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President's Message



Dear RST members,

In some ways the year still feels at its beginning, but I am pleased to report that every **Royal Society of Tasmania committee** has been hard at work preparing for the 2025 year. In early February, 25 of us met in Campbell Town, three via Zoom, in a day-long workshop and Council meeting where we discussed our hopes and aspirations for the future of the Society. It was an excellent day with great camaraderie and discussions, and at the end, I believe all came away with a feeling that it had been a very useful day. I do thank all who attended, contributed ideas during the day and in thoughtful submissions before the meeting. We had two scribes on the day, John Williamson and Bernard Pryor OAM, and this will make the writing of the document come together fairly quickly. We have agreed that we will have a 'Plan on a Page' on the website soon.

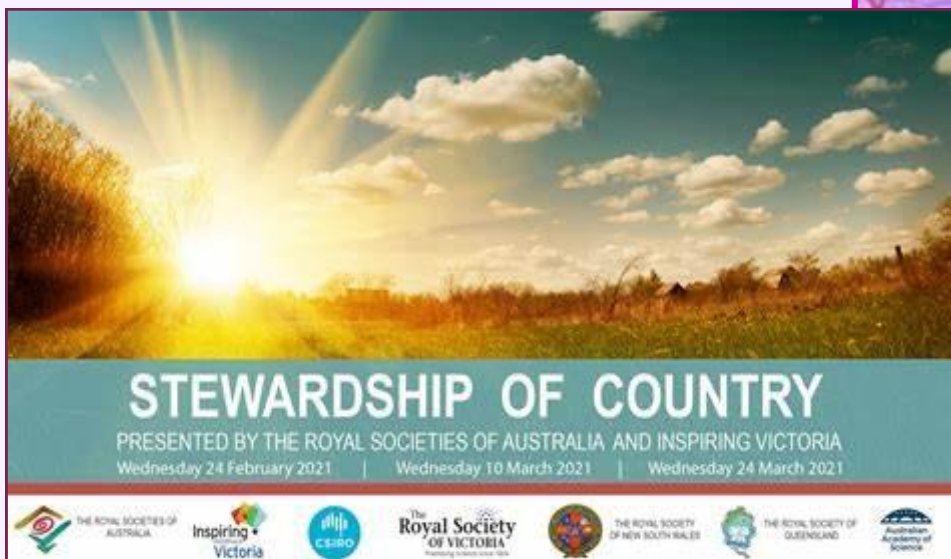


The Royal Societies of Australia

I have drawn your attention to our membership of the **Royal Societies of Australia**. Together we are working on two projects of national significance. I am a member of the steering committee for the **Pre-conditions of Well-being project**, which aims to develop a platform

of public policy measures conducive to allowing Australians to thrive. Although there are centres of expertise in the multitude of specialist fields relevant to health and well-being, the rationale for bringing our combined expertise together is our desire to be a forum able to foster dialogue across the disciplinary, sectoral and jurisdictional boundaries. As an Australia-wide organisation with scientific expertise across all the disciplines, we have an opportunity to affect public policy and discourse.

The second project, the **Land and Seascape Policy Hub**, is an initiative that stemmed from a webinar series, *Stewardship of Country*, presented by the Royal Societies of Australia and the Royal Society of Victoria who style themselves as 'Inspiring Victoria', with support from the CSIRO, in February and March 2021. The series involved an historic collaboration between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts, land and sea managers, carers and policy makers, industry practitioners and thinkers. Their core questions to answer are how we can transition to a different way of thinking that matches the reality of the biophysical world, and make governments and community aware the reality that individual well-being is largely determined by the well-being of society. Our representative on this group is Professor Nathan Bindoff (pictured left. Image utas.edu.au).



It is with great pleasure that we look forward to the **AGM on Thursday 6 March** at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania where we will hear from Professor Bindoff. The Southern Ocean and Antarctica are changing rapidly. New discoveries and understandings are pointing to a growing role of the Southern Ocean in our changing climate. The loss of ice mass in Antarctica, the slowing of the southern hemisphere circulation and the remarkable loss of winter sea-ice in the last two years will be discussed. There is an urgent need to understand these changes and track the human contributions to these changes in order to support policy makers in this critical decade. This will be a first-rate lecture at which Professor Bindoff will certainly advance our knowledge of how the global oceans are warming and losing oxygen, and how the changing patterns of salinity reflect an accelerating water cycle. In advance, I thank Nathan for his leadership in this area and for providing us with the opportunity to hear about his latest work.

Our **South and Northern Branch Lectures series** are full of some of the best speakers that our nation has to offer. I look forward to the Aboriginal Lecture this year being presented by Rob Anders which will be hosted by the North-

ern Branch. We made the decision to expand the geographic reach and impact of these talks by sharing it between north, south and, we hope, the north- west. In our desire to reach all parts of the State, our **Art Committee** has planned a series of regional art exhibitions to the West Coast, Woolmers in the north, and Oatlands. We are styling the exhibition *Hidden Treasures*, and it will consist of a touring exhibition of curated artworks in high quality prints from our Art Collection which focus on each geographic region. The Oatlands exhibition will be the first of our exhibitions in the second half of the year. The exhibition is warmly supported by the Council and community at Oatlands. The Art Committee, led by Distinguished Professor Ross Large AO, is hard at work on several initiatives and 2025 will be a very full year for them. I thank them all for their work and creativity in finding ways to ‘advance knowledge’ in this field.



Above: In the audience, left to right foreground, Chair of TMAG Board of Trustees, Ms Brett Torossi, Nala Mansell, Rodney Gibbins and Michael Mansell. In the background are members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community holding historical photographs of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. (Photograph courtesy of Jillian Mundy.)

As you will know, in 2021, the Royal Society of Tasmania (RST) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) [apologized to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community for past wrongs](#). The apology was a response to the mistreatment and theft of cultural artifacts, including the exhumation of Aboriginal remains. It has long been part of our plan to create an official ‘apology marker’ to permanently acknowledge this important apology. After discussions with both parties, it is good to be able to report that the plan is now able to progress to the working party stage with a full meeting of representatives from TMAG and the RST to be held later in February this year. I will keep you informed as this progresses.

The RST would like to congratulate Curtis Salter PSM (BA, MBA, GradCertPubHlth, GradDipPubHlth) who received the Emergency Services Medal in the Australia Day Honours List.

There is much to look forward to in 2025. I hope that you have had an opportunity to read the high-quality papers contained in the *Papers and Proceedings 2024*. Thank you, Dr Sally Bryant AM, as Editor for a year-long project to bring this to fruition. The Annual Report will be published for the

AGM and contain a full account of the work of the Society in 2024. I thank most sincerely the committee chairs who have worked throughout the year to prepare the programs and events, and I especially acknowledge our Newsletter Editors Bernard Pryor OAM and John Williamson who create this as a permanent record of our proceedings.

With best wishes,

Julie Rimes
RST President

Upcoming Events

2025 Southern Lecture Series

THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025 - AGM and Lecture

Speaker: Professor Nathan Bindoff

Title: *The Role of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica in the Climate System*

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

Time: 4:00 pm.

Professor Nathan Bindoff, distinguished climate scientist and physical oceanographer in the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), will deliver lecture following the AGM of the Society.



WEDNESDAY 26 March 2025 – RST Celebrates Tasmania Reads 2025

Speaker: Mr David Owen

Title: *What's Up Pufferfish?! D. I. Franz Heineken and the Mysterious Danish Connection.*

Venue: RST Rooms, Custom House Building, TMAG, Davey Street

Time: 10:30 am.

Tasmania Reads 2025 talk by David Owen centres on three forthcoming novels in his popular Fullers Publishing detective series. The Pufferfish novels are fast-paced with a literary touch, taking the reader all over Tasmania and often beyond. David will also build into his talk aspects of Tasmania Reads Week and Hobart's new status as a UNESCO City of Literature.



SUNDAY 6 APRIL 2025 – Lecture

Speaker: Dr Rob Johnson

Title: *The Australian Weather Puzzle: Assembling a National Forecast from an Ensemble of Global Weather Models.*

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for pre-lecture refreshments, 4:00 pm for the lecture.

Please join us for Dr Johnson's expert lecture on how weather is predicted, forecast and modelled. Dr Johnson is the Senior Research Scientist at Bureau of Meteorology and Team Leader in Forecast Improvement.



SUNDAY 4 MAY 2025 – Lecture

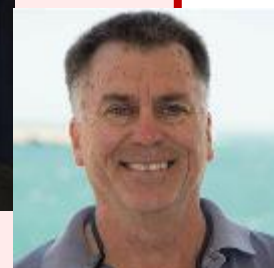
Speakers: Dr Sally Bryant AM and Dr Eric Woehler OAM

Title: *Inconvenient Truths: Tasmania's threatened birds from mountain to coast.*

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for refreshments, 4:00 pm for the lecture.

This joint lecture, delivered by two of Tasmania's leading bird ecologists and public commentators, Dr Sally Bryant AM and Dr Eric Woehler OAM, will discuss the future trajectory of Tasmania's threatened bird species, the drivers of their decreases and what we should be doing to reverse this.



SUNDAY 25 MAY 2025 – Annual Tasmanian Aboriginal Lecture

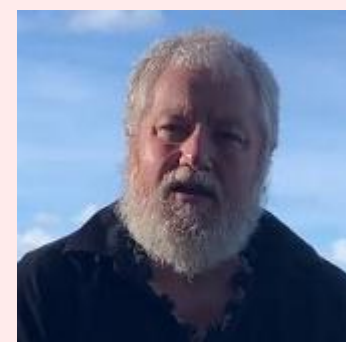
Speaker: Mr Rob Anders

Title: *How to better manage Aboriginal cultural landscapes in Tasmania.*

Venue: Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk, Launceston

Time: 1:30 pm.

Mr Rob Anders, a Tasmanian Aboriginal leader, education officer and spatial technician, will deliver the annual Tasmanian Aboriginal Lecture in Launceston. Please join us for this important lecture to learn more about our First Nations people and their management of landscapes.



2025 Southern Lecture Series (cont'd)

SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2025 – Lecture

Speaker: Professor Dugald Close

Title: *In pursuit of the 'cherry on top': how ecophysiological research enables practice*

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for refreshments, 4:00 pm for the lecture.

Professor Dugald Close is Associate Head of Research at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. His current research interests focus on temperate tree crop and wine grape nutrition, water and carbohydrate ecophysiology, including post-harvest science with the object of impact and outcomes via his contributions to industry development and extension.



WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025 – RST Medal Awards Evening

Event: Royal Society of Tasmania 2024 Award Presentations

Awards: 2024 Peter Smith Medal and the inaugural 2024 Louisa Anne Meredith Medal presented

Venue: Government House, Hobart Domain

Time: 5.30 pm



Please join us at Government House when Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania will present the 2024 Peter Smith Medal to Dr Edward Doddridge; the inaugural 2024 Louisa Anne Meredith Medal jointly to Professor Cassandra Pybus and Fiona Hall AO; and announce the 2024 Doctoral Award winners Dr Ingrid Cox and Dr Manon Simon.

THURSDAY 3 JULY 2025 – Midwinter Dinner and Lecture

Speakers: Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN and Adrian Dickens

Title: *Jane Austen's Legacy: 250 Glorious Years* (Susannah Fullerton) and *The Jewels of the Regency Period* (Adrian Dickens)

Venue: The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay

Time: 4:15 pm arrival for the lectures.

Join Susannah Fullerton, one of Australia's renowned experts on Jane Austen and Mr Adrian Dickens, a bespoke jeweller with extensive knowledge on some of the world's most famous jewel collections, for an engaging midwinter lecture and dinner at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Please join us.



THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025 – Beer Aquatic / National Science Week Event

Speaker: To be confirmed closer to the event

Title: To be confirmed closer to the event

Venue: Hobart Brewing Company, Evans Street, Hobart

Time: 5:30 pm for pre-lecture drinks, 6 pm for the lecture.

Celebrate National Science Week with a special lecture at the Hobart Brewing Company, presented in partnership with the Beer Aquatic. An informative and entertaining evening awaits! Check the website closer to the date for more details.



2025 Southern Lecture Series (cont'd)

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2025 – PhD Showcase Lectures

Speakers: PhD Showcase – Emerging Doctoral Scholars from UTAS

Titles: (Titles vary according to the research presented)

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for pre-lecture drinks, 4 pm for the lecture.

Please join us to hear an engaging series of lectures from emerging Doctoral Scholars from UTAS. Check the RST website closer to the date for more details.



SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER 2025 – RST Doctoral Award Lectures

Speakers: 2024 RST Doctoral award winners Dr Ingrid Cox and Dr Manon Simon

Title: (Titles will reflect the status of their research)

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for pre-lecture drinks, 4 pm for the lecture.

Our Doctoral Medallist for 2024 Dr Ingrid Cox and Dr Manon Simon will present on their most current research findings. Dr Cox studies the population, their environment, influences on their health and access to healthcare resources. Dr Simon studies transferability of lessons from the governance of weather modification techniques to the governance of solar radiation management. We honour and celebrate their academic achievements.



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025 – Lecture

Speaker: Professor David Bowman

Title: *In a warming world, how do we coexist with fire?*

Venue: Geology Lecture Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 3:30 pm for pre-lecture drinks, 4 pm for the lecture

Professor David Bowman is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and the Director of the transdisciplinary Fire Centre at UTAS where he holds a research chair in Pyrogeography and Fire Science. David is recognised as a thought leader in wildfire science and management publishing influential research in high-impact journals, providing policy advice to government, and serving as an expert media commentator. Professor Bowman will examine the current fire research, especially what has been done on the global problem, and our contributions to solving it.



THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025 – Annual Christmas Dinner and Lecture

Speaker: Dr Danielle Wood

Title: *Words and Wordability*

Venue: University Staff Club, 38a Dobson Road, UTAS, Sandy Bay Campus

Time: 6:00 pm for dinner and lecture.

Danielle Wood is a Senior Lecturer in English in the School of Humanities UTAS, and a well-known author and commentator on human-social issues. She states: 'The English language is in a constant state of evolution. Each year, the world's major English language dictionaries nominate a Word of the Year: often a neologism, but sometimes an old word that's come back into vogue (perhaps with a new meaning or inflection)'.

Danielle's lecture will explore the words we've used, loved, rejuvenated and redefined in 2025.



WHAT'S UP PUFFERFISH?!

D. I. Franz Heineken and the Mysterious Danish Connection

RST Lecture Room, Custom House at 10:30 am on Wednesday 26 March

"There is nothing like discovering a novelist whose books can grab and hold your attention even when your eyes are heavy with sleep and the alarm is set for the morning school/work scramble."

([Sally Glaetzer, *The Mercury*, 20 August 2016](#))

Join us at the Tasmania Reads 2025 talk by David Owen on three forthcoming novels in this popular Fullers Publishing detective series. Set in Tasmania, this is Australia's longest-running police procedural series: cunning island crimes which ultimately are no match for the unhurried but razor-sharp Detective Inspector, Tassie's longtime Dutch import. The Pufferfish novels are fast-paced with a literary touch, taking the reader all over the Island State and often beyond.

David is the author of 19 books of fiction and nonfiction, including updated new editions in the Allen & Unwin natural history series – *Tasmanian Tiger: The tragic story of the thylacine*, and *Tasmanian Devil: A deadly tale of survival*, both co-authored with David Pemberton. In 2021 he co-authored with Kate Warner AC, former Governor of Tasmania, the two-volume *Government House Tasmania: A remarkable story*.



- David's books will be for sale and he is happy to sign books.
- There will be lucky door prizes of copies of David's novels.
- Free entry, but [attendees need to register here](#) or use the QR code at right.



Upcoming Events – RST Northern Branch



NORTHERN BRANCH of
THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT
OF KNOWLEDGE

The Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to attend the following public lecture:

When: Sunday 23 February 2025 at 1:30 pm

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

Admission: free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania and children under 12; \$7 general admission, QVMAG or TMAG Friends, and members of Launceston Historical Society; \$5 for students.

Assoc Prof Michael Woodward “Developing Bio-inspired Technologies to Support Southern Ocean Climate Research”.

Assoc Prof Michael Woodward is the recently retired Director, National Centre for Maritime Engineering and Hydrodynamics at the Australian Maritime College.



Generously supported by



The Northern Branch of The Royal Society of Tasmania invites you to attend the following public lecture by:

Mrs Rachelle Hawkins “From Seahorses to Handfish: a Tasmanian aquaculture story”

When: 1:30 pm Sunday 23 March 2025, following the AGM being held at 1:15 pm.

Where: Meeting Room, QVMAG at Inveresk, Launceston.

Admission: free for members of The Royal Society of Tasmania; \$6 general admission; \$4 for students, QVMAG or TMAG Friends, and members of Launceston Historical Society.



Above: Red handfish. Image: handfish.org.au

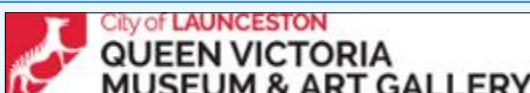
Abstract: From humble beginnings in an empty warehouse on a wharf, Seahorse Australia began as a controversial pilot project, aiming to commercialise the pioneering research carried out at Launceston’s Key Centre for Aquaculture. 27 years later, the business has grown to become not only a respected supplier of seahorses, but also a popular tourist attraction. The jewel in the crown, however, is the exciting work being conducted in partnership with CSIRO and UTAS to breed and research the critically endangered handfish and release them into the wild.

Biography: Rachelle Hawkins (pictured below) grew up in rural NSW where she completed a BSc at Newcastle University before getting married. Rachelle and

Craig moved to Launceston where Rachelle studied a graduate diploma in Aquaculture. On graduating, she was fortunate to become the first senior biologist at the new seahorse farm under the tutelage of Em Prof Nigel Forteach when the farm opened in 1998. Rachelle and Craig purchased the seahorse farm when it came up for sale in 2002, and purchased Seahorse World in 2010.

Right: Rachelle Hawkins at Seahorse World. Image: examiner.com.au

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Upcoming Events – RST Northern Branch

2025 Launceston Lecture Series Lectures commence at 1.30* pm – at QVMAG @ Inveresk

*Start time varies as shown below

February 23	Dr Michael Woodward	“Developing Bio-inspired Technologies to Support Southern Ocean Climate Research”
** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1.15 pm, March 23rd **		
March 23	Rachelle Hawkins	“From Seahorses to Handfish: a Tasmanian Aquaculture Story”
April 27	Lynette Ross	“The House that William Paterson Built: The Story of Launceston's Government Cottage”
May 25	Robert Anders	“How to Better Manage Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes in Tasmania”
June 22	Prof Richard Eccleston	“Northern Tasmania's Changing Population: Implications for Policy, Planning and the Future of the Region”
July 27	Jonathan Mulford	“Orthopaedic Research in Launceston, Clifford Craig Foundation”
August 24	Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin	“Luminous Tasmania: Nature that Glows in the Dark”
September 28 <i>Elvin Fist Lecture</i>	Prof Leanne McLean	“Education in Tasmania: Improving Outcomes and the Role of the University of Tasmania”
October 5 <i>Joint meeting with the Geological Society of Australia</i>	Dr Andrew McNeill	“Geological Survey of Tasmania’s History and Role in Understanding the Geology of Tasmania”
October 26	<i>To be advised</i>	<i>To be advised</i>
November 23 <i>Annual QVMAG Staff Lecture</i>	Burcu Keane	“An Unsettling Medium: A Curatorial Reflection on the Materiality and Meaning of ‘Hair’ Across Culture(s)”



Generously supported by



Left: Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston entrance. Image: the mewsmotel.com.au



Notice of the RST Annual General Meeting 2025

4:00 pm on Thursday 6 March 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania will be held at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay, Hobart.

All RST members and guests are welcome to attend the AGM. Admission is free. [Please book at this link.](#)

Please join us for a complimentary drink at 3:45 pm before the formalities begin.

Following the AGM, Professor Nathan Bindoff will present a lecture titled: [“The Role of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica in the Climate System”](#).

Annual General Meeting business summary:

- The RST Year in Review
- Appointment of Auditor
- Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report
- Election of 2025 Office Bearers

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
- 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)
- Early Career Researcher (3 years)

All nominations must be received by the Returning Officer, Professor Jocelyn McPhie, **by midnight Thursday 27 February 2025.**

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.

For further information, please contact the Honorary Secretary at secretary@rst.org.au



**THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA**

**THE ADVANCEMENT
OF KNOWLEDGE**

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATION FORM
ABN 65 889 598 100
Nominations for Election 2025**

Office Bearer and Council Member Nomination Form for The Royal Society of Tasmania 2025 elections to be held Thursday 6 March 2025 at 4:00 pm at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay, Hobart.

The Royal Society of Tasmania would like to formally invite nominations for positions on the Society's Council and Executive.

Nominations close **Thursday 27 February 2025**.

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 (Rules 21 and 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 position can propose or second the nomination of any other person for any position.

***Indicates required information**

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

Yes

No

*Please indicate which position the nominee is proposed for:

Council member

Early Career Researcher

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

President

Vice President

Please send this completed nomination form (2 pages) to:

The Returning Officer c/- The Royal Society of Tasmania

GPO Box 1166

Hobart TAS 7001

or deliver it to the RST Office, 19 Davey Street Hobart TAS 7000

Signed and scanned copies can be emailed to: admin@rst.org.au

Nominations must be received by midnight Thursday 27 February 2025.

The Royal Society of Tasmania is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) to maintain our entitlement to Deductible Gift Recipient status in respect of donations for the RST Library and Art Collections.

The RST is required to take reasonable steps to be satisfied that its Responsible Persons (its Council members) have not been 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.

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"> • have been convicted of certain offences, such as serious offences, dishonesty offences or other offences that can affect a corporation, • are an undischarged bankrupt or are subject to a 'personal insolvency agreement' you have not followed, or • 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. 	<p align="center"><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 align="center"><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>

If you answered YES to one of these 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
 (Secunder's full name)

Signature of secunder 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).

Membership card

THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

THE ADVANCEMENT
OF KNOWLEDGE

VALID UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2025
RST.ORG.AU | ABN 65 889 598 100

MEMBERSHIP

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**.

To vote at the AGM on 6 March, your membership must be current. If it isn't, then you need to renew your membership. 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](#).*

The David Syme Research Prize

Nominations are now invited for the 2024 David Syme Research Prize. The Australia-wide prize recognises the best original research in Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Geology **produced*** in Australia during the past two years (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2024).

* *produced – e.g., published*

The David Syme Research Prize is managed by the Faculty of Science at the University of Melbourne.

Summary details are:

Value: approx. \$10,000, and a medal

Closing date: 30 April 2025

Right: David Syme.

Picture: halloffame.melbournepressclub.com

The prize is made by nomination only. Senior members of the academic or research community such as co-authors or co-researchers, heads of department or deputy vice-chancellors (research) are invited to nominate eligible colleagues. Self-nominations are not accepted.

Researchers associated with any Australian university and researchers without university connections are eligible for nomination, noting that the following **are not** eligible:

- Professors or researchers who will have attained the position of professor at the time the award is made.
- Researchers outside universities who will have attained a level of seniority comparable to a university professor at the time the award is made (Level E).
- Researchers who have not spent the equivalent of at least 5 full years of the last 7 in Australia.
- The award is made on the basis of the research quality within the discipline and its likely impact and value in the industrial and commercial interests of Australia.

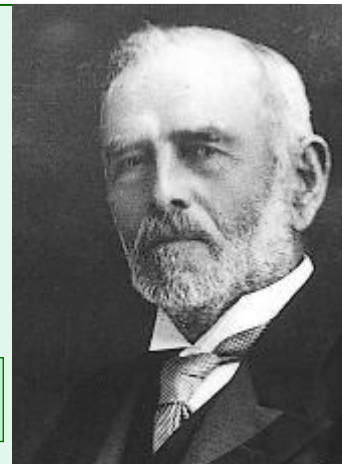
Full details and the nomination form are available at:

<https://ricunimelb.smartygrants.com.au/DavidSyme24>

Enquiries should be directed to: science-internalfunding@unimelb.edu.au

For a list of past recipients, please visit:

<https://science.unimelb.edu.au/research/awards-grants-and-support#david-syme-research-prize>



The Grimwade Prize in Industrial Chemistry

Applications are now invited for the 2024 Grimwade Prize in Industrial Chemistry. The prize recognises work in the field of industrial chemistry undertaken in Victoria during the past five years, ending 31 December 2024.

Summary details are:

Value: approx. \$7500, and a medal

Closing Date: 31 March 2025

Right: Frederick Sheppard Grimwade.

Picture: alchetron.com



Candidates must be undergraduates or graduates of the University of Melbourne, or graduates of other tertiary institutions whose degrees are recognised by the Faculty of Science.

Candidates must have spent not fewer than two semesters in study or research in a laboratory at the University of Melbourne at some stage of their career and have made a significant contribution to the field of Industrial Chemistry.

Full details and the application form are available at: <https://ricunimelb.smartygrants.com.au/Grim2024>

Enquiries should be directed to: science-internalfunding@unimelb.edu.au

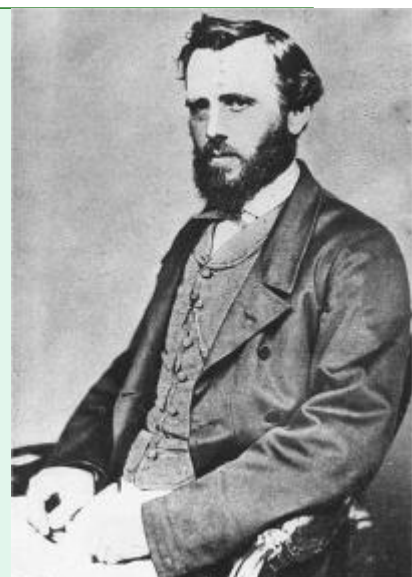
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE PRIZES: Information about these two awards is a direct benefit of our membership of the Royal Societies of Australia.

Legacy of David Syme (source: Wikipedia; image: halloffame.melbournepressclub.com): Syme wrote several books while owner of *The Age*: the first, *Outlines of an Industrial Science*, (London, 1876) is largely a vindication of protection and is also a plea for the extension of the activities of the state. Next appeared *Representative Government in England ...*, a study of the history of parliament in England. His next book *On the Modification of Organisms* (Melbourne, 1890), is a criticism of Darwin's theory of natural selection from an evolutionist position. Syme's last volume, *The Soul: A Study and an Argument* (1903), discusses the nature of life, instinct, memory, mind, and survival after death.

Syme also involved himself in philanthropic activities; he paid the expenses of a rifle team to Bisley, Surrey and financed expeditions to New Guinea and Central Australia. In 1904, he gave £3000 (equivalent to \$530,000 in 2022) to the University of Melbourne to endow the Syme Prize for research in biology, chemistry, geology and natural philosophy. The introduction of linotype machines threw many of Syme's compositors out of work; he ensured that they were provided for. The older men were pensioned off and others were set up in business or placed on the land.

Syme was hailed on his death as "one of the greatest men in colonial history" by his friend, then Prime Minister Alfred Deakin. *The Age* remained in family hands after Syme's death. It was headed by Sir Geoffrey Syme from 1908 to 1942, and Oswald Syme from 1942 to 1964 before eventually being passed to Randal McDonald, David Syme's great-grandson, (Oswald Syme's grandson) who sold *The Age* to Fairfax in 1983. The Syme family controlled the newspaper outright for 127 years, from 1856 to 1983.

David Syme received no honours, having declined a knighthood in 1900. A knighthood for services to journalism and the Commonwealth was later presented to David Syme's son, Geoffrey in 1941.



Biography of Frederick Sheppard Grimwade (10 November 1840 – 4 August 1910)

Born in Norfolk, England, Grimwade arrived in Victoria in 1863. In 1867, he bought a pharmaceutical company and renamed it Felton Grimwade & Co., which soon became the largest in the colony, prospering well into the next century. Today some of Australia's largest public companies have a lineage going back to his family and businesses.

Grimwade represented North Yarra Province in the Legislative Council for thirteen years from 1891. He opposed gambling, workers' compensation, old-age pensions and the national harmonization of time zones, but he passionately and successfully advocated for the legalization of cremation. (Left: F S Grimwade as a young man. sv.findagrave.com)



RST Bursaries

The RST offers bursaries to Tasmanian secondary students who have been selected through a competitive process to represent Australia at an international event. Bursaries may also be awarded for national events held interstate. Bursaries are offered in the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Three students were successful applicants this year, two being from the south of the state and one from the north-west coast.

Naren Balaji Ganesh Pillai (Elizabeth College, pictured right) attended the Michigan Math and Science Scholars summer program (MMSS), in the United States, with support from the RST and the Rotary Club of Hobart. Naren was a Year 12 Science & Mathematics student at Elizabeth College and a participant in the UTAS High Achiever Program studying Year 2 Psychology in Statistical Methods and Research Designs, and Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience at the university.



Naren wrote: "One of my happiest days was when ... the Royal Society of Tasmania agreed to help support me with this rare conference being in America. It was such a golden opportunity, and I am ecstatic that I could attend."

Naren has been accepted into Medicine at UTAS for study in 2025. His experiences are featured in advertising for the UTAS High Achiever Program with reference made to the RST.

Penny Tassicker (Marist Regional College) was recipient of a Dr Peter Smith Bursary, as a member of the Australian team that participated in the International Chemistry Olympiad, an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at the secondary school level. Nations around the world send a team of four students who are tested on their chemistry knowledge and skills in a **five-hour laboratory practical exam and a five-hour written theoretical examination** that are held on separate days with the practical examination usually being before the theoretical examination. Penny gained a silver medal.



Left: The Australian team, with mascot, Bobby, at the opening ceremony. From left to right: Jerry Jin (Bronze), Vinny Liang (Bronze), Penny Tassicker (Silver) and Kevin Lin (Silver).

Penny said, "...it was awesome being able to talk to other people my age who shared my passion for chemistry! Thank you so much again for your support. It was a truly amazing experience, and I'm so glad that I got to attend."

Danika Wright (Elizabeth College) was the only successful applicant from Tasmania this year to participate in Youth ANZAAS, an annual residential international forum for science students in Years 10 to 12. Danika visited the Science Works Museum, Melbourne and Monash Universities, Australian Synchrotron, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, RMIT, Melbourne Museum and the Defence Department's Science and Technology Facility. Residency was at Ormond College. Danika found the experience fascinating and learnt about possible career pathways.

Members of the Bursary Committee for 2024 were: Julie Rimes, Mary Koolhof, Roxanne Steenbergen, John Williamson and Deborah Beswick (Chair).

Dr Deborah Beswick OAM
Chair, Bursaries Committee

Below left: Some of the competitors, including the Australian team, at Diriyah.
Below right: At Melbourne University.



RST 2024 Doctoral (PhD) Award

The RST Honours and Awards Committee recently assessed nominations for the 2024 Doctoral (PhD) Award. This award is intended to recognise recent PhD graduates who have made significant advances during their doctoral research. The value of the award is \$1,000 (AUD).

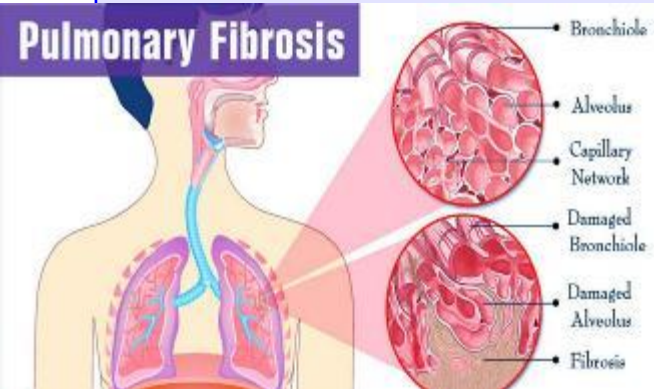
The winners of the 2024 RST Doctoral (PhD) Award were Dr Ingrid Cox and Dr Manon Simon.

Dr Ingrid Cox's PhD project was undertaken at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, UTAS. Her thesis sought to understand the health burden and economic impact of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in Australia by:

(1) deriving incidence, prevalence, and mortality estimates; (2) assessing health-related quality of life (HRQoL), the best ways to measure it and factors affecting HRQoL; (3) assessing trends in resource use and costs related to IPF and providing a comprehensive cost analysis for the disease in Australia.

Dr Ingrid Cox (pictured right) is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Physician and Health Economist at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research. Ingrid's current research matches her passion for health equity and equality and aims to

understand the population, their environment, influences on their health and access to healthcare resources. The ultimate aim of her work is to improve access to health services for Tasmanians and the broader Australian population by improving efficiencies in the use of resources. [Her research spans various disease areas with a focus on respiratory diseases.](#)



Above image: ar.inspiredpencil.com

Dr Manon Simon's PhD project was undertaken at the School of Law, UTAS. Her thesis assessed the relevance of a legal analogy between cloud seeding and regional solar radiation management (SRM) through the analytical and normative lens of adaptive governance. Using adaptive governance principles, it examined the governance of cloud seeding in two Australian states and two American states. These case studies showed that regional SRM regimes require:

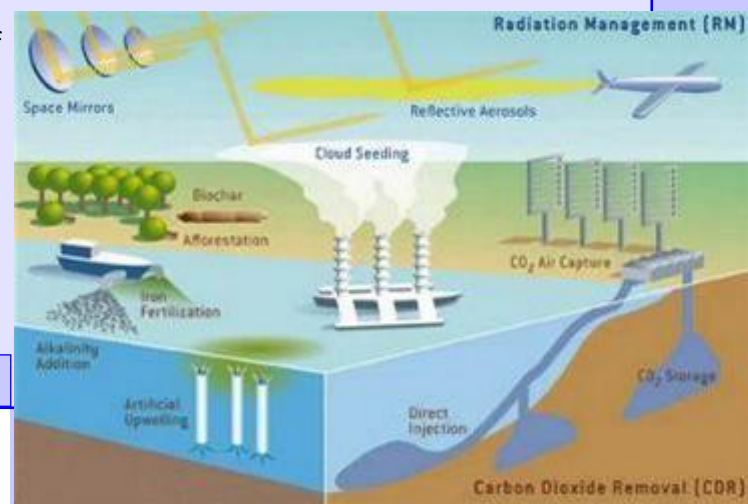
- (1) legal arrangements to facilitate greater interactions between institutions across scales of governance, to account both for the scale of deployment and the scale of impacts;
- (2) broader participation of relevant stakeholders at an early stage of research;
- (3) flexible legal mechanisms built-in the decision making to foster iterative learning; and
- (4) mechanisms to prevent and resolve potential conflicts.



Dr Manon Simon (pictured left) is now a lecturer in the School of Law, UTAS and she is interested in the transferability of lessons from the governance of weather modification techniques to the governance of solar radiation management.

Richard Coleman
Honours and Awards Committee Chair

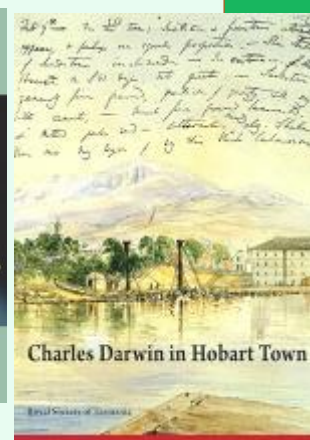
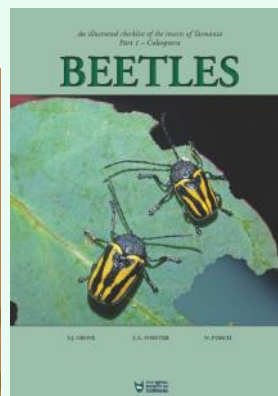
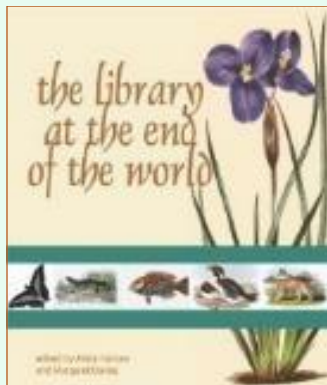
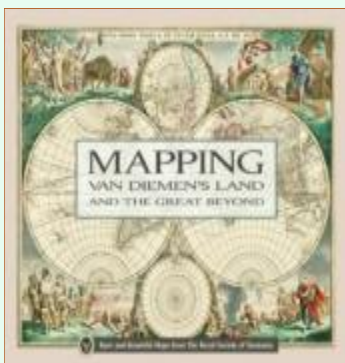
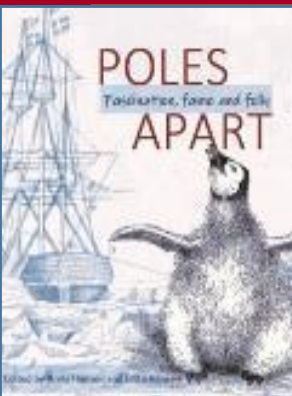
Right image: scientistwarning.org



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The Society's Library

The RST Library Collection is held at UTAS in the Special and Rare Reading Room, Level 5, Morris Miller Library, Sandy Bay Campus.

The Reading Room is open by appointment on Mondays and Wednesdays only between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm; closed for lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

Please email RSTLibrary.Collections@utas.edu.au for appointments and enquiries about the collection.

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