enhanced by a Winter Warmers raffle at the Mid-Winter Dinner in July (\$825), where guests enjoyed a fine display of artwork reproductions set up by Professor Ross Large AO, Mr Warren Boyles, and Mr John Davidson. A Summer Refreshers raffle at the Christmas Dinner in December raised a further \$845. We now have sufficient funds to start on the conservation and restoration of the RST artworks that need urgent attention, and over the next ten years aim to raise a total of \$500,000. Grateful thanks are extended to the hard-working committee members and all the Council members, RST members and community members who have contributed such warm interest and generous support.

**Mrs Mary Koolhof**  
**Chair, Art Fundraising Committee**

## BURSARIES

The Royal Society of Tasmania offers bursaries for Tasmanian secondary and senior secondary students who have been selected through a competitive process to represent Australia at an international event. Bursaries may also be awarded for national events held interstate. Bursaries are offered in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, the arts, humanities and social sciences.

This program was inactive during 2020-2021 due to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though travel restrictions eased in 2022 and the RST bursaries were available, no applications were received.

Dr Deborah Beswick stepped down as Chair of the Bursaries Committee at the beginning of 2022, and in the absence of a replacement, Jocelyn McPhie became Acting Chair.

The Society again supported the Tasmanian Science Talent Search, conducted by the Tasmanian Science Teachers Association (STAT), by sponsoring sections of the competition with a cash donation of \$1,000.



**Professor Jocelyn McPhie**  
Acting Chair, Bursary Committee

## EVENTS – HOBART 2022

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Joint Event: Launch of Beetle Checklist, Royal Society of Tasmania and Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Speaker: Dr Simon Grove (lead author)

Title: An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles

Venue: Central Gallery, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart

### **7<sup>th</sup> March**

Event: Royal Society of Tasmania AGM

Speaker: Professor Kate Warner AC and Mr David Owen

Title: Government House Tasmania: A Remarkable Story

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0e-0HGONxk>



YOUTUBE.COM

**Government House Tasmania — A Remarkable Story**

The Royal Society of Tasmania: 7 March 2022 RST AGM Professor Ka...



SUN, 3 APR 2022

**"Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean" - a public lecture by Dr Lisa Gershwin**

### 30<sup>th</sup> March

Event: 2021 Royal Society of Tasmania Medal presentation to Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, Government House, Hobart

Speaker: Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM

Title: The Peril of Naming Things: Taxonomy, Nosology, and the Identification of Style

Venue: Government House, Hobart

### 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Event: RST Lecture

Speaker: Dr Lisa Gershwin

Title: Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean

Venue: In person at RST Lecture Room, TMAG, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFvCz0RI4Q0>

### 13<sup>th</sup> May

Joint Event: Royal Society of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Division of the Geological Society of Australia

Speaker: Dr Tony Webster

Title: Geology, Landscape and European Settlement: Small Things Meant a Lot

Venue: In person at Geology Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2cnpHz537k&t=199s>

### 19<sup>th</sup> June

Event: RST Lecture

Speaker: Dr Sally Bryant

Title: Little Bird of Iutruwita: Saving Tasmania's Forty-spotted Pardalote

Venue: In person at RST Lecture Room, TMAG, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm3XGCxHMfg>

### 7<sup>th</sup> July

Joint Event: Royal Society of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE)

Speakers: Professor Catriona MacLeod, Mr Paul Garrott and Dr Justin Coombs (via Zoom). Discussion panel chaired by Mr John Gunn FTSE (ATSE Chair, Tasmania)

Title: Blue Biotechnology Revolution – Clean and Green Foods and Bioproducts from the Oceans

Venue: Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2cnpHz537k&t=23s>

## 14<sup>th</sup> July

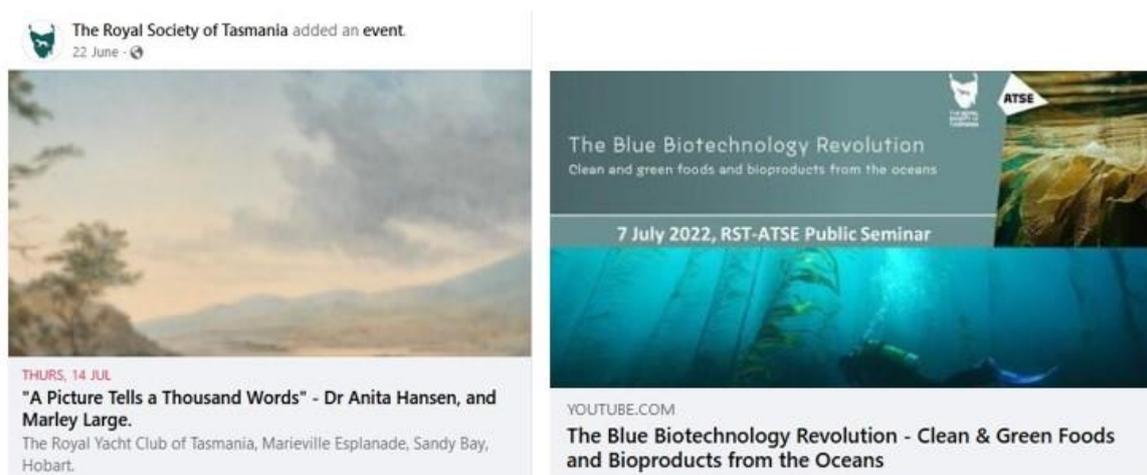
Event: RST Mid-Winter Dinner

Speakers: Dr Anita Hansen and Ms Marley Large

Title: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Celebrating the Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzBod\\_WQGrl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzBod_WQGrl)



## 7<sup>th</sup> August

Event: RST Doctoral Award Recipients 2021

Speakers: Dr Pratiksha Srivastava and Dr Rhondda Waterworth

Title: Electron Exchange between Living and Non-living Things for Developing Sustainability in the Environment (Dr Srivastava), The Therapeutic Potential of Magistrates and Court Systems (Dr Waterworth)

Venue: Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvskrH-ScB8>

## 25<sup>th</sup> August

Joint Event: The Royal Society of Tasmania – Beer Aquatic Event to celebrate National Science Week

Speaker: Dr Julie McInnes

Title: Macquarie Island Seabirds: Their Place in the Food Web

Venue: Hobart Brewing Company, Hobart (live event, not live-streamed or recorded)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Event: Celebrating Emerging PhD Candidates

Speakers: Mars Buttfield-Addison, Ms Grace Martini and Ms Brenda Mooney

Titles: One Eye on the Sky. Why You should Care about Space Junk (Mars Buttfield-Addison), Textiles and Clothing Consumption, Environmental Impact and Waste in Tasmania (Grace Martini), and Sludge to Pigments: A Multi-disciplinary Approach to understanding Precipitates in the Queen River, Tasmania (Brenda Mooney)

Venue: In person at RST Lecture Room, TMAG, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc59NCNu5lo>

## 6<sup>th</sup> September

Event: Fund Raising Event for the RST Art Collection

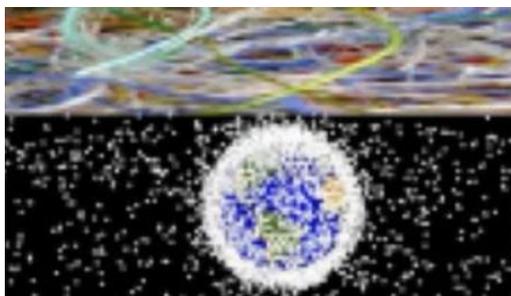
Musical & Visual Presentation: Echoes From Van Diemen's Land

Venue: Government House, Hobart, Tasmania

<https://rst.org.au/gala-fundraising-night-for-rst-sep2022/>



Above: Dr David Blaxland of Warrnambool, a Life Member of the RST, toasts the evening's success with RST Secretary and Life Member Marley Large.



SUN, 4 SEP 2022

"PhD Candidate Showcase" - Grace Martini, Brenda Mooney and Mars Buttfield-Addison

## 16<sup>th</sup> October

Event: Presentation of the MR Banks Medal 2021 to Associate Professor Rebecca Carey

Speaker: Associate Professor Rebecca Carey

Title: Bang, Fizzle, Pop: Case Studies of the Interactions Between Volcanoes and Magma with the Ocean

Venue: In person at RST Lecture Room, TMAG, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLbwMgdQAgQ>

## 4<sup>th</sup> December

Event: RST Lecture

Speaker: Mr Rodney Gibbins

Title: Truth Telling and Treaty as it Relates to Tasmania Now

Venue: Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, and via Zoom webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs-Ei1S5y74>

## 8<sup>th</sup> December

Event: RST Christmas Dinner

Speaker: Magistrate Christopher Webster AM

Title: Fifty Years in the Law: A Few Chocolate Frogs amongst the Jelly

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymcoSwaEosQ>



Magistrate Christopher Webster and "... a few chocolate frogs amongst the jelly."

Associate Professor Julie Rimes  
Chair, Events Committee

## HONOURS & AWARDS

The Royal Society of Tasmania medals and Doctoral Awards recognize the achievements of outstanding scholars at PhD, early, mid and senior stages of their careers. The Honours and Awards Committee has the responsibility of seeking and assessing nominations for the RST medals and awards.

In March, RST members and guests assembled at Government House to celebrate the awarding of the 2021 Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM. This medal acknowledges outstanding scholars who have also been active members of the RST. Dr Ratcliff has been a member of the RST for 56 years and President of the Northern Branch on four separate occasions. The Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, presented Eric with the medal.



**2021 RST Medal awarded to Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania in March 2022.**

In June 2022, the Society offered two medals: The Clive Lord Memorial Medal, intended for a scholar distinguished for research in Tasmanian history, and the Peter Smith Medal, awarded to an outstanding early-career scholar. The Clive Lord Memorial Medal was awarded to Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow, School of Humanities, University of Tasmania. Professor Petrow has made a substantial contribution to diverse aspects of Tasmanian history through prolific research, teaching, post-graduate supervision and public engagement sustained for more than 30 years.



**2022 winner of the Clive Lord Memorial Medal (R) was Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow (L).**

The Peter Smith Medal attracted an exceptionally strong and diverse field of nominations. The Honours Committee identified two highly ranked nominations in very different fields and resolved to award medals to both nominees: Dr Rachel Climie (medicine and exercise physiology; Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania) and Dr Vipul Gupta (3-d printing and materials science; School of Natural Sciences, University of Tasmania). The RST Doctoral Award is intended to recognise recent PhD graduates who have made significant advances during their doctoral research. The award is \$1,000 (AUD).



**L to R: Dr Rachel Climie and Dr Vipul Gupta, winners of the 2022 Peter Smith Medal, and Dr Zhen Zhou, winner of the 2022 RST Doctoral Award.**

Dr Zhen Zhou has been selected as the winner of the 2022 RST Doctoral Award. Dr Zhou is a medical scientist and completed her PhD at the Menzies Institute of Medical Research, University of Tasmania in 2021. The focus of her PhD research was primary prevention of cardiovascular disease and the use of lipid-lowering medications (known as statins) for elderly people. Since graduating, Dr Zhou has taken up a National Heart Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Menzies Institute of Medical Research.

Long-term Honours Committee members, Dr Margaret Davies OAM and Dr Steve Rintoul, will step down at the end of 2022. I offer sincere thanks to Margaret and Steve on behalf of the RST for their insightful and astute contributions to the RST Honours program over many years.

Two medals (RM Johnston Medal, MR Banks Medal) and the Doctoral Awards are scheduled for 2023.

**Professor Jocelyn McPhie**  
**Honours & Awards Committee**

## LIBRARY

The Royal Society of Tasmania Library comprises a diverse range of approximately 7,000 books, 1,600 journals titles, early maps and many nineteenth century private family papers housed in the University of Tasmania Library, Morris Miller Library (MML) on the Sandy Bay Campus. The RST Library is managed by the University's Cultural Collections staff and is open Monday to Wednesday by appointment to members and the public. A new email address [RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au) was established this year to improve the management and timely response to enquiries. Further details are available on the web site: <https://www.utas.edu.au/library/research/special-and-rare-collections>.

### STAFF

In 2022 Juliet Beale resigned from the University of Tasmania Library and as Honorary RST librarian. Juliet was an enthusiastic advocate for the RST Library and ensured the collection was accessible and spent many hours assisting researchers.

Katrina Ross, Historical Collections Coordinator was appointed in October to oversee the University's Special & Rare Collections and the University Heritage Collections. A key aspect of her role is liaising with donors, researchers, students, and academic staff assisting with research queries, use of collections for exhibits, object-based learning, collection documentation, care, and display. Katrina also oversees the RST Library Collections, with Janette Burke, University Librarian, appointed as the RST Librarian representative on the Council.

### COLLECTIONS

#### Remediation of Water Damaged Works

On Friday 5 May, the MML experienced water damage to some of the Special and Rare Collection, including 30 RST Library books. Library and Cultural Collections staff were quick to start remediation work on the collection, which continued for many weeks, and involved several RST members assisting with interweaving blotting paper between thousands of pages. All damaged items were reinstated to their previous condition or close to it. A stock take of the rare book collections will take place in 2023.



Sample of RST material undergoing remediation.

## Digitisation Project

Digitisation of RST material continued in 2022. The following collections were scanned and uploaded to <https://sparc.utas.edu.au/index.php/the-royal-society-of-tasmania-collection>

- Royal Botanical Gardens papers
- Captain O'Hara Booth papers
- Hobart Town Turkish Bath Company.

Thanks to the ongoing support of the RST this project will recommence in January 2023.

## ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, RST members, UTAS staff, students and the public accessed and engaged with the RST Library Collections in several ways.

### Onsite Engagement

There was a small decline in members attending the Reading Room at MML to physically view items in the RST Library Collections. The primary reasons for accessing material were in relation to negotiations between TMAG and RST on ownership of artworks.

	2022	2021	2020
Royal Society Members visits	18	24	7
Royal Society rare books viewed	13	67	60
Royal Society Deposits viewed	281	350	129

### Online Engagement

In 2022, 8,926 digitised items from the RST Library Collections have been downloaded from the University's Open Access Repository.

### Top 5 RST Library Collections downloaded in 2022

RS Rare folio G2754	Department of Lands and Surveys, Tasmania 1948, <i>Hobart and suburbs aerial survey maps</i> .	797
RS 6/10 (1-2)	<i>Photographs of the Tasmanian International Exhibition buildings, Hobart, Tasmania 1894-95</i>	220
RS MP17	<i>Map of the settled part of V.D.L., 1830</i>	220
RS 16/1 (2,3)	Franklin, Jane and Fry, Elizabeth, <i>Letter from Jane Franklin in Van Diemen's Land 1841 to Elizabeth Fry in England, and her reply, 1842</i>	218
RS 16/2 (1-4)	<i>Diaries of Jane, Lady Franklin, Van Diemen's Land 1838 and Victoria, Australia 1843-1844</i>	213

In 2022, articles from the RST *Papers & Proceedings* were downloaded 78,574 times from the University's Open Access Repository.

### Top 5 *Papers and Proceedings* articles downloaded in 2022

Fryer, AK 1965	Political science as a science	4,322
Edelmann, FT 2016	The life and legacy of Thomas Midgley Jr	1,059
Howeler-Coy, JF 1966	An account of food and drink in Tasmania, 1800-1900	572
Plomley, NJB 1968	Notes on some Tasmanian Aborigines and on portraits of them	506
Truswell, EM 2012	Dredging up Mawson: implications for the geology of coastal East Antarctica	502

## Altmetric Explorer

The Altmetric Explorer measures the online activity surrounding the research outputs of specific authors, research groups and institutions. These qualitative data are complementary to citation-based metrics. The metrics indicate a record of attention (mentions), and a measure of dissemination (coverage) and are an indicator of influence and impact. Between 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022, the *Papers & Proceedings* of the Royal Society of Tasmania had 85 mentions online. These comprised:

SOURCE	MENTIONS
News	7
Blog	1
Twitter	38
Wikipedia	39

At face value these numbers are not high, however their engagement impact can be significant. For instance, a tweet by the *History of Geography* handle on 6 February 2022, had a link to the RST *Papers & Proceedings*, 1999 article, 'Charles Darwin's field notes on the geology of Hobart Town- a modern appraisal'. Data shows that the tweet was retweeted by people in Australia, USA, UK, Colombia, Indonesia, Peru, and Italy, reaching a global audience of 151,773 people.



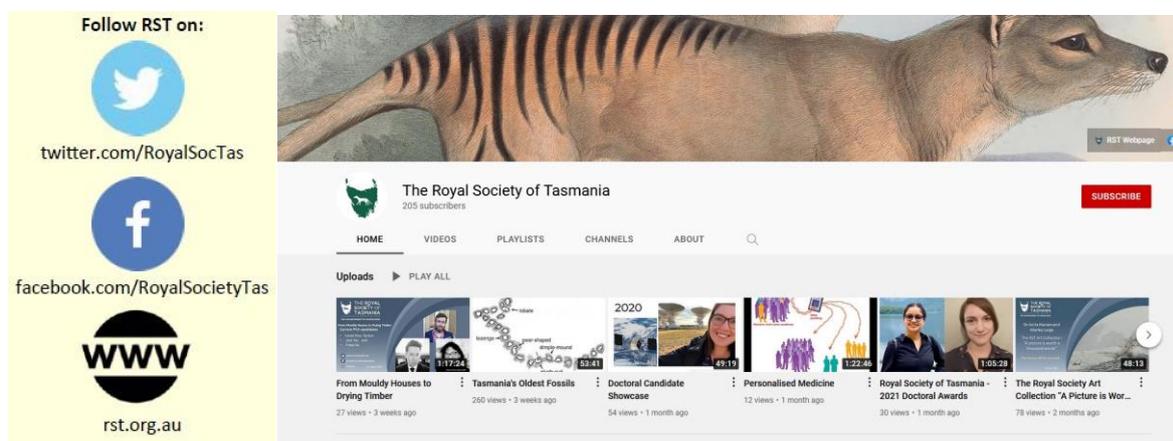
Tweets linked to RST *Papers & Papers* Charles Darwin article reached a global audience of 151,773 people.

Ms Janette Burke  
RST Honorary Librarian

## MEDIA & PUBLICITY

2022 saw the delivery of 23 RST monthly lectures, state-wide. Eleven Northern Branch lectures were presented on Sunday afternoons, as were seven of the Hobart-based lectures, four of which were held in the RST Lecture Room, one at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, one at the Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, and one via online webinar only. Four of the remaining Hobart lectures were given on Thursdays, two at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, one at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, and one at the Hobart Brewing Company (in conjunction with Beer Aquatic). The first Hobart lecture of 2022 was the launch of the Groves *et al. Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles*, a joint event with the Friends of TMAG. Most presentations utilised both in-person presentations, and online lecture broadcasts using Zoom. Most lectures continued to be recorded and uploaded to the RST YouTube channel.

Online broadcasts of RST lectures were widely promoted on social media outlets, attracting audiences from outside of the RST, including both Australia-wide and overseas.



Although RST Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to provide the most prominent, and increasingly important means of publicising RST events and activities, local promotion via the RST Website and Newsletter, ABC Local Radio interviews, the *Examiner* newspaper, the *Hobart Magazine* calendar of events, flyer distribution through established email networks, and online event listings maintained by QVMAG and the UTAS Events Calendar ensure a wide distribution of information.

The RST Facebook page (facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas), as of the end of 2022, had 928 followers (66.8% female, mostly 35-44 yrs, 33.2% male, mostly 45-54 yrs), and had displayed 141 posts and 25 events listings during the calendar year. The posts attracted 7,502 views, event listings 1,648 views, and the total number of page 'likes' reached 845. The top six posts for 2022 were:

- "Little Bird of Iutruwita: Saving Tasmania's Forty-spotted Pardalote" - Dr Sally Bryant – 7,502 views
- "Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean" – Dr Lisa Gershwin – 766 views
- Announcing the new Royal Society of Tasmania Notebooks – 710 views
- "Bang, Fizzle, Pop: Case studies of the Interactions between Volcanoes and Magma with the Ocean – Dr Rebecca Carey – 671 views
- "PhD Candidate Showcase" – Grace Martini, Brenda Mooney & Mars Buttfeld-Addison – 669 views
- Poles Apart - Fascination, Fame and Folly – special price – 579 views.

The top three event listings via the RST Facebook page were as follows, however all event listings are picked up by UTAS and other organisations/societies and distributed through their various networks, resulting in a far greater reach:

- "The Lost Thylacines" – Kathryn Medlock (Northern Branch event) – 438 views
- "Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean" – Dr Lisa Gershwin – 237 views
- "Seabirds of Macquarie Island" Dr Julie McInnes (held in conjunction with Beer Aquatic) – 222 views.

The Twitter account ([twitter.com/RoyalSocTas](https://twitter.com/RoyalSocTas)) had similar posted content – 104 tweets containing updates on lectures, awards, events, and other relevant information, yielding over 378,000 views, and 3,818 people going on to visit the Twitter Home page (containing general information on the RST). There are currently 546 followers. Mentions of RST activities in tweets from other accounts have also increased. The top six tweets for 2022 were as follows:

- "Little Bird of lutruwita: Saving Tasmania's Forty-spotted Pardalote" - Dr Sally Bryant – 10,345 views
- "PhD Candidate Showcase" – Grace Martini, Brenda Mooney & Mars Buttfield-Addison – 2,481 views
- "Seabirds of Macquarie Island" - Dr Julie McInnes (in conjunction with Beer Aquatic) – 1,624 views
- Call for Nominations - Royal Society of Tasmania Doctoral Awards – 1,176 views
- "Living with Climate Variability - the Tasmanian Experience" - Dr Mike Pook (Northern Branch event) – 1,052 views
- "Truth-telling and Treaty as it Relates to Tasmania now" - Rodney Gibbins – 791 views.



**The lecture on the Forty-spotted Pardalote by Dr Sally Bryant attracted a record number of tweets and views (10,345). (bird photo by Barry Baker)**

Work on social media requires many hours of input and planning to maintain this important online presence. Preparation of event listings opens a wide promotional avenue, as it allows other interested people and groups to distribute the RST event information across their own networks. Distribution of RST information of lectures and events 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, Friends of QVMAG, Elizabeth College and to others with an interest in monthly lecture topics occurred throughout the year. Christine Beswick, Northern Branch Secretary, promoted Northern Branch lectures via similar email networks involving schools, northern organisations and other interested parties.

In addition to RST events, all relevant publicity channels were utilised to announce and invite nominations for all Royal Society of Tasmania Medals and Awards, as well as distributing news items of interest to Society members.

The RST monthly Newsletter and website are critical for communicating with members, and sincere thanks go to our 2022 Newsletter Manager Marley Large, Newsletter Editor Bernard Pryor OAM, Website Manager Professor Jocelyn McPhie and Website Master Eddy Steenberg, for all their hard work in compilation and distribution. Their considerable time and efforts are greatly appreciated.



Sincere thanks also go to our President, Professor Jocelyn McPhie, for her ongoing work with local media on various issues of relevance to the RST, and in her continual attention to the efficient and accurate workings of current RST media, and new opportunities for promotion. 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.

Thanks also to ABC Local Radio hosts, including Ryk Goddard and Leon Compton, and to ABC Local Radio producers Penny McLeod and David Reilly, for their support in enabling our guest lecturers and RST Award and Medal winners to be interviewed on air. Thank you also to Stephanie Williams, editor of the Hobart Magazine for her ongoing support of our lecture program, and to the UTAS Events team, Belinda Brock, Tegan McFarland and Savannah White, for inclusion of our lecture information on the UTAS public events calendar and associated email newsletter.

2022 has yet again seen the broadening of the RST audience as a significant result of all media activities.

**Ms Chel Bardell**  
**Chair, Publicity Committee**

## MEMBERSHIP

During 2022 we continued to make our top priority the retention of current members while increasing the number of new member applications. New applications for 2022 were 40. This resulted in a net increase in membership of 13.

Membership numbers as at the end of 2022 were as follows:

Tasmania .....	344
Australia (outside Tasmania) .....	27
Overseas.....	4
.....	Total 375

Council agreed that membership fees for the coming year be set in August and membership fees for 2023 would increase by \$5:

Full member with <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i> .....	\$95
Full member without <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i> .....	\$70
Student member with <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i> .....	\$55
Student member without <i>Papers &amp; Proceedings</i> .....	\$30

Throughout the year there was an increase in enquiries about current membership status from members and during the enjoyable Mid-Winter Dinner, several new members were signed up.

Members gave an enthusiastic response to an email and Newsletter reminder for membership renewal for 2022. By the end of December, 183 members had already completed the renewal process. The option of automatic renewal continued to be taken up by renewing members and new members alike, resulting in a steady increase in numbers to 55 by the end of the year.



Finally, I thank the Membership Committee and other Council members for their commitment to maintaining and increasing membership of the Society.

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED IN 2022

Mr Anthony Boden, Ms Kathy Brown, Mrs Mars Buttfield-Addison, Dr Patrick Buxton, Dr Rebecca Carey, Dr Charles Connor, Ms Trudi Curtis, Ms Carmen Dingwell, Nina Dubos, Dr Jon Finch, Dr Ben Galton-Fenzi, Dr Jing Hong Fong, Mrs Cathrina Geldard, Dr Lisa Gershwin, Mr Rodney Gibbins, Mrs Christine Gleeson, Ms Julie Hawkins, Dr Marie Heitz, Professor Ashley Jackson, Miss Laura Leworthy, Mrs Anne Mackay-Smith, Ms Grace Martini, Ms Bernice Moody, Mrs Brenda Mooney, Ms Mary Mulcahy, Dr Michael Pook, Ms Gloria Pullen, Dr Liza Snow, Professor Jonathan Sprent, Dr Tony Sprent, Dr Kathryn Squibb, Dr Pratiksha Srivastava, Mr Markus Staubmann, Mr Jack Tan Soo Kang, A/Professor Elizabeth Tegg, Mrs Marian Thomson, Alison Titchen, Mrs Jane Wilcox, Ms Catherine Wren, Professor Brian Yates

**Mrs Roxanne Steenbergen**  
Membership Secretary

# PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee has overseen a wide range of tasks in 2022 and made a concerted effort to promote and expand our sales to generate revenue for the Society. In February we held a successful event showcasing the RST's new *Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles* where lead author Dr Simon Grove, gave an overview of beetle conservation to a large audience in the TMAG Central Gallery. This publication quickly disappeared from shelves and despite expectations that a checklist may have limited public appeal, we have sold out and are now considering a re-print.

Chel Bardell, who took on the herculean task of promoting publications, has done a fantastic job expanding our reach and working closely with the Honorary Treasurer, David Wilson to monitor sales. The second edition of *Australian Mineral Discoverers 1950–2010*, continued to sell well, as did the RST's very popular books, *Mapping Van Diemen's Land* and *Library at the End of the World*.



RST publications featured in events and promotions in 2022.

We are now marketing *Poles Apart* to overseas Arctic and Antarctic interest groups and selling books via Gumtree and on a consignment basis through Franklin Direct's on-line portal. During September-October, we sold 60 items through the TMAG gift shop and sincerely thank the shop manager Matthew Spencer for making this promotional opportunity such a success.

A total of 337 books to the value of \$13,742.05 was sold in 2022, and further sales were made by the Northern Branch to the value of \$1184.00 (details unrecorded).

Numbers of books sold in Hobart-based sales were as follows:

Australian Mineral Discoverers	42	Charles Darwin in Hobart	28
The Library at the End of the World	28	Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond	39
Papers & Proceedings Vol 155 (1)	20	Papers & Proceedings Vol 155 (2)	22
An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles	81	Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly	13
RST Notebook	64		

Last year, the RST notebooks, designed by Chel Bardell, were intended to replace the RST's annual calendar but due to member feedback, we are assessing the feasibility of reinstating a calendar for future sale.

**RST Notebooks Creator**

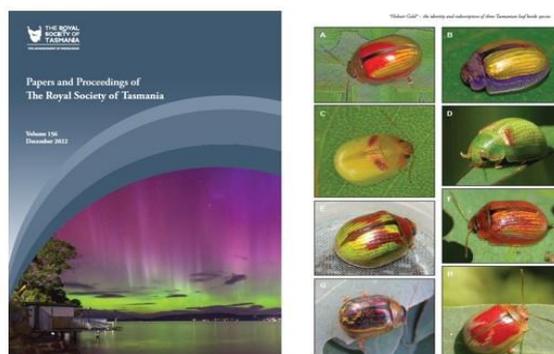
Joining the Society in 2012, after an early retirement move to Tasmania in 2003, RST Councillor **Chel Bardell** (pictured right) served as the Honorary Secretary of the Northern Branch between 2013–2017. She also served on Council as a Northern Representative until 2019. During this time, she took on roles with the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the Publications Committee, Manager of the Royal Society's Facebook page, and as Merchandise, Sales and Publications Representative for the North. Chel also had a 2019-2021 role as a Coordinator of the Northern Branch's Centenary Celebrations Committee.

Chel is responsible for the creation of the beautifully bound and presented notebooks currently being promoted by the Society. The notebooks feature a choice of three cover images from the Society's rare art and book collection. ideal for meeting notes or creative writing. See page 12 for ordering information.



### JOURNAL *Papers and Proceedings*

Volume 156 of the *Journal Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, edited by Dr Sally Bryant, was published on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022. At 160 pages, it contains 11 full papers and one article on the William Crowther statue. Papers were prepared by 30 contributing authors and co-authors and were reviewed by 23 independent referees of which 13 were based in Tasmania, 9 from mainland institutions and one from the USA. Papers covered a range of topics and disciplines from the natural sciences including taxonomy, architecture, and polar history, and all contained fascinating information relevant to Tasmania. For example, new species of macro-algae and invertebrates were identified or redescribed, papers on the Vale of Belvoir and West Coast ranges blended geodiversity with their history of discovery and Professor Kirkpatrick from UTAS offered two innovative research papers on urban landscapes. The paper on bioluminescence in Tasmania by Dr Lisa-ann Gershwin was promoted by a spectacular image of an aurora on the journal's front cover, kindly supplied by Sophie Fazackerley.



Volume 156 *Papers and Proceedings* and plate of leaf beetles reviewed in the de Little *et al.* paper.

Once again, sincere thanks to the journal's copy-editor Caroline Mordaunt and typesetter June Pongratz for their expert assistance. Papers are listed on the UTAS Open Access website. Several enquiries have already been received about Volume 157 and discussions are underway with Dr Gershwin about producing a Jellyfish Monograph and with Kathryn Medlock on a Thylacine Catalogue in the coming year.

Dr Sally Bryant  
Chair, Publications Committee

## RST FOUNDATION

The Royal Society of Tasmania Foundation was established in the 1990s to provide The Royal Society of Tasmania with a reserve fund of capital and income to meet unforeseen future needs. The Foundation now has funds under investment of \$540,000. Income from the Foundation amounted to \$3,000 for the year. At a time when interest rates were near all-time lows, the Foundation Committee met several times during the year and continued to follow a conservative capital-protecting investment policy while endeavouring to identify investments that offered increased income.

During the year, the Foundation agreed to provide The Royal Society of Tasmania Council with \$5,000 to co-sponsor the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's *taypani milaythina-tu* – Return to Country exhibition of creative work from 20 Tasmanian Aboriginal artists as part of the Council's commitment to the promises made in last year's Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

The Foundation always welcomes donations and gifts that can be used to assist the Society in its activities. The Society and hence the Foundation have the special benefit of endorsement as Deductible Gift Recipients under the Income Tax Assessment Act for gifts and donations made specifically for use in maintaining the Society's Library and Art Collection. Such donations to the Foundation and to the Society are tax deductible for donors. Other non-tax-deductible donations and gifts to the Foundation may be used for special projects and activities as the Society and the Foundation see fit.

As part of a normal governance and compliance check and through the diligent agency of David Wilson, Foundation Committee member and Honorary Treasurer of the Society, the Committee undertook a compliance review of recent correspondence and financial records. Members of the Foundation Committee were able to confirm the Foundation's compliance with regulatory requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. Although it is not required by law, the Committee decided to conduct such a governance and compliance review annually as recommended by the Commissioner of Taxation.

Following on from the governance review and to provide further clarity, the Foundation Committee proposed some minor changes to the wording, but not the intent, of the Rules of the Society that govern the Foundation's activities. It is proposed to seek ratification of the changes at a future General Meeting of members of the Society.

To avoid duplication of fundraising initiatives, a plan to produce a new brochure seeking donations and bequests to the Foundation was put on hold while the new Royal Society of Tasmania Art Fund was launched during the year. It is planned to renew the Foundation's efforts in that regard in the coming year.

A statement of the financial position of the Foundation is provided.

**Mr Neil MacKinnon**  
Chair, Foundation Committee

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA FOUNDATION FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Institution	Current \$	Term	Current Performance	2022 Interest Earned
FUND 1 - TPT LONG TERM FUND	TPT Wealth	39,560.00	ongoing	2.26%	1,077.83
FUND 2 - TPT SELECT MORTGAGE FUND	TPT Wealth	0.00	Transferred to General		1,513.48
FUND 3 - TPT FIXED TERM FUND	TPT Wealth	32,189.60	ongoing	2.48%	835.83
TOTAL TPT INTEREST					3,427.14
FUND 4 - TPT BALANCED FUND CURRENT PRICE & HOLDING	Units 1.2524	156,004.85 195,374.82		-4.5%	
TERM DEPOSIT 1	MyState Bank	35,549.27	2/04/2023	0.80%	-
TERM DEPOSIT 2	MyState Bank	35,224.00	30/06/2023	3.00%	-
FUND 5 - TERM DEPOSIT 3	MyState Bank	41,336.67	10/04/2023	0.80%	266.95
FUND 6 - TERM DEPOSIT 4	MyState Bank	142,197.03	2/04/2023	0.80%	918.31
NEW TERM DEPOSIT	MyState Bank	15,000.00	14/09/2023	3.60%	
TERM DEPOSIT	MyState Bank	0.00	Closed		339.75
TERM DEPOSIT	MyState Bank	0.00	Closed		233.01
TOTAL TERM DEPOSIT 2022		269,306.97			1,758.02
TOTAL FOUNDATION INTEREST 2022					5,185.16
FOUNDATION TOTAL		536,431.39			

# RST NORTHERN BRANCH

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

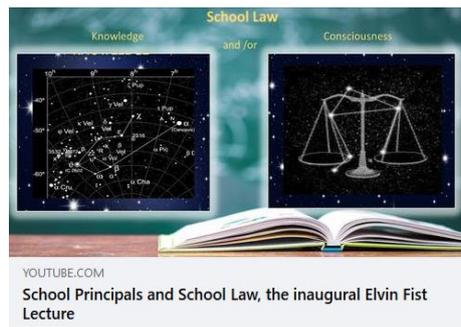
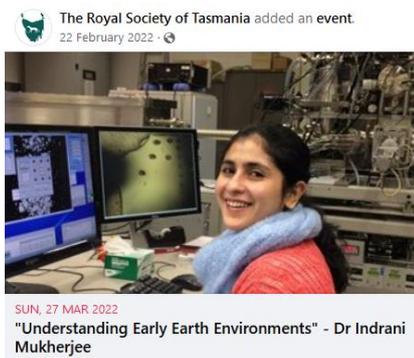
The Northern Branch Management Committee met six times during the year via Zoom Meetings. Committee members communicated frequently on other occasions as necessary by email and telephone.

## NORTHERN COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Accessions, including donations, to the Northern Branch Library collection held by QVMAG are administered under the experienced hand of Mr Andrew Parsons, who is an *ex officio* member of the Northern Branch Management Committee. We sincerely thank Andrew for his time and commitment.

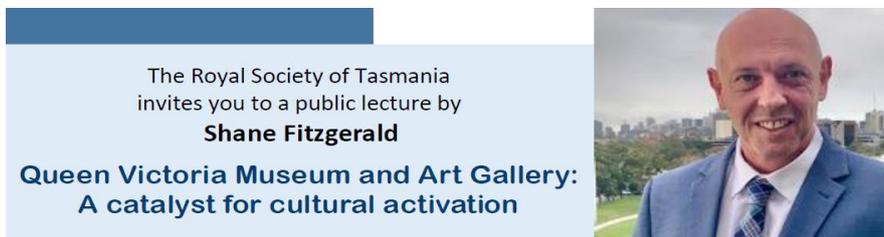
## WEBSITE AND PUBLICITY

The Northern Branch website posts are included in the RST's website and maintained by the Society's Webmaster. Ms Chel Bardell has been assisting by publishing Northern Branch items on the RST's Facebook page and Twitter account.



## VENUE

A complication required the February lecturer to deliver her presentation via Zoom, but all other 2022 lectures were presented at meetings and were simultaneously broadcast as on-line webinars. The paid services of an external audio-visual technician from Bent Eared Records have been used for face-to-face meetings and to provide video recordings of lectures.



The Committee acknowledges the assistance extended to the Northern Branch by the City of Launceston Council through our official partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), whose Inveresk facilities are used for lectures and committee meetings, and whose staff assist us enormously. We thank QVMAG Director Mr Shane Fitzgerald for his support of our efforts to bring important and interesting lecturers before the community.

## LECTURE PROGRAM 2022

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 book, as a token of thanks for their contribution. The Committee extends its thanks to all 2022 speakers for their generosity and for the excellence of their presentations.



SUN, 26 JUN 2022  
"Identifying the Source with Forensic Science" - a public lecture by Dr Charles Connor



SUN, 24 APR 2022  
"The Lost Thylacines" - a public lecture by Kathryn Medlock



SUN, 24 JUL 2022  
"Personalised Medicine - Are we there yet?" - a public lecture by Assoc. Professor Raj Eri

Admission to Northern Branch lectures is free to all RST members and to children under 16 years of age. The admission price in 2022 remained as for 2021, viz. \$6 for the public, with a discounted price of \$4 for members of the Launceston Historical Society, members of the Friends of QVMAG and TMAG, and secondary students and tertiary students who were half-time or greater.

DATE	2022	GUEST LECTURER	LECTURE TITLE	ATTENDANCE (via webinar)
27-Feb		Dr Kimberley Norris	From Antarctica to outer space	62 (16)
27-Mar		Dr Indrani Mukherjee	Understanding early earth environments	44 (15)
24-Apr		Kathryn Medlock	Sharing the bounty	51 (18)
22-May		Andrew Bishop	A brave new plant biosecurity system	69 (23)
26-June		Dr Charles Connor	Identifying the source with forensic science	69 (15)
24-July		Dr Raj Eri	Personalised medicine -are we there yet?	49 (8)
14-Aug	Joint meeting with Geological Society of Australia	Dr Peter McGoldrick	Tasmania's oldest fossils	64 (15)
28-Aug	UTAS Centre for Architectural Science (CAST) PhD candidates	Rhys Tanton Freya Su Jack Tan	From mouldy houses to drying timber	57 (28)
25-Sep	Inaugural Elvin Fist Lecture	Dr Alison Trimble	School principals and school law	32 (1)
23-Oct		Dr Mike Pook	Living with climate variability	44 (10)
27-Nov	Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture	Shane Fitzgerald	QVMAG: a catalyst for cultural activation	32 (5)

## NEWSLETTER

Northern Branch lectures and other activities were included in the monthly RST Newsletter for distribution to all members in 2022.



**RST Northern Branch and the Geological Society of Australia invite you to a public lecture by**  
**Dr Peter McGoldrick**  
**Tasmania's Oldest Fossils**



**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk  
**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 14 August 2022.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE



The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to a public lecture by  
**Dr Mike Pook**  
**Living with climate variability – the Tasmanian experience**



**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 23 October 2022  
Full COVID vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.  
**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE



**RST Northern Branch**  
invites you to a public lecture by  
**PhD Candidates for Centre for Architectural Research Tasmania (CAST)**  
**From Mouldy House to Drying Timber**

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

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

## EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

It has been a successful year despite the necessary restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic precautions, and we owe special thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Christine Beswick for her hard work and dedication to a demanding job. Members and guests continued to support the Northern Branch's activities so that finances are adequate for our needs. A Financial Report on the Northern Branch activities is provided.

Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM  
Northern Branch President

Mr Neil MacKinnon  
Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Christine Beswick  
Honorary Secretary

NORTHERN BRANCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT, YEAR TO 31 DEC 2022

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA - NORTHERN BRANCH

Financial Report - Year to 31 December 2022	
YEAR 2021	2022
\$	\$
<b>Receipts</b>	
1,300	Door Receipts from non-member patrons 1,421
2,000	Operating Grant from RST Council 2,000
883	Revenue RST merchandise sales 837
	Butterfly Cabinet Donations 50
	Return of RST Sponsorship - Iodine Symposium 1,225
	Art Fund Donations 25
4,183	<b>Total Receipts 5,558</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
2,480	Audio-Visual, Livestreaming and Recording 3,841
61	Postage, Printing, Photocopying, Laminating 234
39	Bank Fees
362	50% Share of Merchandise to RST Council (incl. \$173 from 2021) 592
1,309	Webinar Licensing costs
	Iodine Sponsorship returned to RST 1,200
	GSA Joint Lecture Door Entry Share 103
	Speakers Travelling Costs (2) 200
1,543	Centenary Costs from 2021 610
	Art Fund Donations paid to RST 25
5,794	<b>Total Payments 6,863</b>
-1,612	<b>Net Receipts/Payments -1,305</b>
<b>Total Funds on Hand</b>	
	Bank Balance 928
	Cash Float 200
	Butterfly Cabinet Donations (Cash) 115
	<b>Current Funds (A) 1,243</b>

Mr Neil MacKinnon  
Honorary Treasurer

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## STUDENT FOCUSED EVENTS

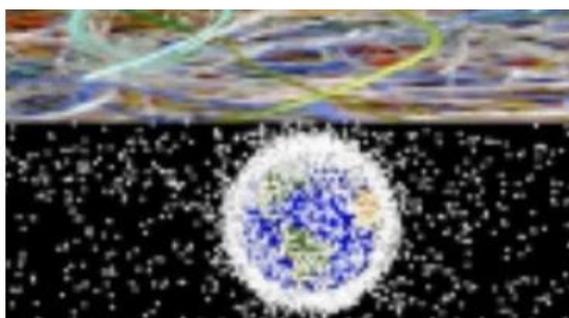
In 2022 I took responsibility for reinstating the PhD showcase which had not occurred in Hobart since the “annual postgraduate evening” in 2018. The event was a success and attracted new faces to the Royal Society Lecture Theatre. At least three new student members were recruited and the recording is performing well on the RST YouTube channel.

I subsequently proposed that this event become annual – as a logical task for the RST Student Councillor to take on each year and a clear way of fulfilling our charge to connect the University of Tasmania to the Royal Society of Tasmania.

## LIBRARY TOURS

No students signed up for Library tours this year, most likely due to fewer students being on campus and my reduced capacity to actively attract students.

I have met with the UTAS Librarians to hand over the resources I created. These resources may facilitate student tours in the future and support the next RST Student Councillor.



SUN, 4 SEP 2022

"PhD Candidate Showcase" - Grace Martini, Brenda Mooney and Mars Buttfeld-Addison



THURS, 25 AUG 2022

"Seabirds of Macquarie Island" Dr Julie McInnes - a joint event with Beer Aquatic

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

The majority of my work in 2022 was by way of contributions to the RST Events Committee. We collected and organised the existing RST operational information into a protocol document for the Events Committee so that new members can more easily understand their roles and the procedure of engaging speakers and delivering events.

I liaised with the Beer Aquatic team to help organise and deliver their National Science Week presentation, supported by the Royal Society of Tasmania. This role included coordinating the RST funding for a future speaker.

As this has been the final of my three years as the Student Councillor for the Royal Society of Tasmania, I have also provided the Council with a list of recommendations for the role.

**Ms Shasta Henry**  
Student Representative

## TASMANIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I am delighted to share with you some thoughts on 2022, a year which yet again required us to be alert to risk and sudden change and above all to be flexible and responsive.

Thankfully in 2022 the State and International Borders remained open, and our visitor numbers started to increase – albeit slowly. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 TMAG continued to provide access to the State Collection. Our teams undertook research and scholarly activity and delivered programs of engagement with the public through face to face and online programs.

In 2022 TMAG also undertook important infrastructure and building maintenance to protect TMAG’s important heritage buildings and collection into the future. The works to replace the slate roof of the Bond Store and re-render its exterior, as well as to stabilise and re-render the Watergate wall, will ensure they are preserved for future generations of our Tasmanian community. We are grateful to the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Government for providing the funding for these important works. Works to stabilise and protect the Watergate Wall and Private Secretary’s Cottage are ongoing but should be finished in mid-2023.

TMAG has also seen some important changes in key personnel. I would like to acknowledge and thank David Sudmalis who acted as Director for almost seven months and who steered TMAG through some challenging times e.g., border lockdowns. In April 2022 TMAG’s new Director Mary Mulcahy started. We are excited to continue working with Mary to care for all that makes this a long-lived and loved institution and delivering on our shared vision for the future of TMAG.



***'taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country'*** TMAG major exhibition for spring-summer 2022–23.

**Image details:** Ancestor, necklace, c.1830, echidna and wombat claws on sinew. Likely taken at muntrikawripa (Sandy Cape) by George Augustus Robinson on 1 June 1830. Purchased by the Friends of TMAG, 1999. M8427.

At the end of September 2022 TMAG launched probably the most important exhibition they have ever developed – *taypani milaythina tu - Return to Country*. *taypani* showcases the work of 20 contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal artists alongside works by ancestors that are held in institutions around the world, mainland Australia and Tasmania. *taypani* is an important step for TMAG, as we follow on from the apology we offered to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people in February 2021. *taypani* is the beginning of a journey of truth telling that enables us to better work with Tasmania's Aboriginal Community in celebrating and presenting their unique and extraordinary culture. We hope that *taypani* is the beginning of a permanent journey home for the objects held outside Tasmania.

In November 2022 the Preminghana Petroglyphs left TMAG and were returned to Country. This was the culmination of a long, painful journey starting when the Petroglyphs were removed from Preminghana in the State's north-west in the 1960s to the emotional farewell from TMAG's Rosny site in 2022. We also repatriated the Lake Tyers canoe to the Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place in Gippsland and the Ōhaeawai Pa (Maori fortified village) to the care of the Auckland Museum. Each of these repatriations delivers on the commitment that TMAG made in its apology to changing our past practices and demonstrate a new way of working.

This year has also seen significant progress in addressing a long-standing issue between the Royal Society of Tasmania and TMAG with the signing of the Deed of Settlement and Release. We still have some matters to settle on the ownership of a small number of works but have made significant progress in 2022 given how long the matter has remained unresolved. Once again, we have been reminded that collegiality, friendship, and partnership trump any contention. I thank the RST for being patient with us as we work around our day-to-day business and track down the evidence and provenance for these works.

The RST and TMAG continue to work together on many projects in 2022 including for the first time a sale of RST books held at the TMAG Shop. The sale had 10 titles and 2 types of greeting card packs and was well accepted by shop patrons. I look forward to seeing what other opportunities there are to work together.

TMAG is able to do what it does because of the ongoing and generous support of our friends, partners and donors. Our hearty and sincere thanks to Penny Clive and Detached Cultural Organisation; Carol Colburn Grigor and Sir Jonathan Mills and Metal Manufactures Pty Ltd; Julia Farrell and Federal Group; DarkLab; TasNetworks; the Gordon Darling Foundation; Hydro Tasmania; the Keith Clarke Foundation; Laurence Herst; David and Michelle Warren; Marian Steinberg Squires; Joy Anderson; the Halifax Foundation; and all those who generously responded to our Annual Appeal. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the artists and collectors who gave generously to the TMAG Collection.

My thanks to the Tasmanian Government, and the Minister for the Arts in particular, for her support of TMAG throughout the whole year, and the TMAG Board of Trustees for its diligence and strategic thinking. I am pleased that we continue to work collaboratively together and that we have been able to build a stronger relationship with the RST Council. I would like to thank RST President Jocelyn McPhie and her team for their conversations, collaboration and support throughout the year. Together, we are well-placed to continue to champion the cultural, creative and scientific excellence of Tasmania.

**Ms Brett Torossi**  
**Chair, TMAG Board of Trustees**



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ANNUAL REPORT 2022