



A Message from the President

Dear Members,

The 2023 **AGM and lecture** (6 March) went ahead as planned, thanks to a team comprising: Marley Large, David Wilson, Bronwyn Beechey, Julie Rimes, John Williamson, Roxanne Steenbergen and Imogen Wegman. Returning Officer and Past President, Mary Koolhof, conducted the election of office bearers and Councillors. We have a new Vice President, Associate Professor Julie Rimes and new Honorary Treasurer, Dr Sonia Shimeld.

The open **Council positions** have been filled by Chel Bardell, Professor Richard Coleman and Roxanne Steenbergen, and the new Student Councillor is Evelyn Lambeth. The list of 2023 office bearers and Councillors is provided in this Newsletter on p. 3. Unfortunately, we are still without an Honorary Secretary. The duties of this position are being shared among Office Manager Bronwyn Beechey, Vice President Julie Rimes, John Williamson and myself.

On Sunday 26 March, the **Northern Branch** held its AGM, electing the Northern Branch Management Committee for 2023. David Morris will take over from Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM as President of the Northern Branch Management Committee. Members of the Northern Branch Management Committee are listed in this Newsletter on p.3.

The **RST committees** for 2023 (see p. 4) were approved at the April Council meeting. The committees are the means by which the RST achieves the goal of advancing knowledge and are therefore a critical part of the Society. We owe immense thanks to committee chairs and members who graciously volunteer their time and expertise. You will notice that the Bursaries Committee is bereft of both an effective Chair and of members. I have had no luck recruiting a Chair or members of this committee, the main role of which is to promote and allocate bursaries to secondary school students attending scholarly events. If you have an interest in this committee and the time to spare, please contact me.

The last step in settling on the **Loan Agreement** between the RST and TMAG is now imminent. The two sides have reached agreement, and the final version of the agreement is being produced ready for signing. The RST Art Collection is held in TMAG's Print Room, under the care of Senior Technical Officer, Paul Westbury. The Print Room temperature, humidity and security are optimum for the long-term preservation of the collection.

The **RST Office** has undergone a transformation over the last few months, thanks to TMAG Director, Mary Mulcahy, and TMAG Shop Manager, Matt Spencer. Mary made space available for the RST in the TMAG store at Moonah, allowing removal of around a hundred boxes of books from the RST Office. Matt carried them from the Ante Room to the TMAG van then from the TMAG van to the store.

In addition, all the filing cabinets and files have been sorted, creating a level of order not seen in the office for some years (sadly, it won't last.....). I am most grateful to Eddy Steenbergen and David Wilson who dismantled the unwanted

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bookshelves and moved other heavy shelves and filing cabinets.

Left: Two images of David Wilson (blue shirt) and Eddie Steenbergen kindly dismantling the unwanted shelving.

I would like to welcome the two **new members** who have signed up since the last Newsletter – Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow and Professor Kemal Yildirim.

Best regards,

Prof Jocelyn McPhie,
President

2022 Clive Lord Memorial Medallist Lecture

In March this year, we were privileged to hear a lecture delivered by the 2022 Clive Lord Memorial Medal winner, Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow (pictured right), who spoke of Tasmania’s nineteenth century experience of ‘Acclimatisation’ involving the importing of live British animals and birds. He noted the important role played by the Acclimatisation Society and its enthusiasm for the introduction of pheasants, deer, starlings and sparrows, for both nostalgic and sporting purposes, by British immigrants to Tasmania. Professor Petrow explained how adaptable introduced animals and birds were, but how vulnerable native species were to the new arrivals.



Clive Lord (1889–1933) was an energetic and learned man, who became the Secretary of The Royal Society of Tasmania from 1918 until his death. He championed a successful campaign for a wildlife reserve at Macquarie Island and was the driving force behind the passing of the *Animals and Birds Protection Act* in 1928. As winner of the Clive Lord Memorial medal, it was most fitting therefore that Professor Petrow’s lecture focused on the pressures that Tasmania’s vulnerable species have faced.

Professor Stefan Petrow has contributed significantly to Tasmanian History both in his own vast research and also in the manner in which he has supported so many others studying and writing about Tasmanian history – his knowledge, guidance and generosity have assisted students and fellow academics, and our craft is the better for it. His lecture demonstrated both the quality and breadth of his research and that he is indeed a worthy recipient of the 2022 Clive Lord Memorial medal.

A recording of Professor Petrow’s lecture is available on the RST’s [YouTube channel at *A Very Great Idea? Acclimatisation in Tasmania, 1862–1895.*](#)

John Williamson

Left: Emeritus Professor Stefan Petrow with RST President Prof Jocelyn McPhie after receiving the 2022 Clive Lord Memorial Medal.



2023 RST Council

Office Bearers:

President: Prof Jocelyn McPhie
Vice President: Associate Prof Julie Rimes
Immediate Past President: Mary Koolhof
Honorary Secretary: vacant
Honorary Treasurer: Dr Sonia Shimeld

Northern Branch Representatives:

David Morris (Northern Branch President)
Neil MacKinnon (Northern Branch Treasurer)

Councillors:

Councillor – Chel Bardell
Councillor – Emeritus Prof Richard Coleman
Councillor – Dr Anita Hansen
Councillor – Distinguished Prof Ross Large AO
Councillor – Roxanne Steenbergen
Councillor – John Williamson
Early Career Researcher – Dr Imogen Wegman
Student Councillor – Evelyn Lambeth

Ex Officio Councillors:

TMAG Representative – Mary Mulcahy (Director of Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery)
Honorary Editor – Dr Sally Bryant AM
Honorary Librarian – Janette Burke
Honorary Solicitor – James Crotty



Above: RST Student Council Member Evelyn Lambeth (left) with RST Vice President Assoc Prof Julie Rimes.

RST Northern Branch Management Committee 2023

Office Bearers:

President: David Morris
Immediate Past President: Dr Eric Ratcliff OAM
Honorary Treasurer: Neil MacKinnon
Honorary Secretary: Christine Beswick

Committee Members:

Dr Lois Beckwith
Dr Frank Madill AM
Melanie Morris
Dr Martin Renilson
Lynette Ross
Dr Liza Snow
Robin Walpole
Shane Fitzgerald, Director of Creative Arts and Cultural Services, QVMAG Director, ex officio
Andrew Parsons, Honorary Librarian, ex officio



Above: The Northern Branch meets at QVMAG, Inveresk, Launceston.

RST Committees 2023

Aboriginal Engagement Committee

Chair: Prof Jocelyn McPhie
Dr Sally Bryant AM
Mary Koolhof
David Morris
David Wilson

Art Collection Committee

Chair: Distinguished Prof Ross Large AO
Marley Large
Honorary Curator: Dr Anita Hansen

Art Fund Raising Committee

Chair: Mary Koolhof
James Crotty
Distinguished Prof Ross Large AO
Assoc Prof Julie Rimes
Lorraine Polglase

Bursaries Committee

Acting Chair: Prof Jocelyn McPhie

Events Committee

Chair: Assoc Prof Julie Rimes
Evelyn Lambeth
Distinguished Prof Ross Large AO
Dr Imogen Wegman
John Williamson

Honours and Awards Committee

Chair: Prof Richard Coleman
Prof Jocelyn McPhie
Dr Eva Meidl
Distinguished Prof Jim Reid
Prof Brian Yates
Prof Jonathan Sprent (Medical Sciences Consultant)

Membership Committee

Chair: Roxanne Steenbergen
Chel Bardell
Dr John Thorne AM

Publications Committee

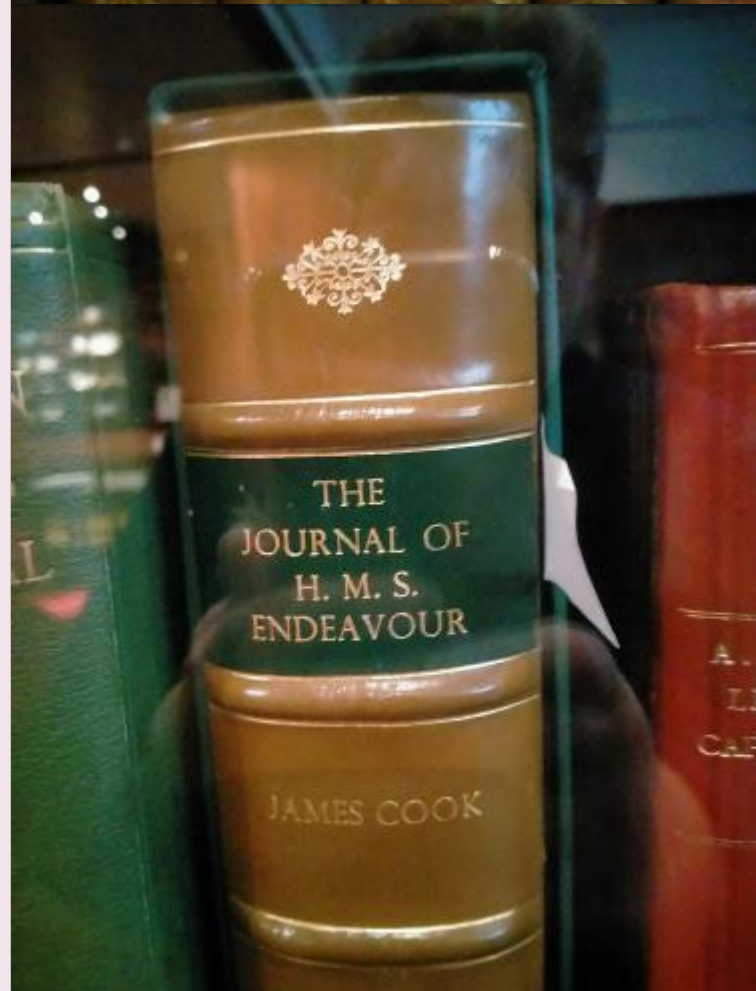
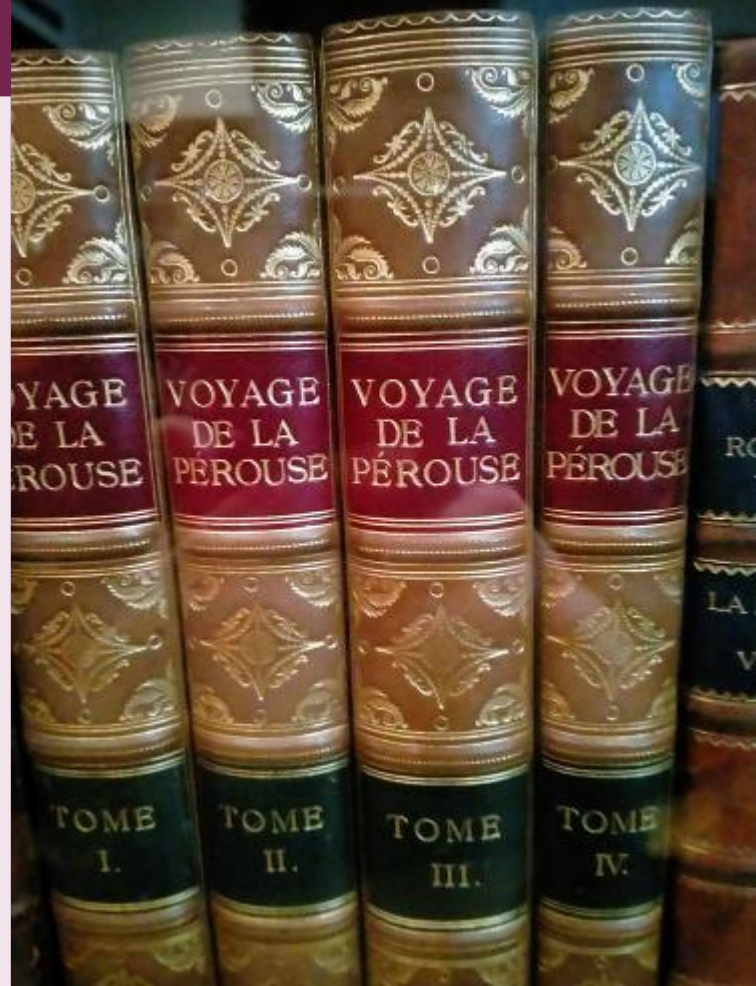
Chair: Dr Sally Bryant AM
Chel Bardell
Dr Margaret Davies OAM
David Wilson

Publicity

Chel Bardell

The RST Foundation Committee

Chair: Neil MacKinnon
Tony Culberg
Dr John Thorne AM
Dr Sonia Shimeld – RST Treasurer





THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

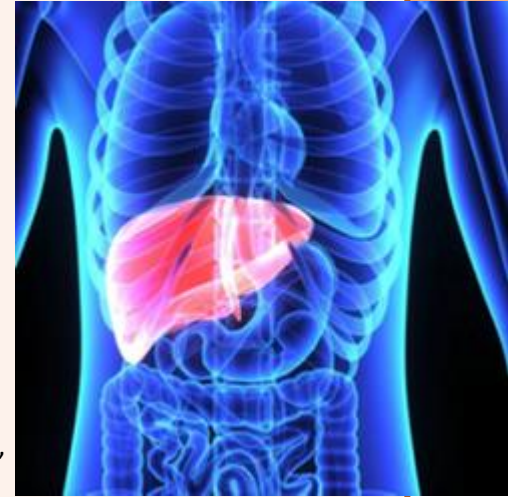
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

RST Northern Branch invites you to a public lecture by **Professor Nicholas Shackel** **Liver disease: the good, the bad, the ugly**

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

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 23 April 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.

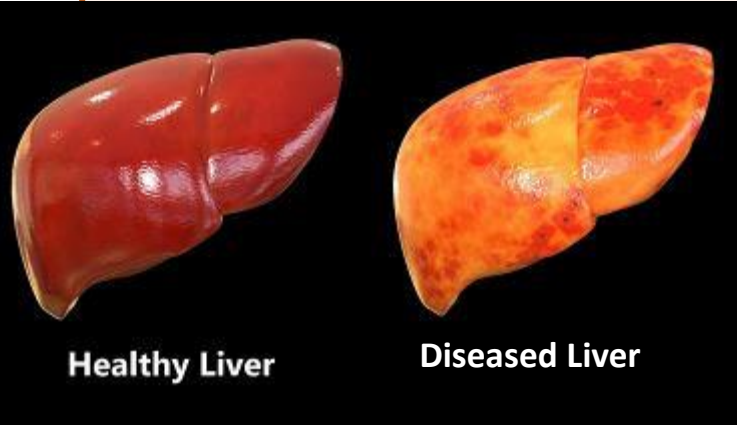
Abstract:

Recent advances in the treatment of liver disease have seen previously incurable conditions effectively treated. However, the number of cases of fatty liver disease, hepatitis and liver cancer are increasing and predicted to do so for decades.

Despite recent breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment, we are seeing increasingly more Australians die from liver disease especially in disadvantaged groups.

Biography:

Professor Nickolas Shackel is a specialised hepatologist managing all aspects of adult liver disease. He has both a medical degree and a PhD with a track record in both basic and applied research, having trained at both the Australian National Liver Transplant Unit and Duke University in the USA. Prof Shackel has interests in the diagnosis and management of liver cancer, importance of nutrition in cirrhosis and the non-invasive assessment of liver disease severity.



Above: Image: healthworks.my

Generously supported by



Above: Image: vecteezy.com



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

RST Northern Branch invites you to a public lecture by

Dr Valeriya Komyakova

Artificial structures as marine habitats: challenges and opportunities

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 28 May 2023.

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

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



Abstract:

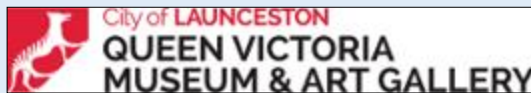
With close to half of the world’s population residing in coastal areas, humans rely on marine environments for a range of services. These are supported by an extensive artificial infrastructure from purposely designed reefs, to piers and marinas.

All marine infrastructure acts as habitat regardless of its primary role. The risks and opportunities associated with marine construction, including artificial reefs and future blue-sky possibilities, are explored.

Biography:

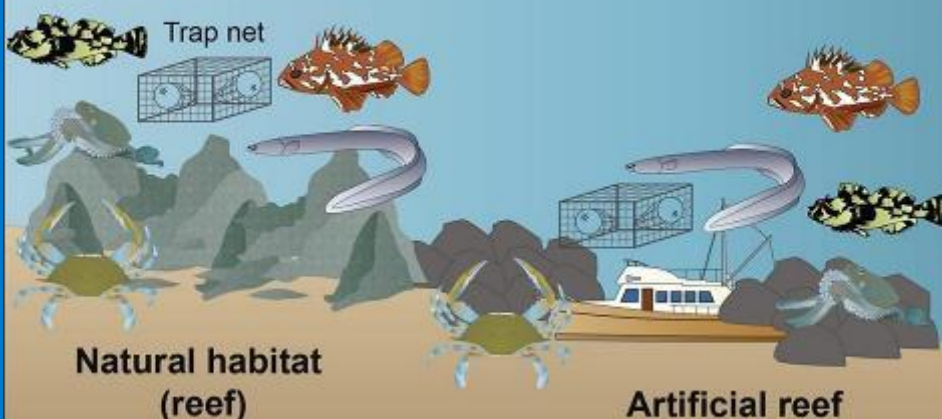
Dr Valeriya Komyakova (pictured right) is an environmental scientist who aims to understand and manage human impacts on the marine environment with a strong solution development focus. She has over 15 years’ experience in the field of fish-habitat associations. Her work was the first to demonstrate potential ecological trap formation due to artificial reef deployments and pathways towards mitigation through improved reef design options.

Generously supported by



Yellow Sea, China

Nearshore waters (9-11 m deep)



Left: Depiction of fish-habitat associations. Image: Wu et al., 2019.

Knowing our past: truth-telling in science

Science Meets Parliament (SMP) is an annual Australian event connecting STEM experts, policymakers and federal parliamentarians. In 2023, SMP took place in Canberra from 7–23 March and involved 528 delegates, 68 speakers and 64 meetings with scientists and parliamentarians. There was a strong online component, and The Royal Society of Tasmania was invited to take part in the session ‘Knowing our past: truth-telling in science’.

As our President was scheduled to be working overseas in a remote area, I was asked to represent the Society in this panel discussion. The panel (see image at right) was chaired by Yawuru epidemiologist Dr Kalinda Griffiths, with other speakers Quandamooka mathematician Prof Chris Matthews and Mr Mike Flattley, CEO of The Royal Society of Victoria. The aim of the session was to share reflections on how to approach truth-telling about the history of science’s relationship with Indigenous peoples, and why it’s important to know our past and be able to talk about it with clarity and honesty.

An official round-up was circulated each day of SMP, and this is how the panel discussion was summarised:

“... then it was into a powerful discussion on truth-telling in science.”

STA board member and Quandamooka mathematician Professor Chris Matthews said this work was deeply intertwined with “... undoing the damage of the original doctrine of terra nullius – which did not see Aboriginal people as people.”

Session chair Dr Kalinda Griffiths reminded us to remember the vast load on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – and urged non-Indigenous people to step into the space and carry the work with a deep awareness of that load.

The Royal Society of Tasmania immediate Past President Mary Koolhof (pictured in the top left of the image above) reminded us that truth-telling was a process of humbling ourselves, deep listening and understanding – and of building trust: “... listening provides the platform for change.”

The Royal Society of Victoria CEO Mike Flattley: “What truth-telling means to me is facing the past... that can evoke shame, sorrow and anger, but settlers need to understand the past so we can atone for the wrongs and understand those legacies in the present.”

There was considerable interest in the work of the RST in truth-telling, and a great deal of respect for the process undertaken. One of the most important steps in this process was the delivery of the [Apology to Tasmanian Aboriginal People](#) in 2021.

Newer members of the Society may be interested to know that one of the first steps in the Society’s journey towards truth-telling took place in 2003 with the sponsoring of research into the work of The Royal Society of Tasmania in relation to Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the nineteenth century.

It was a privilege to represent the Society at this event and to develop deeper understanding of the process of truth-telling and its importance.

More information about Science Meets Parliament can be found [at this link](#).

Mary Koolhof
Past President
The Royal Society of Tasmania

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RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

Truth-telling: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia’s history.

Telling the truth about our history not only brings to light colonial conflict and dispossession, but also acknowledges the strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures.

Truth-telling has been central to reconciliation since the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation began its work 30 years ago. As the *Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation* made clear:

Our nation must have the courage to own the truth, to heal the wounds of its past so that we can move on together at peace with ourselves.



Above: Tasmanian Aboriginal leader and lawyer, Michael Mansell. (Photo: Luke Bowden)

Advance Notice

The Royal Society of Tasmania invites members to a lecture by **Tasmanian Aboriginal leader and lawyer, Michael Mansell**

at 3:00 pm on Sunday 2 July 2023 at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay, Hobart.

Free admission

Michael will explore contemporary issues facing the Tasmanian Aboriginal community at the local, state and national level. Registration and other details will be available in the next Newsletter.

VALE – John McLeod Hunn AM

28 March, 1928 – 26 March, 2023

In the Australia Day Honours of 2003, Dr Hunn was specially recognised by the people of Australia, becoming a Member of the Order of Australia. The citation reads: “For service to medicine, particularly in developing the burns treatment unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital, to medical education, and to the community.” There was so much more to John Hunn than those words indicate.

Following medical training at the University of Melbourne, John served the people of Wynyard for ten years as a general practitioner and it is there that he developed a full sense of working for and within a tight, friendly community. He then journeyed to Edinburgh where he completed his surgical training. Next followed his outstanding work moving the developing burns unit in our Health Department to national prominence.

John Hunn was much more than his professional life as is well recognised in his sailing firstly the “Storm Bird” out of the Derwent Sailing Squadron and then “Atilla”. It was about this time that I began my association with John as I was then Honorary Secretary of the Society. John’s wry and persistent humour is shown in his recognition of his surname combined with his next wonderful yacht, “Atilla” (- a pun on Attila the Hun and a tiller on a yacht).

On the Society’s Council, John expressed a vision for the Society to be more “in the community” and to share our built-up wisdom and knowledge. At the time he was President, we initiated the series of “Royal Society Winter Lectures” and they were a success from the beginning. The University welcomed us with open arms and I feel that was in large part to the esteem they held our President, then Professor John Hunn. We attracted strong presenters, advertised widely and had outstanding attendance. A sure testament to John reading the community and sharing the Society’s abundant resources and contacts.

In January 2008, Dr Hunn and I signed the Executed Deed with the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. This was the culmination of about two years of steady, sometimes difficult negotiation. As I was with John at every meeting and then with every word, comma, phrase and meaning, I saw him at close quarters and at his best. He was diligent and fair but with the Society’s interest and history always paramount. I saw in John Hunn a gentle man with determination, respect and fairness as we tried to uphold the history of the Society while looking positively to the future.

In conclusion, I must record that The Royal Society of Tasmania is honoured to have had John Hunn as its President – he served with the respect of a very wide, diverse community and brought to the Society a new sense of its distinctive place in the world.

Dr John G Thorne AM



RST Mid-Winter Dinner

The President and Council of The Royal Society of Tasmania warmly invite members and friends to our annual Mid-Winter Dinner and lecture by

Dr Shasta Henry

Future Shock – or not!

at 5:30 for 6:00pm on Thursday, 8 June 2023.

The Dinner and lecture will be held at the
Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay.



The lecture will be followed by a two-course meal, including a vegetarian option. A 'welcome drink' is included in the ticket price. Drinks will also be available for purchase from the bar.

[Please register using this link](#) and return it by Thursday 1 June 2023.

Email to: admin@rst.org.au or post to: The Royal Society of Tasmania, GPO 1166, Hobart TAS 7001

Our guest speaker, Dr Shasta Henry (pictured left) is the previous The Royal Society of Tasmania Student Councillor and science communicator for Melbourne-based think-tank, Future Crunch.

Shasta will give us a future's perspective that will explore the Adaptability Quotient, the new IQ, which is the trait that makes humans better than robots. AQ is the measure of how skilled individuals are in making intentional change in an environment that is evolving at speed. According to the *Harvard Business Review*, it is the new competitive advantage.

Shasta is a recent graduate from the University of Tasmania. She is an entomologist and science communicator. Her doctorate focused on the long-term impacts of fire on the invertebrates of the Wilderness World Heritage Area as well as insect taxonomy.

As a communicator, Shasta has presented in a number of different forums around Australia, including speaking as a Young Tassie Scientist, on [ABC radio and at the TEDx Hobart 2022 conference](#).



Above: Image: bfm.my

Left: Image: ©natalieftrato



Bursary

Bursaries Available for Tasmanian Secondary School Students

Attention all secondary school teachers and students! The Royal Society of Tasmania has a generous legacy initiated by the late Dr Peter Smith to assist students to attend national and international events outside Tasmania. The fund has been accumulating over the past few Covid years with its attendant decrease in opportunities for travel. We remind members that this opportunity exists in the details below. Please feel free to bring it to the attention of colleagues and professional associations involved in secondary education.

The amount of each bursary may be up to \$1000.

The bursaries are one way in which The Royal Society of Tasmania achieves the aim of advancing knowledge at the same time as supporting the youth of Tasmania.

Bursaries have, in the past, been offered in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering. In 2019, the bursary program was broadened to also support students selected through a competitive process for international events in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

Application process:

Students should send a written application including:

- ◆ Name and contact details of the applicant, the name of the school attended by the applicant and the name of the event.
- ◆ A brief description of the summer school or event they have been selected to attend, including location, dates and costs.
- ◆ A copy of the recommendation from the Australian selectors for the event or activity they were chosen to attend.
- ◆ A concise statement (<200 words), written by the student, about their goals and aspirations and a short CV (maximum two pages).
- ◆ A signed statement endorsing the application by a senior staff member of their school, including their contact details (email and phone).

There is no closing date or applications, as applications are considered on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Youth ANZAAS*:

Students accepted for Youth ANZAAS are eligible to apply for a bursary.

Send applications to:

Prof Jocelyn McPhie,
Acting Chair, RST Bursaries Committee
j.mcphie@utas.edu.au



RST Lecture, Sunday 2 April 2023

Dr Keith Hayes:

Assessing the risks of eliminating malaria with gene drives

Dr Keith Hayes, a senior research scientist and risk analyst at CSIRO, has performed something of a miracle. Dr Hayes (pictured right) was our guest lecturer for the most recent RST lecture and, to a small but enthusiastic audience, he managed to clearly and cogently explain the complex and contested issue of 'gene drives', an approach to disease control that falls under the broader banner of genetic engineering and 'synthetic biology'.



Malaria is a serious and often fatal disease caused by a parasite, *Plasmodium*. In Africa, the disease is spread by *Anopheles* mosquitoes and a very high percentage of those killed by the disease are children under the age of five. Dr Hayes explained that:

- (a) only female mosquitoes bite, have a blood meal and then can pass on malaria, and
- (b) males do not bite and do not therefore carry or transmit malaria.

The key to a gene drive is being able to change the DNA of the female mosquitoes in a way that these changes are inherited by almost all of their offspring. Change is accomplished through the use of an enzyme known as Cas9 which can cut DNA in order to interrupt or even replace specific gene sequences aided by guiding sequences (developed from CRISPR sequences found in many species of bacteria and archaea) which identify where DNA can be cut. In this context, the process is deliberately designed to make changes to the genetic structure of the DNA such that female mosquitoes have greatly reduced fertility or produce only male offspring which do not transmit malaria (as they do not have blood meals).

There are many ways that malaria can be controlled but they all involve combinations of changing human behaviour and/or significant costs to the affected communities, and hence, they can be difficult to successfully maintain in continental Africa. The gene drive technique is independent of these two factors. However, this approach is a potentially serious manipulation of the DNA of a species and is attended by some potential risks.

A formal Risk Assessment is the cutting-edge work being completed by Dr Hayes and his team at the CSIRO Data 61 group. The Gates Foundation, which has as one of its worthy goals the eradication of malaria worldwide, has funded the CSIRO group to carry out modelling to identify environmental and/or genetic risks through research grants administered by the United States Foundation for National Institutes of Health.

We are lucky to have authorities of Dr Hayes' calibre to explain this research that is at the forefront of medical science.

You can view [Dr Hayes' presentation at this link](#).

John Williamson



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Dr Keith Hayes, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO

Assessing the risks of eliminating malaria with gene drives

twitter.com/RoyalSocTas
facebook.com/RoyalSocietyTas
rst.org.au

2 April 2023

Left: Image from vox.com



The Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection

The generous donation to QVMAG of the fifth largest butterfly collection in Australia was sudden and unexpected leaving QVMAG having to rise to the challenge of appropriately housing the new acquisition. To assist, the Northern Branch embraced our long, close association with QVMAG and provided funds for a storage cabinet as part of its centenary celebrations in 2021.

The Lambkin-Knight Butterfly collection comprises over 17,000 butterflies and moths collected by Trevor Lambkin and Ian Knight over the past 50 years representing species from eastern Australia reaching from Torres Strait to Hobart. Including many hundreds of species, some extremely rare and some that

Above: Part of the Lambkin-Knight Butterfly Collection. Image courtesy of David Maynard, former Senior Curator Natural Sciences QVMAG.

are now extinct, it is an important and prestigious part of Australia's national research infrastructure.

Housing the butterflies is an ongoing project and the Northern Branch have committed to paying for a second cabinet to further the cause. Although thousands of butterflies are now at QVMAG, there are many more to be sent. In particular, some of the larger butterflies such as the birdwings are still to arrive.

The specialised cabinets are designed for long-term storage and are being sourced from the mainland at a current cost of \$3,500 each.

The Northern Branch is still seeking your support with donations to reach their goal. If you are interested, please send cheques made out to the Royal Society of Tasmania Northern Branch and post to:

The Treasurer
 Royal Society of Tasmania Northern Branch
 PO Box 390
 Newstead 7250

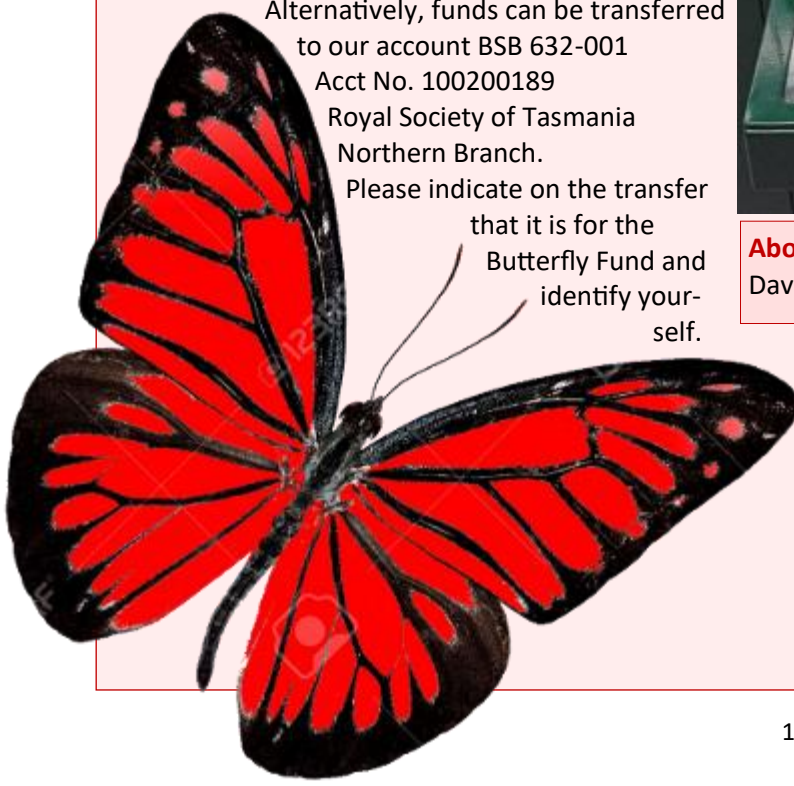
Alternatively, funds can be transferred to our account BSB 632-001 Acct No. 100200189 Royal Society of Tasmania Northern Branch.

Please indicate on the transfer that it is for the Butterfly Fund and identify yourself.



Above: One of the new storage cabinets. Image courtesy of David Maynard, former Senior Curator Natural Sciences QVMAG.

If there are any problems, please contact the Northern Branch Treasurer, Neil MacKinnon, directly on 0408 329 322.





Art Collection Update – Cultural Heritage Grant

In October 2022, The Royal Society of Tasmania was fortunate to receive \$6500 from the National Library of Australia's Cultural Heritage Grants to go towards defraying some of the costs involved with the care, interpretation, and understanding of the RST Art Collection.

In my role as Honorary Curator of the RST Art Collection, I report to the National Library on progress of the grants. The first report is due at the end of April, so I thought that I would also report to you, our members, on the progress to date. We received funding in three categories: Significance Assessment, Conservation Assessment, and Cataloguing Software for the collection.

Significance Assessment

Why a Significance Assessment? The Collections Council of Australia has produced a document that outlines the meanings and importance of knowing the significance of a collection. They explain it thus: *'Significance' refers to the values and meanings that items and collections have for people and communities. Significance helps unlock the potential of collections, creating opportunities for communities to access and enjoy collections, and to understand the history, cultures and environments of Australia.*

They go on to say: *Australian collections are the memory bank of the nation and a key to its future. They embody the people, history, cultures, science and environment of Australia, and they show the creativity of Australians in all dimensions. Collections give a sense of our place in the world, and explain how the land and nation have evolved.*

With the help of the funds the Society received, we have employed the services of an experienced assessor to review the RST Art Collection. The project is running to schedule and will be finalised by the end of October – the date specified by the grant criteria.

Conservation Assessment

Why a Conservation Assessment? The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material states: *A conservation assessment plan should be the first step in the process of conserving objects and collections for the future. Ideally, the conservation plan is used by those with responsibilities for objects and/or collections to help organisational planning. The plan needs to address methodically, all issues affecting the conservation of an object or collection including threats or risks to the object or collection. This should result in a prioritised set of recommendations or actions and suggested strategies for achieving them.*

The Royal Society of Tasmania has employed the services of a qualified art conservator to undertake the Conservation Assessment of the RST Art Collection with the help of the funds provided in the Cultural Heritage Grant. This will help to determine the best way to ensure the conservation needs of the collection are met.

One requirement of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, where the collection is housed, is that items in the RST Art Collection be transferred to new Solander storage boxes to be purchased by the Society before the assessment can be started. These boxes have now been ordered and should arrive at the end of April, when the assessment can commence.

Cataloguing Software

The Cultural Heritage Grant will allow the Society to purchase museum standard cataloguing software for the RST Art Collection. Cataloguing is an essential part of managing a collection. Important activities such as research, interpretation, conservation, risk management, exhibition development and publications are dependent on detailed and up-to-date collection information.

Collections management software helps museums, art galleries, and other businesses with large collections of art objects or antiquities monitor and maintain said collections. For a museum or art gallery, it is important to have a record of each piece in the collection that contains its location and other pertinent information, such as how it was obtained or its conservation or restoration status.

Collections management software enables these institutions to digitise records, making it much easier to search for information about specific objects quickly and update that information when needed.

The software program needed has been assessed and we are now in the process of gathering the material required to populate the program.

Dr Anita Hansen

Honorary Curator, The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection



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

The Amateur Tradition: Documenting Place Elizabeth Hudspeth (1820 – 1857)

Charles Henry Theodore Costantini, Paris-born surgeon, was transported to Australia twice. After some time in New South Wales, he was given a pardon and returned to England. Shortly after returning, he was found guilty of theft and transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1827, where his skills as an artist as well as a surgeon were employed.

Above: *Elizabeth Hudspeth*, CHT Costantini (1803–1860), 1834. (private collection)

On 14 March 1834, he received his freedom and was employed as a medical assistant to Dr John Maul Hudspeth, Elizabeth's father, at Jericho. Around 1857, Costantini left Tasmania; by mid-1858 he was in Hawaii,

where he died in October 1860.

It is possible that he taught Elizabeth some painting skills while he was employed by her father. But it must be remembered that her father was also an artist and would have encouraged her to draw and paint. The Royal Society of Tasmania Library Collections include Elizabeth Hudspeth's father's journals from his whaling days in the Arctic. They are beautifully illustrated. They will form the basis for another article for this Newsletter later.

Elizabeth Hudspeth (1820–1857)

Elizabeth Hudspeth is another of the often overlooked women amateur artists of the early European history of Tasmania.

As Joan Kerr, in her essay in honour of Geoffrey Thomas Stillwell (Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts) when discussing a general lack of recognition of early colonial female artists, wrote: *Women miniaturists and sentimental botanical and natural history painters were at the bottom of the artistic ladder in the nineteenth century and they remain there today.*

Later, when referring specifically to Sarah Ann Fogg and Elizabeth Hudspeth: *Such women neither modify nor confirm established myths; they simply have no place in our art histories.*

But, we owe so much of our knowledge and understanding of our early history to the very same women who are neglected today. Their recording of everyday lives and activities gives an insight into the minutiae of life in the early days of European settlement; the difficulties of living so far from family and friends; the difficulties of dealing with the unfamiliar landscape and surroundings; or making a home in a new land so different from their homeland.

Sailing to Van Diemen's Land

Elizabeth Hudspeth led an amazing, and at times tragic, life. She was born on 19 September 1820 at Bowsden, Northumberland, the eldest child of Dr John Maule and Mary Hudspeth.

At an early age, John Hudspeth was apprenticed to a doctor as was the custom. After completing his apprenticeship, he moved to London, finally receiving his Certificate of Competency from Sir Ashley Cooper at the age of 20. Hudspeth became a surgeon on the whaler *Inverness* and visited Greenland, Davis Strait and Hudson Bay, before taking up private practice at Bowsden. By now, the Napoleonic Wars were over and competition from the arrival of a number of naval doctors made it difficult to earn a living. The Hudspeths decided to emigrate to Van Diemen's Land.

When the Hudspeths emigrated, Elizabeth was left with relatives in England in 1822. She joined the family at their property 'Bowsden', at Jericho, Van Diemen's Land years later in 1831.

On her voyage to Van Diemen's Land, Elizabeth fell and injured her leg, which was amputated by her surgeon father shortly after her arrival. What a dreadful beginning for her – to be left behind when her parents emigrated; to sail on her own; to be reunited when she was eleven-years-old; and then to suffer the injury to her leg.



BEN LOMOND, FROM GREENHILL.
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Left: *Ben Lomond from Greenhill, Van Diemen's Land*, hand-coloured lithograph.

Below left: *View on the Derwent*, hand-coloured lithograph.

The Lithographs

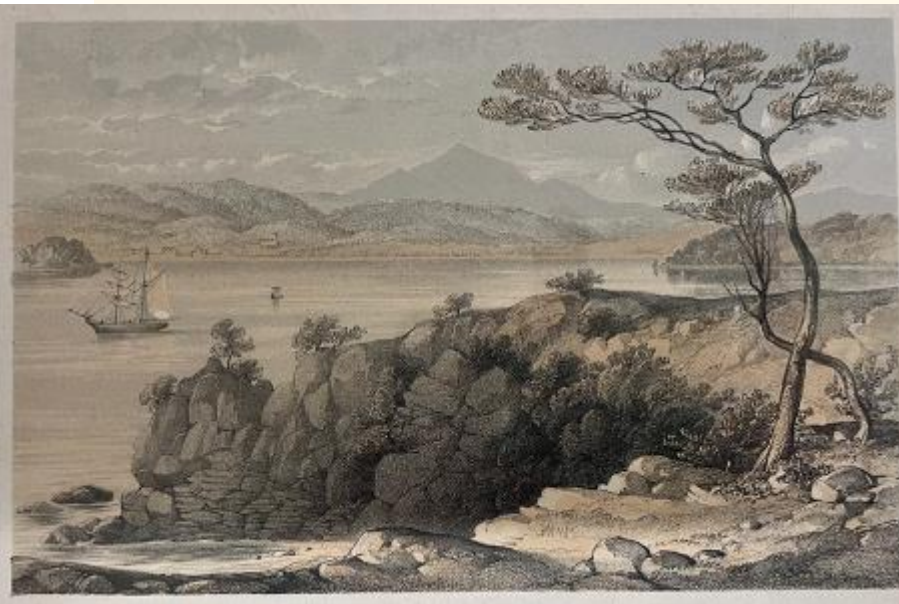
Caroline Jordan, in *Picturesque Pursuits* notes: *In late 1854, she [Elizabeth] wrote that she had visited the lithographers Messrs M and N Hanhart in Charlotte Street* ... In February 1855 she 'discharged their account for executing four drawings ...'. She then had the long and discouraging trek around London enquiring at different print sellers if they would undertake to dispose some lithos., carrying the specimens with them to show them, but in vain – they were quite "out of their line" – too small and not sufficiently interesting.*

Jordan later writes:

Several of these prints found their way back to public collections in Australia, so perhaps Elizabeth ended up distributing them among her friends and family.

The two hand-coloured lithographs in The Royal Society of Tasmania Art Collection were bequeathed to the Society in 1952 by her nephew, Wilfred Hugh Hudspeth.

* The lithographic publishing house founded in London by Michael Hanhart (later joined by his brother, Nicholas) had a long and successful history. It published its first prints in 1840 and continued to produce work beyond 1888. The firm published everything from book illustrations to lithographic sheet music covers.



Spectacle Island

The Royal Society of Tasmania also has in its art collection a pencil sketch attributed to Elizabeth Hudspeth. There is no record of how it came to be in the collection. It was originally attributed to Emma Haller. On the back of the sketch, in pencil, is written; possibly by the artist's hand 'Spectacle Island, Sorell, V.D.L./EH'; as well as 'Elizabeth Hudspeth/c1840'.

Leaving Van Diemen's Land

Elizabeth Hudspeth left Van Diemen's Land in 1854 after the deaths of her parents and younger brother. She spent some time in New south Wales, but then left Australia forever.

Her mother had died of tuberculosis, and Elizabeth had contracted the disease while nursing her and her two sisters, who also died at that time.

She died at the age of just thirty-eight, having led a short, but remarkable life and leaving us the legacy of her art.

References

Information for this article was gathered from:

- ◇ The Royal Society of Tasmania archives
- ◇ *Picturesque Pursuits*, Caroline Jordan
- ◇ 'Elizabeth Hudspeth', Robert Stevens (*Australiana*, Feb 2017)
- ◇ Elizabeth Hudspeth, Patricia Clarke, *Design and Art Australia Online* (daao.org.au)
- ◇ Costantini, www.portrait.gov.au/people/charles-henry-costantini-1803, article by GT Stilwell, 1992.

Anita Hansen

News from the Art Fundraising Committee

Thanks to the generous efforts of RST members and supporters, in 2022 we made a very good start on raising funds to support the conservation and exhibition of the RST Art Collection.

The first purchase from these funds will be 50 archival storage boxes of various sizes. These buckram-covered Solander boxes (see sample pictured at right) are sealed with pH neutral adhesive and lined with buffered archival paper, to provide the best available storage for the artworks. At a cost of \$17,000, they provide excellent protection from dust and light.



New members: We are very pleased that RST members James Crotty and Lorraine Polglase have joined the committee. Their expertise and skills will be appreciated.

Can you help? We are planning a **fundraising wine-tasting and cultural items auction for November**. Do you have a painting, print, ceramic, small antique, concert ticket or similar item you could donate? Please contact Ross Large or myself to discuss, either directly or through admin@rst.org.au

Diary date: On **Thursday 28 September 2023 at 6 pm**, our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, will be hosting an event at Government House for The Royal Society of Tasmania members and friends. Please put this date in your diary! More details closer to the time.

Mary Koolhof

Chair, Art Fundraising Committee

Expressions of Interest – Excursion to the Tasman Monument

This year is the hundredth anniversary of the erection of a monument in 1923 by the RST. The monument commemorates the landing of the Abel Tasman Expedition in Tasmania in December 1642.

The monument is on “Bangor” private land near Cape Paul Lamanon, Forester Peninsula. Access is via the property and involves a 45-minute hike on a rough track.

Tom Dunbabin, owner of “Bangor”, has offered to guide an RST party to the site. A date has not been settled but one Sunday in September or November is likely. Carpool transport to “Bangor” from Hobart could be organised. No fee is charged for the guided walk.

If you are interested in an excursion to the Abel Tasman Monument, please send a short message before 30 June 2023 to admin@rst.org.au with the subject line “Tasman Monument excursion”.

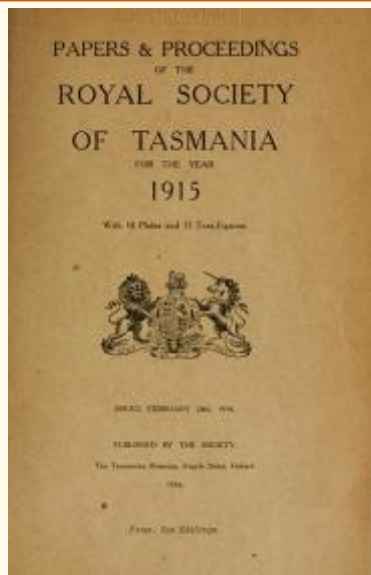


Right: The inscription on the monument reads:

At this spot the expedition under Abel Jansz Tasman being the first white people to set foot on Tasmanian soil planted the Dutch flag on December 3rd 1642 as a memorial to posterity and to the inhabitants of this country.

This stone was erected by The Royal Society of Tasmania 1923





Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania – Free copies of selected issues

The family of Dick and Joan Green, former members of the RST, (<https://www.greenfamilyaward.org/dick-joan-green>) would like to offer their parents' collection of the *Papers and Proceedings of The Royal Society of Tasmania* to any RST members who would like to supplement their own collections.

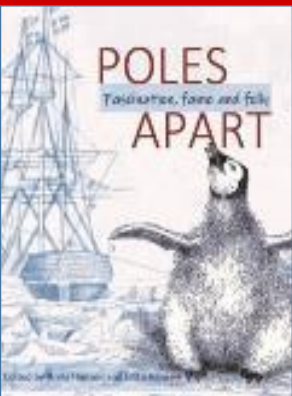
The issues on offer are:

Year: 1896; 1903–05; 1914; 1915; 1916; 1917; 1918; 1919; 1920; 1921; 1929; 1943.
Volume: 86–109; 120; 133-138; 140; 142; 144–145; 150; 152.

If members are interested in one or many, please email RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au to arrange collection.

This offer is **available only** for the months of April and May 2023.

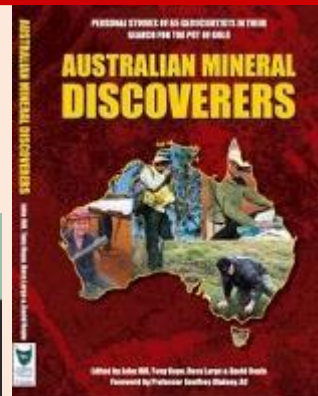
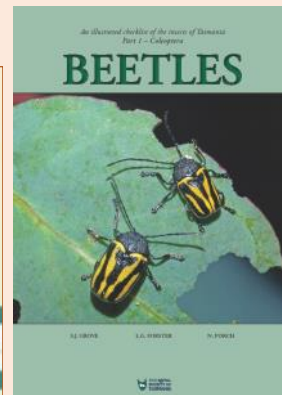
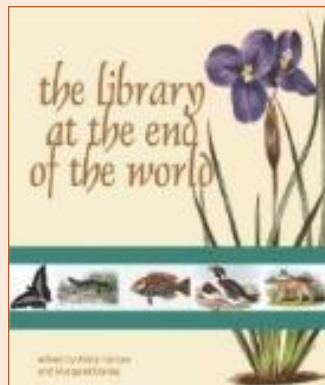
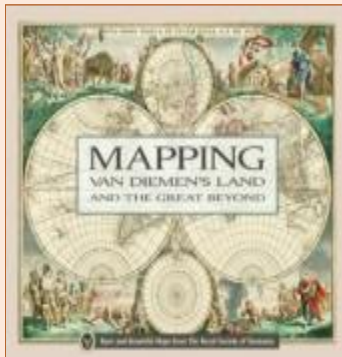
Katrina Ross, Historical Collections Coordinator, University of Tasmania



Fabulous RST Publications

There are RST publications to suit everyone's reading shelf or as a gift. As well, there are **10% discount prices for RST members** for many of the publications.

Visit the [RST Shop now to view all publications and discounts.](#)



The Society's Library

Special & Rare Collections (5th floor, Morris Miller Library at UTAS Sandy Bay campus) including the RST 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
- 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

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





The RST has been invited by the Friends of TMAG to

The research for *Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends*

Friends of TMAG have kindly invited members of The Royal Society of Tasmania to attend a talk by Ann Cripps, in conversation with Kate Warner, at 5:30 pm on Thursday 25 May 2023.

The talk will be held in the Central Gallery, TMAG. RST members will be able to attend at the same admission price as Friends of TMAG members.

Admission Price: Members \$20, Non members \$30. Includes refreshments.

Bookings to attend this event may be made via:

- [Website](#): book and make secure payment by credit card or PayPal.
- Email: admin@friendsoftmag.org.au and transfer your payment directly to bank account: CBA BSB 067002

Account Number 28028744

- Mail: [Send the completed form](#) with cheque to:

Secretary, Friends of TMAG

GPO Box 1164, Hobart TAS 7001

Ann Cripps (pictured right) will talk about the research for her recent book, *Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends: Hobart Town and Beyond*. Not only did early colonists bring European species to the colony of Van Diemen's Land, they also sent endemic Tasmanian plants to collectors overseas. As you follow Ann's research, you will meet Quakers, botanists, doctors, horticulturalists and nurserymen who were instrumental in bringing Tasmania's flora to the wider world.

While Ann's research took her far afield, many of her discoveries came from detailed studies of documents in The Royal Society of Tasmania's Special Collections, housed at UTas, and from items in the TMAG collection.

As a special treat, you will be able to view the exquisite table cover embroidered with Tasmanian plants created by early settler Catherine Mitchell. Catherine is just one of the many creative women whose works feature in Ann's book. Our thanks to Peter Hughes, TMAG's Senior Curator of Decorative Arts, for a rare opportunity to see this beautiful and fragile work.



Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends

HOBART TOWN
AND BEYOND

ANN CRIPPS

Biography: Ann Cripps is a garden lover and historian who has lectured and written for many years on all aspects of Tasmanian garden history. As a consultant, she has advised on the restoration of some of Tasmania's significant gardens. In her research for this book, Ann visited libraries and other institutions in the United Kingdom as well as in Australia, uncovering a fascinating network of gardeners, plant collectors, their families and some of the most important botanical collections in the world.

Left: Cover of Ann Cripps' new book, *Gardeners, Plant Collectors, Friends: Hobart Town and Beyond*.

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

April School Holiday Program

Celebrate autumn with a special program focusing on the themes of light and shadow in nature and art.

Details: **Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 April**

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Dunn Place

All ages. Drop in. Free



15–17 June

The Salon: An exclusive, limited-ticket offer to an intimate after-hours

event at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Nightly audio artists in *The Salon* or get lost in the nine-gallery contemporary art exhibition, *Twist*.

Drinks by Punch and Ladle. From 5:30 pm nightly.

Cover charge: \$24.50. This licensed event is 18+ [Book now](#).



Left: [taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country](#)

Closing date: 7 May 2023

A ground-breaking exhibition presenting creative work from 20 Tasmanian Aboriginal artists responding to relationships between community and Ancestral objects, particularly those held in institutions outside lutruwita/Tasmania.

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rst.org.au



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

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