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## President's Message



Dear RST members,

I hope your membership of the Royal Society of Tasmania this year has been beneficial and valuable to you as a member. It is **membership renewal time**, and I trust that you will continue your membership with us for another year – see p. 5. [Click to renew.](#)

Some time ago, I shared with you my own goal to **increase and grow our membership** numbers. Each member can play an active part in achieving this goal by simply recommending membership to a colleague or friend, or by bringing guests to our free monthly lectures in the north and south of the State and introducing them to the idea of membership and its benefits. The membership fee is one of our primary sources of income and helps to fund our operations and projects, as well as contributing to the general running costs. Please help us to grow in order to do what we do so well – the advancement of knowledge.

**Looking back over the past year**, it has been inspiring to see the depth and breadth of the Society's contributions. From our thought-provoking lecture series to the launch of our online Art Collection showcasing the treasures of Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage, we have continued to deliver on our mission to work for 'the advancement of knowledge'. These achievements are a testament to the vibrant community we have built together – a community that values knowledge, exploration, and connection.

**Looking ahead**, there is much to be excited about. Plans for the upcoming year include expanding our engagement with regional communities, developing new partnerships, and curating events that highlight the incredible work being done in science, the arts, and the humanities in Tasmania. These initiatives not only reflect the Society's rich history but also its commitment to remaining relevant and having an impact in today's world.

As we strive to achieve these goals, your support as a member is more crucial than ever. By renewing your membership and encouraging others to join, you are directly contributing to the sustainability and success of the Society. Together, we can ensure that the Royal Society of Tasmania continues to be a beacon of knowledge and inspiration for generations to come.

You will find much to entertain you in this final Newsletter of the year. Our membership of the Royal Societies of Australia, and an update on recent events. I welcome new members to the Society since our last newsletter: Dennis Bewsher, Dr Tim Blumfield, Dr Nicky Foxlee, Emeritus Prof Stephen Hill AO, Dr Katie Marx, Dr Tobias Staal, Pia Benedetti Vallenari, and Dr Malcolm Ward.



**Dr Nicky Foxlee** (pictured left) will join us in the Royal Society office in the Custom House building as Office Manager in 2025. Our first Council meeting for the year will be held on 4 February 2025 and we will work on a new Strategic Plan to guide our operations for the next few years. I will report on that vision at the AGM in March.

**Thank you for being part of the RST journey.** I look forward to another year of shared discovery and achievement. In closing, I express enormous gratitude to each member of the Council for their continuing work and dedicated service; to Chairs and members of the Committees; to the Foundation; to our colleagues at TMAG for their support; to UTAS staff in many fields; to donors and contributors who assist in countless ways. Thank you all, and I look forward to reconnecting with you all in 2025.

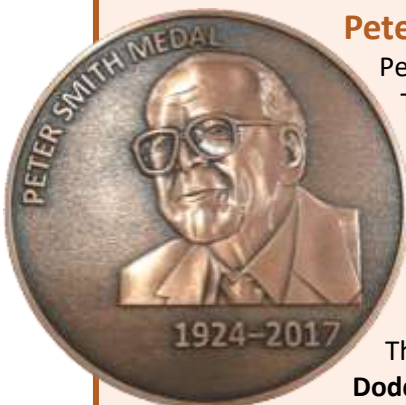
With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Rimes'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Rimes  
RST President

## RST Medal Winners 2024

The RST Council recently awarded the two medals on offer this year, namely the Peter Smith Medal and the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal.



### Peter Smith Medal

Peter Warnock Smith (1924–2017) was an inorganic chemist who, at the University of Tasmania, introduced new research and teaching topics, such as analytical chemistry, industrial and applied chemistry, and chemistry for engineers. Smith was a long-term contributor to the RST and was President in 2006.

The Peter Smith Medal is awarded biennially to an outstanding **early career** researcher in any field. The awardee receives a medal and is invited to deliver the “Peter Smith Lecture” to the Society. The inaugural Peter Smith Medal was awarded in 2018.

This year the recipient of the Peter Smith Medal is **Dr Edward Doddridge** (University of Tasmania) for his outstanding contribution to the field of physical oceanography. Through his research, he works to improve our understanding of ocean currents and the ocean’s role in our climate.

Dr Edward Doddridge is a Physical Oceanographer working at the ocean-sea ice interface with the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership. Dr Doddridge’s research uses theory, numerical models, and observations to improve our understanding of the fundamental dynamics of the polar ocean and its response to climate change. His work has revealed new details about the influence of sea ice on ocean currents, and of ocean warming on sea ice loss.

**Right:** Dr Edward Doddridge, Senior Research Associate, Physical Oceanography at UTAS, IMAS. Image: Harshula Jayasuriya.



### Louisa Anne Meredith Medal

Louisa Anne Meredith (1812–1895) (née Twamley) came to Tasmania in 1840 and was a remarkable woman, a prolific artist, writer and social commentator. She was the first woman to be granted Honorary membership of the Royal Society of Tasmania in 1881. The RST has a large number of her sketches and watercolours in its Art Collection, as well as a number of her books in its Library.

Meredith contributed a great deal to the work of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Over several decades, she sent interesting specimens to the Royal Society Museum and presented beautiful and accurate watercolours of many specimens to the RST. These artworks were much admired at Society meetings as being ‘beautifully executed’. The RST also purchased a number of her illustrations at the time.

The Louisa Anne Meredith Medal is awarded every four years to a person who excels in the field of arts or humanities or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs. The awardee receives a medal and is invited to deliver the “Louisa Anne Meredith Lecture” to the Society. The Louisa Anne Meredith Medal was established by the RST in 2023. This year is the inaugural award of this medal.

The RST Honours Committee decided that it was inappropriate to attempt to separate two outstanding nominations for the medal. The Louisa Anne Meredith Medals for 2024 are awarded to Cassandra Pybus and Fiona Hall.

**Professor Cassandra Pybus** is well regarded internationally as an historian of colonial society in Australia, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and North America. As a non-fiction writer, she draws on exhaustive historical research to create compelling alternative narratives about the past.

Prof Cassandra Pybus (pictured right) is a distinguished historian, author of thirteen books and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. She has been the recipient of several Australia Council Fellowships and a Federation of Australia Centenary Medal for outstanding contribution to literature. Between 2000 and 2013, she was Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow at both the University





of Tasmania and the University of Sydney, and has been Fulbright Professor at Georgetown University in Washington DC, Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Texas, and Leverhulme Visiting Professor at King's College, London. Her recent book, *A Very Secret Trade*, interrogates the trade in First People's skeletal remains, which is the last of a trilogy concerned with the destruction of the First People of Tasmania, beginning with *Community of Thieves*, published in 1991, followed by *Truganini* in 2020 which won the National Biography Award.



**Fiona Hall AO** is an internationally respected visual artist, one of Australia's most highly regarded and recognised artists. She works across a range of media including painting, photography, sculpture and installation.

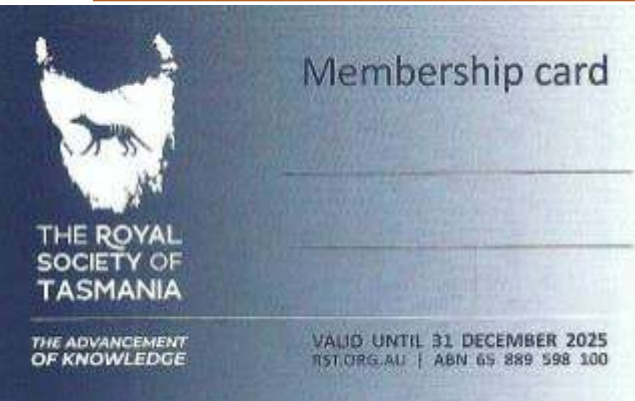
Fiona Hall is an artistic photographer and sculptor. Hall represented Australia in the 56th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2015 (see image at left). She is known as "one of Australia's most consistently innovative contemporary artists". Many of her works explore the "intersection of environment, politics and exploitation".

Fiona Hall is best known for extraordinary works that transform quotidian materials into vital organic forms with both historical and contemporary resonances. Hall works across a broad range of mediums including photography, painting, sculpture, moving image and installation, often employing forms of museological display. Hall's sculptures are characterised by their intricate construction and thematic resonance with issues of environmentalism, globalisation, war and conflict.

**Above:** Fiona Hall AO with one of twenty figures that comprised her Venice Biennale installation *All The King's Men* in 2015.

In 2013, Hall was recognised "for distinguished service to the visual arts as a painter, sculptor and photographer, and to art education" with the award of Officer (AO) in the general division of the Order of Australia.

A medals ceremony will be held at Government House on 18 June 2025 where the medal winners will be presented with their medals by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.



## RST Membership Fees 2025

It is that time of year again: time to renew your Royal Society of Tasmania membership for 2025. The RST membership year runs from **January 1 to December 31**.

If you are unsure whether you have renewed your membership for 2025 or not, you can check your membership card. The expiry date appears at the bottom of the card. Click [here](#) to open the renewal form on our website which can be downloaded as a pdf for filling in electronically.

**Take note:** Regardless of the method you use to renew, *by renewing your membership and paying the required membership fees, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to abide by the [RST Code of Conduct](#) and accept the [RST Privacy Policy](#).*



## News from the Art Fundraising Committee

We are delighted to announce that the Royal Society of Tasmania has been successful in gaining two major grants.

The Community Heritage Grants scheme administered through the National Library of Australia has provided \$6,870 to allow an iconic artwork from the RST Art Collection, **A Cool Debate** (pictured left) by noted 19th century artist Louisa Anne Meredith, to be sent to Sydney for highly specialised conservation work.

This work has been described by Warwick Oakman, Art Committee member and registered Commonwealth Government Valuer of Tasmanian colonial art, as follows:

*A Cool Debate* depicts a group of Green and Golden Bell Frogs (*Ranoidea aurea*, once *Litoria raniformis*), observed in conversation around a pond. The work was taken from life, in nature, near Orford, on Tasmania's East Coast. *A Cool Debate* is the original for a chromolithograph, published within the artist's final and most important publication, *Some of my Bush Friends in Tasmania – volume 2* (London, 1891). That 1891 coloured lithographic copy is the most well-known image of any work of art by a 19th century Tasmanian female artist.

The need for conservation work was urgent:

It had been ripped off an acidic mount board, is brown with UV burns, the gum arabic surface is degraded and shrinking from uneven light/moisture exposure, it sits on active old chemical mount board and the supporting glue has bled through into the work. It is about as bad as a major work of art on paper could ever present.



The Gordon Darling Foundation has very generously contributed \$20,000 to the production of the full-colour printed RST Art Collection Catalogue scheduled for publication in late 2025.

The Society is most grateful to the NLA Community Heritage Grants Scheme and the Gordon Darling Foundation for their very generous support.

**Mary Koolhof**  
Chair, Art Fundraising Committee



The Green and Golden Bell Frog is one of the most beautifully coloured frogs known; exhibiting a striking green colouration (dark green to fluorescent green), with gold or bronze patterns throughout. In addition to the bronze/gold markings, they exhibit a light cream-coloured stripe which extends laterally from the eye to the groin, bordered below by a thin black line that carries through to the nostril. A second stripe often extends from the upper lip down to the base of the front legs.

The feet of this species are characterised by the presence of enlarged toe pads (suckers), which allow them to climb. Webbing is present on the back feet, but absent from the front limbs. The general sound is a hoarse, prolonged croak, varied by a loud "clunk" monotonously repeated at intervals, very much like the sound of a mallet and chisel of a number of stonemasons. (Australian museum)

**Above:** A Green and Golden Bell Frog.  
Image: photography.braddouglas.com.au



## **The Royal Societies of Australia** **Supporting a National Culture of Creativity and Knowledge** **Science, Medicine, Economics, Philosophy and the Arts**

I am very pleased to report that the RST has been admitted to membership of the Royal Societies of Australia. I believe there are several significant benefits to be gained from our participation and collaborations with the joint Royal Societies around the nation. I recently attended a national gathering of the Presidents held in Adelaide.

The Royal Societies of Australia (RSA) is a national organisation established in 2008 to advocate for the efforts and joint views of Australia's Royal Societies, and to provide a mechanism for sharing ideas and operational practice among them. It in no way seeks to exert any authority over them.

The RSA offers a broad-based national approach to the promotion of intellectual inquiry in Australia with an emphasis on evidence-based knowledge not limited to science. It does this through the promotion of the efforts of Australia's Royal Societies, the holding of seminars and other events on specific topics of national interest, its national projects (referred to below) and its [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). It also provides a framework for coordinating Royal Society activities nationally, and a platform for the exploration of common issues affecting the Societies. It is distinct from Australia's learned academies in that it adopts a broader-based perspective linking theory, policy, practice, partnerships and outreach.

### **Recent activities**

In November 2023, the RSA organised two meetings of representatives of all Australia's Royal Societies in Canberra. The first meeting provided an opportunity for the Societies to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest, and it was agreed that there should be regular annual meetings of the Societies. The meeting provided an opportunity for the RSA to discuss issues with the CEO of the Academy of Science, Ms Anna-Maria Arabia.

The RSA is powering ahead with its two national projects which involve representatives from four of Australia's Royal Societies: The successful [Stewardship of Country](#) webinar series in 2021, which was supported by Inspiring Victoria, CSIRO and the Royal Society of Victoria, is the foundation for the RSA's *Landscape and Seascape Policy Hub* project currently under way. The project is working to establish a national centre or clearinghouse for studies that support the better management of Australia's landscapes and seascapes. Tasmanian landscapes and seascapes are very important to the RST so it would benefit the RST if it were able to contribute to and be part of this project.

Its *Pre-conditions of Well-being* project is further advanced and has so far generated 14 refereed papers for publication in [The Mandarin](#) on topics ranging from the sociological influences on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to the possibility of a sugar tax in Australia. The initial objective is to identify the biological, social, economic and commercial determinants of health, justice and well-being and shine a spotlight on them through the publication of targeted articles. These issues are a concern for us all so input from the RST would seem appropriate and necessary.

### **Planned activities**

The RSA is also planning for a national seminar on FASD in 2025 to coincide with [International Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day](#) on 9 September. This is an extension of the *Pre-conditions of Well-being* project. This issue is as much a concern for Tasmania as it is for other Australian states and so RST involvement in planning for and running the event would be most welcome.

Also planned are events to bring the work of Australia's Royal Societies to the attention of members of the Australian Parliament, the Business Council of Australia and other Australian peak bodies, in a similar way to the way in which this work was drawn to the attention of the Governor-General in November 2023 through targeted events.

The RSA will continue to populate its website and Facebook page with relevant items from state-based Royal Societies in order to publicise them more widely than possible within the state-based Society's communication channels.

### **What the RSA offers**

The RSA is a focus for the coordination and development of relationships with national peak bodies, the Commonwealth Government and its agencies and national knowledge organisations. The RSA can provide a link between



the national political sphere and Australia's Royal Societies, especially in relation to changes in policy direction and opportunities to assist government in the development of policy.

The RSA aims to provide mechanisms that enable state Royal Societies to influence national policy such as contributing to *Australia's National Science Statement* aligned to the Government's *A future made in Australia* agenda released in May 2024, together with its *National Interest Framework*. The NSW Creative Communities policy, for example, is written to support the Australian Government's five-year National Cultural Policy *Revive: a place for every story a story for every place* issued in January 2023. State Royal Societies have no mandate to do this by themselves and cannot do it without national coordination.

The RSA is able to bid for funding and grants which are only available to national organisations. If successful, the RSA would then involve the relevant state Royal Societies in the relevant project. For example, the CSIRO was a sponsor of the RSA's *Stewardship of Country* webinar series, which was a national project involving RSNSW, the Royal Society of Victoria and the Royal Society of Queensland.

As a member of the RSA, the RST will be connected to all the other State Royal Societies through national forums and the planned development of a community of practice and other platforms and activities facilitated by the RSA. This enables:

- The creation of a source of ideas and lessons learned for any or all State Royal Societies from the experience of others.
- The development of State programs and initiatives into a national arena – making each initiative more worthwhile and a significant additional stimulus for external funding.  
For example, the participation by RST in the RSA's 'Preconditions of Wellbeing' and the 'Landscape and Seascape Policy Hub' programs would broaden RST's ability to contribute and have a presence nationally. These projects have national impact and coverage and their steering committees currently include representatives of four of Australia's Royal Societies.
- The use of the RSA for communication enhancement and emphasis, such as through its website and Facebook page, and through distribution to other Royal Societies.
- The RSA provides public awareness of significant issues nationally and thus strengthen and broaden the reach of the RST.

Through its website and Facebook page, the RSA can enhance the reach of news from State-based Royal Societies through reposting and highlighting significant activities and achievements. This enables the constant stream of public domain news content to flow across the 2,000-strong combined membership of all Australia's Royal Societies. The RSA can promote events or publications, or gauge the views of this large cohort on topics of major interest to Australia's well-being. Working together, all Australian Royal Societies can access this entire resource through the RSA as facilitator.

The RSA is developing relationships with International Royal Societies and offers a coordinated approach to relationship-building between these Societies and those in Australia. It assists with generating international awareness of the work of Australia's Royal Societies, including the RST. One recent example illustrates this approach. In March 2024, the RSA President met with the President, Dr Brent Clothier, and the CEO, Mr Paul Atkins, of the Royal Society of New Zealand (Te Apārangi) to maintain the ties between the two organisations and to update each other on current and future Royal Society developments.

I believe there will be specific benefits to both our collective RST as an organisation and to individual members of RST as we participate and settle into our membership of RSA. As RST members, we will be able to feel part of the aggregated membership of all Australia's Royal Societies – a diverse community of over 2000 top knowledge contributors and the resultant development of enhanced communication channels and joint activities.

I will continue to keep members apprised of opportunities and developments in this field as we settle into our national membership and role.

**Julie Rimes, President**





## Vale: Dr Anthony Clive Crossley (22/10/1937 – 24/11/2024)



**Above:** Dr Clive Crossley with his wife, Lynne Uptin OAM, FSBA were frequent attendees at RST functions. Here at the 2024 RST Christmas Dinner.

Distinguished cell biologist, Dr Clive Crossley, leaves significant legacies in medical, marine and Antarctic research and in craft cidermaking. He was affiliated with the Universities of Cambridge UK, Tromsø in Norway, Sydney and Tasmania (IMAS) and the Australian Antarctic Division in Australia.

He published numerous influential papers in cell biology, including vital studies on marine ecosystems, enhancing our understanding of this unique environment.

After retiring, Clive channelled his scientific expertise into cidermaking, establishing Red Sails Cider in Tasmania. Alongside his wife Lynne Uptin, he significantly influenced the cider landscape internationally, nationally and locally, earning them Cider Australia's Champions of the Industry

Award in 2019.

His dual passions for science and cider, as well as yachting, good wine, interesting conversation around a dining table, will be fondly remembered by colleagues, students and friends alike who shared in them.



**Above:** Lynne Uptin and Clive Crossley at an event in their *Red Sails* cidery enthusing attendees with the joys of Tasmanian cider tasting and consumption. In 2019, Cider Australia awarded its *Champion of the Industry Award* to Clive and Lynne who had made an outstanding contribution to the Australian cider industry over a prolonged period of time. Image: ABC.net.au



## Captain Owen Stanley and the *HMS Britomart*

Venturing on a sudden narrow headland at Akaroa on the Banks Peninsula on the South Island of New Zealand (*Te Waipounamu*), one comes across a four-metre sandstone needle standing in dependable fortitude and endurance (see image at right). Perhaps it's the last image that drowning mariners happen to view in their precarious fight for life.

Accompanying the needle, a white flagpole holds itself erect, sporting a weathered and frayed but loyal Union Jack which has been remorselessly tortured by perpetual winds and gales along the southern east coast of New Zealand.

The needle bears two bronze plaques explaining their purpose for the visitors. These plaques also carry the burden of weathering such that the viewer must peer closely to read their significant messages. One commemorates the endeavours of Captain Owen Stanley:



Here on 11 August 1840 Captain Owen Stanley *H.M.S. Britomart* raised the Union Jack to demonstrate British sovereignty to the people on Banks Peninsula and to the French corvette *L' Aube* which arrived on 17 August.

In 1838, Owen Stanley was given command of *HMS Britomart* and sailed to Australia and New Zealand. While on the 'high seas', two significant things happened to him: on 26 March 1839, he was promoted to Captain; and in March 1842, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

HERE ON 11 AUGUST 1840  
CAPTAIN OWEN STANLEY  
H.M.S. BRITOMART RAISED  
THE UNION JACK TO DEMONSTRATE  
BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY TO THE  
PEOPLE ON BANKS PENINSULA AND TO  
THE FRENCH CORVETTE LAUBE  
WHICH ARRIVED ON 17 AUGUST

**Right:** *HMS Britomart* in New Zealand, Owen Stanley, watercolour, in the RST Art Collection. *HMS Britomart* was a 10-gun Cherokee-class brig-sloop, launched in 1820.



TO MARK 150 YEARS SINCE THE LANDING OF  
CHIEF POLICE MAGISTRATE MICHAEL MURPHY  
AND NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE  
ON 11 AUGUST 1840  
TO COMMENCE FORMAL POLICING IN THE SOUTH ISLAND  
UNVEILED ON  
11 AUGUST 1990  
HON MARGARET AUSTIN  
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
B T MITTEN  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
REGION COMMANDER

The other plaque on the needle (pictured left) states:

To mark 150 years since the landing of Chief Police Magistrate Michael Murphy and New South Wales Police on 11 August 1840 to commence formal policing in the South Island.

Unveiled on 11 August 1990.

Hon Margaret Austin, Minister of Internal Affairs

B T Mitten, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Region Commander

To understand the relevance of the plaques, one needs a potted history:

In August 1838, Jean Langlois, Captain of the French whaler *Cachalot*, 'bought' Banks Peninsula from Māori Chief Kāi Tahu for 40 pounds in one of a number of such purchases. In November 1839, what became known as the Nanto-Bordelaise Company was formed with the goal of establishing a settlement at Akaroa as the nucleus for a French colony in southern New Zealand that would be linked with a penal colony in the Chatham Islands. The



French government agreed to recognise this enterprise and give it financial assistance. <sup>1</sup>

Captain Charles Lavaud, who was to be the French government's commissioner in the fledgling colony, sailed for New Zealand on 19 February 1840 on the corvette *L' Aube*. A month later, two weeks after running aground on a mudbank while leaving Rochefort, the ship *Comte de Paris* also set off for Akaroa. It carried between 50 and 60 French and German emigrants who were to form the nucleus of a settlement, and was heavily laden with all manner of animals, plants, tools, building materials and agricultural implements, as well as arms and ammunition.

In the period between the dubious land purchase by Langlois and the departure of the would-be colonists, the situation had changed radically: Britain had moved to colonise New Zealand. On 15 June 1839, new 'letters patent' were issued in London to expand the territory of New South Wales to include the entire territory of New Zealand. Governor of New South Wales (1837–46), Lt.-Col. Sir George Gipps, was appointed as Governor-in-Chief over New Zealand in 1839. This was the first clear expression of British intent to annex New Zealand. <sup>2</sup>

On 21 May 1840, acting on Gipps' behalf, Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson proclaimed sovereignty over the whole country, (the North Island by treaty and the South Island and Stewart Island by discovery), and New Zealand was constituted the Colony of New Zealand, separate from New South Wales by a Royal Charter issued on 16 November 1840, with effect from 3 May 1841. <sup>3</sup>

The subsequent signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and Lieutenant-Governor Hobson's declaration of sovereignty over the whole country confirmed that New Zealand was, at least in European eyes, a British colony. The Treaty included signatures of many Māori Chiefs, such as Kāi Tahu and Hōni Tikao, at Akaroa on 30 May 1840.

Until Lavaud on the *L' Aube* arrived in the Bay of Islands in early July 1840, he was unaware of these developments. While Hobson was friendly enough to Lavaud, he sent *HMS Britomart*, under the command of Captain Owen Stanley, to observe French activities at Akaroa. *HMS Britomart* left the Bay of Islands on 23 July 1840 and reached Akaroa on 10 August.

By the time the *Comte de Paris* arrived at Akaroa on 17 August 1840 with its advance party of settlers, the Union Jack had already fluttered over several British court sessions there.

Dr Anita Hansen wrote in June 2022:

#### **Owen Stanley in Tasmania**

*HMS Britomart* visited Hobart while Stanley was in command. Stanley had served with John Franklin aboard *HMS Rainbow* in 1831 and the two had remained friends. While in Van Diemen's Land, Stanley visited Port Arthur, making a number of sketches of the trip that are also in the RST Art Collection. Owen Stanley's watercolours in the Society's collection are small in scale. They are, however, a valuable slice of Tasmania's cultural and historical heritage. <sup>4</sup>

1. New Zealand History website [A race to Akaroa?](#)
2. McLean, Gavin (2006). [The Governors: New Zealand's Governors and Governors-General](#). Dunedin: Otago University Press. ISBN 1-877372-25-0.
3. [Treaty of Waitangi - Wikipedia](#)
4. Royal Society of Tasmania website, 'art stories', [1. Captain Owen Stanley](#)

**Right:** *Captain Owen Stanley*, watercolour, 1837, held at Dunham Massey, Cheshire, NT 930010, [nationaltrustcollections.org.uk](http://nationaltrustcollections.org.uk)



**Bernard Pryor OAM**





## Frozen Frontier: Antarctic Tourism Iconography RST Christmas Dinner Wednesday 4 December, 2024

*Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in event of success.*

This advertisement was allegedly placed in London newspapers by Ernest Shackleton to recruit a team for his Endurance Expedition (1914–1917). Its provenance and legitimacy have never been confirmed and yet it is very frequently quoted. Dr Hanne Nielsen utilised this early in her lecture, 'Antarctica and Popular Culture' at the University Club to show how the mass media has always been keen to utilise the heroic stories and images of Antarctica.

**Right:** Dr Hanne Nielsen.

There has, in recent times, emerged among scholars from the Humanities and Social Sciences, an interest in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic regions. They are attempting to understand the social, cultural and political dimensions of human interactions with the Antarctic; Dr Nielsen is one of the scholars at the forefront of this movement in Tasmania. She is Senior Lecturer in Antarctic Law and Governance at the University of Tasmania's 'Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies'; she is a Chief Officer of the Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences within the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research; and her wide ranging research involves projects on ways to transform tourists' Antarctic experience, successful methods to anticipate Antarctica's uncertain tourism future and how we might minimise impacts on the region's environment.

Hanne's research interests include polar tourism; Antarctica in the media; literature of the far south; and Antarctica as a workplace, which as appropriate as she has spent five seasons working in Antarctica as a polar tourism guide. Her 2023 book, *Brand Antarctica: How Global Consumer Culture Shapes Our Perceptions of the Ice Continent* [University of Nebraska Press, 2023] explains how the modern media industry developed in parallel with land-based Antarctic exploration, and how early expeditions needed publicity to generate support for their endeavours. In the book, Hanne identifies five key lenses through which we view the South Polar continent: a place for heroes, a place of extremity, a place of purity, a place to protect, and a place that transforms. This was how the lecture was structured and for each of those 'frames' we were provided with a wealth of wonderful and appropriate images to explain the ways in which Antarctica has been commodified.

This is a nuanced and elegant argument, and a large audience was enthralled by Dr Hanne Nielsen's knowledge and presentation. It was a fitting conclusion to a year of varied, entertaining and informed RST lectures.

**John Williamson**



**Above:** The RST Northern Branch's new Secretary Pippa Cotton.



**Above:** The RST's new Office Manager Dr Nicky Foxlee of Franklin with her husband, Dr Tim Blumfield, at the RST Christmas Dinner.







**Above left:** Anne and Paul Donaghue OAM of Kingston Beach. **Above right:** Em Prof Ross Large AO chats with John Carswell.



**Above left:** Robyn Lewis of Cambridge with Roberta Poynter of Mt Stuart with incoming Northern Branch President Neil McKinnon. **Above right:** Derris Wood with her raffle prize.

**Below left:** Lorraine Polglase with Grady Koolhof and Vince Summers.  
**Below right:** Sue Owen with her raffle prize.







**Above left:** Justice Chris Webster AM with his raffle prize. **Above right:** Dr Vicki and Dr Richard von Witt with a raffle prize.  
**Below left:** Former University of Tasmania Librarian Janette Burke with Sue McKerracher and Derris Wood.  
**Below right:** Dr Norelle Lickiss AO.



**Below left:** Robyn Lewis with her raffle prize. **Below right:** Jill Webster and Cecily MacFarlane.

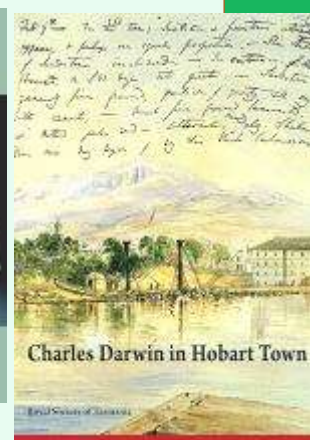
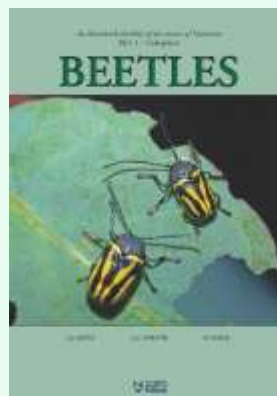
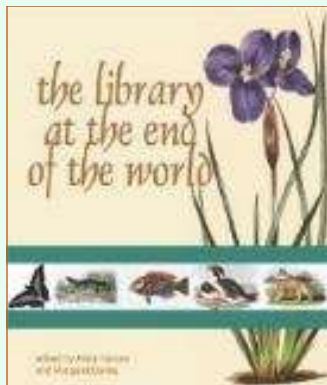
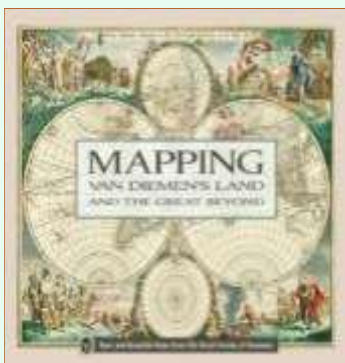
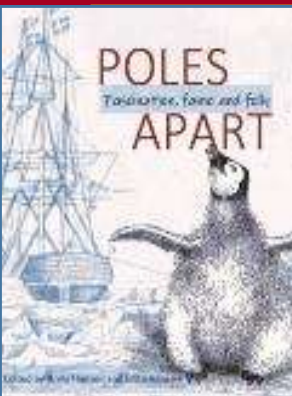




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Please email [RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au](mailto:RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au) for appointments and enquiries about the collection.

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