



### A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Thanks to all members who attended the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania on 7 March. The AGM is an opportunity to look both backward and forward. The past two years have been monumental, in large part due to the leadership of Mary Koolhof.

As President, Mary led the RST Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the establishment of RST ownership of the artwork loaned to TMAG. She also established our online presence via Zoom and YouTube so that lectures and meetings could proceed despite the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many procedures and documents were reviewed, revised and improved, and new ones established, for the lasting benefit of the RST. Mary's contribution as President followed many years as a Member and Councillor. In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Council resolved to bestow Honorary Life Membership on Mary (see picture above).



The AGM was followed by a very entertaining and informative lecture by Professor Kate Warner AC and David Owen on *Government House Tasmania: A Remarkable Story*. The lecture was based on their recently published, two-volume book with the same title. The recording of the lecture is available on the [RST YouTube](#) channel.

Looking forward, a new Council has been appointed to deal with future events and challenges. Welcome to new Vice-President Dr Tony Webster, Council Member John Williamson, and Early Career Researcher Imogen Wegman. The full list of Councillors is given in this Newsletter on p. 4.

Welcome also to new RST members Dr Jon Finch, Ms Kathy Brown, Professor Jonathan Sprent, Dr Ben Galton-Fenzi and Nina Dubos.

Please read on to learn about forthcoming RST events and other RST activities. The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal will be presented to Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM at a special Members-only reception hosted by the Governor, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO on 30 March. And the following Sunday (3 April), is a lecture by Dr Lisa Gershwin on the topic of "Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean" (see p. 6).

Best regards,

Prof Jocelyn McPhie, President

### Contents:

- 2 [RST Medal presentation at Government House invitation](#)
- 3 [RST's Annual General Meeting and Government House Tasmania: A Remarkable Story presentation](#)
- 4 [Council of the RST 2022](#)
- 5 [Three New RST Councillors](#)
- 6 [RST lecture: \*Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean\*](#)
- 7 [Revised 2022 Northern Branch Lecture Series](#)
- 8 [Northern Branch lecture: \*Understanding Early Earth Environments\*](#)
- 9 [Developing An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles](#)
- 10 [A Review: \*The Royal Society and the Invention of Modern Science\*](#)
- 11 [Our New RST President](#)
- 12 [RST Notebooks creator Chel Bardell](#)
- 13 [Recent RST Publications](#)
- 14 [RST books and papers with member discounts](#)
- 15 [The Society's Art Collection: Ann Eliza Buckland – 1](#)
- 16 [The Society's Art Collection – 2](#)
- 17 [RST Office contact information](#)
- 18 [2022 Membership Renewal](#)
- 19 [RST Library information](#)
- 20 [TMAG links and information](#)
- 21 [Links to RST social media](#)
- 22 [Donate to our Society](#)
- 23 [General Society contact information](#)



Government House  
Tasmania

**Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC,  
Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO  
request the pleasure of your company  
at a Medal Presentation, Lecture and Reception for the  
*Royal Society of Tasmania***

**Wednesday, 30 March 2022 at 6:00 pm.**

**Dress: Lounge Suit/Day Dress**

***Bookings for this event close at 9:00 pm on Thursday, 24 March 2022.***

There is **no charge** for guests to obtain a ticket and these may be obtained via the Government House website as follows:

Go to [www.govhouse.tas.gov.au](http://www.govhouse.tas.gov.au) and click on the 'Events and Tours' tab on the right-hand side of the homepage. Bookings for this event will be available to book from 9:00 am on Monday, 7 March 2022.

Select '**Reserve tickets**' for the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal Presentation and Lecture. You will be directed to the Government House Tasmania event on the *Trybooking.com* website.

Enter **Invitation Code: GHRSTM22** (This must be typed in not copied and pasted)

Note: Due to current COVID-19 requirements, **each** guest booking can accommodate a maximum of one person so, if you are a couple, you will need to **book separately**.

Complete the booking as per the *Trybooking* website instructions. Tickets should be booked in the name of the **guest/s** who wish to attend. Ticket/s will be sent to the guest's nominated email address. Please check your Spam/Junk mailbox as the tickets may appear there.

**TICKETS**

**Guests will need to print their ticket/s and ensure that they bring it/them to Government House on the evening or alternatively, we can scan your ticket from your mobile phone.**

**THIS INVITATION IS NOT YOUR *TRYBOOKING* TICKET AND  
CANNOT BE PRESENTED AT THE DOOR FOR ENTRY ON THE DAY.**

**COVID-19**

**It is essential that you review the information below in relation to COVID-19 requirements for ALL guests attending events at Government House.**

In accordance with the current advice provided by the Public Health authorities, there will be:

- increased hygiene measures
- limits on the maximum number of guests
- observation of physical distancing provisions
- wearing of masks indoors.

All guests will be screened prior to entry to Government House. If you feel you do not meet the above conditions, you are respectfully requested to NOT ATTEND Government House.

Please review the latest health advice on the Tasmanian Government website: (<https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au>) before deciding whether to attend Government House.

Attendance at Government House will be considered a declaration that you are compliant with all Public Health Directions.







**Above:** Jan and Gael Herrmann are greeted by RST President Prof Jocelyn McPhie.



**Above:** Kate Warner AC and David Owen chatted with many RST members following their engaging presentation.



**Above:** *Government House, Hobart*. Pencil on paper by Emily Stuart Bowring, 1858. (Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts.)

tion of some of the many remnants of those features that still exist on the property (- see picture at right).

Another feature was the discussion around glamorous or important events held over the years at Government House and the many interesting visitors who have been received there, including local dignitaries as well as European royalty. There were nostalgic scenes of a crowded garden party and an even more crowded ballrooms (- see below), the likes of which have not been seen in recent years in Hobart.

## The Royal Society of Tasmania's Annual General Meeting

After the business of The Royal Society of Tasmania's recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) was concluded, our immediate Past President Mary Koolhof, was bestowed with Honorary Life Membership of the Society. This honour is in recognition of Mary's years of outstanding contribution to the Society and especially for her work in the last two years in managing the swift introduction of Zoom meetings and webinars in order for our lecture program to continue unabated. It is also for her leadership and persistence in the lead-up to the delivery of the *Apology to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People*. In addition, Mary led the team at the mediation that established the Royal Society's ownership of the mainly Tasmanian colonial art collection, which is uniquely important to this State because of its cultural, social and historical significance. Congratulations, Mary!

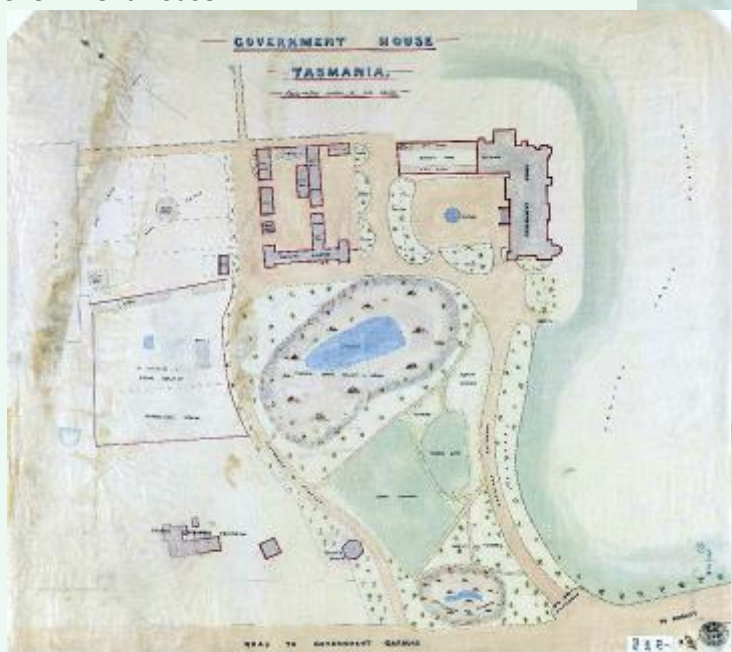
Mary's award was followed by another highlight of this year's AGM which was the members and visitors being treated to some fascinating facts and commentary about the research methods leading to the publication of *Government House Tasmania: A Remarkable Story*, written by noted author David Owen and our immediate Past Patron, Professor Kate Warner AC.

The authors delivered a presentation by way of a discussion, accompanied by diagrams, plans and photographs that gave insight into the development of the site where Government House now stands and the individuals and families who have occupied it.

A combination of historical resources, including Government House documents, Trove (an online research portal), and the historical records of various Tasmanian and other institutions, including the Royal Society's Library collection, provided the research base for their beautifully bound and illustrated book about Tasmania's Government House.

One popular area of discussion was the gardens of Government

House. The audience was able to get an idea of the development and execution of the plans for the original gardens and the identifica-



**Above:** the 1881 plan of Government House, servant's quarters, meat house and other outbuildings (top left), quarry pond (centre), Secretary's private residence (bottom left), fernery and rockery (bottom right) and general grounds. (Tasmanian Archives, PWD266-186-1.)





**Above:** Attending functions at Government House had its risks. Sarah Mitchell of Lisdillon sketched her sister Kate riding home from a Queens' birthday ball and her friend, Miss Mary Allen, who fell off her horse near Richmond and was "dazed" afterwards. (Sarah and Catherine Mitchell scrapbook. UTAS Special & Rare Collection & RST.)

Following many questions from the attendees and some discussion, a new member



**Above:** An aerial shot of Government House, Tasmania showing the L-shaped 4m high Eardley-Wilmot wall (centre) which is now included in part of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. The 280m wall was built in 1843 at a cost of £549 from convict-made and imported bricks. (Tasmanian Archives NS5748-1-38 and courtesy John Wadsley)



of Council, John Williamson, gave a well composed vote of thanks to the speakers for their time and their much-appreciated talk.

**Marley Large**, RST Secretary

**Left:** A crowded 1937 ball at Government House, Tasmania. (Government House collection.)

## Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania 2022

President – Prof Jocelyn McPhie

Vice-President – Dr Tony Webster

Immediate Past President – Mary Koolhof

Honorary Secretary – Marley Large

Honorary Treasurer – David Wilson

President Northern Branch – Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM (TBC)

Delegate – Northern Branch – Neil MacKinnon (TBC)

Early Career Researcher – Dr Imogen Wegman

Councillor – Chel Bardell

Councillor – Dr Anita Hansen

Councillor - Distinguished Prof Ross Large AO

Councillor – Peter Manchester

Councillor – Dr Julie Rimes

Councillor – John Williamson

Student Councillor – Shasta Henry

TMAG Representative – Dr David Sudmalis (Acting Director of Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery)

Honorary Editor ex officio – Dr Sally Bryant

Honorary Solicitor ex officio – James Crotty

Honorary Librarian – Juliet Beale

## Three New RST Councillors

**Vice-President, Dr Tony Webster, Early Career Researcher, Dr Imogen Wegman, and Councillor, John Williamson have joined the RST Council for the first time.**



**Above** (from left): New 2022 RST Council members: Vice-President, Dr Tony Webster, Early Career Researcher, Dr Imogen Wegman, and Councillor, John Williamson.

### Dr Tony Webster

Tony is a Hobart-based consulting geologist working with GeoDiscovery Group Ltd, and is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer/Fellow of the University of Tasmania and the University of Queensland. He has spent over 30 years in the mining industry, academia and government, working in and around several historically significant base metal and gold mines, including Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie, Cannington, Zeehan, Mount Farrell, and Rosebery (Hercules).

Tony started his career as an underground mine geologist on the Golden Mile (Fimiston) but has since worked in a variety of roles, including mining heritage, environmental regulation and research positions in Tasmania and Queensland. Tony has published two books, *The Geology of the Broken Hill Lead-Zinc-Silver Deposit, NSW, Australia* (published by CODES, 2007) and *The Foundation of Australia's Capital Cities: Geology, Landscape, and Urban Character* (published by Rowman and Littlefield in 2022).

### Dr Imogen Wegman

Imogen Wegman is a lecturer in history at the University of Tasmania where she researches the relationships between people and the landscape in an early colony. Having grown up in Hobart, Imogen has a strong connection to her island home. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Tasmania, before moving to the UK to join the University of East Anglia's Landscape History MA program. Her dissertation examined the creation of 'isolated' parish churches – those that stand in the middle of a field, far from their village.

Imogen returned to Tasmania to complete her PhD in History at the University of Tasmania, examining the differences between land grants given to convicts and free settlers. Her research continues to examine the practicalities of the life in the early years of a colony, using digital tools such as GIS (mapping) to understand the historic landscape and extract its stories. She continues to nerd out about maps with her students, teaching them how to find and interpret them for their own research.

Imogen has a keen interest in public histories and has held a range of non-academic roles that have connected her research with the public. As a tour guide, she converted her thesis into a commentary designed for tourists with little to no background knowledge. She also worked behind the help desk in a public library, helping clients research their family history, find information about their house or pursue other historical questions.

### John Williamson

John has been a passionate teacher for 40 years. He has taught Pre-Tertiary Modern History, Ancient History and Philosophy at Fahan School, and he has lectured on Antarctic History at the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies. John and a colleague developed the Polar Pathways Tour for the State Government and John has been a regular guide for these tours during the Antarctic Mid-Winter Festivals. John has also worked in Antarctica as a guide/historian.





## RST April Lecture

The Royal Society of Tasmania invites all members and supporters to a lecture at 3:00 pm on Sunday 3 April 2022 by **Dr Lisa Gershwin** on:

### Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean

The lecture will be presented in person at the RST Lecture Room in TMAG (Hobart) and as a Zoom webinar. This lecture is free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Non-members are welcome to attend and donations are appreciated through our website or at the door. Suggested donation is \$6; \$4 for students and Friends of TMAG and QVMAG.

Attendance in person: Please register for the in-person lecture [using this link](#). The password is RST. Eventbrite registrations close at 4:00 pm on Saturday 2 April.

Attendance via Zoom: [Follow this link](#) to register for the Zoom webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

#### Abstract

Our oceans are becoming increasingly inhospitable to life — growing toxicity and rising temperatures coupled with overfishing have led many marine species to the brink of collapse. And yet there is one creature that is thriving in this seasick environment: the beautiful, dangerous and now incredibly numerous jellyfish. The jellyfish population bloom is highly indicative of the tragic state of the world's ocean waters, while also revealing the incredible tenacity of these remarkable creatures.

#### Biography

Lisa Gershwin is a marine ecologist and scientific communicator. Her research skills include nearly all aspects of pelagic invertebrates with particular focus on gelatinous species, including jellyfish bloom dynamics, taxonomy, stinger management, toxinology, palaeontology, evolutionary biology, and field guide construction. She communicates via local, national and international media, high profile feature stories and documentaries, blogs, social media, a science show on the radio, and authorship of the best-selling books *Stung! On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean* and *Jellyfish: A Natural History*. She has more than 70 peer reviewed papers published, a half million dollars in competitive research funding, a Fulbright Fellowship, and more than 200 new jellyfish species and one dolphin discovered.

(Photo below courtesy daily.jstor.org: The global jellyfish crisis in perspective.)







## The Royal Society of Tasmania – Northern Branch

### REVISED 2022 LAUNCESTON LECTURE SERIES

LECTURES COMMENCE AT **1:30\* PM**

– ONLINE OR AT QVMAG @ INVERESK (TO BE ADVISED)

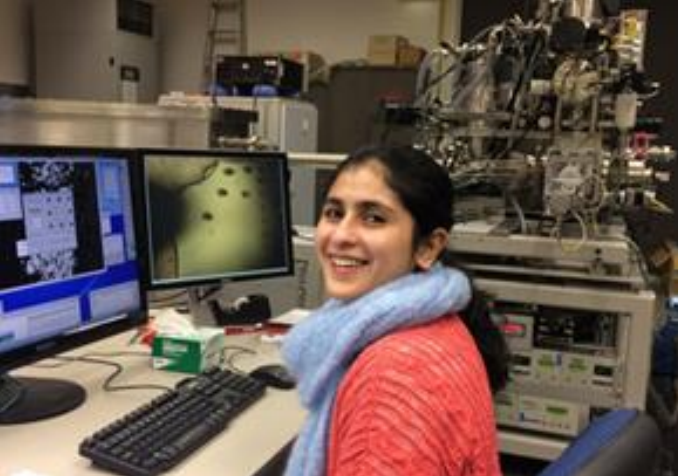
**\*START TIME VARIES AS SHOWN BELOW**

### REVISED PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1:15 pm, March 27 \*\***

<b>MARCH 27</b>	Dr Indrani Mukherjee	<b>'Understanding Early Earth Environments'</b> – a powerful approach providing key clues to evolution of life on Earth and beyond!
<b>APRIL 24</b>	Kathryn Medlock	<b>'Sharing the Bounty'</b> – the fate of a single thylacine ( <i>Thylacinus cynocephalus</i> ).
<b>MAY 22</b>	Andrew Bishop	<b>'A Brave New Biosecurity System: Over the Horizon Musings'</b> – intelligence gathering, robotics, surveillance, data analysis, molecular tools, and 'out-of-this-world' diagnostics.
<b>JUNE 26</b>	Dr Charles Connor	<b>'Identifying the Source with Forensic Science'</b> – testing for biological material and DNA profiling in Tasmania.
<b>JULY 24</b>	Dr Raj Eri	<b>'Personalised Medicine: are we there yet?'</b> – the latest examples from genomics and microbiome research will illustrate how personalised medicine will be a reality in the near future.
<b>** JOINT MEETING WITH THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, August 14**</b>		
<b>AUGUST 14</b>	Dr Peter McGoldrick	<b>'Tasmania's oldest fossil'</b> – what a palaeontologist from New Jersey, a 19th century Irish rebel, some of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War and 1.4 billion-year-old fossils from the Tarkine have in common.
<b>AUGUST 28</b>	Speaker: TBA	Topic: TBA
<b>SEPTEMBER 25</b>	Dr Alison Trimble	<b>'School Principals and School Law'</b> – the impact of Education Law on the work of Tasmanian education leaders and schools.
<b>OCTOBER 23</b>	Dr Mike Pook	<b>'Living with Climate Variability - the Tasmanian Experience'</b> – Long-term climate change is constantly in the news but the much stronger signal of climate variability is rarely mentioned. Tasmania is an ideal location in which to study climate variability on a range of geographical and time scales and to investigate the dominant drivers.
<b>NOVEMBER 27</b>	Shane Fitzgerald, City of Launceston Director, Creative Arts & Cultural Services	<b>QVMAG Staff Lecture</b> Topic: TBA





**RST Northern Branch**  
invites you to a public lecture  
**Understanding  
Early Earth Environments**  
presented by **Dr Indrani Mukherjee**

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

**When:** **1:15 pm** Sunday 27 March 2022. The lecture will begin at 1:30 pm following the AGM.

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

**Register** for Zoom webinar at [rst.org.au/](https://rst.org.au/)

**Abstract:**

The transition of a simple cell into a complex one, billions of years ago, is the reason that we share the planet with millions of species today. Indrani Mukherjee's research focuses on "What drove that biological transition?" The approach involves a nuanced understanding of ancient marine environments, via novel and cutting-edge geochemical techniques

**Biography:**

Indrani earned her BSc Honours and Masters in Geology at the University of Delhi where she was also awarded the university Gold Medal for securing the highest marks in MSc. She completed her PhD at UTAS in 2018 where she is a lecturer and postdoctoral researcher in Earth Sciences, and was awarded the 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Award.

*Generously supported by*



Mark Garlick/Science Photo Library/Corbis







**Above:** (from left) TMAG Friends President Jane Wilcox with presenter Dr Simon Grove and RST Past President Mary Koolhof.

## Developing An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles

A presentation by

**Dr Simon J Grove, Senior Curator,  
Invertebrate Zoology, TMAG**

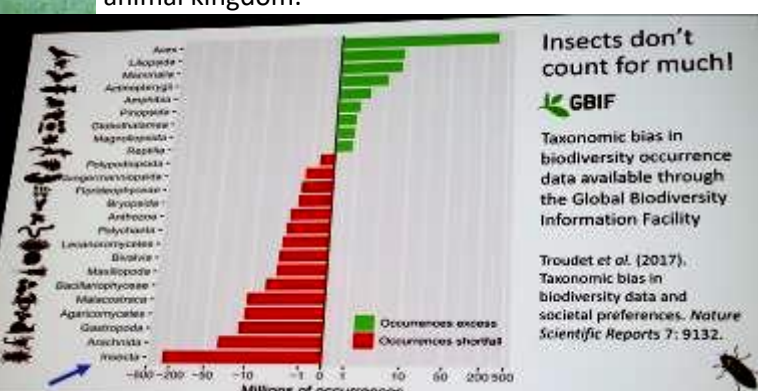
The first joint Royal Society and Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery event was held on 23 February in the TMAG main gallery and launched with a fascinating overview about the RST's newest publication *An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles*.

*The Creator, if He exists, has an inordinate fondness for beetles – J.B.S. Haldane*



**Left:** On the chart at left, at the very bottom in red, 'Insecta' are listed as the least investigated fauna taxonomy.

However, in the TMAG insect collection, the major group is beetles which are stored in 42 cabinets with multiple shelves.



While often overlooked, Tasmania has nearly 3000

beetle species, of which over 600 are endemic, and although they occupy nearly all terrestrial habitats, most of us know little of their ecology or taxonomy.



Dr Grove paid tribute to the history of scientists, who built the foundation to our invertebrate knowledge as 'standing on the shoulder of giants' (see left), and the two co-authors TMAG's Lynette Forster and Dr Nick Porch from Deakin University. He outlined the more recent methods of beetle collection and curation, and finished by highlighting key aspects of representative species from each of the Checklist's beautiful colour plates (see below). Displayed on the window behind Simon were the beetles collected by the late Dr George Bornemissza, exquisitely arranged to showcase their highly decorated and diverse body forms.

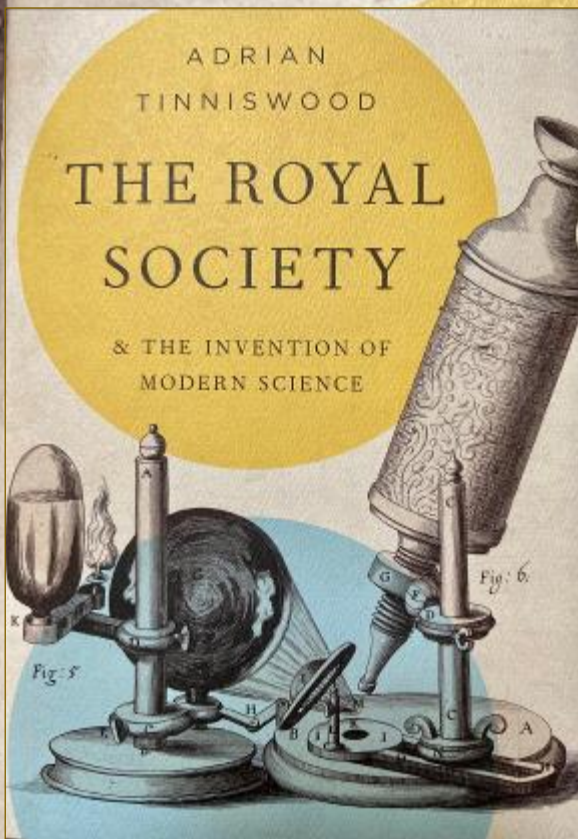
The event was opened at 10:30 am by Jane Wilcox, President of the Friends of TMAG, followed by RST President Mary Koolhof with the Tasmanian Aboriginal acknowledgement. Dr Sally Bryant introduced Dr Grove outlining his major contribution to our invertebrate knowledge not just for beetles but insects and molluscs more widely, culminating in him being awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 2019. Dr Anita Hansen and Assoc Prof Julie Rimes ably managed the long line of people wanting to purchase not just the Beetle Checklist but a range of other RST publications as well. It is hoped this highly successful joint event with the Friends of TMAG may be the start of a new series aimed at promoting joint projects and collections in the future.

The checklist is available for purchase via the [RST website](#) or Hobart and Launceston offices (see details on p. 12).

**Dr Sally Bryant**







## A Review

**Adrian Tinniswood, *The Royal Society and the Invention of Modern Science*, New York: Basic Books, 2019, pp. 129**

This small gem of a book (129 pp.) provides an approachable examination of how the Royal Society came to exist during the 17th century and what factors allowed it to continue. Tinniswood makes it clear that two factors – the storm of fascination at this time in science and experimentation in Europe and the UK, as well as the patronage of King Charles II – were both vital in the foundation of the Society. The author is both an academic historian and a writer of general and popular history works who has a gift for making clear what, in the hands of others, could become confusing.

The early chapters show how the 1600s were a period during which medieval ideas of science and reality were being overthrown. Developments in Mathematics, Astronomy, Biology and Physics changed the way in which society viewed nature and how new experimental methods challenged earlier concepts and ideas. The Society, Tinniswood explains, grew out of two separate movements – the first was the 'Great Club' at Wadham College, Oxford which developed into a haven for 'experimental philosophy'. A club was set up there that would attract some of the great minds

of the age: members from Oxford University included Robert Hooke (microscopist, architect), Christopher Wren (architect, astronomer), Seth Ward (astronomer), Robert Wood (mathematician), and John Wallis.

The second movement that initiated the Society, as outlined by Tinniswood, was a series of informal weekly meetings of academics from both Cambridge and Oxford in the unsettled years before and during the English Civil War. With the revival of monarchy in 1660, these meetings began to take on a more formal structure: held at Gresham College, London, their discussions centred on the newest ideas in science and reviewed the most recent experiments. This revolution in science – 'advancement through experimentation and ocular inspection' – was all the more remarkable as most people in Europe at that time, believed in witchcraft and magic. According to Tinniswood, the Royal Society actually created the Scientific Revolution. Although this may be too large a claim, it is true that these scientists were absolutely vital in that 17th century revolution of ideas.

The author explains that the new King, Charles II, a supporter, provided them with a Royal Charter in 1662. John Evelyn, another early member, provided the now, 'Royal', Society's motto *Nullius in verba* – 'Take no one's word for it'. This was an indication that the Society's Fellows were determined to withstand the domination of (ecclesiastical) authority and to 'verify all statements by an appeal to facts determined by experiment'.

What did the Royal Society do? Tinniswood is at pains to answer this. Initially suggestions of possible experiments were made by members, many of which were actually carried out and then they were written up formally and accurately so that they became a permanent record. By 1665 this record had developed into the *Philosophical Transactions*, the world's first and longest continuously published scientific journal. Of this in 1870, the English biologist, TH Huxley said, "If all the books in the world, except the [Royal Society's] *Philosophical Transactions* were destroyed, it is safe to say that the foundations of the physical science would remain unshaken".

Later chapters describe the changing location of the Royal Society, the problems that the Society encountered in attempting to choose high quality members and Fellows, and the difficulties the Royal Society faced in dealing with critics at universities and in the church. But, Tinniswood assures us, "by the end of the 19th century the Society, after overcoming much opposition and indifference, had realised the aims of its founders, and at last had become an institution for promoting natural science".

The author objectively outlines the problems faced by the Society over the centuries and how their handling of these issues was not always perfect. There are

**Right:** Stained-glass window created for the 300th anniversary of the Royal Society of London by William Gardiner showing the Society's motto.







**Left:** The Society's first historian, Thomas Sprat, wrote that the King "sometimes reproved them for their slowness of their proceedings ..." (p. 133). Engraving from the frontispiece to Sprat's *The History of the Royal Society of London for the Improving of Natural Knowledge*, (1667, Wenceslaus Hollar. The Royal Society.) depicting Charles II being crowned by Fame.

several references made to the role of foreign members and Fellows, as well as to the women who have been involved in the Society. Although these sections do seem a bit cursory – in a book of this diminutive size this is understandable – they constitute a very affirmative step.

Tinniswood's explanations of even very complex issues are lucid and enlightening. The end notes for each chapter are accurate and thorough, the index is clear and the bibliography provides an excellent guide to the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century. This small monograph charts the evolution of one of the world's great institutions for the advancement of knowledge and the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

### Selected References

- Tinniswood, A (2019) *The Royal Society and the Invention of Modern Science*, New York: Basic Books, pp.129
- National Museum of Australia, 'The Royal Society of London', <https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/exploration-and-endeavour/royal-society-london>
- Wilton, P (2 February, 2010), 'Oxford and the Royal Society's Origins', <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/science-blog/oxford-and-royal-society%E2%80%99s-origins>

**John Williamson**

February 2022



### Our New RST President

**Jocelyn McPhie** is a volcanologist and for most of her career (1990 to 2015) she held an academic position at the University of Tasmania. She conducted fundamental and applied research in volcanology, and taught volcanology and as well as other undergraduate geology units. Since retiring from the university, she has been consulting to the minerals industry, providing technical advice and professional training in volcanology. She maintains an adjunct position with the University of Tasmania, continuing to supervise PhD students and to participate in research projects. She became a member of the RST in 2020.

**(Left:** Jocelyn McPhie on Lastarria volcano, Chile, view to the north of Llullaillaco.)

### 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.





## Recent RST Publications

Three new publications are available to add to your reading list:

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

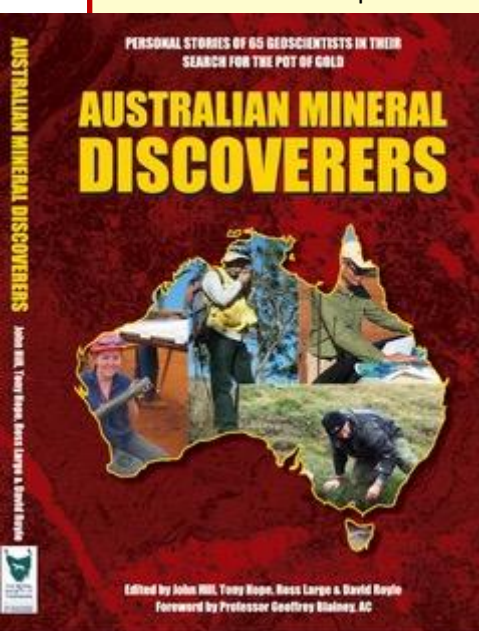


**RST Notebooks** featuring a choice of three cover images from the Society's Art Collection and the Special and Rare Book Collection are available (- see left). Beautifully bound and presented, these prestigious notebooks are ideal for meeting notes or creative writing, so why not buy yourself a couple or as gifts for others? \$28 each or \$25 member discount. [Purchase now.](#)

**An Illustrated Checklist of Tasmanian Beetles**, prepared by experts Simon Grove, Lynne Forster and Nick Porch (- see cover at right), is an exciting new taxonomic guide to Tasmanian beetles with diagnostic information on

nearly 3000 species, including over 600 endemics and seven species found only on Macquarie Island. Featuring thumbnail images of every group and 16 full colour plates, this fantastic new resource will help you identify and learn more about Tasmania's enigmatic beetle fauna. \$46 [Purchase now.](#)

Following Volume 155(1) celebrating the RST Northern Branch centenary in June 2021, the RST Journal **Papers and Proceedings Volume 155(2)** features the transcripts of speakers at the historic *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people*, as well as a diverse range of scientific and review papers of wide interest. Contact the Office to purchase a copy [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)



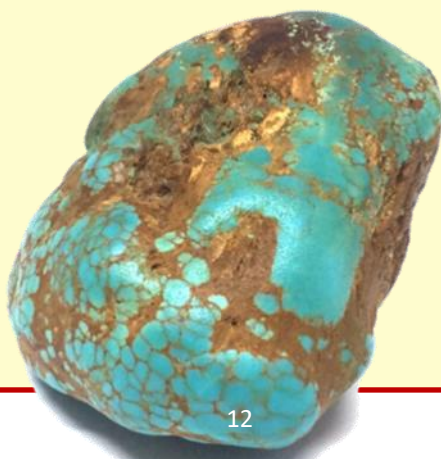
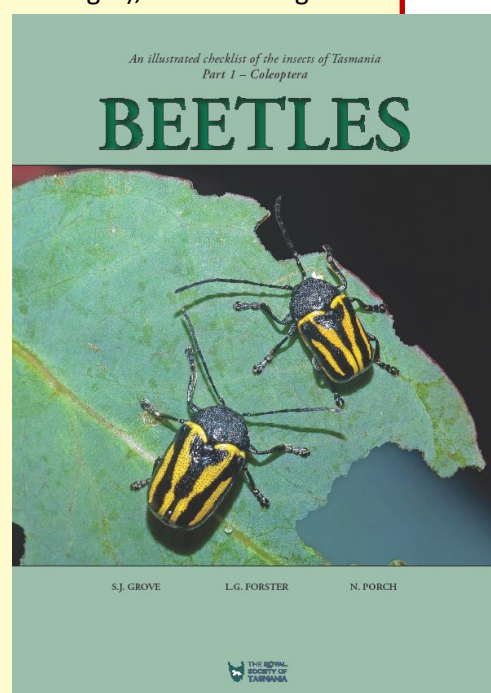
### **Australian Mineral Discoverers: 1950-2010**

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

**RST members' discount on this item @ \$50.00**

**For overseas orders, please contact the Society directly to calculate postage and place the order: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)**

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





## Royal Society Office

The Royal Society office is open on Thursday mornings 9:00 am to midday. Enter the Custom House building from the Davey Street entrance and register at the Visitors' Desk.

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

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

**Main Royal Society contact: Northern Branch contact:**

GPO Box 1166

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

Hobart TAS 7001

0417 330 118

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

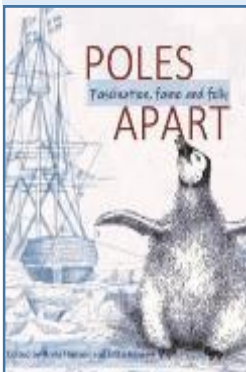
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

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

Publications sales are available through the RST shop, on our [website](http://www.rst.org.au), by email or by phone through the office.

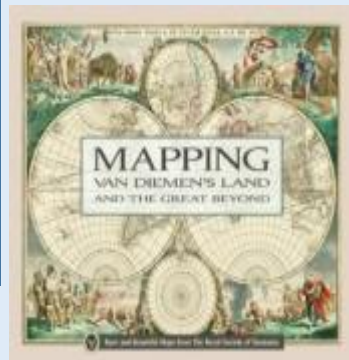
**10% discount for Members on these books.**

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



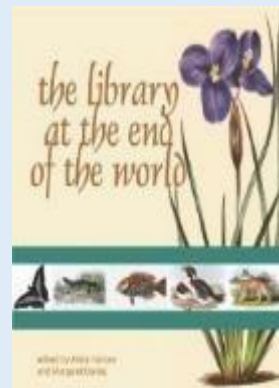
***Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly***

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



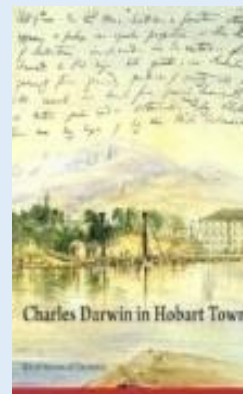
***Mapping Van Diemen's Land and the Great Beyond***

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



***The Library at the End of the World***

Hardcover (\$54) and Softcover (\$36)



***Charles Darwin in Hobart Town***

Softcover (\$32)



***Papers and Proceedings***

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

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

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



**Special publications still available:** *The Sub-Antarctic* (21 papers on various aspects of the Sub-Antarctic islands); *Aspects of Tasmanian Botany* (– a collection of botanical papers given at a symposium honouring the work of Dr Winifred Curtis AM); *Tasmanian Wilderness – World Heritage Values*.

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

## The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art Collection

The Royal Society of Tasmania's Art collection is housed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart. Any queries please contact the Honorary Curator, Dr Anita Hansen: [anita.hansen@utas.edu.au](mailto:anita.hansen@utas.edu.au)

### Ann Eliza Buckland

#### Botanical drawings

After all the excitement and drama of last month's paintings, I thought we could look at some more serene – but equally beautiful – artworks this month.

The Royal Society of Tasmania's art collection contains six wonderful botanical drawings by little known artist Ann Eliza Buckland (1790–1873). Disappointingly, there is no record to indicate how or when the collection came to the Society – only that it appears on the 1965 Loans List.

**Right:** *Hobart 1841*, A. Mayer, lithograph (State Archives).

While Van Diemen's Land was still a penal colony, there was a growth in the number of immigrants arriving in Tasmania in the 1830s and 1840s. Among these immigrants were a number of free women from the educated classes.

Ann Eliza Buckland arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Lillias* in June 1841, with her children and her husband Charles (1789–1880). Another female natural history illustrator who features in the Society's art collection, Louisa Anne Meredith also arrived here in 1841.



**Left:** Portrait of Ann Buckland by Robert Hawker Dowling (1827–1886), c 1885, Narryna. (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery).



As I mentioned above, little is known about Ann, but the same can be said of her husband Charles. He was employed at the Audit office as 'Clerk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class' on the first of June 1841 on a salary of £280, which was quite a reasonable wage at the time. I can find no record to indicate if he came to Hobart for the position or was appointed after the family moved to VDL.

They were not a young couple looking for adventure by emigrating to a new colony – Ann was 51 and Charles 52 – so it would be interesting to find out why they came here. Perhaps they felt there would be more opportunities for their children.

In any event, Ann also sought to occupy herself here. She and her daughter established a school at their home in Davey Street. The school offered "instruction in Music, Singing, French, Drawing and Dancing".

In her book *Picturesque Pursuits: Colonial Women Artists and the Amateur Tradition*, Caroline Jordan writes of Lady Jane Franklin's rather scathing opinion of the type of education available to girls in Hobart at the time: "Lady Franklin thought the choice in Hobart was woeful, confined as it was to 'a few miserable schools in Hobart ... not deserving scarcely of the name'".

Caroline Jordan goes on to say: "The type of school she was referring to was probably similar to the local 'dames' school' where Mary Allport sent one of her children, established in Hobart in 1841 by amateur flower painter Ann Eliza Buckland".

On July 30 1841, this advertisement appeared in the Hobart Town Courier announcing the new school:

**MUSICAL EDUCATION.**—Mrs. and Miss BUCKLAND beg respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Hobart Town and its vicinity, that they purpose receiving pupils for instruction in the Pianoforte, Italian and English Singing, Dancing, French, and Drawing. Miss Buckland has had the advantage of the first masters in London, and is accustomed to tuition. For particulars, &c., inquire at No. 24, Davey street, opposite the Windmill. July 22.

*MUSICAL EDUCATION. – Mrs. and Miss BUCKLAND beg respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Hobart Town and its vicinity, that they purpose receiving pupils for instruction in the Pianoforte, Italian and English Singing, Dancing, French, and Drawing. Miss Buckland has had the advantage of the first masters in London, and is accustomed to tuition.*





**Left:** *Leptospermum* (Woolly Tea Tree *Leptospermum lanigerum*, Manuka *Leptospermum scoparium* and Native Violet Ivy *Viola hederacea*), Ann Buckland.

### Botanical illustration

In the beginning of the nineteenth century, painting, particularly the depiction of natural history subjects, was seen as a suitable pastime for young ladies of the middle and upper classes, and it would seem that Ann had received this degree of training at least.

While Lady Franklin was derisive of the type and quality of education provided to the girls of the colony, there is no doubt that Ann Buckland was a skilled botanical illustrator. Her artworks featured in the Society's collection were drawn between 1847 and 1850, and show an artist experienced and accomplished at the observation of the specimen she is illustrating. All but one can be identified by species – something rarely achieved by an untrained artist.

**Below right:** *Clematis blanda* (now known as *Clematis aristata*), Ann Buckland.

It is a pity that not more is known about this artist and her work (often the case for women artists who are persistently considered only 'amateur' or 'hobby' dabblers) for she has created a beautiful and accurate set of botanical drawings that rightfully deserve their place in the Society's art collection.

### Aside

In my first article last month, I said I would end each piece by asking for help with researching the Society's art collection. If anyone has any more information about Ann Buckland and her art, I would love to hear from you.



**Above left:** *Exocarpus cupressimus*. **Above centre:** *Plagianthus discolor* (now known as *Asterotrichion discolor* but likely a *Gentianella* species). **Above right:** Swamp Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). **Left:** *Acacia*. All drawings by Ann Buckland.

## RST Office Contact Information

A new email address has been created specifically for our Office Manager: [office@rst.org.au](mailto:office@rst.org.au) Please now send relevant emails for attention of the Office Manager to this new address.

Emails for The Royal Society of Tasmania, in general, should still be sent to: [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

Matters relating to RST correspondence should be sent to: [secretary@rst.org.au](mailto:secretary@rst.org.au)



## 2022 Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again: time to renew your Royal Society of Tasmania membership for 2022. The RST membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Click [here](#) to open the renewal form on our website which can be downloaded as a pdf for filling in electronically.

Take note: *Regardless of the method you use to renew, by renewing your membership and paying the required membership dues, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to abide by the RST Code of Conduct as displayed on the [RST website](#).*

## The Society's Library

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

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

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

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

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





# Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Open daily, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm until 31 March.



**Visiting TMAG:** It is no longer essential to book your visits to TMAG in advance.

**TMAG from Home** initiative is available from the TMAG website to go on some exciting virtual tours, hear more from our curators and find out what happens behind the scenes.

**TMAG  
from  
home**

**Free tours** for small groups are available on Saturdays and Sundays, and run for approximately 40 minutes. Tour times are subject to change and availability and can be checked by phoning (03) 6165 7000. For guided tours for clubs, tourist groups or other organisations, please [click here](#).

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

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

**Talks at TMAG:** The Talks at TMAG program is currently on hold.

**For further information** about TMAG events, follow our social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For more great arts experiences in and around Hobart, visit the [Tasmanian Arts Guide](#).

## RSV Nuyina Celebrations

Ensure that you visit TMAG with some special Antarctic elements on display as part of the celebrations greeting the arrival in Hobart of the RSV *Nuyina* – Australia's newest icebreaker. You can see more information in the Central Gallery about this extraordinary ship; view the builder's model or Brickman's extraordinary LEGO model in our *Islands to Ice* Gallery. Complete a giant table jigsaw of the *Nuyina* while you listen to sound artist Philip Samartzis's amazing soundscape of the icy continent, recorded in and around Australia's Davis Station complete with sounds of elephant seals and Adélie penguins.

Available until Thursday 31 March 2022 in the Central Gallery. Free entry.



Image: ©Rob Blakers/AAD

Follow RST on:

Twitter



Facebook



Visit the website



Please click and  
scroll way down  
to **DONATE** to our  
Society. Thank  
you for your  
kind support!

Copyright © 2022 The Royal Society of Tasmania.  
All rights reserved.

ABN 65 889 598 100

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

**Our Office location is:**

19 Davey Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

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

Phone: +61 3 6165 7014

**Our mailing address is:**

GPO Box 1166, Hobart TAS 7001