



## AGM

Annual General Meeting

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 6 MARCH 2023

The Annual General meeting of The Royal Society of Tasmania will be held on **Monday 6 March 2023, at 4:00 pm** at the **Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania**, Marievale Esplanade, Sandy Bay.

Following the AGM, the Society's 2022 Clive Lord Memorial Medal winner, Professor Stefan Petrow, will present a lecture titled:

*'A very great idea?' Acclimatisation in Tasmania, 1862–1895.*

The lecture focuses on Tasmania's acclimatisation experience with British animals and birds.

#### Admission for lecture:

Free for members of the Royal Society of Tasmania

\$6.00 general admission

\$4.00 for students and Friends of TMAG or QVMAG

**Nominations for positions on The Royal Society of Tasmania Council are now open for election at the Annual General Meeting.**

#### The following positions are open for nomination:

- Three Council members (for 1 & 3 year terms to be determined by ballot at the first Council meeting after the AGM)
- Honorary Secretary (1 year; may be re-elected)
- Honorary Treasurer (1 year; may be re-elected)
- President (1 year; may be re-elected for 2 years maximum)
- Vice President (1 year; may be re-elected for 2 years maximum)
- Student Councillor (3 years)

**Nominations must be received by the Returning Officer, Mrs Mary Koolhof by Sunday 26 February 2023.**

The nomination form on the next page can be printed and can also be downloaded from the RST website.

Copies may also be obtained from the RST Office which is open Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

#### The completed and signed form may be returned by mail to:

The Returning Officer  
C/- The Royal Society of Tasmania  
GPO Box 1166  
Hobart TAS 7001

Or delivered to the RST office at 19 Davey Street

Or a signed and scanned copy may be emailed to [admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

For further information, please contact the Honorary Secretary at [secretary@rst.org.au](mailto:secretary@rst.org.au)

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**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATION FORM  
ABN 65 889 598 100  
Nominations for Election 2023**

Office Bearer and Council Member Nomination form for The Royal Society of Tasmania 2023 elections to be held Monday 6 March 2023 at 4:00 pm at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay. The Royal Society of Tasmania would like to formally invite members to nominate for positions on the Society's Council and Executive.

- Nominations close **midnight Sunday 26 February 2023.**
- No self-nominations are accepted.
- All nominees and nominators must be financial members at the time of nomination.

**About nominations**

The Rules and By-laws stipulate that the office bearers (rule 8) and ordinary members (rule 21 & 22) of the Council be elected each year. Nominations will be received by the Returning Officer (rule 10). The Immediate Past President is the Returning Officer. Rule 10 requires each nomination to be in writing. No person who is a candidate for any positions can propose or second the nomination of any other person for any position. No self-nominations are accepted.

**\*Indicates required information**

Do you (the nominator) accept and understand the above nominations rules and information? \*

☐ Yes    ☐ No

Please indicate for which position the nominee is proposed?

- ☐ Council member
- ☐ Student Councillor
- ☐ Honorary Secretary
- ☐ Honorary Treasurer
- ☐ President
- ☐ Vice President

**Please send this completed nomination form to:**

The Returning Officer  
c/- The Royal Society of Tasmania  
GPO Box 1166 Hobart TAS 7001  
or deliver it to the office, 19 Davey Street Hobart TAS 7000  
Signed and scanned copies can be emailed to:  
[admin@rst.org.au](mailto:admin@rst.org.au)

Nominations must be received by midnight **Sunday 26 February 2023.**

The Royal Society of Tasmania is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) in order to maintain our entitlement to Deductible Gift Recipient status in respect of donations to maintaining a library or art collection.

RST is required to take reasonable steps to be satisfied that its Responsible Persons (its Council members) are not disqualified from:

- managing a corporation under the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth), or
- being a Responsible Person by the ACNC Commissioner, within the previous 12 months.

Council Members are required to complete a Declaration for Responsible Persons form. See following page.

Nominees are asked to answer the following questions:

<p>Are you disqualified from managing a corporation within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth)? That would occur if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have been convicted of certain offences, such as serious offences, dishonesty offences or other offences that can affect a corporation,</li><li>• are an undischarged bankrupt or are subject to a 'personal insolvency agreement' you have not followed, or</li><li>• have been disqualified by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations (ORIC), or an Australian or New Zealand court.</li></ul>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No*</p>
<p>Have you been disqualified by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commissioner at any time during the previous year?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No*</p>

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, the ACNC is likely to determine that you should not be on the board of any organisation it regulates, including the Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania.

## NOMINATION

**Proposed by** .....

(Proposer's full name)

Signature of proposer ..... Date: .....

**Seconded by** .....

(Seconder's full name)

Signature of seconder ..... Date: .....

I accept the nomination for the position of ..... and have answered the questions above.

**Nominee** .....

(Full name of nominee)

Signature of nominee ..... Date: .....

## Returning Officer's use only

- ☐ All persons are financial.
- ☐ Not proposed or seconded by another candidate for election.
- ☐ Not excluded by rules 12 or 21 (consecutive terms).



## A Message from the RST President

Dear Members,

We have given top billing to the **AGM and lecture** in this Newsletter in the hope that all members know when (4 pm, Monday 6 March) and where (RYCT) it will be held. The short business part of the meeting will involve the election of office bearers, approval of a Rule change, the presentation of the Annual Report and welcoming new members. The enticement for you to attend is the lecture by Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow, Clive Lord Memorial Medal winner, exploring some of the methods used by new arrivals in Van Diemen's Land to adjust to the unfamiliar environment.

This year, there will be **changes to the RST Council membership** arising from some members reaching the end of their terms and others resigning. In the former category are Peter Manchester and Student Councillor, Shasta Henry. Peter and Shasta have contributed a great deal to Council and committee activities for the past three years. Honorary Secretary Marley Large and Honorary Treasurer David Wilson are resigning from their respective Executive positions after three years in these roles. Marley and David have given an enormous amount of time and expertise to the RST and the Society has benefitted from their diligence and experience. Vice President Dr Tony Webster will also resign under the pressure of his work commitments.

If you have an **interest in nominating** for either the Honorary Secretary position or Honorary Treasurer position, please contact me directly before nominations close on Sunday 26 February.

The RST has **many projects underway**, all of which at some point and to varying degrees involve the Executive (President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer). In recent years, the workload associated with these positions has made them highly unattractive. As a result, succession planning has proven to be very difficult. At the end of last year, Council resolved to reduce the numbers of events in Hobart and the number of Council meetings in 2023, to moderate the demands on the Executive positions, and on the wider Council. Eight events have been planned (down from 15 last year) in Hobart, and Council will meet every second month (six times, instead of 11). The Newsletter will be produced bi-monthly. The Northern Branch has been managing their workload expertly and no reduction of events is necessary in Launceston.

Over the break, progress was made in discussions with TMAG on two matters concerning the **RST Art Collection**. One relates to the Loan Agreement which sets out the terms under which the RST loans the collection to TMAG. Representatives of the two sides have recently settled on the terms of the Loan Agreement although the formal statement of the agreement and signing have not yet taken place. For many years, the Society has benefitted from TMAG providing space for the collection in the Print Room where conditions are closely monitored, and security is extremely high. The agreement ensures that that arrangement will continue.

The second topic of discussions with TMAG concerns ownership of **illustrations by Louisa Anne Meredith**. Ownership was not agreed at the Mediation Meeting in November 2021 between the RST and TMAG. A search for evidence of ownership by either side in all available TMAG and RST records has been underway since November last year, and in some cases, has yielded very strong evidence. The search and discussions will continue for the next few months of this year.

I will end by conveying congratulations to **Dr Sally Bryant AM** (see p. 11) and **Joyce Mackey OAM** (see pp. 11–12) on receiving Honours in the latest Australia Day Awards, and by welcoming **new RST members** Susie Riddoch, Phillippe Allen and Robyn Lewis.

Best regards,

Prof Jocelyn McPhie,  
President

**Right:** Passionfruit flowers by Louisa Anne Meredith.





## Notice of a change to the RST Rules – 2023 AGM

Any change to the [Rules of the RST](#) requires approval at an Annual General Meeting.

A small change is recommended for the second paragraph of Rule 64 ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT. This change will be presented for approval at the AGM. The change is intended to ensure that the Society will remain compliant through future changes in the relevant government bodies and the legislation.

The current version of the second paragraph of Rule 64 is:

### ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

64. ...

The Society will register with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) or its successors in law, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the Australian Business Registry (ABR), the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), any similar Tasmanian Government body where that registration will benefit the Society, or is required by law. All material issued by the Society will comply with all rules and regulations created under the legislation created by each of the above bodies.

**Changes to this paragraph have been proposed, as follows:**

### ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

64. ...

The Society will register with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) or its successors in law, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the Australian Business Registry (ABR), and any similar Tasmanian or Federal Government body where that registration is required by law or will benefit the Society. All material issued by the Society will comply with all rules and regulations created under the legislation created by each of the above bodies.

**Jocelyn McPhie**  
**President**

## 2021 RST *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People* – Two Years On



This week included the second anniversary of the Apologies offered by the RST and TMAG to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People in the TMAG Courtyard on Monday 15 February 2021. More than a hundred people witnessed the event either in person or via livestream, and [the event was recorded](#) and widely reported.

**Left:** RST 2021 President Mary Koolhof delivering the RST *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People* on 15 February 2021. Photo: Jillian Mundy

**Right:** Tasmanian Aboriginal people holding photographs of their ancestors, during the Apology event on 15 February 2021. Photo: Jillian Mundy



At the event the RST not only took responsibility for past actions of the Society and unreservedly apologised, but also made a commitment to building a better relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal people. It is appropriate two years later to briefly review how this event has influenced our operations and thinking.

The RST includes an acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people at the beginning of all meetings, events and publications. Although some may consider this acknowledgement as little more than a gesture, this practice is actually a very effective and constant reminder to all present of our Apology, regret for past actions and commitment to do better.

In November 2021, almost all RST Council members participated in a Cultural Awareness Training Day at *piyura kitina* Aboriginal Centre at Risdon Cove, led by Dewayne Everett-Smith from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. Those who attended reported that they learnt a great deal about the impacts of colonisation on Tasmanian Aboriginal lives and heritage, and about appropriate ways to show respect and acknowledgment, as well as traditional and contemporary Aboriginal cultural practices.



Lectures by Tasmanian Aboriginal speakers are keenly sought for the RST Events program, for example, in Hobart, Greg Lehman (2021), Rodney Gibbins (2022) and Michael Mansell (2023). Similarly, we welcome papers by Tasmanian Aboriginal authors for the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, such as the publication by Aunty Patsy Cameron in Volume 155(1) in 2021. We are grateful to these leaders of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community for being willing to address and engage with RST audiences.

**Left:** Tasmanian Aboriginal leader Rodney Gibbins giving a lecture for the RST about truth-telling and treaty, 4 December 2022.

During 2022, RST members have taken advantage of opportunities to learn about the issues facing Tasmanian Aboriginal people provided by the Reconciliation Collective and the Laney Pillar Lectures presented by the Allport Museum, including the Pathway to Treaty and the 1985 repatriation of the Crowther collection. The RST was represented by Jocelyn McPhie (Hobart) and David Morris (Launceston) at the Reconciliation Week Breakfast organised by Reconciliation Tasmania to mark the 2022 Reconciliation Week.

Also during 2022, the RST participated in the Hobart City Council's Crowther Reinterpreted Project and publicly supported removal of the William Crowther statue in Franklin Square. The statue has long been contentious as a memorial to a person who participated in the desecration of the graves of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the dismemberment of their bodies during the early decades of the Van Diemen's Land colony.

In September 2022, the RST took advantage of an 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 that began in October 2022, running until May 2023. The Society also loaned the Simpkinson de Wesselow watercolour sketch "*Methinna*" (- see right) to TMAG for the *taypani* exhibition.

Although most of these efforts may seem fleeting and ephemeral, a permanent record of RST efforts exists in the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*. In Volume 155(2) (December 2021), an article about the Apology, the *Preamble* by Professor Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania, the RST Apology, the TMAG Apology and Replies by Tasmanian Aboriginal representatives Rodney Gibbins and Michael Mansell were all published. This issue also includes a paper by Zoe Rimmer and Rebe Taylor based on a report commissioned by the RST in 2017 for the purpose of informing the planned Apology. The paper describes the involvement of the RST in the mistreatment of Tasmanian Aboriginal Ancestral remains and mistreatment and misrepresentation of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and people. In Volume 156 (December 2022), an article describing the history of the William Crowther statue, RST connections and RST reactions was published.

Collectively, our efforts so far have been intended to demonstrate the sincerity of the Apology and to reinforce the commitment to build better relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, by learning and listening as we move forward.

**Jocelyn McPhie**





## 2023 RST Annual General Meeting and Lecture

The Royal Society of Tasmania invites all members and supporters to the Annual General Meeting and a lecture by Professor Stefan Petrow at **4 pm on Monday 6 March 2023**. Professor Petrow is the 2022 winner of the RST Clive Lord Memorial Medal.

**The meeting and lecture will be at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay. Please register [using this link](#). Eventbrite registrations close at 3 pm on Sunday 5 March.** The lecture will be recorded but not live-streamed.

Admission is free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Non-members are welcome and donations are appreciated through our website or at the door. Suggested donation is \$6; \$4 for students and Friends of TMAG.

Annual General Meeting:

- Election of 2023 Office Bearers
- Approval of a Rule change
- Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report.

### Clive Lord Lecture: 'A very great idea?' Acclimatisation in Tasmania, 1862 – 1895



This lecture focuses on Tasmania's acclimatisation experience with British animals and birds, with particular reference to the activities of the relatively unstudied Tasmanian Acclimatisation Society formed in 1862. Acclimatisers were motivated to introduce birds, such as pheasants, partridges and quails and animals like rabbits, hares and deer for game hunting and hares for the sport of coursing.

Birds like sparrows and starlings were introduced for the familiarity of their songs and for their insect killing abilities. When introduced, animals and birds reacted in unpredictable ways:

they demonstrated the limits of scientific knowledge; how adaptable they were; and how vulnerable native species and the Tasmanian landscape were to the new arrivals. The lecture ends by outlining a range of critical assessments of acclimatisation's impact by the 1890s.



**Above:** Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow.

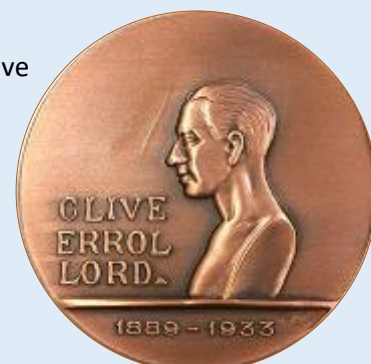
#### Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow

Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow taught Australian, Tasmanian, European and family history at the University of Tasmania until his retirement in June 2020. His research interests include all aspects of Tasmanian history, but he has had a longstanding focus on legal history, cultural history and health, urban and town planning history of Hobart and Launceston.

His books include: *Sanatorium of the South? Public Health and Politics in Hobart and Launceston 1875–1914* (1995) and (with Carey Denholm) *Dr Edward Swarbreck Hall: Colonial Medical Scientist and Moral Activist* (2016).

His most recent book to be published in March 2023 is *Look After The Missus and Kids: A History of Hobart Legacy 1923–2023*. He has completed a book manuscript called *Tasmanian Anzacs, Families and The Impact of World War One: Volume 1: The 12th and 52nd Battalions*.

Professor Petrow will be presented with the RST Clive Lord Memorial Medal for his outstanding research on Tasmanian history.



Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

## The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to a lecture by Dr Keith Hayes

### "Assessing the risks of eliminating malaria with gene drives"

at 3 pm on Sunday 2 April 2023. The lecture will be held at the Geology Lecture Theatre (Geo.211.LT), Earth Sciences, Geography Planning and Spatial Sciences Building, UTas, Clark Road, Sandy Bay.

Please register [using this link](#). Eventbrite registrations close at 2 pm on Saturday 1 April. The lecture will be recorded, but not live-streamed.

Admission is free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania. Non-members are welcome and donations are appreciated through our website or at the door. Suggested donation is \$6; \$4 for students and Friends of TMAG and QVMAG.

#### Abstract:

Synthetic gene drives cause significant deviations from Mendel's Law of Equal Segregation, enabling specific genes to increase in prevalence in populations of sexually reproducing organisms, even if these genes incur a fitness cost. In the laboratory, gene drives have suppressed caged populations of human malaria vector mosquitoes in less than 12 generations (about three months) raising the prospect of a powerful new genetic method for eliminating malaria from regions such as Africa where the disease kills more than half a million people each year, 80% of whom are children under five.

In this presentation, Dr Keith Hayes describes the methods used by his team to assess the environmental and human health risks associated with a strategy of staged releases of genetically modified mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, designed to culminate in the first field trials of gene-drive-modified mosquitoes to eliminate malaria vector populations at a continent-wide scale.

#### Biography:

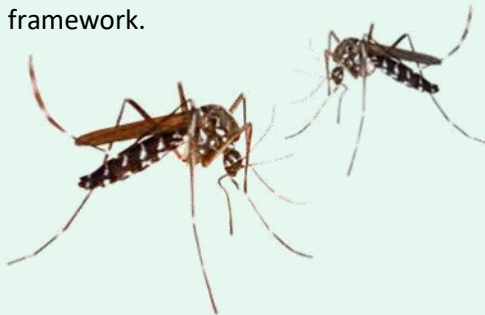
Dr Keith Hayes (pictured above and left) is a senior research scientist at CSIRO Data61, and leads the [Data61 Ecological and Environmental Risk Assessment \(DEERA\) team in the Hobart laboratories](#).

The team conducts probabilistic risk assessments, and supporting studies, typically for challenging problems across large spatio-temporal scales. Recent applications include [hazard analysis and risk assessments for genetic control of malaria vectors in Africa](#), cumulative risk assessments of the impacts of new coal resource developments on [water resources and water-dependent assets](#), and [risk assessments for the spread of antimicrobial resistance](#).

Dr Hayes recently assisted the Australian Federal Government to design a Monitoring Evaluation



Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for Australia's Marine Parks and is now leading a subsequent project to implement this framework.







RST Northern Branch invites you to a public lecture by

**Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM**

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

**Where:** Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk or via Zoom.

**When:** 1:30 pm Sunday 26 February 2023.

COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

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

[Register for Zoom webinar.](#)

### Abstract:

Naming things, an ancient human activity that enables us to make sense of our surroundings, carries a risk of distorting our perceptions of them. The success of the Linnaean system influenced attempts to label other phenomena, both natural and man-made. Some effects of this are illustrated through the speaker's interests in nosology and architectural history.

### Biography:

Dr Ratcliff (pictured left) is a senior consultant psychiatrist and a recognised authority on the social and stylistic history of architecture in Tasmania during the extended nineteenth century. He first delivered this lecture at Government House in 2022 after being presented with The Royal Society Medal by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

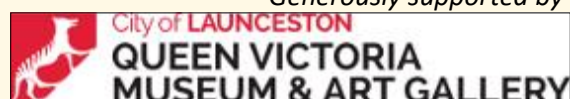


**Above:** The identification of style can be seen in the architecture of the Hobart Synagogue, designed by James Alexander Thomson who was influenced by the style of the ancient Egyptians, Napoleon Bonaparte's Commission and Baron Denon, and Thomas Hosmer Shepherd's engraving of JG Robinson's Egyptian Hall in Piccadilly, 1842.



**Above:** Her Excellency the Hon Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania with Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM.

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THE ROYAL  
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TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF KNOWLEDGE

## RST Northern Branch invites you to a public lecture by **Professor Jocelyn McPhie** **Complex Volcanic Eruptions**

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

**When:** **1:15 pm** Sunday 26 March 2023.

The lecture will commence at 1:30 pm following the Annual General Meeting.

COVID-19 vaccination and the wearing of face masks are highly desirable.

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

### **Abstract:**

The 2007 eruption of Piton de la Fournaise on Reunion Island was one of the largest for the past two centuries and remarkably complex, involving multiple events at different locations and contrasting eruption styles. Nevertheless, analysis of the eruption records and the products has revealed spatial and temporal connections among the different events and styles that were fundamentally controlled by the magma supply.



**Above:** Image from [triviakids.blogspot.com](http://triviakids.blogspot.com)

### **Biography:**

Professor Jocelyn McPhie (pictured at

left) is a volcanologist and for most of her career (1990 to 2015), she held an academic position at the University of Tasmania. 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 Royal Society of Tasmania in 2020 and President in 2022.

This lecture will be recorded but not live-streamed.

**Below:** Dramatic image from [www.earth.com](http://www.earth.com).



**Above:** Professor Jocelyn McPhie in the field.

City of LAUNCESTON  
**QUEEN VICTORIA  
MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**



## Congratulations Dr Sally Bryant AM

Congratulations to The Royal Society of Tasmania's Honorary Editor, Council member, and renowned Wildlife Scientist and Conservationist **Dr Sally Bryant**, on being made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2023 Australia Day Awards, for "significant service to wildlife and land conservation in Tasmania".

Sally has worked in many of Australia and New Zealand's wildest places focusing on threatened fauna mainly birds. Her conservation assessments of Tasmania's shorebirds, eastern ground parrot and forty-spotted pardalote have been foundational for three decades. In Tasmania, she has surveyed many of the remote offshore islands, including Macquarie Island, and was instrumental in establishing the Hamish Saunders Memorial Island Survey Program. At the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Sally was instrumental in protecting 11 permanent nature reserves and establishing long-term monitoring across 15,000 hectares. Two reserves had World Heritage Status and one reserve in the heart of Kingborough protected a critical colony of forty-spotted pardalotes.

In 1991, Sally authored the Forty-Spotted Pardalote National Recovery Plan for the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, which aimed to secure major colonies of the forty-spotted pardalote on private land, maintain or increase the amount of potential habitat available to the species and maintain or increase the populations at or above those recorded in 1991.

Sally has authored and co-authored numerous books, chapters, journal papers, technical reports and popular articles on conservation issues, including those for the Royal Society of Tasmania. She is an Adjunct Lecturer at U Tas, on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Ecological Management & Restoration, and has recently lectured for the Society of the plight of the forty-spotted pardalote.

Sally is probably best known for her popular ABC Radio wildlife talkback programs, which have been running since 1999.

**Left:** Forty-spotted Pardalote seen on Bruny Island.  
Image © Barry Baker



**Above:** Dr Sally Bryant AM in the field.



## Congratulations Joyce Mackey OAM

Congratulations to The Royal Society of Tasmania member, **Mrs Joyce Mackey**, on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2023 Australia Day Awards, for service to community history preservation.

Joyce is an Honorary Costume Curator for TMAG at Narryna, an 1830s merchant's house and collection that tells the story of early colonial life in Hobart. In 2016, Narryna received a National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant to undertake a significance and preservation-needs assessment of its nationally-significant costume collection. Over the winter of 2018, Joyce led volunteers in upgrading the cataloguing and photographic documentation of the collection as it was rehoused, using archival materials provided for by a second successful grant application.

Joyce now curates both the textiles and costumes collections at Narryna, arranging their exhibition at events such as the "Ashes to Ashes" exhibition held as Narryna's contribution to the Dark MOFO program of 2015.

Joyce is also a highly accomplished lace maker. In 2017, Joyce designed and made a mixed bobbin lace pattern placemat of Tasmania's floral emblem of blue-gum leaves and flowers against a lattice fence, which was

**Right:** Narryna mourning costumes as arranged by Joyce Mackey for the "Ashes to Ashes" exhibition.





presented as part of an Australian official anniversary gift to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Queen Margrethe II and Crown Prince Henrik of Denmark.

A beautiful lace bonnet, created in 2016 by Joyce to commemorate the memory of 1790's convict Mary Reibey, is now on permanent exhibition at Entally House in Hadsen.



**Left:** The exquisite lace bonnet created to honour the memory of convict Mary Reibey by Joyce Mackey, Costume Curator at Narryna Heritage Museum.

**Right:** A corset from the Narryna costume collection. Undergarments such as bodices, drawers, chemises, corsets, crinolines and bustles were fashioned with buttons, ribbons and fastenings and moulded by horsehair padding, whale-bone struts, steel hoops, wire mesh and firm stitching. Such constriction underpinned restriction, impaired health and opportunity.

**Far right:** A striped muslin day dress c. 1870 from the Narryna costume collection.



## 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:

- Please note the email address for making appointments to visit the library and for email queries about The Royal Society of Tasmania's Library Collection has been changed to **[RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au)**
- Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, 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.

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 appointments or queries, please contact **[RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au)**

**Janette Burke**, University Librarian, Collections,  
Library Services | Academic Division, University of Tasmania



## Some RST Christmas Dinner 2022 Photo Moments

**Right:** Magistrate Chris Webster AM delivered an amusing presentation, entitled "Fifty years in the law: A few chocolate frogs amongst the jelly", an instructive, informative and humorous lecture on his many years in the justice system as both a lawyer and a magistrate.

**Right:** Jill Webster. **Below:** (from left) Maureen Carswell of Launceston, Alison Parsons of Battery Point (standing) with Jill Webster of New Town.



**Right:** Kay Rodda of Battery Point.

**Below:** (from left) Margaret Malpas of Grove, Eva Meidl of Sandy Bay with Dianne Bye of Sandy Bay.



**Right:** Keith Anderson (left) in deep discussion with Jonathon Sprent.

**Below:** Mary Collins of West Hobart (left) with Helen Audsley of Old Beach.



**Right:** Shirley Thorne and Dr John Thorne AM with Marjorie Brennan, all of Sandy Bay.







**Left:** Susie and G. Graeme Riddoch of Battery Point.

**Below:** RST Council member John Williamson (left) converses with John Carswell of Launceston.



**Left:** (from left) Susan Owen and Helen Howarth, both of Lenah Valley.

**Below:** Anne Mackay-Smith (left) and Bernice Moody, both from Howrah.



**Above left:** John Volkman of Mt Nelson with Alison Watson of Acton. **Below right:** RST Honorary Solicitor ex officio, James Crotty conducts the raffle draw with Magistrate Chris Webster AM. The three separate prize-winners were: Alison Parsons, Robyn Loughhead, and Shirley Thorne, the latter winning a fabulous case of rare red wines.



**Above:** Peter Watson with Grady Koolhof of Geilston Bay.



## Recent RST Publications

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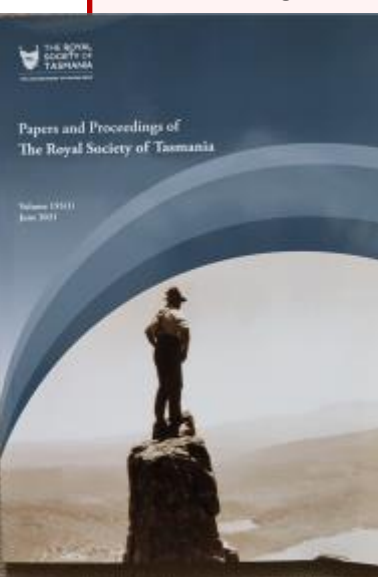
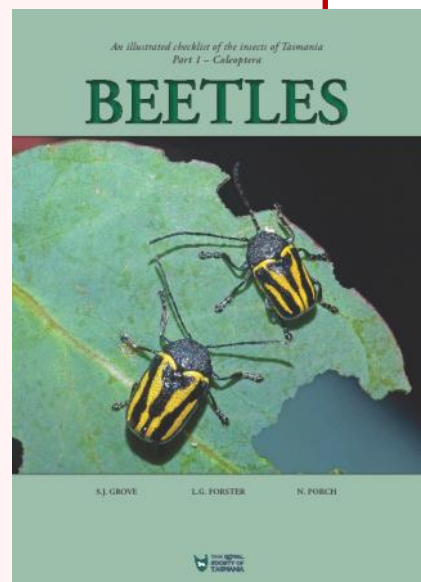
**RST Notebooks** featuring a choice of three cover images from the Society's Art Collection and the Special and Rare Book Collection are available (- see left). Beautifully bound and presented, these prestigious notebooks are ideal for meeting notes or creative writing, so why not buy yourself a couple or as gifts for others? \$25 each or \$22.50 member discount.

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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.](#)

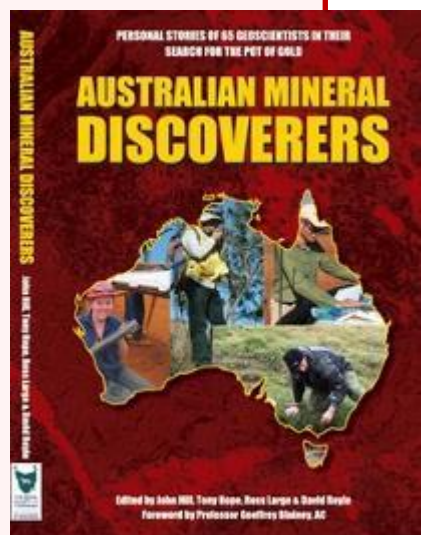


Following Volume 155(1) celebrating the RST Northern Branch centenary in June 2021, the RST Journal ***Papers and Proceedings Volume 155(2)*** (- see cover at left) features the transcripts of speakers at the historic *Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal people*, as well as a diverse range of scientific 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*** (pictured right). 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 non-member

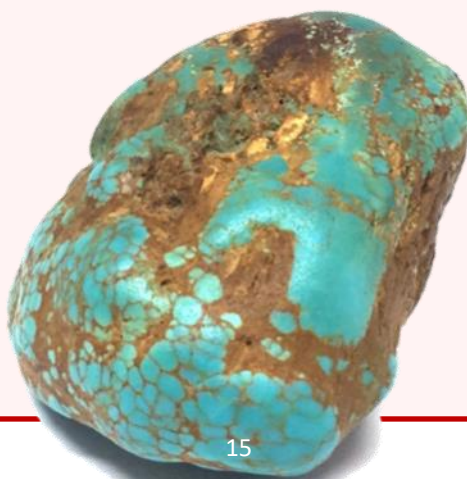
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## The Royal Society of Tasmania Office

The 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 Society contact:

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Hobart TAS 7001

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### Northern Branch contact:

Christine Beswick, Secretary:

0417 330 118

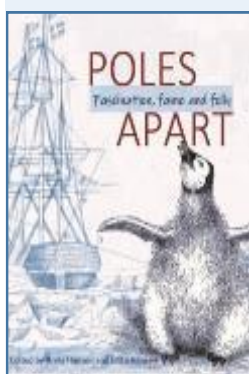
PO Box 47 Perth TAS 7300

Membership forms and renewals can either be posted to the post box (see above) clearly marked 'The 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.

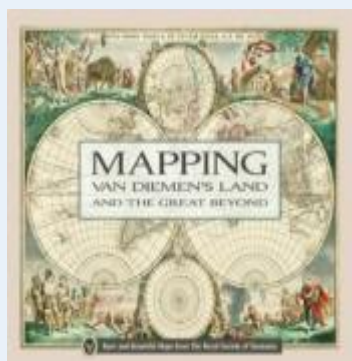
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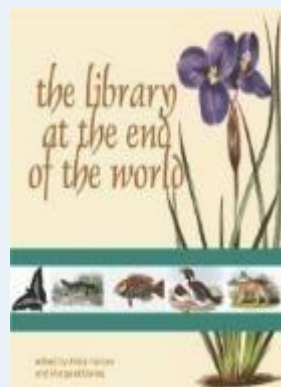
#### Poles Apart: Fascination, Fame and Folly

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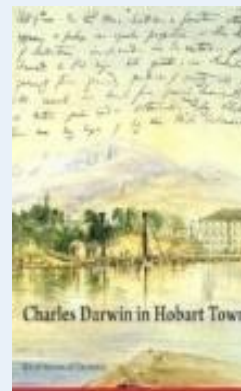
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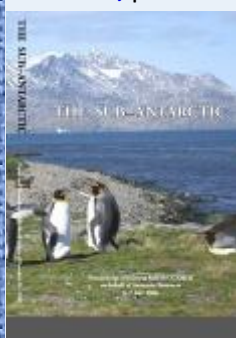


#### Papers and Proceedings

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.

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## RST Art Collection

The RST 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)

### John Skinner Prout (1805 – 1876)

#### *Tasmania Illustrated* – Part 3

This month's article will be the last piece about John Skinner Prout's *Tasmania Illustrated*.

John Skinner Prout travelled to the north of the state to sketch more material for his *Tasmania Illustrated* volumes. In an 1846 *Hobart Town Courier* article, it was reported that Prout and a 'party of gentlemen' had been on a sketching tour of the island and nearly 100 drawings had resulted from the expedition from Hobart to Launceston. A number of these sketches are now in The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection. Also included in the collection are drawings from other trips John Skinner Prout made around the island during his stay here.

Prout included two lithographs from this tour to the north in his *Illustrated Tasmania*, one featuring the Cataract Gorge near Launceston, and the other Ben Lomond from Fingal. Both were completed in January 1846.



## LOCAL.

**MR. J. S. PROUT.**—This highly-talented artist, and a party of gentlemen, have just returned from a sketching tour on the other side of the island. We have seen nearly a hundred of Mr. Prout's drawings of well-known spots between here and Launceston, and consider them equal, if not superior, to those already known to the public. We understand that he intends publishing another volume of his "*Tasmania Illustrated*," and if so, we are assured that it will meet with the success that has always crowned his previous works.

Left: *The Hobart Town Courier*, 4 February 1846, p. 2.



Right: *The Cataract, Launceston.*



Left: *Ben Lomond from Fingal V.D.L.*

#### Tasmanian Art in the 1830s and 1840s

Bernard Smith notes in *Australian Painting 1788–1970*:

*Another indication of the growth of colonial taste and patronage is to be found in the emergence of amateur art circles and the organisation of the first art exhibitions. In early Victorian England the ability of sketch in watercolours was an elegant accomplishment suited alike to ladies of fashion and gentlemen of taste. And among a small and select circle of Van Diemen's Land society, water-colour painting became quite fashionable.*



Indeed, Louisa Anne Meredith commented on this writing, 'landscape sketching and watercolour fever raged with extraordinary vehemence ... The art that Mr. Prout taught and practised so well at once became the fashion.' (*My Home in Tasmania*)

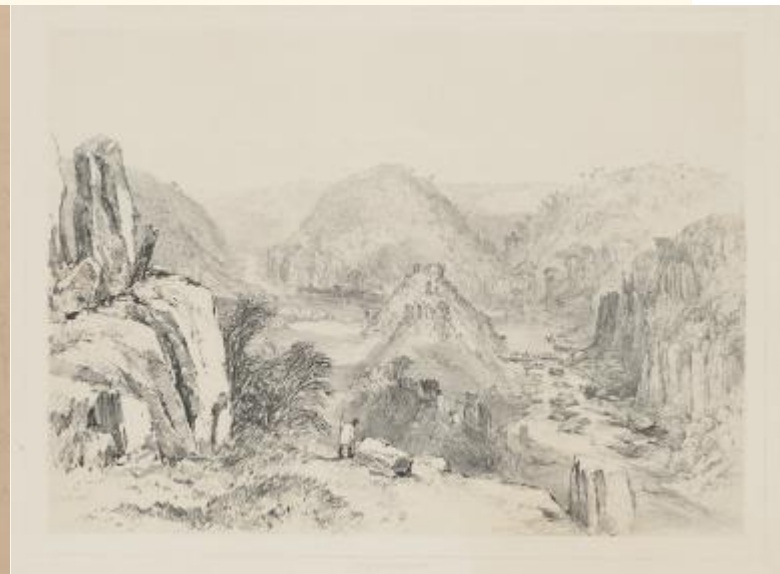
### The Watercolour Classes

Prout's arrival in Tasmania greatly stimulated amateur painters. He had a fine taste for the picturesque, particularly in rural subjects, and delighted in the effects of mist and mountain, and free renderings of sea and shore. He was a strong champion of the right of the artist to interpret freely rather than merely to imitate the scene before him. I'll discuss this a bit more at the end of this article.

Ron Radford and Jane Hylton in their catalogue for the Art Gallery of South Australia's exhibition *Australian Colonial Art 1800–1900*, wrote:

*Prout's precocious style was the most adventurous and innovative in Australia in the 1840s, his landscapes being immediately recognisable by the spontaneous vigour with which light and atmosphere are captured. An exponent of open-air sketching, as favoured by the later Impressionist artists, he frequently completed watercolour sketches outdoors.*

In the RST Art Collection, there is also the initial sketch (below, left) made by Prout on the trip to the north, which formed the basis for his later lithograph (below, right). In comparing these two images, one can see the influence of the picturesque in Prout's art; the inclusion of the figure in the foreground, for example.



### John Skinner Prout and Simpkinson de Wesselow

Bernard Smith in *European Vision and the South Pacific* wrote:

*In an account written for an English weekly periodical years later ['The Sketcher in Tasmania', Once a Week, 1 March 1862], Skinner Prout tells how he visited every point of interest in the environs of Hobart during the two years following his arrival there, but these were merely half-holiday excursions which did not fully satisfy his artistic longings. 'I pined to be out and away upon a real sketching tour', he wrote, 'to turn my back upon civilization and town life ... for the companionship of the woods, the mountains and the fields'.*

Prout found in Simpkinson de Wesselow – a naval officer stationed in VDL from 1844–1848 – a companion to join him on his longed-for sketching excursions. They had formed a close friendship when de Wesselow joined Prout's painting classes.

The Royal Society of Tasmania has a large collection of Simpkinson de Wesselow's sketches and watercolours from his time in Van Diemen's Land – and I'll write about his work in future articles – but for this piece, I want to explore the two artists working together.

As mentioned above, the RST Art Collection has the sketch that Prout used as the basis for his lithograph in *Tasmania Illustrated*. Included in the collection is also a sketch made of the same scene by Simpkinson de Wesselow. It is fascinating to see the two works together; to see the different styles and techniques of the two artists, but also to see how they viewed the same scene before them.



**Above:** John Skinner Prout.



**Above:** Simpkinson de Wesselow.

De Wesselow had some previous art training as a naval officer, where he had been taught to sketch a scene before him as it appeared, and, in comparing the two artworks, it is possible to see the small differences in detail between the naval observer and the picturesque-style painter.

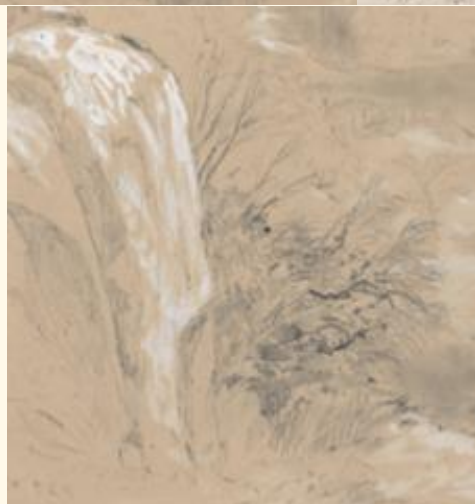


**Far left:** Prout moved – or inserted – a rock in the middle foreground (later adding the figure as well in the lithograph).

**Left:** But, I think, the biggest, most significant difference, is in the rocks of the rivulet.

De Wesselow's scattered, random stones seem to depict a more authentic representation of the landscape.

Both Prout and de Wesselow sketched the shrub near the large boulders on the left as rather a scrawny specimen with bare branches at the top. However, in Prout's lithograph, the shrub is a leafy, lively specimen— see below.



John Skinner Prout and Simpkinson de Wesselow went on many sketching trips together covering most of Tasmania, including Flinders Island, and even venturing to Victoria.

I'll write more on these trips and also feature Simpkinson de Wesselow in future articles.

#### Aside

In researching this article, I found the reference to the article Prout wrote for the *Once a Week* in 1862. Does anyone know of any letters or journals that Prout wrote while here in Tasmania, or about his stay here?

**Anita Hansen**



# Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

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



## Tours

Free tours for small groups are available on Fridays, 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 Highlights Tour: 1:30 pm Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**

## Long-term Exhibitions

**Left: *ningina tunapri***, TMAG's Tasmanian Aboriginal culture gallery will provide you with a rich, enlightening and inspiring experience. *ningina tunapri* means 'to give knowledge and understanding'.

The exhibition explores the journey of Tasmanian Aboriginal people and is a celebration of all Tasmanian Aboriginal generations.

**Right:** Tasmania has a unique geological history and hosts an unusual complement of plants and animals, each with its own story to tell. This exhibition explores these fascinating species and environments through the objects found in the State Collection.



## Left:

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[milaythina-tu:](#)  
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**Closing date:** 07-05-2023

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

**Our Office location is:**

19 Davey Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

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

Phone: +61 3 6165 7014

**Our mailing address is:**

GPO Box 1166, Hobart TAS 7001